



2001 University of Notre Dame Volleyball



Weekly Release #14 • Nov. 7, 2001 • Contact: Alan Wasielewski • 219-631-7516 • Wasielewski.3@nd.edu

2001 SCHEDULE

August		
31	vs. SW Texas	W, 3-0
September		
1	vs. Florida Atl.	W, 3-0
1	vs. Idaho	W, 3-1
US Bank/Arby's Tournament*		
7	#7 UCLA	L, 0-3
8	#1 Nebraska	L, 0-3
9	#15 Pepperdine	L, 0-3
12	vs. Michigan	cancelled
Mortar Board/Purdue Premier\$		
14	Indiana State	cancelled
14	Tulane	cancelled
15	Purdue	cancelled
18	vs. Valparaiso	W, 3-0
22	vs. Syracuse@	W, 3-0
28	vs. Virginia Tech@	W, 3-0
30	vs. Georgetown@	W, 3-1
October		
2	at Toledo	W, 3-2
6	at Boston College@	W, 3-0
7	at Connecticut@	W, 3-1
12	vs. Villanova@	W, 3-0
14	vs. Rutgers@	W, 3-0
16	at #16 Northern Iowa	L, 1-3
23	at Kentucky	W, 3-2
24	at Saint Louis	L, 1-3
28	at Providence@	W, 3-0
November		
3	at West Virginia@	W, 3-1
4	at Pittsburgh@	W, 3-0
9	vs. St. John's@	7 p.m.
11	vs. Seton Hall@	2 p.m.
14	vs. Illinois State	7 p.m.
17	BIG EAST Championship~ Semifinals	TBA
18	BIG EAST Championship~ Finals	TBA
Florida Volleyball Challenge^		
23	LSU	TBA
24	#9 Florida	TBA
29	NCAA Champ. begins	TBA

* - Lincoln, Neb.
\$ - West Lafayette, Ind.
~ - Pittsburgh, Pa.
^ - Buena Vista, Fla.
@ - BIG EAST Conference Match

NOTRE DAME VOLLEYBALL RELEASE

#23 Notre Dame vs. St. John's, Friday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m.
#23 Notre Dame vs. Seton Hall, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2 p.m.

Irish return home for first match in 26 days at the Joyce Center as BIG EAST regular season winds down: The University of Notre Dame volleyball team (16-5, 10-0) will be back in action at home this weekend against St. John's (Friday) and Seton Hall (Sunday) in the Joyce Center looking for its sixth BIG EAST Conference regular-season title and third straight undefeated conference regular season. The Irish enter this weekend's final two conference contests with a perfect 10-0 league record, ahead of Rutgers (9-1) and Georgetown (9-2) in the standings.

A look at this weekend's conference matchups (conference record in parenthesis, see page four of these notes for the BIG EAST Conference standings):

Friday, Nov. 9

Pittsburgh (5-5) at Rutgers (9-1)
Providence (0-10) at Boston College (4-6)
St. John's (5-5) at Notre Dame (10-0)
Seton Hall (5-5) at Syracuse (3-7)

Saturday, Nov. 10

West Virginia (3-7) at Villanova (1-9)
Providence (0-10) at Connecticut (7-3)
Virginia Tech (5-6) at Georgetown (9-2)

Sunday, Nov. 11

Connecticut (7-3) at Boston College (4-6)
Pittsburgh (5-5) at Villanova (1-9)
St. John's (5-5) at Syracuse (3-7)
Seton Hall (5-5) at Notre Dame (10-0)
West Virginia (3-7) at Rutgers (9-1)

Notre Dame, Rutgers and Georgetown have already clinched a berth in the 2001 BIG EAST Championship at Fitzgerald Fieldhouse in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Nov. 17 and 18. Connecticut, St. John's, Seton Hall and Pittsburgh all have a chance at earning the fourth and final berth in the two-day tournament with victories this weekend.

Notre Dame - Illinois State contest will be televised locally: The Notre Dame - Illinois State match scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m., will be shown locally on WHME-TV on a tape delay basis at 11 p.m. that same evening. Bob Nagle will provide the play-by-play while Dennis Brown will be the color commentator.

