

# NOTRE DAME COACHING STAFF



*Jay Louderback, 2006*

*Wilson/ITA National Coach*

*of the Year, has led the*

*Irish to 16 consecutive*

*national top-30*

*finishes, while helping*

*his players earn 20*

*All-America honors*

*and gain 23 invitations*

*to the NCAA Singles*

*Championship and 16 to*

*the NCAA doubles*

*tournament.*



# Head Coach



## Jay Louderback

**Head Coach**  
**19th Season**  
**Wichita State '76**

When Jay Louderback took over as women's tennis head coach at Notre Dame in the fall of 1989, he inherited a program that had competed on the Division I level for just four years and had never participated in the NCAA tournament or earned a national ranking. As he enters his 19th season at the helm, Louderback has turned Notre Dame into one of the premier women's tennis programs in the nation.

The Irish have finished in the national top 30 in each of the last 15 seasons and have earned 14 berths to the NCAA Championship in that span. Notre Dame has captured 13 conference titles during Louderback's tenure and has reached the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament on seven occasions, including three appearances in the quarterfinals (1996, 2006, 2007). The Courtney Tennis Center has also served as host of the 1998 NCAA Championships, largely due to his efforts.

Notre Dame has posted its two best seasons in program history each of the last two years. The Irish finished 2007 with a 28-4 record and their second straight appearance



in the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals. The 28 victories was a school record, breaking the previous mark of 27 set during the 2005-06 campaign. Notre Dame upended 13 teams ranked in the top 25 and ended the season ranked seventh in the country (second highest in program history). Twins' Catrina and Christian Thompson earned All-American honors in doubles for the third straight year. Notre Dame went 14-1 against Midwest Region foes – ending the season as the top school in the region for the second consecutive year (the only two times in school history).

Louderback's players have enjoyed great success under his tutelage. Nineteen Irish competitors have earned All-America honors, and four have garnered national awards from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). In 18 years, 22 Notre Dame players have garnered invitations to the NCAA Singles Championship and 15 doubles squads have gained berths into the NCAA Doubles Championship.

Louderback's players also have dominated University awards, winning the Francis Patrick O'Connor Award, given to one male and one

### Irish Under Louderback

<u>Year</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>NCAA Finish</u>	<u>Final ITA Ranking</u>	<u>Conference Finish</u>
1989-90	17	8	.692	-	-	MCC Champions
1990-91	16	9	.640	-	23	MCC Champions
1991-92	11	10	.524	-	-	MCC Champions
1992-93	18	8	.692	Round of 16	19	MCC Champions
1993-94	17	9	.654	Round of 16	15	MCC Champions
1994-95	14	10	.583	-	28	MCC Champions
1995-96	23	7	.767	Quarterfinals	6	BIG EAST Champions
1996-97	18	11	.621	Regional Semifinals	21	BIG EAST Champions
1997-98	20	10	.667	Regional Final	19	BIG EAST Runners-Up
1998-99	23	7	.767	Second Round	15	BIG EAST Champions
1999-2000	23	7	.767	Round of 16	13	BIG EAST Runners-Up
2000-01	25	5	.833	Round of 16	10	BIG EAST Champions
2001-02	14	14	.500	First Round	23	BIG EAST Runners-Up
2002-03	16	9	.640	Second Round	21	BIG EAST Champions
2003-04	12	12	.500	Second Round	27	BIG EAST Runners-Up
2004-05	15	10	.600	Second Round	24	BIG EAST Champions
2005-06	27	2	.931	Quarterfinals	5	BIG EAST Champions
2006-07	28	4	.875	Quarterfinals	7	BIG EAST Runners-Up
<b>Totals</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>.689</b>	<b>14 Appearances</b>		<b>13 Championships</b>

**CAREER RECORD:**

541-330 (.621), 28 years

**CAREER WOMEN'S RECORD:**

496-297 (.625), 28 years

**RECORD AT NOTRE DAME:**

337-152 (.689), 18 years

**HEAD COACHING EXPERIENCE:**

Wichita State University, 1980-86

Iowa State University (women), 1987-89

Iowa State University (men), 1987-89

University of Notre Dame, 1990-present



IRISH

female athlete each year who best embody the true spirit of Notre Dame, on seven occasions – more than any other sport. Louderback has had five winners of the Byron V. Kanaley Award, the most prestigious honor awarded to Notre Dame student-athletes, the most for any sport in the time since the Wichita State graduate arrived.

