ROCKNE
ATHLETICS FUND

2025-26

IMPACT REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

FROM THE COACH

At Notre Dame, greatness isn't just measured by banners or medals. It is measured by the people. As Head Fencing Coach, I see the power of the Notre Dame Family every single day in the Castellan Family Fencing Center.

Your investment through the Rockne Athletics Fund directly fueled our journey this past Spring to winning the 15th and 16th NCAA National Championships in program history—making Notre Dame Fencing the winningest program in the University's legendary athletic history.

College athletics is evolving—but Notre Dame remains unwavering. We will never compromise our belief that excellence in academics and athletics must go hand in hand. The Rockne Athletics Fund is central to this mission, sustaining scholarships and supporting the well-being of every student-athlete.

Fencing is often called "physical chess," requiring intense physical prowess and mental calculation. But what matters most is what happens when the masks come off. Because of you, we can create an environment where our athletes are challenged, supported, and loved. You give us the edge to push them to develop NCAA and Olympic champions on the strip, scholars in the classroom, and leaders in life.

In our gym, we live by a simple truth: One Team, One Heartbeat. No matter our different weapons or where we come from in the world, we move forward as one nucleus. Your commitment makes that unity possible.

Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us pursue greatness the right way.

Go Irish!

Gia Kvaratskhelia
Head Fencing Coach

IMPACT REPORT

IMPACT & ALLOCATIONS

The generosity of Rockne Athletics Fund members enables Notre Dame to uphold the nation's premier student-athlete experience and fuel every area of Notre Dame Athletics.

$32.2M TOTAL IMPACT

$17.2M
Jesse Harper Council
238 members

$7.1M
Athletics Director's Circle
284 members

$6.5M
Irish Level through Gold Level
2,307 members

$1.4M
Shamrock Level
15,181 members

Rockne members are the force behind the Notre Dame student-athlete experience. Across all 26 varsity programs, Rockne support helps provide the resources and opportunities student-athletes need to compete, achieve, and lead. Together, the Rockne community helps build champions today—and leaders for life.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE

$3.6M

SUMMER ACADEMICS & GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

Rockne support gives student-athletes a head start on the Notre Dame experience and helps them make the most of every opportunity along the way. Through Summer Bridge, incoming student-athletes can begin their college education, build community, and start training before their first season even begins. Rockne dollars also help returning student-athletes stay on track toward graduation through summer coursework and open the door to tailored study abroad opportunities that expand their Notre Dame experience.

$5M

SPORTS PERFORMANCE & HOLISTIC CARE

Rockne support equips Notre Dame student-athletes to perform at their best on the field and beyond. Advanced performance technology, sports medicine, elite strength and conditioning, sports psychology, and mental health resources work together to support the whole student-athlete. The result is comprehensive care that helps the Irish stay healthy, recover stronger, and pursue excellence at the highest level.

$2.4M

PROGRAM EXCELLENCE & STABILITY

Rockne support helps ensure all 26 varsity programs have the resources to compete, grow, and succeed at the highest level. Flexible funding provides championship-caliber equipment, specialized technology, expert staff, team-building experiences, and leadership opportunities—strengthening the everyday student-athlete experience and creating an environment where excellence is the standard.

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE BEHIND THE IRISH

→ TEAM TRAVEL & LOGISTICS

Efficient, safe, and strategic travel keeps student-athletes focused on what matters most. By minimizing time away from South Bend, protecting valuable academic hours, and reducing travel fatigue, we help ensure the Irish arrive ready to perform at their best on game day.

→ ELITE RECRUITING

Attracting the nation's top student-athletes requires the resources to identify and engage individuals who reflect Notre Dame's high athletic, academic, and character standards. The right tools and opportunities empower coaches to build those relationships and bring exceptional talent to South Bend.

→ CAPITAL PROJECTS & WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES

Ongoing investment in elite training environments, specialized sports technology, and world-class athletic venues gives all 26 programs the spaces and resources to train, compete, recover, and excel.

BUILDING CHAMPIONS

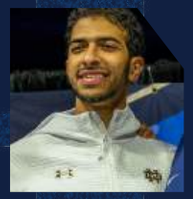
IN COMPETITION

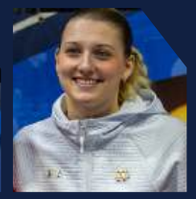
2 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S & WOMEN'S FENCING

2 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

WOMEN'S FENCING | MEN'S LACROSSE





2 INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

AHMED HESHAM (MEN'S FENCING)

ESZTER MUHARI (WOMEN'S FENCING)

9 INDIVIDUAL ACC CHAMPIONS

2 ACC SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

WILL DONOVAN (MEN'S LACROSSE) | ESZTER MUHARI (WOMEN'S FENCING)

46 → ALL AMERICANS

66
ALL CONFERENCE

2 COACHES OF THE YEAR

GIA KVARATSKHELIA (FENCING)

KEVIN CORRIGAN (MEN'S LACROSSE)