Notre Dame vs. St. John's series history: The Irish and the Red Storm will be meeting for the seventh time ... Notre Dame has won all six previous meetings ... all six Irish victories have come in three-game matches ... **Marcie Bomhack** had 16 kills in the 2000 meeting, while **Malinda Goralski** added seven blocks and eight kills ... Robyn Kurasaki had 27 assists and six digs for the Red Storm ... Notre Dame hit .636 as a team in the first game of the '00 match ... the Irish are 3-0 against St. John's in the Joyce Center.

A look at the Red Storm: St. John's is currently 17-8 on the season and 5-

2001 University of Notre Dame Volleyball Roster

#	Name	Year	Pos.	Ht.	Birthdate	Hometown	High School/Club Team
1	Emily Loomis	Fr.	OH	6-1	12-16-82	Fort Wayne, IN	Bishop Luers/Fort Wayne Volleyball
2	Leah Nedderman	Fr.	OH	5-10	2-15-83	Grapevine, TX	Colleyville/Texas Advantage
3	Malinda Goralski***	Sr.	MB	6-1	5-28-80	Missouri City, TX	Clements/Club Texas
4	Kristy Kreher***	Sr.	OPP	6-1	10-27-80	Birmingham, MI	Marian/USA Michigan
5	Jessica Kinder*	So.	OH	5-10	4-6-82	Fresno, CA	Bullard/Fresno Red
6	Marcie Bomhack***	Sr.	OH	6-0	9-28-79	Waukesha, WI	Catholic Mem./Milwaukee Sting
7	Kelly Corbett	Fr.	MB	6-0	12-13-82	Mountain View, CA	St. Francis/City Beach
8	Kristen Kinder*	So.	S	5-9	4-6-82	Fresno, CA	Bullard/Fresno Red
10	Kim Fletcher*	So.	MB	6-0	6-1-82	St. Louis, MO	Nerinx Hall/St. Louis Elite
11	Keara Coughlin**	Jr.	DS	5-8	6-18-81	Chicago, IL	Marian Catholic/Chicago Juniors
13	Christa Moen*	So.	DS/S	5-4	10-30-82	San Antonio, TX	Oliver Wendell Holmes/Alamo
14	Janie Alderete**	Jr.	DS	5-4	4-18-81	Santa Clara, CA	Archbishop Mitty/Cosmos
15	Katie Neff*	So.	OPP/OH	6-4	12-1-81	St. Louis, MO	Cor Jesu Academy/St. Louis Elite

* - indicates monograms earned

Head Coach - Debbie Brown (Arizona State '82)

11th season at Notre Dame, 270-92 (.746), 16th season overall, 387-175 (.689)

Assistant Coaches - Steve Hendricks (Ball State '90), Robin Davis (Northern Arizona '79)

Volunteer Student Assistant Coach - Greg Silber (Notre Dame '02)

Team Manager - Lauren Abiouness (Notre Dame '02)

Team Trainer - Chantal Porter (Iowa State '94)

Strength and Conditioning Coach - Heather Mason (Cincinnati '95)

5 in the BIG EAST ... the Red Storm features a balanced attack with four players posting over 190 kills this season (Sarah McCrary 289, Rosalyn Dang 242, Kristy Mercein 209 and Mischara Saunders) ... Robyn Kurasaki returns as the St. John's setter this season, averaging 10.84 assists per game and 2.76 digs ... St. John's enjoyed two win streaks over five matches this season ... they are 2-6 in their last eight matches.

Notre Dame vs. Seton Hall series history: The Irish and the Pirates will be meeting for the seventh time ... Notre Dame has won all six previous meetings ... the Irish claimed a three-game victory (15-4, 15-9, 15-13) in 2000 ... twelve Irish players posted at least one kill in the match, led by **Kristy Kreher** (seven) ... Kari Belin had six kills and three blocks for Seton Hall ... Notre Dame is 3-0 against the Pirates in the Joyce Center.

A look at the Pirates: Seton Hall is 12-11 this season and 5-5 in BIG EAST Conference play ... Kari Belin returns as the top offensive threat for the Pirates, averaging 3.09 kills per game on .319 hitting ... Alyson Furch leads the team in blocking with 83 (1.04 per game) ... Shawn McDonald

has been the Pirate setter this season with 747 assists (9.96 per game) ... Seton Hall will face Syracuse on Friday, Nov. 9, before Sunday's match with Notre Dame.

