

THE SHAMROCK

Newsletter of the Fightin' Irish Battalion

December 2022

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WINNING MATTERS

The Fightin' Irish Battalion in their new Battalion shirts after morning PT



The Road to Sandhurst

By William Barcena ('23)



Ranger Challenge Team at the Brigade competition

The weekend of 04-06NOV22, 11 Cadets from the Irish Ranger Team traveled down to Ft. Knox, KY, to compete in the 7th Brigade Bold Warrior Ranger Challenge Competition. Cadets trained hard all semester long. After rucking and running nearly 40 miles in just 2 days during the competition, **the Irish Rangers earned a first place finish in the 7th Brigade Competition for the first time in over 25 years.** Dominating 37 other teams from the Brigade and winning 5 of the 32 mission sites, the Irish finished with a total of 1,229 points, followed by Austin Peay State University with 1,182.25 points.

This win earned the Fightin' Irish Battalion a spot in the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition at the United States Military Academy, West Point, in April 2023. This competition has been held annually since 1967 and consists of a grueling military and physical fitness skill competition between the top 16 ROTC teams, multiple teams from West Point and its sister service academies, and over 16 international teams from across the globe. In 2023, the Irish Rangers will visit West Point from 22-30APR to compete in Sandhurst.

After celebrating the Brigade win and being honored on the field by the University during the Notre Dame vs. Boston College football game, the Irish Ranger Team has begun to shift its focus to preparing for Sandhurst. In the final three weeks of the semester, Sandhurst hopeful Cadets have begun an accelerated skill and physical training schedule to include long runs and rucks, intense CrossFit WODs, heavy lifts, smokeless ranges, and more. Led by senior Team Captains Will Barcena and Lindsey Michie and aided by junior NCOIC Peter Herrmann, the Brigade winning team included senior Tom Ellis, juniors Conall Nugent, Ethan Barhydt, Ethan MacMillan, and Sam Martinez, sophomores Sarah Mahoney and Matthew Stewart, and freshman Jack Radovich.



Ranger Challenge Team recognized on the football field



Baraka-Bouts: The Final Countdown



Jorgensen ('24) brings home the championship title

By Juliana Jorgensen ('24)

Juliana Jorgensen is a junior in the Fightin' Irish Battalion and a proud co-captain of Notre Dame's women's boxing team! She is a Social Chair for the Baraka Bouts club and helps run day-to-day practices. **Baraka Bouts is devoted to physical wellness, female empowerment, community building, and international education.**

Every year the women's boxing season culminates with a 3-night tournament, the Baraka Bouts. In the bouts, club members showcase the boxing skills they have learned by participating in matches. Within 2 months, female cadets with no previous experience compete in a full fledged boxing competition. The tournament is held annually in the Dahnke Ballroom on Notre Dame's campus.

JJ Jorgensen (ND '24), Lindsey Michie (ND '23), and Lauren Glynn (ND '23) represented the Fightin' Irish Battalion in the Baraka Bouts tournament. The young ladies worked hard throughout the semester, prepping for hours in the pit. Many members of the Fightin' Irish Battalion gathered at the Danke Ballroom in Duncan Student Center to cheer on the competitors in the culminating tournament.

Cadets Michie and Jorgensen dominated the competition, making it to the final round of the bouts. They fought hard and brought home the hardware, winning their respective championship matches.

Their victories were made even sweeter because Baraka Bouts isn't just about the fight. The ladies box for a cause, raising funds to support Holy Cross missions in Africa. **The Baraka Bouts club raised over \$77,000! This money will go to change many children's lives in Uganda.**

"There is nothing like the rush right before you step in the ring. I gave each bout my everything and it made me a champion."

- CDT JJ Jorgensen ('24)



Glynn ('23) battles it out in the Baraka Bout tournament



Michie ('23) brings home a victory in the championship bout



Winning Matters: Army Sinks Navy in Tri-Mil Flag Football Championship



The Army Flag Football team after defeating Navy in Tri-Mil Flag Football Championship

By Jack Wilde ('26)

When the ROTC cadets of the Fightin' Irish Battalion aren't trudging with rucks through White Field, they are training for Tri-Mil Flag Football. Led by CDTs Owers and Schichtel, the team put in work for two long hard weeks before and after fall break to prepare. The Army Flag Football team dominated Air Force in its first game but took an unfortunate loss against Navy in Loftus.

