



# PROMISES KEPT



NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS  
2021-22 **ANNUAL REPORT**



**ONLY NOTRE DAME** COMPETED IN A NEW YEAR'S SIX BOWL, THE NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT, THE COLLEGE CUP, AND THE MEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES DURING THE 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR.



## FROM THE A.D.

The promise is always the same.

When I meet with a prospective student-athlete I tell them that should they decide to join the Notre Dame Family they can count on our commitment to maximize their growth athletically, intellectually, and personally - a commitment that increasingly sets us apart in collegiate athletics.

The pages that follow chronicle a very special year in which the power of that promise was manifest. It is the story of successes made possible because our student-athletes embrace the challenge Notre Dame represents, our coach-educators understand that competitive success is the byproduct of personal growth, our administrators work tirelessly to ensure that the necessary resources are in place.

To all of you who support Notre Dame Athletics, thank you for helping us keep our promise – a promise that allows our student-athletes to do remarkable things.

Be Irish!



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# BIG MOMENTS









## FOOTBALL

# A NEW ERA

*Marcus Freeman becomes the 30th Head Football Coach at Notre Dame*

Pete Thamel's tweet reporting the unexpected head coaching moves in college football was heard 'round sports. On December 3, 2021, Marcus Freeman became the 30th head football coach at Notre Dame and his hiring ignited the advent of the #FreemanEra. One of the rising young stars in the profession and architect of the highly-ranked Fighting Irish defense, was thrust into the spotlight as all eyes were on Notre Dame.

He had “not only proven himself a superb football coach” but “that he is a person of highest integrity who cares deeply about our student-athletes and is committed to their success in the classroom as well as on the field,” said University President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.

Following his hiring, Freeman committed to lead the program with discipline, toughness and a tireless work ethic.

“Marcus' ability to connect with people, his fit at Notre Dame, and the way he coaches young men set him apart as we went through our search process,” said University Vice President and James E. Rohr Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick. “I can't wait to see how the culture created by these remarkable student-athletes continues to grow under the tutelage of Marcus and his staff.”

The impact of Freeman's hiring trickled through the entire University, football community and the recruiting world. It was clear that there was something different about Freeman; it was a new era of Notre Dame football.







NCAA FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

NCAA FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

NCAA

2 NCAA

2022 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

NOTRE DAME, IN

Cha

## FENCING

# THE CHAMPIONS

## *Notre Dame Fencing wins 12th National Championship*

There may be no place like home, but there is really no experience like winning a national championship at home. As the confetti fell on the floor of Purcell Pavilion, head coach Gia Kvaratskhelia lifted the Notre Dame Fencing Program's 12th national championship trophy as the Irish celebrated the team title and one individual crown. The title – Kvaratskhelia's fourth – was especially meaningful as the team dedicated its effort to the memory of assistant coach Buckie Leach.

Prior to winning the team title, the Irish had three of six women's fencers make it to the semifinals and all three advanced to the finals.

Notre Dame took home one title in women's epee, and was runner-up in both sabre and foil.

Finishing 21 points ahead of second-place Harvard, the Irish clinched its team title on the morning of the fourth day when Jared Smith's last bout became the pivotal result needed for the Irish to claim it all. Smith got his point and immediately knew as he turned to the coaching staff, his teammates and fans to begin the celebration

Notre Dame Fencing, always known for its excellence, is now known for boasting the most National Championships of any sport on campus.







UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME





## FOOTBALL

## CLASS OF 2022

*NFL Hall of Famer Jerome Bettis is (finally) an alumnus of Notre Dame.*

Jerome Bettis ended his time as a player at Notre Dame with a promise to his mother. 28 years later, Jerome's "promise made, promise kept" was fulfilled as he returned to the classroom following a storied NFL career to earn his Notre Dame degree.

Bettis' NFL career spanned 13 years, a Super Bowl championship, and a Pro Football Hall of Fame induction, but his degree remains the achievement of which he's most proud.

