



SAINT
MARY'S
COLLEGE
NOTRE DAME, IN

ATHLETICS MEDIA GUIDE 2017-18

VOLLEYBALL



Dear Family, Friends, and Prospective Student-Athletes,

Aligned with the NCAA Division III philosophy, Saint Mary's College athletics is focused on the support of our student-athletes as they immerse themselves in the college experience. We expect our women to pursue the full spectrum of opportunities available to them over their four years with us. They are students first. They have enrolled in college to earn an academic degree. With this focus in mind, our student-athletes are afforded the same classroom experiences and opportunities as their peers here at Saint Mary's College.



Their choice to participate in athletics is a wise one that only enhances their educational experience. Through sport, student-athletes learn how to lead and take initiative as well as how to work as a member of a team. They learn to set goals and work through the process of accomplishing those goals. If they fall short, they know how to re-evaluate, and if necessary, strategize a new route to success — they do not give up. Student-athletes are masters of time management. They know how to give and take feedback. In short, participation in sports provides the opportunity for athletes to practice skills that will help them succeed in life.

And they do succeed! Besides the athletic accolades you will read about on our website and in this media guide, you will also see that several of our student-athletes have even been recognized with the highest honors bestowed upon our graduates.

Participation in athletics is a rich and rewarding experience. Teammates become lifelong sisters. I invite you to look through this media guide and read about the challenges and triumphs of our student-athletes and coaches. Prospective student-athletes, I encourage you to visit our campus. Meet with our coaches, shadow a current student-athlete, and ask questions to learn if Saint Mary's could be a fit for you. Follow your passions and discover your potential at Saint Mary's College.

Once a Belle, always a Belle,

Julie Schroeder-Biek '88
Director of Athletics and Recreation

The mission of the Department of Athletics and Recreation at Saint Mary's College is to provide a comprehensive program designed to be a vital part of the total educational process. The basic purpose is to integrate an intercollegiate athletic program, intramural, club sport, and personal fitness opportunities so our students develop a lifelong appreciation of one's mind, body, and spirit through exercise and participation.

ATHLETICS CONTACT INFORMATION

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SAINTMARYS.EDU/ATHLETICS

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ANGELA ATHLETIC & WELLNESS COMPLEX



The \$25 million-plus Angela Athletic & Wellness Complex project includes two phases. **PHASE I** was the construction of the Patricia Wiedner Purcell '69 Athletic Fields, which were ready for play in the fall of 2016. **PHASE II** has provided a complete overhaul and renovation to the former Angela Athletic Facility.

The new complex features:

- A three-court field house for varsity teams and club sports practices, intramurals, and other student activities
- An elevated running track
- Dedicated spaces for yoga, pilates, spinning, and other fitness classes
- A cafe and social areas for meeting with friends
- The Health and Counseling Center

Why is it called Angela?

This is the third gym at the College and all three have been named Angela for Mother Angela Gillespie. She was the first American to head Saint Mary's Academy, which would become Saint Mary's College.

EXCELLING *in Academics*

Academic Achievements 2016-17

Total number of student-athletes: **122**

Athletic Department cumulative GPA (8 sports): **3.43**

Athletic Department cumulative GPA for seniors: **3.54**

Number of student-athletes above a 3.0 GPA for entire academic year: **101**

Teams earning MIAA Academic Honor Roll (minimum 3.3 cumulative GPA): **7**

Number of times student-athletes earned Dean's List honors: **108**
(55 Fall 2016, 53 Spring 2017)

Student-athletes on MIAA Honor Roll (minimum 3.5 GPA required): **62**

QUICK FACTS

about Saint Mary's College

- Catholic college in Notre Dame, Indiana, established in 1844 by the Sisters of the Holy Cross
- Academic programs that foster skills in communication, problem solving, and critical thinking, as well as leadership experience, internships, research, and other hands-on activities
- 100% of incoming students receive scholarships from Saint Mary's
- Nationally recognized study abroad program that offers learning opportunities in 20 countries
- 80% of students participate in volunteer/service work, compared to national average of 55%
- NCAA Division III varsity athletic teams and a wide range of club and intramural sports
- A connection with Notre Dame that allows students to take classes, participate in student organizations, clubs, club sports, and cheer in the student section at Irish football games and other sporting events
- Women's college for undergraduate programs and co-ed for graduate programs
- 94% of graduates are working full-time or in graduate school one year after graduation

Schedule your Saint Mary's campus visit today at saintmarys.edu/Visit





Rachel Bonek '18



Audrey Shannon '19



Morgan VanderWey '21



Marielle Corbett '21

Building from Success



The 2016 season was one of the most successful in program history for the Belles volleyball team, and head coach Denise Van De Walle aims to build off that success moving ahead to 2017 and beyond. The squad

posted their third consecutive season with at least 15 wins and tied the program records for MIAA wins (11) and highest conference finish (third).

