

NOTRE DAME COACHING STAFF

In 15 years leading the Notre Dame volleyball team, Debbie Brown – a former collegiate All-American and co-captain of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team – has led the Irish to 14 consecutive NCAA Championship berths, 14 regular-season conference titles, 13 league tournament championships, and nine finishes in the national top 25.





Debbie Brown

Head Coach

16th Season

Arizona State '82

Debbie Brown, formerly a two-time winner of the Mikasa Award as the best all-around collegiate player in the country as well as a co-captain of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team, has proven it is possible to make the transition from being one of the best volleyball players in the world to having an incredibly-successful coaching career. While her playing credentials are virtually unmatched among collegiate coaches across the country, Brown – who signed a multi-year contract extension in the summer of 2006 – also has turned into one of the nation's elite mentors, leading her teams to 19 consecutive winning records, 13 finishes in the top 25 of the AVCA national rankings, and 19 invitations to the NCAA Championship (in 21 years), including a current streak of 14 consecutive bids.

Now in her 16th season at Notre Dame and 22nd overall as a collegiate head coach, Brown has compiled a 491-205 (.705) career record, including a 374-122 (.754) mark at Notre Dame. Her squads have reached the round of 16 in the NCAA Championship six times, highlighted by a trip to the 1993 quarter-finals. Fourteen regular-season conference championships and 13 league-tournament titles are among the other accomplishments of Brown-led teams, which have won 20 or more matches 17 times in the last 19 seasons.

In her time at Notre Dame, Brown has transformed the Irish from a program that had just five winning seasons in its first 11 years of varsity volleyball to one that has been ranked in the AVCA national top 25 in 13 of her 15 seasons. Notre Dame cracked the national top 10 in consecutive campaigns, peaking at an all-time best fifth in 1995 and sixth in '96 in the *Volleyball* magazine rankings. In 2005, her squad achieved its highest-ever listing in the AVCA poll, moving to fifth after being unranked in the pre-season (it was the first time any school had ever cracked the AVCA top five after being unranked in the pre-season).

The '05 version of the Irish put together one of the best campaigns in program history, posting the first 30-win season since 1994 (while all four defeats came in five-game matches). They went 5-1 against top-15 teams and earned an all-time high seeding of No. 6 in the NCAA Championship. Notre Dame



played host to the first two rounds and advanced to the round of 16 for the first time since 1997 before falling in five games. The Irish – which had a 15-match winning streak and spent a program-record 11 weeks in the AVCA top 10 – went 13-1 to win their 10th BIG EAST Conference regular-season championship (in 11 years of league membership) and then won in five games at Louisville in a battle of top-10 teams to claim Notre Dame's ninth BIG EAST tournament title. The squad also featured the first player in program history – 2006 graduate Lauren Brewster – to be both an athletic and Academic All-American. For her efforts, Brown became the first five-time BIG EAST volleyball coach of the year and was named the top coach in the AVCA's Northeast Region, making her one of the finalists for the national award.

She has helped Notre Dame to a variety of dominating performances, including a 147-7 (.955) record in regular-season action against conference teams (27-0 vs. Midwestern Collegiate Conference, 120-7 vs. BIG EAST Conference). That includes an 83-1 (.988) record at home and, at one point, a 79-match winning streak against conference foes (regular season and postseason), which ranks as the third-longest conference winning streak in Division I volleyball history (AIAW or NCAA). A further measure of Notre Dame's success is that the longest losing streak for the Irish over the past 15 seasons is four, which occurred just once.

Overall, the Irish are 181-29 (.862) in the Joyce Center under Brown, including winning streaks of 36 and 27 matches. Against unranked teams at home, Notre Dame holds a 171-10 (.945) record in the Brown era.

Since becoming a member of the BIG EAST Conference in 1995, Notre Dame has opened league play 11-0 in all but one season (with 11+ matches on the league schedule), going on to win 10 regular-season titles to go along with the nine tournament championships. The Irish have won 45 team BIG EAST statistical crowns, as well as 27 individual statistical championships. The league's player of the year has been from Notre Dame six times, while Irish student-athletes have garnered 40 all-conference accolades, including 24 first-team honors (which account for exactly one-third of the spots on the all-BIG EAST first team during that span).

Brown has seen her Irish players gain All-America

WHAT HER TEAMS HAVE DONE ...

