



ROCKNE

ATHLETICS FUND

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT





ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE COACH

At Notre Dame, we talk a lot about what makes this place special—and it always comes back to the people. As the Dick Corbett Head Football Coach, I get to see that truth every day. I see it in our players, our coaches, our staff—and in loyal supporters like you.

I want to personally thank you for being part of our team. Your investment through the Rockne Athletics Fund makes a direct and lasting impact on our program and, most importantly, on all Notre Dame student-athletes.

We're entering a new era of college athletics—one where the demand for resources, innovation, and commitment has never been greater. But with the strength of the Notre Dame Family behind us, there's nothing we can't accomplish. Your generosity fuels our edge, on and off the field.

Because of you, our student-athletes have the tools they need to grow—not just as athletes, but as men and women. You help create an environment where they're challenged, supported, and loved. Where they're pushed to be excellent on the field, in the classroom, and in their lives beyond sport. That's the mission here: to prepare them for life. And that mission doesn't happen without you.

In our program, we often say that everything we do is built on **The Golden Standard: Challenge Everything, Unit Strength, Competitive Spirit.** Those values are the foundation of our team. But what makes them real is the example our players see every day—through the commitment of the Notre Dame Family. Through people like you, who give so generously and believe in what we're building together.

I couldn't be more proud of our team—and I couldn't be more grateful for your role in their journey. Thank you for investing in our student-athletes, for believing in the mission of Notre Dame, and for helping us pursue greatness the right way.

Go Irish!

Marcus Freeman
Dick Corbett Head Football Coach



ROCKNE STATS



TOTAL IMPACT: \$25.95M

upholding the nation's best student-athlete experience and fueling every area of Notre Dame Athletics—made possible by Rockne Athletics Fund members last fiscal year.

FINANCIAL AID: \$20.89M

breaking financial barriers and expanding opportunities for first-generation graduates and future leaders—funding over 50% of Notre Dame Athletics' annual scholarships.

4 FOR FOREVER PROMISE: \$936,000+

supporting career development, global experiences, and connections to the Notre Dame alumni network—essential programming that prepares student-athletes for success well after their time on campus.

SPORTS PERFORMANCE & NUTRITION: \$1.2M

advancing sports performance, nutrition, and mental wellness—ensuring our exceptional student-athletes receive the holistic care and resources they need to perform at their best in every aspect of their lives.

OPERATING BUDGETS: \$1.49M

ensuring Notre Dame Athletics runs strong. From expert staff and facility upkeep to critical resources across all sports, this flexible funding enables stability, responsiveness, and impact where it's needed most.

TEAM TRAVEL: \$1.43M

funding smart, safe, and efficient travel—giving student-athletes precious hours back for academics, recovery, and rest. This isn't a luxury—it's a commitment to the mission of Notre Dame Athletics.

ROCKNE GIFTS FULFILL NEEDS ACROSS ALL 26 ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Below are examples illustrating how Rockne dollars were utilized for each sport.

BASEBALL

Team Travel to Stanford

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Spain Foreign Tour

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team Travel to the Cayman
Islands Classic

FENCING

New Fencing Equipment

FOOTBALL

Player Development Programming

MEN'S GOLF

Men's Golf Legacy Weekend
(Alumni Reunion)

WOMEN'S GOLF

Launch Monitors

HOCKEY

Northern Ireland Tournament Trip

MEN'S LACROSSE

Career Networking Trips to New
York and Chicago

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Summer School Grants-in-Aid

WOMEN'S ROWING

New Boat

MEN'S SOCCER

Postseason Travel

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Women's Soccer Legacy Weekend
(Alumni Reunion)

SOFTBALL

OGX Pitching Consultant

SWIMMING AND DIVING

2024 Olympic Qualifications

MEN'S TENNIS

Alumni Engagement

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Team Travel to Sectionals

TRACK AND CROSS COUNTRY

2024 Olympic Trials

VOLLEYBALL

Mediterranean Foreign Tour



BUILDING CHAMPIONS

2024-2025



POSTSEASON TEAM SUCCESS

- **Men's & Women's Fencing** – National champions
- **Football** – Sugar Bowl champions, Orange Bowl champions, College Football National Championship runners-up
- **Women's Soccer** – NCAA Elite Eight
- **Men's Cross Country** – 10th-place NCAA finish
- **Women's Basketball** – NCAA Tournament Sweet 16
- **Men's Lacrosse** – NCAA quarterfinals
- **Women's Tennis** – NCAA second round

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (1)

- **Men's & Women's Fencing**

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS (5)

- **Women's Cross Country** – ACC champions
- **Men's Fencing** – ACC champions
- **Women's Fencing** – ACC champions
- **Men's Lacrosse** – ACC regular-season co-champions
- **Women's Basketball** – ACC regular-season co-champions

INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS (4)

- **Jadin O'Brien**
Indoor Track – pentathlon
- **Chase Emmer**
Men's Fencing – foil
- **Ezter Muhari**
Women's Fencing – epee
- **Magda Skarbonkiewicz**
Women's Fencing – sabre

INDIVIDUAL ACC CHAMPIONS (9)