While the memories of Bettis in Notre Dame Stadium are plentiful, as he took the stage at Commencement to address his fellow Class of 2022 graduates, he added another special moment to the list.

"With apologies to the class of 1994," Bettis began, "I am proud to be a graduate in the class of 2022. Now given my story, I believe

I'm in the unique position to give a few words of wisdom to you my fellow classmates. Know that your future is bright. You made a great decision coming to and graduating from the University of Notre Dame."

Bettis paused, looking out at his classmates, "But I ask you the same question that was asked of me almost 30 years ago. What will your legacy be?"

"As you leave here today," Bettis concluded, "you will be writing your legacy, one with the class of 2022 the other with your personal journey. Collectively, we all help create the legacy of the 2022 class with what we do with our lives and how we affect the world around us."







## 2020 OLYMPICS

# TOKYO TAKEOVER

*A record number of Notre Dame alums competed in the Summer Olympics, earning seven gold medals and three bronze medals*

Gold is in our DNA.

For the Notre Dame Olympians and Paralympians competing at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Game (moved to 2021), that golden legacy shone brighter than ever. The Irish in Tokyo brought home seven gold and three bronze medals.

With 22 competitors and two coaches, the Irish footprint was everywhere across the Games.

Three women joined a prestigious list of winning a national championship at Notre Dame and an Olympic medal – Jackie Young, Lee Kiefer and Adriana Leon.

Sam Grewe bested his Paralympic silver medal in Rio by taking home his first Paralympic gold in the high jump.

Young took to the court in women's 3x3 basketball and made history as Team USA took home the first gold medal in Olympic 3x3 history, while Skylar Diggins-Smith and Jewell Loyd captured gold in dominant fashion in the women's basketball competition.

Kiefer and Mariel Zagunis (both former Irish fencers) are the only women in US Olympic history to win individual fencing gold medals. Fencing represented Notre Dame well as Gerek Meinhardt and Nick Itkin won the second US Olympic medal in the team men's foil event since 1932.

Kiefer and Meinhardt became the first husband and wife duo from Notre Dame to become Olympic medalists.



1951 1984 1996 2001 2005 2021  
1993 1995 1997 2004 2019





## BASEBALL

# BREAKTHROUGH

*Baseball advances to Omaha for the first time since 2002.*

Last season, when Notre Dame Baseball fell just short of Omaha, the team was left hungry.

Their season started off strong when they won 10 straight games, and were consistently ranked in all of the major baseball polls, propelling them to a great position for postseason play.

When the Irish found their path to Omaha would run through the Statesboro Regional and through No. 1 Tennessee after being ranked among the nation's best all season long, that hunger grew more than ever.

After downing No. 2 Texas Tech in a thriller, 2-1 win, the Irish would advance to the Super Regional for the second consecutive season and only the third time in program history.

It was 20 years to the day from the last time Notre Dame beat the No. 1 team in the country, the Irish did it again in their 8-6 win over top-ranked Tennessee in the first game of the Knoxville Super Regional.

After losing the second game, the Irish proved themselves by topping No. 1 Tennessee to head to the College World Series in Omaha for the first time in 20 seasons and the third time in program history.

The #NDFamily showed up to support the team in Omaha, including nearly 200 baseball alumni. As the season came to a close, Notre Dame became the only ACC team remaining in the tournament.







## COACH - EDUCATORS

## NEW FACES

*Several Irish teams introduced head coaches in 2022*

During the past year, Notre Dame welcomed four new head coaches.

Chris Lindauer was introduced as the head coach of the swimming and diving program, Salima Rockwell joined the Irish as the head coach of volleyball, Shawn Stiffler took over Notre Dame Baseball and Caroline Powers-Ellis was introduced as the head coach of women's golf.

Lindauer comes to Notre Dame after 13 seasons with Louisville. He coached numerous Olympians, 12 NCAA champions, a men's ACC team title, and his student-athletes tallied over 100 All-American honors. As a student-athlete at Louisville, Lindauer was an All-American and four-time BIG EAST champion.