- Compiled a 491-205 (.705) record, including 374-122 (.754) at Notre Dame
- Finished in the AVCA national top 25 on 13 occasions
- Earned 19 invitations to the NCAA Championship, including in each of the last 14 seasons
- Advanced to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament six times
- 1993 NCAA quarterfinalist
- 14 regular-season conference championships (10 BIG EAST, 4 Midwestern Collegiate)
- 13 conference tournament championships (9 BIG EAST, 4 Midwestern Collegiate)
- Won 20+ matches on 17 occasions
- Posted 19 consecutive winning seasons
- Registered a 147-7 (.955) mark at Notre Dame in regular-season action against conference teams, including an 83-1 (.988) record at home
- Compiled a 181-29 (.862) record in the Joyce Center, highlighted by 36- and 27-match winning streaks
- Won 45 team BIG EAST statistical championships since joining the league in '95
- Ended in NCAA team statistical leaders 20 times (since official stats began in '94), including winning the blocking crown in 2003
- Set Irish team school records in 58 different categories

WHAT COACHING AWARDS SHE HAS WON ...

- Recipient of NCAA Silver Anniversary Award in 2003
- 10-time conference coach of the year (conference-record 5 in BIG EAST, 4 Midwestern Collegiate, 1 Pac-10)
- Four-time AVCA regional/district coach of the year
- Former president of the American Volleyball Coaches Association (1995-96)
- Former assistant coach for the United States National Team (1988-90)

WHAT HER NOTRE DAME PLAYERS HAVE DONE ...

- Earned All-America honors 14 times
- Earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors three times
- Named conference player of the year nine times (6 BIG EAST, 3 Midwestern Collegiate)
- Earned all-conference honors 54 times, including 33 first-team accolades
- Gained all-region/district honors from the AVCA on 44 occasions
- Tabbed conference tournament's most outstanding player 12 times
- Won 27 individual BIG EAST statistical championships since joining the league in '95
- Finished in NCAA individual statistical leaders 17 times (since official stats began in '94), including blocking crown for Lauren Brewster in 2003
- Gained three invitations to join the U.S. National Team program
- Participated in the U.S. Olympic Festival four times
- Set individual school records in 67 different categories
- Won the Byron V. Kanaley Award six times
- Gone on to play professionally in seven instances

accolades on 12 occasions, with Brewster becoming the first Notre Dame player to be selected as an AVCA All-American (third team in 2004, second team in '05). All of the last three seasons have seen multiple Irish players earn All-America recognition from the AVCA, after that had never happened previously in program history.

Additionally, Brown's players have earned *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-america honors three times, while they have won the conference player-of-the-year award nine times and been named the top player in the league tournament in 12 instances. In all, Brown-era Irish players have combined for 54 all-conference honors, including 33 first-team selections. Also, Notre Dame student-athletes have garnered all-region or all-district recognition from the AVCA 44 times since Brown's arrival.

Under her tutelage, Irish student-athletes also have earned three invitations to join the U.S. National Team program and have made four trips to the U.S. Olympic Festival.

Brown has made Notre Dame one of the popular choices for top recruits in the country. Since *Volleyball* magazine began compiling its "Fab 50" list, 23 of them have chosen to join the Irish program (all since 1990), putting Notre Dame in 15th place on the list of most all-time "Fab 50" players. In the six years that *Volleyball* has ranked incoming recruiting classes, the Irish have been mentioned five times, including coming in at third in 2006 (a group that was ranked fifth by PrepVolleyball.com), fifth in 2002, and ninth in '00.

Since the NCAA began keeping official national

statistics in 1994, Brown's Irish teams have 20 times been mentioned in the final listings and individuals have appeared 17 times. Among the 22 combined top-15 finishes were Notre Dame's first two national statistical crowns, which both came in 2003. The Irish led Division I with a team blocking average of 3.72 (second-best Cornell averaged just 3.52), while Brewster was tops in individual blocking with a 1.78 mark.

The Irish record books have been rewritten almost constantly since Brown stepped on campus, as all-time best marks in over 120 team and individual categories have been eclipsed. A testament to her recruiting and coaching prowess is the fact that nearly all of the top players in the Notre Dame career record book have played for Brown. That group includes 13 of the 16 players to have registered 1,000 career kills, all six who notched both 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs, the top six competitors on the career hitting-percentage list, six of the top seven on both the assists and service aces lists,