ALL-AMERICANS (36)

- **Football** – 3
- **Women's Soccer** – 1
- **Women's Track & Field** – 3
- **Women's Basketball** – 3
- **Men's Fencing** – 5
- **Women's Fencing** – 4
- **Baseball** – 1
- **Men's Tennis** – 1
- **Women's Lacrosse** – 1
- **Men's Lacrosse** – 9
- **Men's Cross Country** – 2
- **Women's Cross Country** – 2
- **Rowing** – 1

ALL-CONFERENCE (61)

ACC COACH OF THE YEAR

- **Fencing** – Gia Kvaratskhelia

ACADEMICS AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- Academic All-Conference – 326
- 800+ one-on-one career appointments
- 94% of student-athletes completed a personalized career survey
- 85%+ participated in team-specific resume and LinkedIn workshops
- 16 summer career experiences funded through Rockne support
- 100+ student-athletes participated in career networking events



4 FOR FOREVER

At Notre Dame, academic excellence and athletic greatness coexist. Fighting Irish student-athletes become leaders who shape the world through their intellect, character, and competitive spirit.



NOTRE DAME LEADS IN ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The NCAA's Academic Progress Rate 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.

YEAR	TEAMS WITH PERFECT SCORE	PLACE AMONG FBS
2023-24	17* <small>* matched an institutional record</small>	1st
2022-23	16	1st
2021-22	14	2nd
2020-21	15	1st
2019-20	13	T-1st

NOTRE DAME LEADS IN GRADUATION SUCCESS

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 within six years.

YEAR	SCORE	PLACE AMONG FBS
2023-24	99	1st
2022-23	98	T-1st
2021-22	97	T-3rd
2020-21	97	T-3rd
2019-20	98	T-1st



EMPOWERING STUDENT-ATHLETES FOR LIFE

THE 4 FOR FOREVER PROMISE: CULTIVATING LEADERS BEYOND THE FIELD

The impact of Notre Dame student-athletes extends far beyond their athletic achievements as they actively prepare to become leaders in their careers and communities. Through personalized career development, alumni mentorship, and immersive real-world experiences, they are equipped with the confidence, skills, and support to thrive long after graduation. 4 for Forever isn't just a saying—it's a promise, and **you** help deliver the nation's premier student-athlete experience. The opportunities listed—made possible by the Office of Student-Athlete Services—reflect the University's deep commitment to forming individuals who lead with purpose, guided by the values of excellence, integrity, and service.

The Notre Dame Athletics' Office of Student-Athlete Services is dedicated to holistically supporting the student-athlete experience, empowering them to grow personally and lead effectively while preparing them for life after graduation.



PERSONALIZED CAREER PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

From day one on campus to graduation, student-athletes work with dedicated staff to identify their passions and chart a personalized path—whether that leads to professional sports, graduate school, service work, or their first job.

A key goal is ensuring every student-athlete develops a resume and online profiles for LinkedIn and Handshake, the primary recruiting platform for university students. Over the past nine months, team-specific workshops (and additional drop-in sessions) have engaged over 300 students across the majority of sports, supplemented by over 800 personalized career appointments. The annual student-athlete career survey further seeks to understand the population and helps focus support by assessing each athlete's individual journey.

MENTORSHIPS THAT MATTER

Signature programs like the MVP mentorship program, Monogram Club board mentors, and KPMG athlete advancement program connect student-athletes with alumni and professionals who offer insight, encouragement, and invaluable industry connections.

- **MVP (Most Valuable Pairing) Program**
This program pairs 45 student-athletes, primarily upperclassmen, with top industry professionals and business executives who are members of the Jesse Harper Council, the premier level of the Rockne Athletics Fund.
- **Track/XC Legacy Weekend**
In February, over 70 cross country/track & field alumni returned for Legacy Weekend, where they connected with current team members during a dedicated networking session.
- **Built Different Speaker Series**
This series brings together current and former student-athletes, offering insights on leadership, resilience, and how to leverage a Notre Dame education in life after graduation.
- **Monogram Club Board Mentor Program**
This program thoughtfully pairs sophomore/junior student-athletes with Monogram Club board members, fostering connections based on shared industry interests.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Jesse Harper Council
\$50,000
193 Members \$12.6M Raised

Athletics Director's Circle
\$25,000-\$49,999
242 Members \$6M Raised

Irish Level - Gold Level
\$500-\$24,999
2,058 Members \$5.5M Raised

Shamrock Level
<\$500
14,087 Members \$1.8M Raised



GREATNESS AND IMPACT

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE,
MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU



The Rockne Athletics Fund empowers student-athletes by facilitating immersive real-world experiences, cultivating essential life skills, and fostering a robust community—all designed to prepare them for diverse career paths.

Summer Funding

Summer funding supported 30 student-athletes in completing their summer experiences - ranging from internships and company visits to career treks and project-based work. The funding helped cover travel, accommodation, and food expenses, reducing financial barriers and making these valuable experiences more accessible.

Morgan Stanley Trek

The Women's Tennis team visited NYC, where they were hosted by alumnus Martin Vergara '06 for a panel discussion, breakout sessions, and a networking dinner.