Another feature of Louderback's leadership is academic excellence. Since the ITA began awarding the All-Academic Team award to squads maintaining a 3.20 GPA for the year, the Irish have earned the distinction 11 times in 12 years. Only one Division I school, Western Michigan, has a better mark, as the Broncos have won the award all 11 years. In addition, Louderback's players have had a history of being named ITA Scholar-Athletes, which recognizes monogram winners who maintain a 3.50+ GPA for the year. In 2003, the first year the award was open to all classes (as opposed to only juniors and seniors being eligible), Notre Dame and the University of Evansville each had seven recipients, the most ever for one school in the 25-year history of the honor. He also has produced a pair of Academic All-Americans, and his squad posted a 3.552 combined grade-point average in the spring of 2004, the highest mark on record (since 1992) for any Irish team in a semester.

Louderback also has been decorated with nine conference coach-of-the-year awards, and five times he has been named Midwest Region Coach of the Year. He was awarded the Wilson/ITA National Coach of the Year in 2006. Since 1996, the Irish have compiled a dominating 107-18 (.856) record against regional opponents.

In 28 years of coaching, Louderback holds a 541-330 (.621) record, including a 496-297 (.625) mark coaching women's tennis. At Notre Dame, he is 337-152 (.689), making him the winningest coach in program history.

After guiding Notre Dame to a 17-8 record during his first year with the Irish in 1990, Louderback led the Irish to their first-ever national ranking the following season, finishing the year at 23rd after a 16-9 season. In individual action, Melissa Harris advanced to the second round of the NCAA Singles



outstanding season, winning the BIG EAST Championship Most-Outstanding-Player award in addition to being named the Penn National Player to Watch. Hall also became the first Irish player to advance to the round of 16 of the NCAA Singles Championship, which assured her singles All-America honors. Following the season, Hall was selected for the USA Tennis Summer Collegiate Team.

After playing host to early-round NCAA action in 1997, the '98 season saw the NCAA Championships come to Notre Dame. Hall and Tiffany Gates, spurred on by a hometown crowd, advanced to the quarter-

finals of the NCAA Doubles Championship. Freshman Michelle Dasso stepped in for the Irish at No. 2 singles and finished with a 40-8 record, setting a new all-time mark for singles wins in a campaign.

Louderback's '99 Irish won the program's third BIG EAST championship and posted wins over ninth-ranked Wake Forest and No. 9 William & Mary. Notre Dame finished with a final national ranking of No. 15. Hall completed her career by breaking the 13-year-old school record for career singles wins and also added Academic All-America honors, as well

Championship, becoming the first player in school history to accomplish the feat. The 1992-93 season saw the Irish earn their first berth to the NCAA Championship at the Division I level. Notre Dame shut out Alabama in the first round before falling to #2 Stanford to finish 18-8 and 19th in the nation. Wendy Crabtree and Lisa Tholen also became the first Irish team to earn a berth in the NCAA Doubles Championship.

In 1993-94, Notre Dame again earned a trip to the NCAA Championship and again fell to Stanford in the second round. Crabtree and Lisa Tholen advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Doubles Championship to become the first Irish All-Americans at the Division I level. Crabtree also earned singles All-America honors.

The 1994-95 season marked the last of seven consecutive Midwestern Collegiate Conference titles, including six under Louderback. Crabtree was a singles All-American for the second year in a row. The 1996 Irish squad put together one of the best seasons in school history. Notre Dame won the BIG EAST title in its inaugural season in the league, advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals, compiled a 23-7 mark and finished with a No. 6 national ranking – the highest year-end listing in school history until last year. After defeating BYU in the round of 16, Notre Dame again saw its season ended by Stanford. During the regular season, the Irish defeated

No. 5 Texas, which still stands as the highest-ranked opponent to fall victim to Notre Dame.

Crabtree finished her career by becoming the first women's tennis player to earn Academic All-America honors. Freshman Jennifer Hall completed an

outstanding season, winning the BIG EAST Championship Most-Outstanding-Player award in addition to being named the Penn National Player to Watch. Hall also became the first Irish player to advance to the round of 16 of the NCAA Singles Championship, which assured her singles All-America honors. Following the season, Hall was selected for the USA Tennis Summer Collegiate Team.

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#### What his teams have done...