The Debbie Brown File

<u>Year</u>	<u>Assistant Coach</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Conf. Finish</u>	<u>Final AVCA Ranking</u>	<u>Postseason</u>	<u>Honors</u>
1980	Arizona State	24	17	.585	WCAA	—		
1981	Arizona State	13	16	.448	5th/WCAA	15	NCAA Championship (0-1)	
1982	Central Arizona							
<u>Year</u>	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Conf. Finish</u>	<u>Final AVCA Ranking</u>	<u>Postseason</u>	<u>Honors</u>
1983	Arizona State	17	17	.500	6th/Pac-10	18	NCAA Championship rd. of 28 (0-1)	
1984	Arizona State	15	18	.454	7th/Pac-10	—		
1985	Arizona State	22	13	.629	4th/Pac-10	13	NCAA Championship rd. of 28 (0-1)	
1986	Arizona State	27	7	.794	3rd/Pac-10	12	NCAA Championship rd. of 16 (1-1)	Pac-10 Coach of the Year
1987	Arizona State	16	15	.516	6th/Pac-10	—	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (0-1)	
1988	Arizona State	20	13	.606	6th/Pac-10	14	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (0-1)	
6-Year ASU Totals		117	83	.585			5 NCAA Championship Appearances	
1991	Notre Dame	26	10	.722	1st/MCC	—	NIVC runner-up (4-2)	MCC Coach of the Year
1992	Notre Dame	30	8	.789	1st/MCC	22	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (0-1)	AVCA Mideast Reg. Coach of the Year MCC Coach of the Year
1993	Notre Dame	27	8	.771	1st/MCC	17	NCAA Championship quarterfinals (2-1)	AVCA Mideast Reg. Coach of the Year MCC Coach of the Year
1994	Notre Dame	33	4	.892	1st/MCC	12	NCAA Championship rd. of 16 (1-1)	MCC Coach of the Year
1995	Notre Dame	27	7	.794	1st/BIG EAST	14	NCAA Championship rd. of 16 (1-1)	BIG EAST Co-Coach of the Year
1996	Notre Dame	22	12	.647	1st/BIG EAST	25	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (1-1)	
1997	Notre Dame	25	9	.735	1st/BIG EAST	18	NCAA Championship rd. of 16 (2-1)	AVCA District 1 Coach of the Year
1998	Notre Dame	18	13	.581	3rd/BIG EAST	—	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (1-1)	
1999	Notre Dame	20	9	.690	1st/BIG EAST	—	NCAA Championship rd. of 64 (0-1)	
2000	Notre Dame	26	7	.788	1st/BIG EAST	21	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (1-1)	BIG EAST Coach of the Year
2001	Notre Dame	22	7	.759	1st/BIG EAST	—	NCAA Championship rd. of 64 (0-1)	BIG EAST Coach of the Year
2002	Notre Dame	24	8	.750	1st/BIG EAST	—	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (1-1)	
2003	Notre Dame	23	7	.767	T-1st/BIG EAST	24	NCAA Championship rd. of 64 (0-1)	BIG EAST Co-Coach of the Year
2004	Notre Dame	21	9	.700	1st/BIG EAST	—	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (1-1)	
2005	Notre Dame	30	4	.882	1st/BIG EAST	12	NCAA Championship rd. of 16 (2-1)	AVCA Northeast Region Coach of the Year BIG EAST Coach of the Year
15-Year ND Totals		374	122	.754	14 Titles		14 Consecutive NCAA Appearances	
Career 21-Year Totals		491	205	.705	14 Titles		19 NCAA Appearances	

and each of the top 10 student-athletes in career digs.

One of the top players in Irish volleyball history, Christy Peters played at Notre Dame during Brown's first four seasons, being tabbed a third-team All-American in both 1993 and '94. She still stands as the program's career leader in kills (1,683) and had her digs mark stand 11 years before being broken by 2006 graduate Meg Henican, who ended her career with 22 of the 25 Irish dig records.

Among the other standouts coached by Brown have been Jessica Fiebelkorn (1992), two-time BIG



The Brown family (from the left): Debbie, Ryan, Dennis, Connor

The Brown Connection

Since joining the USA national program in 1978, Debbie Brown has been associated with several teammates, players and assistant coaches who remain active in college volleyball, including:

Marcie Bomhack

(Notre Dame player, 1998-2001)
Head coach: Loyola Chicago (2005-)

Laurie (Flachmeier) Corbelli

(USA national teammate)
Head coach: San Francisco (1986-89)
Head coach: Santa Clara (1990-92)
Head coach: Texas A&M (1993-)

Robin Davis

(Notre Dame assistant, 2001-05)
Head coach: Boise State (2006-)

Diane (McCormick) French

(USA national teammate)
Technical coordinator: U.S. national team (2005-)

Debbie Green-Vargas

(USA national teammate)
Assistant coach: Long Beach State (1987-)

Steve Hendricks

(Notre Dame assistant, 1994-2001)
Assistant coach: San Francisco (2005-)

Tammy (Webb) Liebl

(Arizona State player, 1988-96)
Assistant coach: Univ. of San Diego (1999-)

Jim McLaughlin

(Notre Dame assistant, 1996)
Head men's coach: USC (1990-95)
Head coach: Kansas State (1997-2000)
Head coach: Washington (2001-)

Devin Scruggs

(Notre Dame assistant, 1993)
Head coach: Nevada (1997-)