3 FOOTBALL

3 WOMEN'S SOCCER

1 MEN'S XC

2 WOMEN'S XC

1 MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

1 WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

1 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

5 MEN'S FENCING

6 WOMEN'S FENCING

2 MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

4 WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

1 BASEBALL

3 WOMEN'S LACROSSE

9 MEN'S LACROSSE

1 MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

2 WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

1 MEN'S GOLF

ACC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

WOMEN'S SOCCER

IZZY ENGLE
Offensive Player of the Year

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

HANNAH HIDALGO
Player of the Year & Defensive Player of the Year

MEN'S FENCING

AHMED HESHAM
Sabre

WOMEN'S FENCING

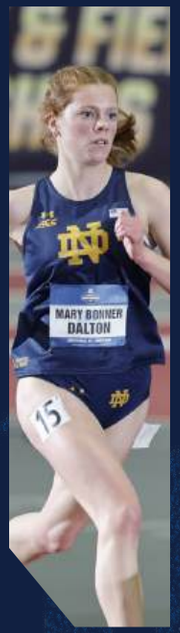
MAGDA SKARBONKIEWICZ
Sabre

ESZTER MUHARI
Epee

MEN'S LACROSSE

SHAWN LYGHT
Co-Defensive Player of the Year

THOMAS RICCIARDELLI
Goalie of the Year



NATIONAL & SPECIAL RECOGNITION

FOOTBALL

AAMIL WAGNER
Allstate AFCA Good Works Team
Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year finalist

JEREMIYAH LOVE
Disney Spirit Award winner

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

HANNAH HIDALGO
Naismith National Defensive Player of the Year

MEN'S LACROSSE

SHAWN LYGHT
Tewaaraton Award Winner
(first defenseman in award history)

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

CARLI CRONK
Seven-time 2025 Tokyo Deaflympics gold medalist

WOMEN'S TRACK

SOPHIE NOVAK
Great Lakes Region Women's Track Athlete of the Year

IRISH IN THE PROS

CASSANDRE PROSPER
Women's Basketball
Guard, Washington Mystics
No. 19 selection in the 2026 WNBA Draft

JEREMIYAH LOVE
Football
Running Back, Arizona Cardinals
No. 3 selection in the 2026 NFL Draft

JADARIAN PRICE
Football
Running Back, Seattle Seahawks
No. 32 selection in the 2026 NFL Draft

JACK RADEL
Baseball
Pitcher, Houston Astros
No. 28 selection in the 2026 MLB Draft

MARK QUATRANI
Baseball
Catcher, San Diego Padres
No. 545 selection in the 2026 MLB Draft

JEREMIYAH
LOVE

BUILDING CHAMPIONS

IN THE CLASSROOM

NOTRE DAME LEADS IN ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The Academic Progress Rate (APR) holds institutions accountable for the academic progress of their student-athletes through a team-based metric that accounts for each student-athlete's eligibility and retention in each academic term.

YEAR	TEAMS WITH PERFECT SCORE	PLACE AMONG FBS
2024-25	17* * matched an institutional record	1st
2023-24	17* * matched an institutional record	1st
2022-23	16	1st
2021-22	14	2nd
2020-21	15	1st

NOTRE DAME LEADS IN GRADUATION SUCCESS

The NCAA's Graduation Success Rate (GSR) 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
2024-25	99	T-1st
2023-24	99	1st
2022-23	98	T-1st
2021-22	97	T-3rd
2020-21	97	T-3rd

BUILDING CHAMPIONS

IN THE COMMUNITY

Fighting Irish student-athletes have the power to bring people together and make a lasting difference—on campus, across South Bend, and around the world. Their success creates shared moments of pride for the Notre Dame community, while their commitment to service extends the impact of the Fighting Irish far beyond competition.

Over the last year, Notre Dame student-athletes contributed 4,498 hours of community service, putting their values into action through initiatives that support children, families, and communities close to home and around the world.

FIGHTING IRISH FIGHT FOR LIFE

Notre Dame Athletics welcomed 20 children facing medical challenges to sign National Letters of Intent (NLIs) and officially join Fighting Irish varsity teams. Student-athletes built lasting relationships with their new teammates year-round through a Christmas party, a spring bowling outing, and personal team hangouts.

STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC)

Serving as the unifying voice for all student-athletes, SAAC's 75 members met monthly to collaborate with campus partners and drive community service. They also met with Athletics Leadership to discuss the future of college sports.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Two football student-athletes spearheaded the organization of a Thanksgiving drive that delivered more than $2,000 in essential food and supplies to the Center for the Homeless.

SHOP WITH A PLAYER

Fighting Irish student-athletes brought holiday cheer to local South Bend youth through memorable shopping experiences at Meijer and Dick's Sporting Goods.

4 FOR FOREVER ISN'T JUST A SAYING. IT'S A LIFELONG PROMISE.

The impact of a Notre Dame student-athlete extends far beyond the final whistle. Long after their playing days are over, Notre Dame's *4 for Forever* promise ensures they graduate prepared to lead with confidence, purpose, and character—equipped to make a difference in their careers, communities, and beyond.

The Office of Student Athlete Services spearheads programs that integrate personalized career development, alumni mentorship, financial literacy, and immersive real-world experiences. Together, these programs help student-athletes translate the lessons of competition into skills for life: how to lead, adapt, build meaningful relationships, and navigate what comes next.