- 15 consecutive national top-30 finishes
- 14 NCAA Championship berths
- Seven NCAA round-of-16 appearances
- 1996, 2006, 2007 NCAA quarterfinalists
- 16 conference championships (7 BIG EAST, 6 Midwestern Collegiate, 2 Gateway, 1 Missouri Valley)

#### What awards he has won . . .

- Nine-time conference coach of the year (6 BIG EAST, 3 Midwestern Collegiate)
- Six-time ITA Region Coach of the Year
- 2006 Wilson/ITA National Coach of the Year

#### What his Notre Dame players/coaches have done . . .

- Earned All-America honors 17 times
- Won five national ITA awards
- Earned 22 invitations to the NCAA Singles Championship
- Earned 15 invitations to the NCAA Doubles Championship
- Won the Byron V. Kanaley Award five times (most by any sport during that span)
- Won the Francis Patrick O'Connor Award seven times (more than any other sport)

#### Career Collegiate Victories, Active NCAA Division I Women's Tennis Coaches

Rank	Coach	School	Yrs.	Record
1.	Lin Loring	Indiana	34	698-248
2.	Jay Louderback	Notre Dame	28	541-330
3.	Gualberto Escudero	Pepperdine	27	519-265

# Head Coach

as her third straight athletic All-America distinction. She again advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Doubles Championship, this time with Dasso, who was named to the USA Tennis Summer Collegiate Team.

The 2000 Irish delivered a second straight 23-7 season and advanced to the national site of the NCAA Championship for the first time since '96, finishing with a final ranking of 13th. On April 15, 2000, Louderback registered his 400th career win with a victory over Miami.

Louderback's teams continued their strong regular-season performances, as the 2001 squad posted a 20-win season for the fourth consecutive year, with a 25-5 record – the best mark for the Irish under Louderback and the best mark since beginning play at the Division I level in 1985-86. Ranked 10th in the final ITA poll, the Irish advanced to the NCAA round of 16 for the second consecutive year and were ranked as high as No. 5 during the regular season – the highest ranking in school history.

Four-time All-American Dasso, who joined Louderback's staff as an assistant coach prior to the 2003-04 season, became the first Irish player to be named the ITA National Senior Player of the Year and qualified for the NCAA singles tournament for the fourth time. She capped off the best season for an Irish women's tennis player when she reached at least the semifinals in three of the four ITA grand-slam events. She became the first Notre Dame player to reach a grand-slam final, at the now-defunct National Clay Court Championships and made it to the semifinals



Jay Louderback with his daughter Bailey, a junior on the Irish, and niece, Kali Krisik, a sophomore.

of the NCAA Singles Championship. Dasso teamed with Becky Varnum in doubles at the 2001 NCAA Doubles Championship for the second consecutive year in her third straight doubles appearance.

After a top-25 season in '02, the Irish won another BIG EAST title in 2003 and finished 21st nationally. The '04 season saw Notre Dame knock off #14 VCU to snap the Rams' 38-match regular-season winning streak and 40-match home winning streak, while the Irish went on to finish 27th in the country.

The 2004-05 campaign was marked by the outstanding play of sophomore twins Catrina and Christian Thompson, who reached the title match of the Riviera/ITA All-American Championships and the semis of the ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships en route to being the first squad in Irish history to reach the national #1 ranking in doubles. The team earned another top-25 finish, as well.

Despite a loss in the second round of the NCAA tournament, Notre Dame's appearance in the '05 event assured that 19 consecutive classes, dating from 1990 through 2008, will have made at least one trip to the NCAA national event – a range of classes that includes every freshman since five-time BIG EAST coach-of-the-year Louderback arrived at Notre Dame.

In recognition of Louderback's effort and success, Notre Dame's Monogram Club bestowed upon him an honorary monogram in 1998. He joined an elite group of six current Notre Dame head coaches at that time to have been awarded an honorary monogram.

In 2006, Louderback and the Irish enjoyed their greatest season in program history to date. Notre Dame went 27-2 and climbed as high as No. 2 en route to the NCAA quarterfinals. The Irish finished the season fifth in the ITA Rankings, the highest final ITA ranking since becoming a Division I program in 1985-86. After finishing 24th in 2005, ND was 22nd in the preseason before moving into the top five for good on Feb. 28.

The Irish were the top-ranked team in the ITA's Midwest Region for the first time since 1999-2000.

Prior to coming to Notre Dame, Louderback headed the men's and women's tennis programs at Iowa State for three years. He led the men's squad to a 45-33 mark and the women's team to a 37-51 record from 1986-89. In his final season with the Cyclones, Louderback's men's team finished fourth in the Big Eight, Iowa State's highest conference finish in 25 years. The Cyclones' top player finished fifth in the regional voting for the NCAA tournament.

Louderback began his coaching career at his alma mater, taking the helm of the Wichita State women's program in just its fifth year of competition.