Regina (Stahl) Mannix

(Arizona State player, 1984-87)
Head coach: Scottsdale C.C. (1994-)

Lisa Stuck

(Arizona State player, 1983)
Head coach: Mesa C.C. (1991-96)
Head coach: Glendale C.C. (1999-)

Sue Woodstra

(USA national teammate)
Head coach: Pittsburgh (1989-92)
Head coach: California (1996-98)
Head coach: Humboldt State (2001-)

EAST Player-of-the-Year Jaimie Lee (1997), Denise Boylan (2000), Kristen Kinder (2003), Emily Loomis (2003), Lauren Kelbley (2003-05), and current junior Adrianna Stasiuk (2005), who all earned honorable mention All-America status. Lee and Boylan were invited to train with the United States national team program during the summer of 1998, while the former earned a spot on the 1997 World University Games team. Kristy Kreher (1998-2001) also was one of just 20 players named to the USA Junior National Team in 2000.

Seven of Brown's former Irish players have gone on to play professionally. Angie (Harris) Akers is currently active in the Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP), while Lee was until 2005 and 2004 graduates Jessica and Kristen Kinder also played briefly on the beach. Akers - who finished in the top 20 of the AVP standings in her first four seasons on tour - was the 2002 AVP Rookie of the Year, while Lee earned the same honor a year later. Also, three former Notre Dame competitors were active in the United States Professional Volleyball league in '02; Boylan and Kreher were members of the Minnesota Chill and Molly Stark played for the St. Louis Quest.

Five of her former Irish assistants have gone on to be head coaches: Robin Davis (Boise State), Devin Scruggs (Nevada), Steve Schlick (Cal Poly), Sue Woodstra (Pittsburgh, California, Humboldt State), and 2004 AVCA National Coach of the Year Jim McLaughlin (Washington), who led the Huskies to the '05 NCAA title.

Brown also coached several premier players at Arizona State, including three-time Olympian Tammy (Webb) Liebl (1988-96) and All-Americans Christy Nore and Regina Stahl.

The Sun Devils were ranked among the top programs in the nation for six seasons, and in 1986, Brown led the Sun Devils to a 27-7 record and was named Pacific-10 Conference Coach of the Year. She compiled a 117-83 record en route to five NCAA-tournament berths while at Arizona State and - after being a consultant since 1986 - took a leave of absence in 1988 to serve as an assistant coach for the United States National Team before accepting a full-time national-team position in 1989.

Brown's duties centered on help-

ing improve the national team's defense, and her efforts played a role in the U.S. bronze-medal finish at the 1990 World Championship in China. She also coached teams in the 1985 and '91 Olympic Festivals.

Since picking up the sport late in her high-school days, Brown has become one of the most respected and accomplished individuals in all of volleyball. She grew up in the Los Angeles suburb of El Segundo to become one of the nation's top players. She competed as a 17-year-old for the United States at the 1974

World Championship in Mexico City and a year later played on the adidas team that won the USVBA title.

After graduating from El Segundo High School, she captained the University of Southern California to a 72-1 two-year record and national titles in both 1976 and 1977, including a 38-0 run in '77 that until 1998 was the only unbeaten season in Division I women's volleyball history. That squad is still considered one of the all-time greats at any level of volleyball. Brown (then Debbie Landreth) twice was named a collegiate All-American and received the Mikasa Award as the "nation's best all-around player" in both 1976 and '77.

The 5-8 outside hitter left USC prior to her junior year, accepting an invitation to train full-time with the U.S. national team. She co-captained the U.S. to fifth place at the '78 World Championships. A year later, she and her teammates - including such all-time greats as Debbie Green, Flo Hyman, Sue Woodstra and Rita Crockett - qualified for the Olympics in Moscow and were considered serious medal contenders before the U.S. elected to boycott the games. Four of Brown's former USA teammates went on to become college head coaches while Debbie Green-Vargas is in her 19th season as an assistant at Long Beach State, and Diane (McCormick) French is the technical director for the U.S. national team.

After serving as co-captain of the '80 Olympic team, she completed her degree in physical education at Arizona State in 1982. She began her coaching career as an assistant under Dale Flickinger at ASU while she was still an undergraduate, filling that role from 1980-82 before serving in the same capacity at Central Arizona College during the '82 season. She returned to Arizona State as head coach in 1983.

As a result of all her time with the national team, Brown has played and coached in 22 countries. In honor of her work, Brown was selected as an Olympic Torchbearer for the '02 Winter Olympic Torch Relay when it traveled through the Northern Indiana area (see story on page 45).