Rockwell joins the Notre Dame staff after spending nine years coaching at her alma mater, Penn State University, holding titles of associate head coach, assistant coach and

director of operations over two different stints in Happy Valley (2006-2009 and 2015-17). As a student-athlete, Rockwell As a student-athlete, Rockwell was a three-time All-American setter and a two-time NCAA runner-up. Within BIG Conference play, she led the Nittany Lions to two conference titles while copping four all-conference honors. She was also a member of the U.S. National Team from 1995-99, captaining the team in 1997 and 1998.

Powers-Ellis comes from Michigan State after helping develop multiple All-Americans, all-conference players and two student-athletes who earned the Big Ten's Mary Fossum Award for the lowest stroke average to par during an individual season. She was a former Michigan State All-American and Big Ten Golfer of the Year.







## HALL OF FAME

# INDUCTION

*Three Irish were inducted into their respective Halls of Fame.*

Known at Notre Dame for leading the Irish to their first women's soccer national championship in 1995, Shannon Boxx, was selected to the National Soccer Hall of Fame in January of 2022.

She was a member of the Team USA Women's National Team from 2003 to 2015. Boxx won gold medals at the 2004 Athens Olympics, the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the 2012 London Olympics. Boxx was the first American woman to score three goals in her first three games with the national team.

Notre Dame team captain and 1993 All-American at defensive tackle, Bryant Young, was announced as a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2022 during the annual NFL Honors show.

A four-year monogram winner and three-year starter for the Irish, the Chicago Heights, Illinois native was selected to the Hall of Fame

in his 10th year of eligibility.

Young becomes Notre Dame's 14th player to be tabbed for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, tying the Irish with the most selections of any school in the country.

Aaron Taylor, one of the best offensive linemen in the illustrious success of the Irish in that position, was named to the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame Class of 2021.

A former team captain, and first-round pick in the 1994 NFL Draft, Taylor is the 48th Notre Dame player, along with six former coaches, enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame. The Fighting Irish have more College Football Hall of Fame inductees than any other school.







## BASKETBALL

## FROM THE 574

*Skylar Diggins-Smith & Blake Wesley are writing history locally and on the international stage.*

She was South Bend-grown. He was South Bend-grown. Both were Notre Dame-honed. Now, both Skylar Diggins-Smith and Blake Wesley have put the 574 on the map in the basketball scene through another all-WNBA performance and being selected by San Antonio in the first round of the NBA Draft - the latter as the Fighting Irish's first-ever one-year-and-done basketball player.

Diggins-Smith, a 2013 graduate has been with the Phoenix Mercury since 2020. Arguably her best season while in the WNBA, 2022 saw the guard nearly eclipse 20 points per game while serving up 5.5 assists per game and 1.6 steals. Her fourth first team all-WNBA selection, came on the back of her gold medal

winning experience with Team USA in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

Wesley, less than six months removed from his high school graduation, etched his name into the annals of Notre Dame lore and burst onto the national scene by hitting a game-winning jumper against perennial powerhouse Kentucky.

By the time his debut season concluded, the 6-foot-5-inch, 185-pound Wesley appeared in 35 games with 28 starts. He scored more than 500 points and added 129 rebounds, 84 assists and 44 steals. Wesley paced the Irish in both points scored and steals; he was the team's second-leading distributor in assists behind veteran point guard Prentiss Hubb.







UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME 2021-2022

Captain's  
Cup  
BOY'S ATHLETIC  
EXCELLENCE



## NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

# THE CUP

*Notre Dame claims the Men's Capital One Cup for the second time.*

As it pertains to comprehensive excellence, Notre Dame has few peers, a reality that was demonstrated by the men's teams winning the Capital One Cup – the singular barometer for overall proficiency in intercollegiate athletics.

With 78 overall points, the Fighting Irish conquered the rest of the NCAA field for their second-ever Capital One Cup Championship – five points out in front of second-place Texas.