He guided the Shockers to a 122-94 record in seven years, including two Gateway Conference championships (1984 and 1986) and a Missouri Valley Conference title (1982). Five of his seven teams either won a conference championship or finished as runners-up. During his tenure, the Shockers won 14 or more matches each season while 10 of his players qualified for postseason competition. Two of his players qualified for the NCAA Championships in both the 1983-84 and 1984-85 seasons.

The 1980-81 Shockers set a school record with 21 wins, as the team earned its first post-season berth. The 21-win plateau was reached again the following season when Wichita State captured the MVC and Region IV championships.

Louderback was voted 1982 Region IV Coach of the Year for his team's outstanding accomplishments.

A native of Arkansas City, Kan., Louderback was an assistant tennis professional at the Riverside Tennis Center in Wichita, Kan., and head tennis professional at the Y Tennis Center in Battle Creek, Mich., before taking the coaching position at Wichita State.

Louderback, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Wichita State in 1976, won a Missouri Valley Conference title at No. 3 singles during his senior year. For his efforts that season, Louderback was voted most valuable player by his teammates.

In April, 2003, the Louderback family was honored by the USTA with the Tennis Family of the Year Award, presented to one family consisting of USTA members and volunteers who have excelled in advancing the USTA's mission to promote and grow the game of tennis both on and off the court.

He and his wife, Denise, have one daughter, Bailey, who is a junior on the Irish.

## Year-By-Year Before Notre Dame

Year	School	W	L	Pct.
1980	Wichita State	18	12	.600
1981	Wichita State	21	13	.618
1982	Wichita State	21	10	.677
1983	Wichita State	17	18	.486
1984	Wichita State	18	13	.581
1985	Wichita State	15	16	.484
1986	Wichita State	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>.500</u>
<b>7-Year Totals</b>		<b>122</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>.565</b>
1987	Iowa St.-M	19	8	.704
	Iowa St.-W	18	17	.514
1988	Iowa St.-M	14	14	.500
	Iowa St.-W	9	19	.321
1989	Iowa St.-M	12	11	.522
	Iowa St.-W	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>.400</u>
<b>3-Year Totals</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>.494</b>

## Assistant Coach



### Elizabeth Schmidt

Assistant Coach  
Second Season  
UCLA '00

Former UCLA All-American Elizabeth Schmidt – who previously spent two seasons as an assistant at Rice University – embarks on her second season at Notre Dame. Schmidt was instrumental as the Irish not only reached the NCAA Quarterfinals for the second straight year, but also eclipsed the previous school record for victories in a single-season.

"I am thrilled to be part of such a respected program," said Schmidt. "It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with Jay. He is one of the most-respected coaches in the country. I am excited to help to continue on the tradition of great accomplishments at Notre Dame."

The Irish finished 2007 with a 28-4 record and their second straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals. The 28 victories was a school record, breaking the previous mark of 27 set during the 2005-06 campaign. Notre Dame upended 13 teams ranked in the top 25 and ended the season ranked seventh in the country (second highest in program history). Twins' Catrina and Christian Thompson earned All-American

#### Head Coach Jay Louderback on Elizabeth Schmidt . . .

"I was very excited to be able to hire someone with Elizabeth's experience to be our assistant coach," said Louderback. "She was a great college player who also went on to play professionally for awhile, and then she spent two years as an assistant for a top team in Rice and had a lot of success there. We are very glad to have her part of our program."



honors in doubles for the third straight year. Notre Dame went 14-1 against Midwest Region foes – ending the season as the top school in the region for the second consecutive year (the only two times in school history).

Schmidt was also instrumental in the Owls turning in a historic season in 2005-06, as Rice reeled off three consecutive upsets to win the Conference USA tournament for the Owls' first-ever league championship. Rice became the first No. 7 seed ever to reach the title match of the C-USA tournament and knocked off top-seeded Southern Methodist, ending the Mustangs' 12-match winning streak. That earned Rice its first trip to the NCAA Championship since 1998, and the Owls finished 13-13 overall and ranked 66th in the nation (after peaking at 51st). Schmidt's first season at Rice saw the Owls go 16-9 – posting the most wins for Rice since 1997 – and crack the national top 30 before reaching the Western Athletic Conference tournament final for the first time ever and finishing ranked 51st.

Rice had several individual standouts during Schmidt's time there – with four players earn-

ing all-conference accolades last season – but none more so than the recently-graduated Blair DiSesa, who was the Conference USA Player of the Year and an ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American in her final campaign, as well as the first Rice player since 1986 to earn an invitation to the NCAA Singles Championship. She was ranked as high as 31st in the nation last spring.