Kreher and Loomis earn BIG EAST honors: Senior opposite **Kristy Kreher** was named the Co-BIG EAST Player of the Week and freshman **Emily Loomis** was named Co-Rookie of the Week on Monday, Nov. 5, for each of their outstanding performances while leading the Notre Dame volleyball team through two conference victories last weekend and clinching a spot in the 2001 BIG EAST Championship in Pittsburgh, Pa. (Nov. 17 and 18).

Kreher's stellar .765 hitting percentage mark against Pittsburgh on Sunday was a career-high for the senior. She recorded 13 kills on just 17 swings with no errors. Not just an offensive threat, Kreher averaged 1.43 assists and 1.71 digs per game with six blocks in the two matches last weekend.

Loomis enjoyed the best weekend of her young career, helping the Irish through the two road victories over West Virginia and Pittsburgh. She posted double-digit kills in each

match (11 and 10) and hit a career-best .381 at Pittsburgh. She also added a career-high eight digs against the Panthers.

For the week, Loomis averaged 3.00 kills and 2.00 digs per game.

The Irish are currently in first place in the BIG EAST Conference with a 16-5 overall record and 10-0 mark in league competition. Notre Dame also is ranked 23rd in the latest *USA Today*/American Volleyball Coaches Association top 25.

Notre Dame in BIG EAST volleyball competition: Since the Irish joined the BIG EAST Conference in 1995, they have posted an exceptional 74-2 (.974) regular-season conference mark. Notre Dame has also won 32 consecutive conference regular-season matches. The two conference losses the Irish suffered were to Connecticut and West Virginia (both on the road) in 1998.

The Irish are 41-0 at home in regular-season BIG EAST matches.

Include the BIG EAST Championship matches and Notre Dame has posted a 79-3 (.963) record against conference teams since 1995.

First team to earn 12 conference victories? With the entrance of Vir-

NOTRE DAME PROBABLE STARTERS

Setter

#8 Kristen Kinder, So., 5-9
(Fresno, Calif.)

Opposite

#4 Kristy Kreher, Sr., 6-1
(Birmingham, Mich.)

Outside Hitter

#6 Marcie Bomhack, Sr., 6-0
(Waukesha, Wis.)

#1 Emily Loomis, Fr., 6-1
(Fort Wayne, Ind.)

Middle Blocker

#3 Malinda Goralski, Sr., 6-1
(Missouri City, Texas)

#10 Kim Fletcher, So., 6-0
(St. Louis, Mo.)

Defensive Specialist

#11 Keara Coughlin, Jr., 5-8
(Chicago, Ill.)

#14 Janie Alderete, Jr., 5-2
(Santa Clara, Calif.)

**NOTRE DAME
SPORTS INFORMATION**

Publicity for Notre Dame volleyball is coordinated by sports information publicity assistant Alan Wasielewski. Photographs, statistics and feature ideas are available to the media by contacting Wasielewski at (219) 631-3397. Requests to interview student-athletes should be arranged through the SID office and should be made at least 24 hours in advance.

Media may contact head coach Debbie Brown directly on weekdays at (219) 631-6307. Credentials for home games can be obtained by calling Wasielewski.

ginia Tech into the BIG EAST Conference for volleyball this season, the Irish have an opportunity to become the first team to win 12 BIG EAST Conference volleyball matches in conference history.

Next year, the University of Miami will begin BIG EAST volleyball competition.