In May of 1995, USA Volleyball named Brown an "All-Time Great Volleyball Player," the highest honor given by the organization. Brown and fellow honoree Karch Kiraly, a three-

Consecutive NCAA Tournament Appearances

Stanford	25
Penn State	25
UC Santa Barbara	25
Nebraska	24
Long Beach State	19
USC	15
Florida	15
NOTRE DAME	14



time Olympic gold medalist and beach legend, were recognized at the U.S. Open Championships, in Springfield, Mass., and have had their photos and records added to the Volleyball Hall of Fame in Holyoke, Mass. Established in 1954, the "All-Time Great" designation honors players with Olympic or national teams, All-America honors, U.S. Open Championships, and overall dominance during an era. Among the 51 previous winners were Hyman, Woodstra, Green, Crockett, and Laurel Brassey, all former teammates of Brown.

Brown earned USVBA All-America honors eight times and won the USVBA's Kilgore Sportsmanship Award in 1983. A six-time USVBA first-team All-American, Brown was a member of the USVBA Board of Directors and the U.S. Olympic Committee's Athletes Advisory Council. She served

a two-year term (1995-96) as president of the American Volleyball Coaches Association and was a member of its All-America selection committee.

In 2003, Brown was recognized for her outstanding career by the NCAA with the Silver Anniversary Award, which annually recognizes six distinguished student-athletes for accomplishments since concluding their collegiate playing days 25 years ago.

Brown played for the 1975, '85 and '86 USVBA national-championship teams. In '92, she joined several of her former Olympic squad teammates to capture the USVBA senior division national title in Reno, Nev.

As a recognition of Brown's effort and success, Notre Dame's Monogram Club bestowed upon her an honorary monogram at the annual club banquet in 1999.

Playing Highlights

USA Volleyball All-Time Great

Inducted in 1995

United States Olympic Team Co-Captain

1980

World Championship Participant

1974

1978 (5th place)

Mikasa Award (Nation's Best All-Round Player)

1976

1977

AIAW National Champion and

First Team All-American

USC, 1976 (34-1 record)

USC, 1977 (38-0 record)

USVBA All-American

1975-1977

1981-1982

1985-1988

USVBA Sportsmanship Award

1983

Brown has been actively involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Young Life, serving as a motivational speaker and coach at national banquets and camps. She also has volunteered for Rebuilding Together, a home-rehabilitation program in South Bend.

Brown and her husband of 25 years, Dennis, have two sons, Connor and Ryan.



Debbie Brown's Olympic career reached another milestone on Jan. 4, 2002, when she participated in the Winter Olympic Torch Relay, carrying the flaming torch .02 miles in South Bend.

A co-captain of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team that missed out on the Moscow games due to the United States boycott, Brown also served as an assistant coach for the U.S. national team during its 1988 Olympic effort.

In frigid temperatures she stepped off the torch runners' bus just a few steps from the Joyce Center, where she has coached the Fighting Irish volleyball team for 15 seasons. She was handed the torch by local news personality Maureen McFadden and took off down Eddy Street toward downtown South Bend (where the torch was housed for 30 minutes at the Century Center before continuing on its path to Salt Lake City for the opening ceremony).

Prior to her junior year at USC in 1978, Brown accepted an invitation to train full-time with the U.S. national team. She captained the squad to a fifth-place finish at the '78 World Championship,



before earning a spot on the '80 Olympic team. In May of 1995, Brown was named an "All-Time Great Volleyball Player" by *USA Volleyball*.

Even though she missed out on competition during the 1980 boycott, Brown still remembers her national-team experience fondly: "Nothing is going to make up for the disappointment of 1980. I am happy, though, that I occasionally can still be connected to the Games. I never ever felt like I wasted four

years of my life. That was a special time."

Brown was chosen as a torchbearer due to her embodiment of the inspirational spirit of the Olympics, shown by serving and motivating the community.



Greg Smith

Assistant Coach

First Season

Westmont '90

Greg Smith, previously the head coach for six seasons at Virginia Tech, is in his first year as an assistant coach at Notre Dame. Smith – the 2002 BIG EAST Conference Coach of the Year and a native Hoosier – replaced Robin Davis, who was hired as the new head coach at Boise State University after five seasons with the Irish.

A native of Rochester, Ind., Smith led the Hokies to an 81-94 (.463) overall mark from 2000-05, including a 37-38 (.493) record in conference play. His top performance came in '02, when he led the Hokies to a second-place finish in the BIG EAST Conference – behind Notre Dame – with a 10-3 record and a berth in the four-team league tournament in the school's second of three seasons of conference membership. That Tech team more than doubled its win total from the previous season and won twice as many conference matches as it did during the 2001 campaign. A year ago, Virginia Tech was 13-18 overall and finished ninth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with an 8-14 mark.