“So proud of the work our student-athletes have put in to come out on top,” Notre Dame Vice President and James D. Rohr Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick shared, via social media. “This is an amazing honor for them, our coaches, our staff and the University.

“Two men’s trophies in nine years is a great feat - only four schools have won two total titles!”

The Capital One Cup crown comes with financial rewards that directly benefit future Notre Dame student-athletes; Capital One donates \$250,000 to the scholarship fund of the overall champion.

What was Notre Dame’s path to the championship?

The Fighting Irish men’s soccer team uncorked a legendary run to the NCAA Men’s College Cup, which included a No. 4 national ranking in the final poll. Notre Dame’s baseball team likewise engineered an epic run to the Men’s College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska; along the way, the Irish upset the sport’s No. 1 overall seed, Tennessee, and won their first game at the World Series in more than decades. They finished No. 5 in the national rankings.

Fencing won a national championship which netted 10 points in Cup standings for a co-ed title, and football closed again the in top 10 of the national rankings – No. 9 – for another national top-10 finish.

Finally, Notre Dame’s men’s hockey and cross country squads both fashioned top-10 finishes to vault the Irish atop the standings.

With their second overall crown in the past decade, the Fighting Irish are joined by Florida, Stanford and Virginia as the only multi-time winners in the men’s Capital One Cup standings.





# THE NUMBERS







1

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Fencing



5

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Cross Country, Men's Fencing, Women's Fencing  
Men's Lacrosse, Men's Soccer

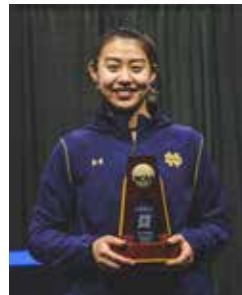


## INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

2



**Dylan Jacobs**  
SR | Track & Field,  
Outdoor  
10,000 M



**Kaylin Hsieh**  
SO | Fencing  
Epee

## INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

11

**Dylan Jacobs**  
SR | Track & Field  
3,000 M - Indoor  
5,000 M - Outdoor

**Daria Kudriavtseva**  
JR | Fencing  
Sabre

**Andrew Machovec**  
SR | Fencing  
Foil

**Rebeca Candescu**  
SO | Fencing  
Foil

**Matthew Carmody**  
SR | Track & Field (Indoor)  
5,000 M

**Olivia Markezich**  
JR | Track & Field  
Steeplechase

**Jadin O'Brien**  
SO | Track & Field  
Women's Pentathlon

**Amanda Pirkowski**  
JR | Fencing  
Epee

**Michael Shoaf**  
SO | Track & Field  
Shot Put

**Jared Smith**  
GR | Fencing  
Sabre

32

ALL-AMERICANS

6

ACADEMIC  
ALL-AMERICANS

60

ALL-CONFERENCE

**ACC** **BIG**

118

ACADEMIC  
ALL-CONFERENCE



# APR

Implemented in 2003 as part of an ambitious academic reform effort in Division I, the Academic Progress Rate (APR) holds institutions accountable for the academic progress of their student-athletes through a team-based metric that accounts for the eligibility and retention of each student-athlete for each academic term.

The APR system includes rewards for superior academic performance and penalties for teams that do not achieve certain academic benchmarks. Data are collected annually, and results are announced in the spring.

YEAR	TEAMS WITH PERFECT SCORE	PLACE AMONG FBS*
2020-21	15	1st
2019-20 <sup>^</sup>	-	-
2018-19	13	1st (tie)
2017-18	15	1st
2016-17	12	2nd

\* Football Bowl Subdivision Schools

<sup>^</sup> Scores not computed due to COVID-19 pandemic

# GSR

The NCAA's Graduation Success Rate measures the proportion of first-year, full-time student-athletes and transfers who entered a school on athletics aid and graduated from that institution within six years.