Brown tabbed as Olympic Torchbearer: University of Notre Dame

USA TODAY/AVCA TOP 25

Nov. 5, 2001

Rnk	School	Pts.	2001 Record	Last Poll
1.	Long Beach State (63)	1623	20-0	1
2.	<i>Nebraska</i> (2)	1562	20-1	2
3.	Stanford	1476	21-2	3
4.	Arizona	1423	16-3	4
5.	USC	1378	17-2	5
6.	Wisconsin	1280	19-3	7
7.	<i>Florida</i>	1170	19-1	9
8.	Colorado State	1144	20-1	6
9.	Ohio State	1123	20-2	10
10.	<i>Pepperdine</i>	987	17-3	13
11.	<i>UCLA</i>	985	13-6	8
12.	Hawai'i	937	20-4	12
13.	Penn State	865	17-5	11
14.	Utah	802	18-4	15
15.	Texas A&M	755	18-3	14
16.	BYU	599	17-5	16
17.	Pacific	591	20-7	17
18.	<i>Northern Iowa</i>	531	22-1	18
19.	Santa Clara	370	17-7	20
20.	South Carolina	369	17-4	19
21.	Colorado	314	15-7	22
22.	UC Santa Barbara	267	13-10	21
23.	NOTRE DAME	181	16-5	23
24.	Illinois	122	16-6	25
25.	Kansas State	79	14-7	ORV

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES AND LISTED ON TWO OR MORE BALLOTS: Cincinnati (56), Minnesota (22), Utah State (20), Michigan State (18), San Diego (14), Duke (10), North Carolina (10), Washington State (8), Missouri (7), Dayton (6), Oregon State (4), San Jose State (3).

- *Italics* indicates 2001 Notre Dame opponents
- NR = not ranked in last poll
- ORV = team was in 'others receiving votes' category in last poll

head volleyball coach **Debbie Brown** has been selected to represent the South Bend/Northern Indiana area as an Olympic Torchbearer when the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympic Torch Relay travels through the area.

On Friday, Oct. 19, South Bend mayor Stephen Luecke introduced a small number of the 34 runners, including Brown, who will carry the flame through South Bend when it arrives on Jan. 4, 2002.

The route has not been made official yet, but it will end at the Century Center at 10:00 a.m. on Jan. 4, where the city will host the flame for a 30 minute community celebration before the Relay continues to Gary,

Ind.

The nominations for the local torchbearers started in the spring and the nominees were required to embody the inspirational spirit of the Olympics by serving and motivating the community. All nominations from throughout the country were sent to a central location, organized by zip code, and then distributed to approximately 100 judging sectors.

While a junior at USC in 1978, Brown accepted an invitation to train full-time with the U.S. national volleyball team. She captained the team to a fifth-place finish at the '78 World Championship before earning a spot on the 1980 Olympic team (which

BIG EAST WEEKLY AWARDS

Player(s) of the Week

Sept. 3
Malinda Goralski, Notre Dame
 Christine Lambert, Connecticut
 Sept. 10
 Noreen Carroll, Syracuse
 Sept. 24
 Yulia Vtyurina, Georgetown
 Oct. 1
Kristy Kreher, Notre Dame
 Oct. 8
 Cheryl Stinson, Virginia Tech
 Oct. 15
Kristy Kreher, Notre Dame
 Melissa Wooley, Connecticut
 Oct. 22
 Annie Cella, Providence
 Noreen Carroll, Syracuse
 Oct. 29
 Melissa Wooley, Connecticut
 Nov. 5
Kristy Kreher, Notre Dame
 Yulia Vtyurina, Georgetown

Rookie(s) of the Week

Sept. 3
 Laura Koster, Syracuse
 Sept. 10
 Jessica Brizzolara, Boston College
 Laura Koster, Syracuse
 Sept. 24
 Dawn Christjaener, Rutgers
 Oct. 1
 Brandice Studnicka, West Virginia
 Oct. 8
 Sara Albert, Georgetown
 Annie Spicer, Virginia Tech
 Oct. 15
 Sara Albert, Georgetown
 Oct. 22
 Shawn McDonald, Seton Hall
 Oct. 29
 Jamie Hadenfeldt, Connecticut
 Nov. 5
Emily Loomis, Notre Dame
 Stephanie Travioli, Rutgers

never competed in the games due to the U.S. boycott of the games).

She continued her association with the national team in 1986 as a consultant, and she emerged as a full-time assistant in 1988, aiding the team's '88 Olympic effort and a 1990 campaign that resulted in a bronze medal at the World Championships.

In May of 1995, Brown was named an "All-Time Great Volleyball Player" by USA Volleyball.

Brown has coached at Notre Dame since 1990, leading the team to nine consecutive NCAA tournament appearances and five BIG EAST Conference championships. She and her husband of 20 years, Dennis, have two sons, Connor and Ryan. The Browns currently reside in Granger, Ind.