"Certainly a factor in my decision to hire Greg is my remembering how well he trained and prepared his teams to play against us during the three years Virginia Tech was a part of the BIG EAST. I know he is an excellent recruiter, trainer and teacher, and I'm very excited to have him bring his knowledge to our program. I didn't anticipate being able to hire someone with Greg's experience for this position, and I'm thrilled that he has enthusiastically agreed to come help us continue to elevate our program. As excited as I am about what he will bring to our program as a coach, I'm even more excited about what he brings as a person. I have the utmost respect for him and know he will display integrity in all that he does. He will represent our volleyball program and the University of Notre Dame in the best way possible."

– Head Coach Debbie Brown

Smith has faced the Irish three times from the bench opposite Brown. He dealt Notre Dame a rare three-game conference loss in Blacksburg, Va., in '02 and then helped the Hokies push the 12th-ranked Irish to five games in front of a Joyce-Center-record crowd of 8,643 the following season. During his time at Virginia Tech, Smith helped five different players earn a total of nine all-conference honors. He oversaw the Hokies' transition from an independent (in his first season, 2000) into the BIG EAST Conference (2001-03) and then into the ACC (2004-present).

Smith came to Virginia Tech from Ohio State, where he served as an assistant coach for three seasons. He was successful as an assistant at OSU, helping coach the Buckeyes to the NCAA tournament each year. His duties included assisting in recruiting and training the team, both on the court and in its physical conditioning.

Prior to his stint in Columbus, Smith spent two seasons as an assistant coach at Hofstra University. At Hofstra, he helped lead the team to two consecutive America East Conference tournament championships and two NCAA Championship appearances. In all, Smith has coached five seasons in the NAAs.

Before his coaching duties at Hofstra, he was an assistant coach at the University

of Indianapolis, in 1994. He also served as one of the head volleyball coaches for the Circle City Volleyball Club in Indianapolis.

Smith was an assistant varsity coach at Rochester (Ind.) High School from 1992-93, also serving as head coach of the freshman squad. During his tenure, he assisted the varsity team to the regional playoffs in '92 and state semifinals in '93.

He graduated from Westmont (Calif.) College in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in business and economics. He then received a bachelor's in education from Indianapolis in '95. A letterwinner in tennis at Westmont, Smith also served as an assistant basketball coach there.

Smith and his wife, Erica, have two daughters, Peyton (3 years old) and Reagan (born in October 2005).



The Smith family (from left): Peyton, Erica, Reagan, Greg



Kevin Lane
Volunteer Asst. Coach

An experienced coach on several levels, Kevin Lane is in his first season as a volunteer assistant coach for the Notre Dame volleyball team. He previously has spent time on the coaching staffs of Northrop High School, the Asics Munciana Volleyball Club, and Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW).

Lane was a varsity assistant at the Fort Wayne, Ind., high school from 2001-03, helping the Bruins to three sectional championships and a pair of titles in the Summit Athletic Conference. He was on the Asics Munciana staff from 2002-06, and directed the team to top-11 finishes in the United States Junior Olympic Championships in the 17s each of those years, coaching several players who went on to play at the Division I collegiate level. Lane also was an assistant at IPFW, assisting in all aspects of the program and helping the Mastodons to a run-

ner-up finish in the National Independent University Tournament and the program's first 20-win season.

A native of Eau Claire, Wis., Lane served in the United States Army from 1997-2002, taking part in peacekeeping missions in Albania, Kosovo, and Macedonia. During that time, he twice (1999 and 2000) played on the U.S. Army's European volleyball champions. Lane is finishing coursework at IPFW and is scheduled to earn his degree in December of 2006.

Assistant Coach



Louella Lovely

Assistant Coach

Fourth Season

Cal Poly '97

A former All-America setter, Louella Lovely is in her fourth year as an assistant coach for the Notre Dame volleyball team. Her duties include assisting in all aspects of the program with an emphasis on coaching the Irish setters.

Over the past three seasons, Lovely has helped the Irish compile a 74-20 (.787) record, winning three BIG EAST regular-season titles and a pair of league-tournament crowns. During that time, Notre Dame's offense has averaged 15.61 kills and 14.21 assists per game with a .243 hitting percentage.

She was instrumental in the 2005 campaign that was one of the best in Irish history, as ND peaked at fifth in the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) poll before posting its first 30-win season since 1994 (while four defeats came in five-game matches). The Irish went 5-1 against top-15 teams and earned an all-time high seeding of No. 6 in their 14th consecutive trip to the NCAA Championship. Notre Dame played host to the first two rounds and advanced to the round of 16 for the first time since 1997 before falling in five games. The Irish also had a 15-match winning streak and spent a program-record 11 weeks in the AVCA top 10. The squad featured the first player in program history – 2006 graduate Lauren Brewster – to be both an athletic and Academic All-American.