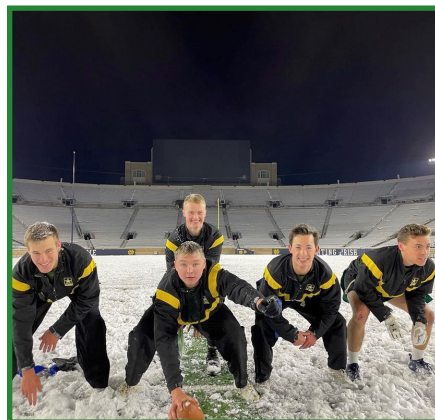
The only game that mattered was the championship under the 0600 lights in the house that Rockne built. When the fateful day of the championship arrived on November 14th, what should have been a normal game of flag football turned into a gritty snow bowl on the gridiron.

Battling frigid temps below 25°, the two teams slugged it out in a defensive battle. Despite high yardage put up by WRs Farrell and Schichtel, the game remained scoreless until time was expiring in the second half. The stalemate persisted until top Heisman prospect CDT Schmidt dropped a dime to CDT Radtke who performed a textbook catch and run into the endzone, scoring the only and final points of the contest. When asked after the game what the catch in the game meant to him, CDT Radtke couldn't help but get nostalgic.

"Man, it was an amazing feeling scoring a touchdown in ND stadium with the snow and the lights and everyone dogpiling on you. [It was] just like the Notre Dame Rudy dream." - CDT Ryan Radtke ('25)

Not even MSG Guthrie could contain his excitement after the last second win, cheering jubilantly alongside the cadets. A Clemson-esque storming of the field ensued chock-full of snow angels and victory slides. When it came down to it, Army beat the odds and came out on top over a team that was close to double its size. CDT Schichtel summed up the victory perfectly, saying...

"Navy likes to talk off the field, [whereas] in the Army we let our performance speak for itself, and 7-0 Army says a lot." - CDT Jack Schichtel ('23)



Schichtel ('23), Oldre ('24), Schmitt ('25), Farrell ('24), and Barhydt ('24) taking position on the snowy field

After years of adversity and a heated lead-up to the most awaited game of the year, Army showed up and showed out against Navy in what will only be remembered as the beginning of UND Army ROTC's golden age of flag football. Winning matters and the future has never looked brighter in permacloud covered South Bend.



The Annual Dixon Challenge Competition

By Julie Bottarini ('23)

Every year, the Fightin' Irish Battalion competes against one another in the Dixon Challenge Competition, the culminating lab of fall semester. This event is named after 1LT Patrick Dixon, a 1967 graduate of Notre Dame and a member of the Army ROTC program. 1LT Dixon fought bravely in the Vietnam War and gave the ultimate sacrifice of his life while providing medical aid to his fellow soldiers during an intense fire-fight. **We honor the memory of 1LT Dixon every year as we compete in the Dixon Challenge.** 1LT Dixon's awards include the Silver Star, the Distinguished Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal for heroism.

Cadets worked together as a team as they competed in six different squad sized challenges, testing their physical and mental agility. The stations included a Tire-Flip Challenge, ACFT style Sprint-Drag-Carry, Humvee Pull, CBRN Gas-mask Challenge, Trivia Station, and a MEDEVAC/9-Line Challenge. The night culminated in a Tug-of-War competition between the six squads and between Alpha and Bravo companies. Cadets enjoyed a pizza dinner while waiting for the final scores to be tallied. Bravo Company crushed the competition and brought home the Irish Cup for the second time this year! Bravo 1st and 3rd squads tied for first place and were rewarded with PT off the next morning.

"I am extremely proud of all our Bravo cadets this semester. Each week they have put in the time, effort, and energy towards every task that has been placed in front of them. It has been incredible to watch them develop as a team throughout the past several months. Ultimately, their hard work and team cohesion were on full display as they preceded to absolutely crush the Dixon Challenge. I am thrilled to see how far they have progressed and can't wait to watch them continue to grow next semester!!"