Matches cancelled: The matches previously scheduled against Michigan, Indiana State, Tulane and Purdue, originally postponed due to the terrorist attack on the United States, will not be replayed this season.

Home win streak: As the Irish have battled through a tough road schedule this season, they also have extended their home-court win streak to 17 matches. Notre Dame's last loss on the Joyce Center court was to seventh-ranked Colorado State on Sept. 23, 2000.

The 17-match home win streak ranks second on Notre Dame's all-time charts behind the 27-match streak the team compiled through Sept. 25, 1993, to Sept. 2, 1995.

Irish step up their team blocking: Notre Dame enters this weekend's matches at West Virginia and Pittsburgh with 257 total team blocks. As of Oct. 28, 2001, the Irish were ranked **fifth in the nation** in blocks per game (3.52).

In its 21 matches this season, Notre Dame has failed to reach double-digit blocks just seven times (posting nine blocks in four of those matches). In a notable performance the team blocked 21 attempts versus Georgetown.

The school record for team block

BIG EAST STANDINGS

as of Nov. 5

<u>Team</u>	<u>BE</u>	<u>overall</u>
1. *Notre Dame	10-0	16-5
2. *Rutgers	9-1	15-4
3. *Georgetown	9-2	16-7
4. Connecticut	7-3	18-6
5. St. John's	5-5	17-8
6. Seton Hall	5-5	12-11
7. Pittsburgh	5-5	8-15
8. Virginia Tech	5-6	9-15
9. Boston College	4-6	17-10
10. Syracuse	3-7	14-11
11. West Virginia	3-7	7-18
12. Villanova	1-9	6-16
13. Providence	0-10	6-18

* - clinched a berth in the BIG EAST Championship

Notre Dame in the 2001 USA Today/AVCA Poll

Preseason: 20
 (3-0, Shamrock Invitational title)
September 3: 20
 (3-3, three losses to ranked teams)
September 10: 23
 (Four matches postponed)
September 17: 24
 (2-0, two three-game victories)
September 24: 24
 (2-0, two conference victories)
October 1: 22
 (3-0, two conference road victories)
October 8: 21
 (2-0, two home BIG EAST wins)
October 15: 19
 (suffered fourth loss to #16 N. Iowa)
October 22: 20
 (two road wins, one road loss)
October 29: 23
 (two more road victories)
November 5: 23

November 12:

November 19:

November 26:

December 4:

December 19 (final poll):

average per game is in reach for the Irish this season. The 1988 edition of the Fighting Irish averaged 3.57 blocks per game.

Goralski leads BIG EAST: Senior middle blocker **Malinda Goralski** ranks at the top of two statistical categories in the conference rankings (as of Nov. 5). The Missouri City, Texas, native leads all league players in blocks per game with 1.70 (124 total). She also is ranked second in hitting percentage (.382) and plays a major role in Notre Dame's top team ranking in blocks per game (3.52).

In the latest NCAA statistical rankings (Nov. 5), Goralski was ranked eighth in blocks per game (1.70) and tied for 25th in hitting percentage (.382).

Alderete excels in the back row: Irish defensive specialist **Janie Alderete**, who usually subs in for starting middle blocker Malinda Goralski in the back row, is becoming one of the top performers on the Irish roster. A junior from Santa Clara, Calif., Alderete has recorded more than five digs in 18 out of 21 matches this season, including 10 double-digit dig matches.

She was all over the court against #15 Pepperdine on Sept. 9, digging a career-high 19 balls. She has continued that form lately as well, recording 17 digs at West Virginia, nine against Georgetown, 12 at Toledo, 13 vs. Rutgers and 12 at Providence.

Alderete currently leads the team in digs per game with a 2.82 average (206 total).

Not just a defensive threat, Alderete is second on the team with 22 aces this season and recorded a career-high four against Virginia Tech on Sept. 28.

Kristen Kinder takes advantage of starting opportunity: Heading into the 2001 season, the starting setter was clearly one of the more pivotal positions on the team. After the graduation of four-year starter Denise Boylan, the reigns of the Irish offense were handed to sophomore **Kristen Kinder**.