Second-year setter Ashley Tarutis broke the ND record for assists in a season (1,573) in 2005 while leading the BIG EAST Conference in assist average (12.86). In addition to a .251 hitting mark, the Irish averaged 15.97 kills and 14.91 assists per game in '05,

"Louella has done a great job with our setters. She also has been invaluable in providing feedback to me in terms of practices and what we need to do to get the most out of everyone. Plus, she has been effective at team building, getting everyone into a good frame of mind, and seems to have a very good understanding of our players. She has been a real asset to our coaching efforts."

– Head Coach Debbie Brown



with both marks standing as the best for Notre Dame since 2000. In conference action, the Irish hit .289 (second in the league) and posted their second-best BIG EAST averages ever for kills (16.79; ranked second) and assists (15.55; first). Lovely also helped the Irish post the second-highest hitting mark in program history (.522 vs. DePaul), a performance that included the best-hitting game ever by Notre Dame (.812, 14-1-16, in the third game).

After joining the staff in the spring of 2003, Lovely helped the Irish to one of their most successful seasons in recent years, as Notre Dame used a 14-match winning streak to open 21-2 and rocket to 12th in the national rankings. Among the keys to the '03 success were Irish setters Kristen Kinder and Kelly Burrell, who ran a 6-2 offense for the first part of the campaign before switching to a 5-1. Notre Dame's .288 hitting percentage in conference matches was by far the best in the BIG EAST (Miami was next at .245), while its 16.26 kills and 14.79 assists per game were second to the Hurricanes. The Irish finished 47th in Division I in overall team hitting percentage (.251), while Kinder was a first-team all-BIG EAST selection and the first Notre Dame setter ever named honorable mention All-America by the AVCA.

Her second season provided a new challenge, as Lovely was the mentor to rookie Tarutis, who handled the majority of the setting duties, with Burrell also contributing. Notre Dame again was tops in hitting in conference action (.254) and hit over .300 in six matches despite having setters that entered the season with just two career starts between them. Tarutis nearly made history in her first career start, as the Irish came just shy of their biggest victory (in terms of national rankings) in program history, falling in five games against #2 Nebraska.

During the summers of 2005 and '06, Lovely was one of three coaches at the U.S. Junior A2 Team camp, which was developed to expand top-level coaching to players who are not on one of the U.S. national teams, but have the potential to earn spots in the future. The program ran for a week at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and included some of the top American players born since 1986.

A 1997 graduate of Cal Poly, Lovely began her playing career at the Air Force Academy in 1993 before moving to California-Berkeley in 1995. She garnered AVCA all-region honors in '93 and '94 as a setter for the Falcons, also earning AVCA All-America accolades in '94.

The 1996 season found Lovely at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, where she was team captain under former Notre Dame assistant coach Steve Schlick. She excelled both on and off the court for the Mustangs, being named the Big West Conference Scholar Athlete of the Year in 1998 and copping the Arthur Ashe, Jr. Sport Scholar Awards in both 1997 and '98. She capped her stellar academic career with an NCAA Ethnic Minority Postgraduate Scholarship in 1999.

Lovely utilized that scholarship at California, where she earned a master's degree in Education, Literacy and Culture: Athletes and Academic Achievement.

Born April 25, 1974, in Kingsport, Tenn., Lovely also worked as an assistant coach at California in 1998 before moving to Deutsche Bank Securities in 1999. She also coached club for the Golden Bear Volleyball Club from '99 to '03.



Megan McGuire Student Manager Notre Dame '07

Megan McGuire is in her third year as a student manager for the Notre Dame volleyball team. A graduate of Maine South High School in Park Ridge, Ill., McGuire is responsible for making travel arrangements and handling finances and equipment distribution for the team.

This marks McGuire's second stint as a volleyball manager, as she filled the position for four years for the Maine South girls' team, which featured current Irish junior Adrianna Stasiuk. Since enrolling at Notre Dame, she has been active in the Kiwanis-sponsored service organization Circle K and has been involved with dorm, Lewis Hall. This year she is working at the university writing center and phone center.

Born Nov. 30, 1984, McGuire is a junior enrolled in the College of Arts & Letters as a political science major and an educational schooling and society minor. She is the daughter of Patricia ('73) and Michael ('74) McGuire, who are both graduates of Notre Dame.



**Leslie G. Vaughn
Student Manager
Notre Dame '10**

Leslie G. Vaughn is in her first year as a student manager for the Notre Dame volleyball team. A graduate of St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin, Texas, Vaughn is responsible for setting up video equipment and recording statistics with the digital video system during matches.