Schmidt was a standout player at UCLA, earning All-America accolades in doubles in 1996-97 and finishing that season ranked 16th in the nation in partnered play and 38th in singles. She was a two-time participant in the NCAA Singles Championship and an all-Pac-10 selection in '97. Schmidt helped the Bruins to a pair of second-place finishes in the Pac-10 – matching the best results in program history – and trips to the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament in 1997 and 2000.

Three times a Pac-10 All-Academic honoree, she graduated with honors in 2000 with a degree in sociology. She was the 2000 women's recipient of the Pac-10 Postgraduate Scholarship, awarded annually to the league's top male and female student-athletes. Schmidt was twice honored with the ITA's Arthur Ashe Leadership and Sportsmanship Award and won the regional Cissie Leary Sportsmanship Award in 1999. She also completed work on of a master's degree in public administration from the University of Houston this past August.

Schmidt spent the next four years playing professionally, peaking at 137th in the WTA world doubles rankings (in 2003) and 380th in singles (in '02). She earned her only career title in the doubles draw of the ITF event in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2001, but also reached six other finals in doubles and advanced to the doubles semifinals a total of 23 times in her career. In 2003, she played in the doubles qualifying at The Championships Wimbledon.

Born Aug. 23, 1977, Schmidt is a native of Austin, Texas, and 1996 graduate of Westlake High School. She was a three-time state singles champion and a Prince All-American during her prep career, helping Westlake to the 1992 team state title. She compiled high school records of 120-6 in singles and 62-4 in doubles and was as high as seventh in doubles and 26th in singles in the USTA national rankings.



**Liz Balanis**

**Volunteer Assistant Coach  
Wake Forest '94**

Liz Balanis is in her fifth year as a volunteer assistant coach for Notre Dame after serving as the team's assistant coach for the seven previous seasons.

The 2000 Intercollegiate Tennis Association Midwest Region Assistant Coach of the Year, Balanis joined Jay Louderback's staff in January of 1998 and helped the Irish to a 121-52 (.733) record during her years as an assistant, including seven consecutive top-25 finishes.

A native of Trumbull, Conn., and graduate of St. Joseph High School, Balanis played tennis at Wake Forest, graduating in 1994 after reaching the semi-finals of that year's NCAA Doubles Championship to become one of the first two All-Americans in school history. A four-year starter, she finished her career with an 87-56 singles record and 85-38 doubles record to rank among the Deacons' all-time top 10 lists in singles (10th) and doubles (fifth) victories.

In August of 2002, the former Liz Barker was married to current Notre Dame men's basketball assistant coach Rod Balanis. Their first child, Andrew, was born in May of 2005.



**Stephen Springfield**

**Senior Manager  
Notre Dame '08**

Stephen is in his first year with the women's tennis program, serving as the team's senior manager in 2007-08.

A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Stephen handles daily administrative duties concerning team travel, equipment and finances, as well as assisting with the program's day-to-day operation.

Prior to his involvement with the women's tennis program, he worked with the Irish football team in 2006.

Born January 2, 1986, and the son of Gerry Springfield, Stephen is enrolled in the College of Arts and Letter and will graduate in May '08 with a degree in sociology.



**Missy Conboy**

**Deputy Director of Athletics  
Notre Dame '82**

Missy Conboy is in her third year as a deputy director of athletics and 20th year overall as a member of Notre Dame's athletics senior staff. Conboy oversees the legal affairs of the athletics department and has responsibility for the master plan for facilities, human resources, legal contracts, and is the liaison to the Athletic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. Conboy also administers five sports, including women's tennis.

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Conboy was a four-year member of the Notre Dame women's basketball team from 1979-82. She graduated with a degree in English and received her *juris doctor* from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1985.

She was married in 1991 to William Mountford, and the couple has three daughters - Darby, Delaney and Killian Rose Mountford.

**Additional Women's Tennis Support Staff**



**Pat Holmes**

Director of Academic Services



**Eric Overlund**

Strength & Conditioning Assistant



**Chantal Porter**

Associate Athletic Trainer



**Sara Wonderlich**

Sports Information Intern



**Sue Molnar**

Tennis Secretary/  
Sr. Staff Assistant



**Jerry Bartkowiak**

Eck Desk Attendant



**Mary Davis**

Eck Desk Attendant



**Chuck Shock**

Eck Desk Attendant



**Howard Thornton**

Eck Desk Attendant