The second-year player from

NOTRE DAME MATCH HIGHS

Kills:		
5g	at Toledo	70
	at Kentucky	70
4g	vs. Idaho	65
	at Connecticut	65
3g	vs. SW Texas St.	56
	vs. Rutgers	54

Hitting Percentage:		
	at Pittsburgh	.495
	(52 kills, 5 errors, 95 att.)	
	vs. SW Texas St.	.369
	(56, 15, 111)	

Assists:		
5g	at Toledo	65
4g	vs. Idaho	58
4g	at West Virginia	58
3g	vs. Rutgers	50
3g	at Pittsburgh	48

Aces:		
	vs. Florida Atlantic	11
	vs. Syracuse	10
	vs. Villanova	10

Digs:		
5g	at Kentucky	66
4g	at Connecticut	68
4g	vs. Idaho	64
3g	at Boston College	57
3g	vs. Pepperdine	56

Blocks:		
	vs. Georgetown	21.0
	four times	16.0

NOTRE DAME VS. OPPONENTS

	UND	OPP
Attack:		
Kills:	1094	1020
Attack Percentage:	.256	.148
Kills/Game:	15.0	14.0
Set:		
Assists:	990	919
Assists/Game:	13.6	12.6
Serve:		
Aces:	133	108
Errors:	198	162
Aces/Game:	1.8	1.5
Blocks		
Total Blocks:	257	204
Blocks Per Game:	3.5	1.9

BIG EAST STATISTICAL LEADERS

Hitting Percentage:		
<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	
Albert, S.	GU	.404
Goralski, M.	ND	.382
Stinson, C.	VT	.339
Lambert, C.	UC	.327
Koster, L.	SU	.326

Assists/Game:		
Tuyay, P.	RU	12.83
Ward, J.	GU	12.21
Kinder, K.	ND	11.75
Fanning, R.	PC	11.48
Brizzolara, J.	BC	11.35

Blocks/Game:		
Goralski, M.	ND	1.70
Kiriakou, M.	RU	1.41
Stinson, C.	VT	1.34
Lambert, C.	UC	1.29
Smith, K.	WVU	1.29

Kills/Game:		
Vtyurina, Y.	GU	4.94
Hatlestad, W.	UP	4.92
Wooley, M.	UC	4.47
Bush, S.	RU	4.44
Katinger, S.	PC	4.32

Aces/Game:		
Meyers, J.	SHU	0.51
Neeley, J.	SHU	0.49
Tuyay, P.	RU	0.49
Kiriakou, M.	RU	0.48
Mercein, K.	SJU	0.48

Digs/Game:		
Mercein, K.	SJU	3.88
Katinger, S.	PC	3.86
Cella, A.	PC	3.66
Bush, S.	RU	3.53
Havruluk, D.	WVU	3.52

TEAM LEADERS

Hitting Percentage	
Notre Dame	.256
Rutgers	.251
Assists	
Rutgers	14.07
Georgetown	14.04
Blocks	
Notre Dame	3.52
Connecticut	2.82

Fresno, Calif., has responded. Leading the team to a .256 hitting percentage 21 matches into the season, Kinder has turned a possible team weakness into a team strength.

Shrugging off a lack of playing time in 2000, Kinder has helped the Irish lead the conference in hitting and is a presence across the boxscore after every match. She is first on the team in aces with 28 (recording a career-best five against Kentucky on Tuesday, Oct. 23), second in digs with 178 and has collected 38 blocks (including eight solo). Her assist average is third in the BIG EAST Conference at 11.75 (as of Nov. 5) and she also has shown the ability to provide a kill when needed - knocking down 71 shots this season (0.97 per game).

Jessica Kinder provides a spark off the bench: The most powerful hitter on the team, **Jessica Kinder** has recently played a major role in the Irish offensive success.

Often subbing into the game in crucial situations to serve, the sophomore outside hitter utilizes a powerful jump serve to keep the opposing team's reception off-balance and upset the entire offensive flow.

She was at her best against Villanova, helping the Irish score nine consecutive points on her serve. She would end up posting the best numbers in a match of her young career, scoring a personal-best five aces, also while posting five kills on five swings and five digs.

Kinder is coming off a career-best seven-kill, three-block performance at Providence on Oct. 28.

Irish forced to adjust from the comforts of home to life on the road: Notre Dame played 19 matches in the friendly confines of the Joyce Center last season. The Irish had 17 regular-season home matches scheduled and won both matches at the 2000 BIG EAST Volleyball Championship, which was held on campus.