YEAR	SCORE	PLACE AMONG FBS*
2020-21	97	3rd (tie)
2019-20	98	1st (tie)
2018-19	98	1st (tie)
2017-18	98	1st (tie)
2016-17	98	1st

\* Football Bowl Subdivision Schools

## 12

## DRAFTEES

**2022 NFL DRAFT****Kyle Hamilton***Baltimore Ravens | Round 1, Pick 14***Kyren Williams***Los Angeles Rams | Round 5, Pick 164***2022 WNBA DRAFT****Maya Dodson***Phoenix Mercury | Round 3, Pick 26***2022 NBA DRAFT****Blake Wesley***San Antonio Spurs | Round 1, Pick 25*





**2022 NHL DRAFT**

**Brennan Ali**  
*Detroit Red Wings | Round 7, Pick 212*



**2022 MLS SUPERDRAFT**

**Jack Lynn**  
*Orlando City | Round 1, Pick 18*

**Mohamed Omar**  
*Colorado Rapids | Round 1, Pick 23*

**Philip Quinton**  
*Columbus Crew | Round 1, Pick 25*



**2022 NWSL DRAFT**

**Samantha Fisher**  
*Chicago Red Stars | Round 2, Pick 19*



**2022 PLL COLLEGE DRAFT**

**Bryan Costabile**  
*Atlas | Round 1, Pick 2*



The Capital One Cup is awarded to a school to acknowledge athletic success across all sports. Sports programs from across the United States are pitted against each other, acquiring points based on how individual sports teams finish in national championships. There are separate cups for men's and women's sports.

MEN'S CUP STANDINGS	PLACE	POINTS
Notre Dame	1	78
Texas	2	73
Georgia	3	72
Michigan	4	65
Clemson	5	60
Kansas	5	60

## CUP PERFORMANCE



The Directors' Cup, is an award given annually by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics to the colleges and universities in the United States with the most success in collegiate athletics. Points for the NACDA Directors' Cup are based on order of finish in various NCAA Championships.

YEAR	PLACE	POINTS
2021-22	8	1021
2020-21	14	900
2019-20	na	na
2018-19	17	885
2017-18	22	804



# POSTSEASON SUCCESS



**BASEBALL**  
Men's College World Series



**M. BASKETBALL**  
NCAA Tournament  
Round of 32



**W. BASKETBALL**  
NCAA Tournament  
Sweet Sixteen



**FENCING**  
National Champions



**FOOTBALL**  
New Year's Six  
PlayStation Fiesta Bowl



**HOCKEY**  
NCAA Regional Finalist



**W. LACROSSE**  
NCAA Tournament



**M. SOCCER**  
NCAA College Cup



**W. SOCCER**  
NCAA Tournament  
Round of 16



**SOFTBALL**  
NCAA Regional



**TRACK & FIELD**  
Women's Indoor: 17th  
Men's Indoor: 28th (t)  
Men's Outdoor: 30th



**CROSS COUNTRY**  
Women's: 5th  
Men's: 9th



**M. TENNIS**  
NCAA Tournament



**M. GOLF**  
NCAA Regionals



**SWIMMING & DIVING**  
Men's: 33rd  
Women's: 33rd



# OFF THE FIELD





## DEVELOPMENT

### FIRST SPORTS SUMMIT

In May, the University brought together in New York City members of Athletic Director's Circle and Jesse Harper Council for the first Notre Dame Sports Summit.

A “who’s who” from around sports peppered the dais with University Vice President and James E. Rohr Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick and NBC Sports President Pete Bevacqua serving as MC’s. Special guests included Major League Baseball Commissioner Paul Manfred, Big Ten Conference Commissioner Kevin Warren, WNBA Commissioner Cathy Englebert and TV and Radio Personalities Mike Golic Sr., Mike Golic Jr., Cris Collinsworth and Tony Dungy.



