

SPLINTERS FROM THE PRESSBOX - Paul Fullmer '55

Brey's Team Not Rated Highly

Unlike the Lady Irish, Mike Brey's men's team isn't expected to make many waves this year. Of course, last year ND was ranked in the middle of Big East teams, yet caught fire at the end of the year and earned a NCAA berth. In it's pre-season basketball issue, SI doesn't have them in the Big Show this year.

Co-Captains Tim Abromatis and Scott Martin return to anchor Brey's team, but neither is a high-powered scorer on a regular basis.

Sophomore guard Eric Atkins , who has improved his shot to complement his driving ability, should come into his own this year. He's averaging 20 points a game against soft pre-season opponents. Junior forward Jack Cooley, the Luke Harangody look-alike, will be a banger on the boards, but unfortunately won't light up the scoreboard like the former Irish All-American.

Brey will be looking closely at several players bidding for playing time during the pre-season.

Sophomore guard Jerian Grant may be the most athletic guy on the roster. Junior forward Joey Brooks is a steady hand, while sophomore guard Alex Dragicevich is striving for consistency.

The one bright spot is freshman forward Pat Connaughton , who out-scored the entire Sam Houston State team when the Irish rang up an easy 74 – 41 win. The 6-5 Connaughton started in place of Abromatis , who was grounded by the NCAA for four games because of a technical snafu several years ago. Connaughton scored 17 of his 24 points in the first half to demonstrate he can light things up if given the chance. He must be good if Brey, who never likes to play a freshman, has him on the floor.

If Brey can't find someone to supply the points that graduated All Big East guard Ben Hansbrough provided, it could be a long year for ND fans.

Go Irish!

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