Leah Buck '18 and Rachel Bonek '18 were two big contributors to the team's success last fall as the pair will be relied upon for their experience moving forward. Buck led the team for the second consecutive season as a junior and added a career-best season in total kills. Bonek had a breakout year and was second on the team in kills while earning an all-tournament team nod at the Emory Classic. A handful of returners as well as several newcomers join the mix as the Belles have their sights set on 2017.

Away from the court, many team members have immersed themselves in summer learning opportunities. Bonek studied abroad in Greece for 10 days before conducting electrical engineering research at the University of Notre Dame. Buck had her second internship in as many years as she researched how nanoparticles interact with immune cells to help increase medicine effectiveness at Indiana University.

In the past 20 years of MIAA membership, 13 Saint Mary's volleyball players have been honored with All-MIAA postseason accolades a total of 21 times. Additionally, a member



Leah Buck '18

of the Belles volleyball team has been an MIAA Player of the Week 14 times in the past eight seasons alone. Academically, the team has excelled and has been a 15-time recipient of the MIAA Team GPA Award while regularly garnering AVCA Team Academic honors. Six Belles earned a spot on the MIAA Academic Honor Roll for posting a 3.5 GPA or higher for the entire academic year in 2016-17.



2017 Schedule

Sept. 1	Fri.	Otterbein/Capital Tournament Westerville, Ohio	
Sept. 2	Fri.	at Otterbein vs. Capital	4 p.m. 6 p.m.
Sept. 6	Wed.	at Alma*	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	Fri.	vs. Kalamazoo*	7 p.m.
Sept. 9	Sat.	at Calvin*	1 p.m.
Sept. 13	Wed.	vs. Hope*	7 p.m.
Sept. 15-16		Illinois College Tournament II	
Sept. 15	Fri.	vs. Lincoln Christian University vs. Franklin	3:30 p.m. CDT 7:30 p.m. CDT
Sept. 16	Sat.	vs. Concordia - Chicago vs. Illinois College	10 a.m. CDT 2 p.m. CDT
Sept. 19	Tues.	at Albion*	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	Fri.	at Trine*	7 p.m.
Sept. 23	Sat.	vs. Olivet*	1 p.m.
Sept. 27	Wed.	vs. Adrian*	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	Fri.	vs. Earlham	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	Fri.	vs. Alma*	7 p.m.
Oct. 7	Sat.	at Kalamazoo*	4 p.m.
Oct. 11	Wed	vs. Calvin*	7 p.m.
Oct. 17	Tues.	at Hope*	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	Fri.	vs. Albion*	7 p.m.
Oct. 21	Sat.	vs. Trine*	1 p.m.
Oct. 24	Tues.	at Olivet*	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	Fri.	at Adrian*	7 p.m.
Oct. 28	Sat.	vs. Manchester	1 p.m.
Oct. 31	Tues.	vs. Illinois Tech	7 p.m.
Nov. 3-4	Fri.-Sat.	MIAA Tournament (Top Four Teams Only)	TBD

ALL TIMES LOCAL TO GAME SITE

* designates MIAA competition

Home Matches in **BOLD**



Alma Mater
Ball State University

Season
Third

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(419) 308-2525 (cell)

Denise Van De Walle | *Head Coach*

Building a Tradition of Excellence

Saint Mary's Hall of Fame Inductee

Karen Lorton '93

MIAA Players of the Year

Anne Cusack (Most Valuable Defensive Player)
Lorna Slupczynski (Freshman Player of the Year)

Multi-All-MIAA Honorees

Agnes Bill
Anne Cusack
Katie Hecklinski
Kristen Playko
Kati Schneider
Lorna Slupczynski

MIAA Players of the Week

Agnes Bill
Danie Brink
Anne Cusack
Meaghan Gibbons
Katie Hecklinski
Melanie Kuczek
Suzanne Martin
Angela Meyers
Kristen Playko
Meghann Rose
Kati Schneider
Alison Shevik
Lorna Slupczynski
Kaylin Szucs
McKenzie Todd

MIAA Team GPA Award

1999 - 2000 - 2001 - 2004
2006 - 2007 - 2009 - 2010
2011 - 2012 - 2013 - 2014
2015 - 2016 - 2017