Vaughn was a three-year varsity starter as a setter and libero for St. Stephen's, leading it to a 23-4 record in her final season, as a co-captain. Also a varsity softball and basketball player, she was a two-time winner of the David Paschall Award given to St. Stephen's students who earn varsity letters in three sports and are on the honor roll. A former participant in Notre Dame volleyball camp, she also played five years with the Austin Juniors and Austin Metro Volleyball Club.

Born May 5, 1988, Vaughn is a freshman enrolled in Notre Dame's First Year of Studies. She is the daughter of Leslie A. and Harvey B. Vaughn.



**Chantal Porter
Associate Athletic
Trainer
Iowa State '94**

Chantal Porter is in her 11th year with the Irish athletic training staff, serving as an associate athletic trainer, and her 10th working with volleyball.

Porter oversees the Irish women's Olympic sports, as well as the administration of the Joyce Center training room.

A 1994 graduate of Iowa State University, she received a bachelor's degree in health and human performance, while working with three ISU squads. Following graduation, Porter enrolled at Old Dominion, serving as a graduate assistant trainer and earning a master's of science in education in 1996. She also worked for the United States Tennis Association, traveling on its satellite tours.

A native of Altoona, Iowa, Porter was born on March 19, 1971.



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

Missy Conboy is in her 12th year as the Irish volleyball team's sport administrator and her third as a deputy director of athletics at Notre Dame following one year as a senior associate athletics director, 11 as an associate athletic director, and five years as an assistant athletic director.

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.



**Mike Joseph
Strength &
Conditioning Coach
Fairmont State '99**

Mike Joseph is in his fourth season as the strength and conditioning coach for the Irish volleyball team. He is involved with all facets of Notre Dame's strength and conditioning program and.

Previously, the Fairmont, W. Va., native was an assistant strength and conditioning coach and nutritional consultant at Eastern Michigan University - including working with the Broncos volleyball team - after being a graduate assistant at West Virginia, from which he received a master's degree in athletic coaching with an emphasis in sport movement and development in 2001.

Joseph earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in biology in 1999 from Fairmont State College, where he was a standout football player. He owns his Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) and Strength and Conditioning Coach (SCCC) certifications.



**Mary Ann Spence
Assistant Director of
Academic Services
Indiana '58**

Mary Ann Spence is in her 16th year in Notre Dame's Academic Services Office and seventh serving as the academic counselor for the Irish volleyball team. Spence began her career at Notre Dame teaching first-year composition and still occasionally returns to the classroom to teach.

Spence graduated from Indiana University in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in business. She returned to school at Indiana University-South Bend to earn her master's degree in education in 1988.



**Beth Hunter
Director of Marketing
Providence '98**

Beth Hunter is in her sixth year working as a marketing coordinator with the Irish volleyball program, as well as her sixth overall in the Notre Dame athletic department,

the last four as its director of marketing. She also works intimately with the Notre Dame Monogram Club, assisting in marketing initiatives and coordination of events.

Hunter received both a bachelor's degree in psychology (1998) and a master's in business administration (2000) from Providence College, working as a graduate assistant in its sports marketing department from 1998-2000. The native of Shrewsbury, Mass., then was assistant director of marketing and promotions and director of licensing at Northern Colorado in 2000-01.

She and husband Jake have one daughter, Paige, born in July of 2004.



**Gabriel Torres
Sports Marketing
Assistant
Notre Dame '05**

Gabriel Torres is in his second year as a marketing coordinator with the Irish volleyball program. He is in his third year overall in the Notre Dame marketing department, his second as a sports marketing assistant following one year as a student assistant. Torres also is the primary marketing coordinator for Irish softball and assists with atmosphere creation at men's basketball games.

A native of Cedar Hill, Texas, he graduated from Notre Dame in 2005 with a degree in finance. Torres also served as a marketing intern at Texas Christian University in the summer of 2004, handling several aspects of marketing for its football program. Born April 6, 1983, he is a graduate of Cedar Hill High School.



**Joe Prisco
Sports Information
Assistant
Eastern Illinois '00**

Joe Prisco is in his first year as Notre Dame's sports information assistant and serves as the primary contact for volleyball, women's swimming & diving, and softball.

Prisco joined the staff after two years as an intern in the media relations office of Coastal Carolina University, where he worked as a contact for CCU's nationally-ranked men's soccer program, as well as volleyball, cross country, indoor and outdoor track & field, men's tennis and softball.

Prior to Coastal, he worked as a volunteer in Saint Xavier (Ill.) University's sports information department and as an assistant general manager for the Thomasville Hi-Toms, a college development baseball team in North Carolina, for a summer.

The Evergreen Park, Ill., native earned his bachelor's degree in speech communication in 1999 and a master's degree in sports administration in 2000 from Eastern Illinois University, where he was a student assistant in the sports information office.