*University Vice President and James E. Rohr Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick with head coaches Niele Ivey - Women's Basketball, Salima Rockwell - Volleyball and Marcus Freeman - Football, at the first annual Notre Dame Sports Summit in Manhattan.*

## MEDIA

### A BANNER YEAR FOR FIM

The communications wing of the Athletics Department, Fighting Irish Media (FIM), had a banner year in recognition on the national and international stage – winning its first worldwide award. FIM was honored at the 4th annual Hashtag Sports Awards in Las Vegas in the category of “Best Sports Communications Strategy” for their “holistic communications” approach to the football transition in late 2021.

Additionally, the Emmy Award winning unit also brought home a Sports Video Group award for “Outstanding Live Event Non-Game Production” for the work at Notre Dame Football’s Pro Day on Peacock. Lastly, FIM was named a finalist at PProvoke’s Sabre Awards for Crisis Communications.



**FIGHTING  
IRISH  
MEDIA**

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

### PINEDA NAMED JIM NANTZ AWARD WINNER

Fighting Irish Media student worker Caroline Pineda was named the 2022 Jim Nantz Award winner, the first in the University's history. The award is annually bestowed upon the top student announcer in college sports.

Mike Monaco '15, now of ESPN and NESN, was Notre Dame's highest finisher until Pineda's win. Monaco finished third in 2015.

Even without a sports management or broadcasting major, the Irish were named the fourth-best sports broadcasting schools by Sportscasters Talent Agency of America (STAA).



*Caroline Pineda is the first Notre Dame student to win the Jim Nantz Award.*

## SPORTS PERFORMANCE

### FOCUSING ON SPORTS PERFORMANCE

In a continued effort to maximize the success of our student-athletes – an added emphasis was placed on Sports Performance with the hiring of John Wagle.

Wagle, formerly the director of sports performance for Major League Baseball's Kansas City Royals, is tasked with leading the next generation of student-athlete success at the University.



*John Wagle, Associate Athletics Director - Sports Performance*



## LEADERSHIP

# ATHLETICS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM BEGINS

The Administration Fellowship is a new program led by the Athletic Director's Office. The goal of this fellowship is to empower and develop minorities who aspire to be leaders in athletic administration.

As part of his role, the fellow has the opportunity to engage with student-athletes, coaches, athletic administrators, and other campus partners in a wide variety of events, activities, and projects. Jubril Dawodu, a 2018 graduate and Monogram Winner, was named the first Fellow and began his 24-month appointment in early 2022.



Jubril Dawodu, '18 – Administration Fellow, Monogram Winner (Cheer)

## MEDIA

# INNOVATION IN STREAMING

Notre Dame Football's September matchup with Toledo was the first game broadcast exclusively via a streaming service on NBC's Peacock platform.

In an effort to keep Notre Dame "ahead of the curve," the event was deemed as "innovative" and "setting the standard" from media and broadcast professionals nationwide.



In the first college football game exclusively broadcast on Peacock, Notre Dame defeated Toledo at Notre Dame Stadium.

## MEDIA

# REACHING AUDIENCES WORLDWIDE

Notre Dame has always been thought of as a Worldwide University, and in partnership with NBC began providing the opportunity to view Fighting Irish home games in football and hockey to subscribers around the globe. This undertaking will continue into the future under the Fighting Irish digital ecosystem.



*Our Fighting Irish TV platform makes Notre Dame Athletics content available on living room streaming platforms such as Apple TV.*

## LEADERSHIP

# MAKING OUR MARK

Notre Dame student-athletes have continued to use their voices to speak up on issues of importance to them. One of the more unique and powerful was the donning of “Pray For Peace” shirts in the early days of the invasion of Ukraine. The shirts, which don part of University President Fr. John Jenkins’ statement on the invasion, were worn by our men’s and women’s basketball, fencing and swimming and diving teams during their Championship seasons in the Winter. Taking this stand was an important piece of our University ethos to be a “force for good” around the World.



*Blake Wesley during pre-game warmups for Notre Dame's first round NCAA Tournament game against Alabama.*