Chicago Career Trek

Notre Dame Baseball traveled to Chicago to meet with Cubs executives at Wrigley Field, tour Under Armour HQ, and attend an alumni mixer.

Football Friday Rockne Premier Cocktail Hours

Student-athletes connected with Rockne Athletics Fund donors in relaxed, real-world settings and had time to network, create relationships, and focus on life beyond sports.

Rockne Winter Sports Weekend

A record-breaking 100+ student-athletes attended a sit-down breakfast, engaging in speed-dating style conversations with various Rockne Premier members to spark meaningful career discussions.

Student International Business

Council (SIBC) Projects

Two SIBC teams, comprised solely of student-athletes, undertook real-world consulting and finance projects for McKinsey & Company and Truist Bank over the summer, culminating in presentations of their work in Chicago and New York, respectively.

Financial Literacy

This year, a program was created to empower student-athletes with financial knowledge, covering wealth generation, tax management, smart spending, savings, and investing, led by Brent Weiss '05, a former Notre Dame baseball player and co-founder of Facet Wealth.

Branding U

An interactive workshop that equips student-athletes to take control of their personal brand, including social media audits to optimize their digital presence.

Irish Strong Through Injury

A small group providing a safe space for student-athletes recovering from injury, with sport psychology-led discussions centered on mental well-being.

Notre Dame Christian Athletes (NDCA)

This group cultivates a Christ-centered community where student-athletes can gather in fellowship and engage in faith-based discussions.

These life-preparation initiatives reflect the heart of the Rockne Athletics Fund's mission: to holistically support Notre Dame student-athletes as they grow into confident professionals and purposeful leaders. Through career development, mentorship, networking, and real-world experiences, the Rockne Athletics Fund equips student-athletes with the tools they need to thrive far beyond competition. Together, Rockne members are helping shape a generation of leaders who will carry the Notre Dame legacy into every field, every boardroom, and every community they serve.



MOST VALUABLE PAIRING (MVP)

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The MVP program is an opportunity for Jesse Harper Council members to mentor Notre Dame student-athletes and to act as a career coach—advising them in areas such as selecting internships, choosing a major or minor, and branding themselves for career development.

MVP PROGRAM'S MISSION

To create a casual yet professional environment for student-athletes and Jesse Harper Council members to connect, collaborate, and build meaningful relationships that will help prepare student-athletes for life after graduation.

MVP PROGRAM'S VISION

To enhance the preparation and professional marketability of Notre Dame student-athletes while connecting Jesse Harper Council members with those who are directly impacted by their generosity.

MVP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

23/24: 26 mentors, 30 student-athletes

24/25: 38 mentors, 40 student-athletes

25/26: 41 mentors, 45 student-athletes



"My time as a Notre Dame Swimming student-athlete continues to shape who I am today as a leader and teammate. It is very important to me that our student-athletes have a similar chance to maximize the unique mind, body, and spirit experience that Notre Dame offers. The Rockne Athletics Fund allows Notre Dame Athletics to create these new innovative opportunities for our current student-athletes. Mentoring through the MVP program is a fantastic way to connect with our student-athletes on a personal and professional level, to share life's lessons, and to learn from them."

TANYA KNE '89

**NOTRE DAME MONOGRAM WINNER
JESSE HARPER COUNCIL MEMBER**





THANK YOU.



ROCKNE ATHLETICS FUND

This year marked a turning point in collegiate athletics—a time of transformation that continues to redefine the student-athlete experience across the country. Yet amid this change, one thing remains constant at Notre Dame: our commitment to developing the whole person. We believe that academic and athletic pursuits are held in equal esteem, each essential to forming leaders who excel in competition and in life.

Because of your generosity, our student-athletes are not only prepared to compete at the highest level, but they're also empowered to pursue excellence in every part of their lives. Your support helps break down financial barriers, creates opportunities for first-generation graduates, and ensures that we can continue to provide a student-athlete experience that reflects the very best of Notre Dame.

This is what 4 for Forever looks like in action. It's more than a phrase—it's a promise. And your commitment helps us deliver on that promise with integrity, purpose, and a deep sense of mission.

Thanks to you, we remain resolute in doing things the right way and confident in our ability to meet whatever challenges lie ahead. Every contribution—large or small—plays a direct role in shaping the next generation of leaders.

From your Rockne Athletics Fund team, **thank you.** Your investment helps us preserve what makes Notre Dame unique. Your care, your passion for our student-athletes, and your recognition of athletics' vital role at Our Lady's University are invaluable.

The Rockne Athletics Fund Team

Shannon B. Longo

Shannon B. Longo

Sydney M. Kuhn

Sydney M. Kuhn '18

Hannah M. Thompson

Hannah M. Thompson '21

William A. Mitchell IV

William A. Mitchell IV





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GOAL!

#IrishVision

IRISH

IRISH

FINALIST HOCKEY

SEMIFINALIST HOCKEY

SEMIFINALIST HOCKEY

FINALIST HOCKEY

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UND.COM

FIGHTING IRISH

GATORADE



ROCKNE

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