The Jesse Harper Council is our premier Rockne membership level, consisting of 112 members, that gave $7.3 million of the $18.6 million raised last fiscal year. Members of this exclusive group make annual gifts of $50,000 or more to provide Notre Dame student-athletes with the resources they need to compete in every field. Each year, members help shape Notre Dame’s distinct student-athlete experience by providing scholarships, health and wellness resources, immersive learning and study abroad opportunities, and facilities.

Being a Notre Dame student-athlete is a choice, one where being uncomfortable and challenged daily is the expectation—that is what makes being a member of the Rockne Athletics Fund special. Rockne encompasses individuals who believe in the value of competition, the importance of an excellent education, the desire to win championships, and the platform to grow spiritually. TOGETHER, WE LEAD, WE FIGHT, AND WE WIN.
Notre Dame has the strictest class attendance policy in the country. Charter travel is imperative for their classroom success and physical and mental health. It is not possible for student-athletes to consistently fly commercial and obtain the proper sleep needed to compete at the highest level. Covering charter flight expenses remains within the Athletics Department’s top three financial needs.

Notre Dame is committed to being an industry leader in sports performance, dedicating a portion of its unrestricted dollars to ensuring student-athletes have the necessary resources to perform at the highest level. From proper nutrition to mental health screening to recovery equipment, Notre Dame refuses to put itself at a disadvantage and will continue to aggressively invest in all avenues of performance.

It takes a unique individual willing to take on the challenges and expectations of being a Notre Dame student-athlete. Having the necessary funds for our coaches to find student-athletes who fit Notre Dame remains an expensive but rewarding assignment. Notre Dame’s leadership role in collegiate athletics starts with welcoming exceptional young men and women to Notre Dame as students first and athletes second.

This year, $5,500,000 from Jesse Harper Council members went toward student-athlete scholarships. The Athletics Department’s most significant expense is the rising cost of student-athlete financial aid. Unlike our peers, **100% of scholarships are paid back to the university.**
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