



NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

VOLUME XV | ISSUE XI | JANUARY 15, 2021

**THIS WEEK AT
NOTRE DAME
(HOME GAMES)**

VOLLEYBALL BESTS REGINA TO REACH FINAL FOUR; GIRLS SKI KICKS OFF PINE KNOB SEASON

Saturday January 16

Girls VAR Swimming
Lake Orion High School
MHSAA State Finals 2:00



Senior Olivia Kowalkowski serves for Notre Dame in the MHSAA Semifinal against Lakewood

IRISH REACH FOURTH STRAIGHT FINAL FOUR

The Notre Dame Varsity Volleyball team picked up where it left off before the two month pause of MHSAA Fall athletics, defeating Warren Regina in straight sets 25-14, 25-13, 25-20 to earn its fourth consecutive trip to the division two Final Four. The Irish used a balanced attack and a tenacious defense to keep the Saddlites out of their offensive and defensive systems for much of the evening. Senior libero Olivia Kowalkowski was strong again for Notre Dame, leading the Irish defense with nine points, six aces, 17 serve receptions, and 15 digs. Aly Borellis hit at a .750 clip for the match with 13 kills, nine serving points, two aces, 16 assists and 11 digs. Josie Bloom finished with nine serve receptions, five digs, four points, and two aces, Margo Sudzina added 12 points, 20 assists and six digs, and Bianca Giglio had eight kills, three blocks, and four digs. Sophia Sudzina had eight kills, Sara Nouhan had seven kills and four digs, and Grace Wenaas contributed seven kills and three blocks for Notre Dame.

GIRLS SKI BEGINS PINE KNOB SCHEDULE

The Notre Dame Girls Varsity Ski team opened the season this past Tuesday with a strong showing at Pine Knob. For the upcoming season weekly meets will be held, all coming against division one teams. The Irish were able to pull out a win in giant slalom (GS) against a very strong Clarkston team. In the slalom event, the Notre Dame girls fell just short of Clarkston and took home a second place finish. The slalom event was led by Sydney Schulte, who finished in first place amongst

34 participants with a combined time of 46.25 seconds over her two runs. Also scoring for the Irish were Delaney Flavin (fifth), Claire Kirchner (sixth) and Hailey Schindler (11th). Keely McLeod and Amanda Roth also had strong showings with top-15 finishes. While the Irish took second place behind Clarkston by just six points, Notre Dame was well ahead of the third place finisher, Rochester Adams, by over 40 points. In GS, the Irish were again led by Schulte, who finished in third with a combined time of 36.72 seconds. Close behind was Peyton Schindler, who finished in fourth place, followed by Flavin in seventh and Kirchner in eighth place. McLeod finished with a strong 11th place finish as a backup for scoring as Notre Dame edged Clarkston by just two points.

IRISH FALL IN MHSAA SEMIFINAL ROUND

The Notre Dame Varsity Volleyball season came to a close on Thursday as the Irish fell to Lake Odessa Lakewood in the division two semifinals at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek by scores of 25-15, 25-13, 25-22. Lakewood built momentum from the start, using an 8-0 run to take a 6-6 tie in the first set into a 14-6 advantage before ultimately taking the set by 10 points. In the second set, the Vikings established a quick 12-4 lead and Notre Dame would never be able to get closer than four points. The Irish came out strong in the third set with their season on the line, taking an 8-3 lead before Lakewood battled back, ultimately tying the set at 20-20 before taking a lead they would not relinquish. The Irish were led by Aly Borellis, who had six kills with 10 assists and 14 digs. Bianca Giglio and Grace Wenaas each added four kills. Margo Sudzina recorded 12 assists

and 12 digs, while Josie Bloom had 12 digs. Olivia Kowalkowski, the lone Senior for Notre Dame who will go on to play at Georgia State next year, finished with seven digs and a pair of ace. Kowalkowski and Notre Dame reached Battle Creek in all four seasons of her high school career. The Irish finish a season that saw competition begin late along with several pauses, including a two month gap between the Regional and Semifinal rounds, with a record of 38-10.

JV SKI TEAMS BEGIN LEAGUE PLAY

The Notre Dame Girls JV Ski team opened its season with a win against a field of eight teams. The top four finishers for Notre Dame were all in the top-12 and the Irish won by a margin of 18 points against the second place Clarkston team. The giant slalom event was led by Audrey Kuyoth who finished in fifth place with a combined time of 42.55 seconds over her two runs. Also scoring for the team were Angela Leach (eighth), Ella Warner (ninth) and Shea Condit (12th place). Alexis Kuyoth also had a strong showing in 17th place as a backup for score. The Boys JV team opened their with strong skiing against a field of 44 boys. The Irish finished in fourth place in the GS event behind Clarkston, Bloomfield Hills and Rochester Adams. Notre Dame was led by Alex Hein, who finished in 13th place with a combined time of 39.48 seconds over his two runs. Also scoring for the team were Blake Banninger (14th), Zach Mylenek (19th) and Nathan Vogel (23rd).





NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

VOLUME XV | ISSUE XI | JANUARY 15, 2021

GIRLS SWIM TAKES FIRST AT SMISL MEET; BOYS SKI TEAM BEGINS PINE KNOB SCHEDULE

BOYS SKI KICKS OFF PINE KNOB LEAGUE

The Notre Dame Boys Varsity Ski team opened the season this past Tuesday with a strong showing against many of the best high school boys in Southeast Michigan at Pine Knob. For the upcoming season, weekly meets will be held, with all coming against Division one and two teams. The Irish finished in third place in both giant slalom (GS) and slalom behind a dominating Rochester Adams team and a deep Bloomfield Hills team. The slalom event was led by Jack (JJ) Lintol, who finished in first place amongst 49 participants with a combined time of 42.30 seconds over his two runs, winning both of the individual runs. Also scoring for the Irish were Chase Flavin (12th), Kaden Hovey (16th) and Teegan McLeod (17th). Nick Uhazie and Frank Roth had strong back up finishes at 19th and 22nd place, respectively. The Irish took third place behind Bloomfield Hills by a fairly slim margin of only 10.5 points, with the fourth place team, Lake Orion, well behind by 25 points. In GS, the team was also led by Lintol who finished in fourth with a combined time of 34.71 seconds. Rounding out the scoring for the team were Flavin (12th), Roth (15th) and McLeod (16th). Uhazie also had a strong 19th place finish as a backup for scoring.

SKI TEAM OPENS SEASON WITH FIRST TIMERS RACE

The Notre Dame Ski teams kicked off the 2020-2021 season with the district "First Timers" race held at Pine Knob Mountain. This annual Giant Slalom race is open to any skier that has not previously participated in a high school race and featured 10

girls and 11 boys from Notre Dame. On the boys side, Zach Mylenek led the Irish by taking 10th place among a field of 45 with a combined time of 44.43 seconds, 6.8 seconds off the lead racer from Rochester Adams. Finishing off the scoring for the Irish were Jacob Wade (23rd), Jacob Samuels (34th) and Aiden Cusac (35th). Ella Warner led the scoring for the Notre Dame girls, taking 6th in a field of 28 with a combined time of 48.08 seconds, just 3.27 seconds off the leader from Bloomfield Hills. Ruthie Evans finished 15th and Audrey Kuyoth had a great second run, placing 4th on the individual run.

IRISH TAKE FIRST PLACE AT SMISL MEET

The Notre Dame Girls Varsity Swim team hosted the SMISL Championship Meet at Waterford Kettering after finishing a 8-2 regular season. The Irish got off to a quick start, placing first, fourth, and fifth in the Medley Relay. In the next event, Elizabeth Gruden, Grace Linenfelser and Alex Williams took first, fourth, and fifth respectively while Katie Schmidt dropped 13 seconds from her personal-best time. Gruden earned a state cut in the process. The freshmen dominated the 200 IM as Emma Ciesla dropped four seconds to win the event and get a state cut while Tessa Boehme shaved two seconds from her best and took third. Points continued to stack up in the 50 Free and 100 Fly. Back-to-back wins for Alina Stanczak led the way as Stanczak added a 100 Fly state cut to her portfolio along with previously earned 50 Free and 100 Backstroke cuts. Kasia Bennett also got a 50 Free state cut, taking third. Hallie Fox cruised into 11th place, dropping over a second to get her best time while Chanel Issa removed another three

seconds off her time. Ciesla took third place in the 100 Fly while freshman Caterina Zaleski clocked 3.74 seconds faster than she has ever gone to take ninth. The 100 Freestyle meant 21 more points as Bennett (third), Olivia Powell (seventh), Ella Warner (14th) all placed in scoring positions. The Irish dominated the 500 Freestyle as Linenfelser, Gruden and Williams all topped the competition by over 10 seconds, with Gruden earning another state cut. Notre Dame took second in the 200 Relay, but managed to secure a state cut, assuring all three relays will swim at the State Meet. Ruthie Evans, Warner, Katie Schmidt and Lexie Hunter also took sixth to earn 18 more points. Moving forward, the meet again came down to the very strong freshman class helping the cause. Boehme and Powell took a third and fourth place while Schmidt added a ninth. With no divers, Notre Dame gave up 16 points to Country Day and 13 points to Temperance Bedford, however the performance was enough to give the Irish a victory by 36 points over second place Bedford. Following the meet, Coach Mark McGreevy stated "Wow, the girls really put it all out there today! It's very exciting for them, especially this season and all that has happened. The most encouraging thing about today is that our team is very young and we will be in the hunt for a long time to come! The team is very solid and our seniors have set the bar high and left a legacy they can be proud of." After a two month layoff, Notre Dame will now send 10 swimmers to the MHSAA Division Three State Finals this weekend.