The 2001 schedule calls for at least 13 road matches, a number that could increase if the Irish qualify for the BIG EAST Championship. A key stretch of the Irish schedule began

NOTRE DAME INDIVIDUAL MATCH HIGHS

Kills:

20 Kreher (4g) at Connecticut
19 Kreher (5g) at Toledo
18 four times

Kills (3 games)

18 Goralski vs. SW Texas
17 Kreher vs. Rutgers
15 Goralski vs. Valparaiso

Kills (4 games)

20 Kreher at Connecticut
18 Kreher vs. Georgetown
15 Bomhack at West Virginia

Kills (5 games)

19 Kreher at Toledo
18 Goralski at Toledo
18 Goralski at Kentucky

Hitting Percentage:

.765 Kreher (13-0-17)
at Pittsburgh
.714 Goralski (15-0-21)
vs. Valparaiso
.684 Fletcher (13-0-19)
vs. SW Texas

Assists:

56 K.Kinder (5g) at Toledo
56 K.Kinder (4g) at UConn
54 K. Kinder (4g) at Kentucky
51 K.Kinder (4g) vs. Idaho

Aces:

5 J.Kinder (3g) vs. Villanova
5 K.Kinder (5g) at Kentucky
4 three times

Digs:

19 Alderete (5g) vs. Pepp.
18 Alderete (4g) at UConn
17 Kreher (4g) vs. Idaho
17 Alderte (4g) at Pittsburgh

Blocks:

11 Goralski (4g) vs. Idaho
11 Goralski (5g) at Kentucky
9 Goralski (4g) vs. G'Town
9 Fletcher (4g) vs. G'Town
9 Bomhack (4g) at Pitt

VOLLEYBALL MAGAZINE POLL 11-5-01

1. Long Beach State, 20-0	1
2. <i>Nebraska</i> , 20-1	2
3. Stanford, 21-2	3
4. Arizona, 16-3	4
5. USC, 17-2	5
6. <i>Florida</i> , 18-1	6
7. Wisconsin, 19-3	7
8. Colorado State, 20-1	8
9. Hawai'i, 20-4	9
10. Ohio State, 20-2	12
11. Pepperdine, 17-3	13
12. UCLA, 13-6	10
13. Penn State, 17-5	11
14. Texas A&M, 18-3	15
15. BYU, 17-5	14
16. Pacific, 20-7	16
17. Utah, 18-4	17
18. <i>Northern Iowa</i> , 22-1	18
19. Santa Clara, 17-7	19
20. South Carolina, 17-4	20

• *italics* indicates 2001 Notre Dame opponents

NCAA DISTRICT RANKINGS (AS OF OCT. 30)

Northeast Region

1. Notre Dame (14-5)
2. Dayton (17-4)
3. Xavier (19-2)
4. Rhode Island (13-9)
5. Rutgers (13-4)
6. Temple (15-7)
7. American (19-2)
8. Georgetown (14-7)
9. Connecticut (17-5)
10. Towson (25-1)