This is at the heart of the Rockne Athletics Fund's mission: to invest in the whole student-athlete and prepare them not only to succeed at Notre Dame, but to thrive long after graduation. Together, Rockne members are helping shape a generation of influential leaders who will carry the Notre Dame legacy into every field, every boardroom, and every community they serve.

CAREER & FINANCIAL READINESS

CAREER TREKS & NETWORKING

Engaged student-athletes in **15 distinct networking opportunities** throughout the year, featuring collaborations with the Monogram Club and immersive career treks to major industry hubs in Chicago and New York.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Equipped by **nine targeted workshops**, student-athletes acquired essential wealth management skills across banking, investing, taxes, and real estate.

THE SOFI PARTNERSHIP

Through a landmark multi-year partnership with SoFi, Notre Dame is doubling down on its *4 for Forever* promise. This collaboration provides student-athletes with cutting-edge tools and real-world education to build lasting financial literacy, practice responsible wealth management, and thrive long after their time under the Golden Dome.

NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS (NIL) DEVELOPMENT

Helped over **100 student-athletes** build personal brand awareness by hosting specialized NIL workshops to encourage them to maximize opportunities and navigate corporate partnerships effectively.

FOOTBALL FRIDAY ROCKNE PREMIER COCKTAIL HOURS

Connected student-athletes directly with Rockne Athletics Fund members in relaxed, real-world settings—offering valuable time to network, cultivate authentic relationships, and focus on career success beyond athletics.

CONNECTION & LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MONOGRAM CLUB BOARD MENTOR PROGRAM

Thoughtfully paired sophomore and junior student-athletes with Monogram Club board members to foster professional connections and career guidance based on shared industry interests.

THE IMPACT OF THE MONOGRAM CLUB

The Monogram Club honors and connects current and former Notre Dame student-athletes, managers, and trainers. Last year, **42.2% of Monogram Club members gave back** to the Rockne Athletics Fund, tangible evidence that those who once wore the jersey are succeeding in the world beyond Notre Dame and investing in the next generation.

ROCKNE WINTER SPORTS WEEKEND

Hosted 100+ student-athletes for a structured networking breakfast, facilitating fast-paced, speed-dating-style conversations with Rockne Premier members to spark meaningful career discussions.

ROSENTHAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Equipped 87 student-athletes across six dynamic workshops with practical strategies to build elite team cultures, strengthening leadership skills, and developing an authentic leadership style.

MVP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

MOST VALUABLE PAIRING

The MVP (Most Valuable Pairing) Mentorship Program brings the power of the Notre Dame network to life by connecting current student-athletes with experienced leaders from the Jesse Harper Council (JHC). Through dedicated, one-on-one mentorship, JHC members provide personalized career guidance—helping student-athletes navigate internships, academic milestones, personal branding, and the transition from competition to their professional lives.

Each pairing turns the strength of the Notre Dame network into meaningful opportunities that extend well beyond the Golden Dome.

In just three years, the MVP program has achieved an **87.5% increase in total participation**, sparking transformative connections across the global Notre Dame family.

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

105
2025-2026

82
2024-2025

56
2023-2024

"Throughout my career, I have benefited from mentors who provided guidance, opened doors, and helped me navigate important professional decisions. Serving as a mentor through MVP is an opportunity to pay that forward and help student-athletes as they begin charting their own paths. The opportunity to share experiences, offer guidance, and build relationships with these remarkable young leaders is incredibly rewarding. Their ambition, character, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best of the Notre Dame community."

MARY BOUVIER O'CONNOR '96
Notre Dame Monogram Winner
Women's Softball Manager
Jesse Harper Council Member

ROCKNE ATHLETICS FUND

In the rapidly changing landscape of collegiate sports, the world often questions whether it is still possible to compete at the highest level while maintaining the highest standards. **Because of you, Notre Dame answers that question with a resounding yes every single day**.

Your generosity is the reason Notre Dame remains Notre Dame. You ensure that we never have to compromise on our foundational belief that world-class academics and championship-level athletics can—and must—coexist. By investing in our student-athletes, you are helping us remain the preeminent destination for college athletics, proving that competitive excellence and integrity go hand in hand.

This is the true spirit of *4 for Forever* in action. Your support does more than fund scholarships and facilities; it preserves a sacred tradition and empowers the next generation of leaders to excel in the classroom, triumph on the field, and be a force for good in the world.

Every gift reinforces our mission and ensures we never lose sight of what makes Notre Dame special. When our student-athletes succeed, their impact extends far beyond the game—elevating our campus, enriching our community, and uniting the Notre Dame family worldwide. We face the future of college athletics with total confidence because our members refuse to settle, ensuring Notre Dame continues to lead, not follow.

From the entire Rockne Athletics Fund team, thank you. Your passion, your care for our student-athletes, and your understanding of the vital role athletics plays for Our Lady's University are the bedrock of our success. Thank you for standing with us.

The Rockne Athletics Fund Team

William A. Mitchell IV

Shannon B. Longo

Sydney M. Kuhn '18

Hannah M. Thompson '21

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