Four-Time MIAA Honor Roll

Taylor Etzell Liana Rohr
Marisa Gross Kati Schneider

Fifteen-Plus Win Seasons

1978 - 1980 - 1981 - 1984 - 1986
1987 - 1988 - 1989 - 1992 - 1993
1996 - 1998 - 1999 - 2003 - 2006
2008 - 2014 - 2015 - 2016 - 2017

AVCA Team Academic Award

2006 - 2007 - 2011 - 2012 - 2013
2014 - 2015 - 2016 - 2017

STUDENT-ATHLETE ALUMNA PROFILE



“ Volleyball instilled in me the importance of **communication, time management**, and most importantly, **teamwork**.

All three are qualities I use every day while working as an ICU nurse. I would have never been successful as an athlete or nurse without learning these important qualities.

I was so passionate about both volleyball and nursing that I could never imagine my life without either one. ”

— Meaghan Gibbons '17

EMPOWERING LEADERS

Our student-athletes have developed into leaders in and out of their sports.

Our Belles have been members and executive officers in more than **40** clubs and organizations on campus, attended conference-wide leadership programming, and volunteered more than **200** hours in the community.



BIG SISTERS PROGRAM

The Big Sisters program helps acclimate first-year Belles to the demands of being a collegiate student-athlete, brings awareness to campus resources, personnel, and tools to help Belles succeed, and connects them with their peers in the athletic department.



MIAA AND NCAA INFORMATION

MIAA

Compete for championships. Create a legacy. Rewrite the history books. Those opportunities and more are what await when competing for the Belles in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA). Affiliated with NCAA Division III, the conference provides our student-athletes with the opportunity to compete for championships at the MIAA level and beyond. Learn more at miaa.org.



NCAA DIVISION III

The NCAA's largest division in both number of participants and member schools, the Division III experience challenges student-athletes to develop into leaders both in and out of athletics. We encourage you to visit ncaa.org/d3 to learn more and to create a profile on the Student-Athletes tab!

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

NCAA Division III regulations prevent student-athletes from receiving renewable outside scholarships which are awarded based on athletic participation, ability or leadership in any sport which is also an NCAA sport (e.g., basketball, volleyball, etc.). It is the student-athlete's responsibility to check with the Financial Aid Office when they expect to receive funding from an outside source to ensure the terms of the scholarship will not interfere with the student's ability to participate in varsity athletics.



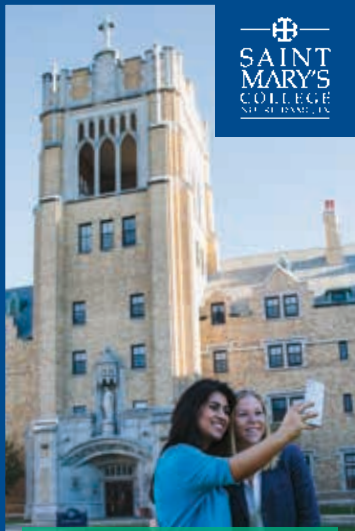
Team IMPACT is an organization that improves the quality of life for children facing life-threatening and chronic illnesses by matching them with local college athletic teams.

Through these pairings, the organization has successfully enhanced the lives of hundreds of these courageous kids and positively impacted thousands of athletes' lives across the country.

Saint Mary's is a proud partner of Team IMPACT and has added three young athletes to our athletics programs.



Team IMPACT athlete Melody Blower



WHERE A
SINGLE STEP
CAN CHANGE
YOUR LIFE

#DiscoverSMC

SENIOR PREVIEW DAY

For high school seniors (limited to 45 students)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018

- + Experience a day in the life of a Belle as your own student guide takes you to morning classes, lunch, and a tour of her room in a residence hall.

SPRING DAY ON CAMPUS

For high school sophomores and juniors

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018

- + Meet an admission counselor and discuss your preparation for college.
- + Visit with inspiring coaches, friendly students, and dedicated parents who will share their Saint Mary's experiences.

Go to saintmarys.edu/Visit to schedule an individual visit or register at saintmarys.edu/SpecialPrograms for one of our on campus events.

RETURNING JULY 2018



SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE ATHLETICS SUMMER CAMPS 2018 JULY 8-12, 15-19

IN OUR NEW ANGELA ATHLETIC
& WELLNESS COMPLEX

Visit events.saintmarys.edu
for more info.

Thank you

to our 2017 golf outing sponsors



Join us for our fourth annual golf outing in **June 2018**.
Visit saintmarys.edu/GolfOuting for details.