2001 University of Notre Dame Volleyball

Record: 16-5 (Home: 9-0, Away: 7-2, Neutral: 0-3)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Game Scores	Tournament	High Kills
Aug. 31	Southwest Texas St.	W	3-0	30-24, 30-18, 30-19	Shamrock Invitational	Goralski (18)
Sept.						
1	Florida Atlantic	W	3-0	30-17, 30-20, 30-16	Shamrock Invitational	Kreher (9)
1	Idaho	W	3-1	30-28, 28-30, 30-22, 30-25	Shamrock Invitational	Fletcher, Loomis (14)
7	vs. #7 UCLA	L	0-3	28-30, 23-30, 26-30	U.S. Bank/Arby's Classic	Goralski, Bomhack, Fletcher (8)
8	at #1 Nebraska	L	0-3	29-31, 22-30, 20-30	U.S. Bank/Arby's Classic	Kreher (13)
9	vs. #15 Pepperdine	L	0-3	18-30, 27-30, 23-30	U.S. Bank/Arby's Classic	Loomis, Goralski, Kreher (8)
18	Valparaiso	W	3-0	30-22, 30-12, 30-17		Goralski (15)
22	*Syracuse	W	3-0	30-22, 30-15, 30-16		Kreher (14)
28	*Virginia Tech	W	3-0	30-25, 30-16, 30-27		Kreher (14)
30	*Georgetown	W	3-1	28-30, 30-27, 30-25, 30-22		Kreher (18)
Oct.						
2	at Toledo	W	3-2	29-31, 30-25, 30-17, 27-30, 15-11		Kreher (19)
6	*at Boston College	W	3-0	30-23, 30-17, 31-29		Goralski (9)
7	*at Connecticut	W	3-1	30-27, 25-30, 30-21, 30-20		Kreher (20)
12	*Villanova	W	3-0	30-19, 30-20, 30-21		Bomhack (12)
14	*Rutgers	W	3-0	30-22, 30-23, 33-31		Kreher (17)
17	vs. #16 N. Iowa	L	1-3	30-26, 14-30, 16-30, 23-30	Reynolds Ford Classic	Goralski (11)
23	at Kentucky	W	3-2	28-30, 30-25, 26-30, 30-27, 17-15		Kreher (15)
24	at Saint Louis	L	1-3	30-16, 27-30, 21-30, 27-30		Kreher (13)
28	*at Providence	W	3-0	30-25, 30-22, 30-22		Goralski (10)
Nov.						
3	at West Virginia	W	3-1	30-26, 24-30, 30-27, 30-20		Bomhack (15)
4	at Pittsburgh	W	3-0	30-27, 30-24, 30-22		Kreher (13)

with the Oct. 17 match with #16 Northern Iowa, as Notre Dame will have played six consecutive road matches from Oct. 16, through Nov. 4, before returning to their home court on Nov. 9.

Notre Dame broke through for its first road victory of the season at Toledo on Tuesday, Oct. 2. The Irish are now 7-5 on the road, with four of the five losses to ranked teams (#1 Nebraska, #7 UCLA, #15 Pepperdine, #16 Northern Iowa).

Strong schedule: Irish head coach **Debbie Brown**, who led the team to two key victories over high ranked opponents in 2000 (3-2 come-from-behind victory over #15 BYU and a 3-1 win over #22 Loyola Marymount), has scheduled a number of highly-rated teams this season. Notre Dame will face five top 25 teams in 2001, including #7 Florida in the Gator's Volleyball Conference Challenge at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex on Nov. 24. The Irish have already faced #1 Nebraska, #7 UCLA, #15 Pepperdine and #16 Northern Iowa this season.

Career-bests: A number of Irish

players have posted career-bests during the 2001 season. **Malinda Goralski** tied her career high in both kills (18) and blocks (11) vs. Southwest Texas and Idaho, respectively. She matched her career high in blocks at Kentucky on Oct. 23.

Kim Fletcher posted two career-bests while achieving her first career double-double with 14 kills and 10 digs against Idaho. Fletcher also posted a personal-best nine blocks against Georgetown. Freshman **Emily Loomis** also posted 14 kills vs. the Vandals, for a personal-best total of her young career.

Junior DS **Janie Alderete** set a new career mark with 19 digs against #15 Pepperdine on Sept. 9, while sophomore DS **Christa Moen** posted a personal-best 10 digs at Boston College.

Sophomore OH **Jessica Kinder** has also excelled in the back row recently, digging a career-best 10 attempts at Connecticut and a career high seven kills at Providence. **Kristen Kinder** recently joined the career-best category after serving five aces at Kentucky on Oct. 23.

NCAA Championship selections

pushed back: Due to the tragic events Sept. 11, the NCAA Executive Committee directed NCAA committees to make appropriate accommodations, such as extending playing seasons, altering schedules and adjusting criteria for championship selection for institutions that chose not to play during the last few days.

The Division I Women's Volleyball Committee voted to move the championship selection announcement from Sunday, Nov. 25, to Monday, Nov. 26, in order to allow greater flexibility for member institutions to reschedule contests that may have been postponed due to world events. The championship dates of competition will not be adjusted.

Additionally, the committee further emphasized its existing policy of preferred first- and second-round competition dates of Friday/Saturday as first choice, Saturday/Sunday as second choice and Thursday/Friday as third choice.