- CDT Tom Ellis ('23), Bravo Company Commander



Cadets Davies ('23) and Owers ('23) execute CBRN task



B CO brings home the Irish Cup!



CDT Stewart ('25) during the SDC challenge



Admiral Grady Comes to Notre Dame

By Julie Bottarini ('23)



Admiral Grady recognizes several outstanding cadets and midshipmen

In October, cadets and midshipmen had the incredible opportunity to attend a Leadership Professional Development session with the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Grady. He is the Nation's second highest-ranking military officer and is currently the longest serving surface warfare officer on active duty in the U.S. Navy. Admiral Grady is a native of Newport, Rhode Island, and he is a 1984 Notre Dame Navy ROTC graduate. It was an incredible opportunity for cadets to welcome Admiral Grady back to his home here at Notre Dame. During the Leadership Professional Development session, several cadets and midshipmen were recognized for their outstanding leadership, dedication, and example during the fall semester.

Cadets Gardey ('24) and Childress ('26) received challenge coins from Admiral Grady in recognition of their hard work for the battalion. Challenge coins are a long standing tradition in the United States military. They bear a unit or an organization's insignia and are carried by the group members.

They are typically given as a symbol of unity or membership of a team. They also represent a significant achievement or recognition for a particular accomplishment. The Fightin' Irish Battalion is incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication of Cadets Gardey and Childress.



Admiral Grady shares advice and encouragement during a Leadership Professional Development



Honoring Our Veterans

By Julie Bottarini ('23)



Cadets standing in front of WW2 Memorial for 24 hour Veteran's Day Ceremony and Vigil

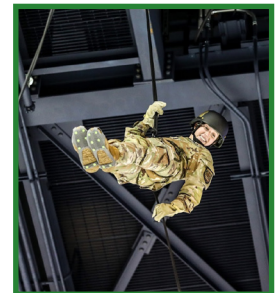
Every year, our cadets have the opportunity to honor the sacrifice and service of our veterans by participating in the Tri-Military 24 Hour Vigil at the Clarke Memorial Fountain. This memorial stands as a tribute to those men and women who served in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and during times of peace. Cadets and midshipmen take turns standing guard around the fountain, rotating in 30 minute shifts. Once the vigil concluded, cadets and midshipmen gathered in front of the Clarke Memorial Fountain to pay their respects during the Veteran's Day ceremony. Cadets had another opportunity to honor our veterans during the Military Appreciation Night for the Notre Dame Hockey Team. Several of our Air Assault qualified cadets had the incredible honor of rappelling from the rafters onto the ice to deliver the game puck.



Honoring our veterans during Military Appreciation Night



Notre Dame's Airforce, Navy and Army ROTC cadets stand together at Veteran's Day ceremony



CDT Michie ('23) rappels onto the ice to deliver the ceremonial puck



Introduction to Our Staff Assistant

Hello friends, family members, and teammates,

From the moment that I first moved to South Bend from Kalamazoo, MI, this May to begin my position here as Staff Assistant for the Army ROTC program, I have felt so supported and welcomed. So, thank you to everyone who played a part in welcoming me to this amazing team! I am beyond honored to be working alongside the members of this incredible University, as well as the fine men and women of the United States Army.

I fondly remember my first visit to Notre Dame's campus on a field trip in 8th grade. As we took our tour of the campus, I was in awe of the beauty all around me. I never would have guessed that years later I would return to be a small part of the beauty that is Notre Dame, not just in its architecture, but in the culture and atmosphere of the University.

I am very grateful for everything I have learned and will continue to learn from working with this program's cadets, who continue to astound me with their determination, intelligence and commitment to excellence. I look forward to be able to continue assisting them as they work hard to become leaders of character when they commission as 2nd Lieutenants. With that being said, please feel free to reach out to me either by phone 574.631.6987. or email at kchapin@nd.edu.

Thank you and take care,
Ms. Kaylee



Ms. Kaylee is our new Notre Dame Staff Assistant as of May 2021



Members of the Senior Class celebrate an Irish victory over Boston College

Recognizing Our Seniors:

William Barcena: Active Duty Armor

Julie Bottarini: Medical Specialist Corps with an education delay for physical therapy school at Duke University

Tom Ellis: Active Duty Infantry

Abby Lanz: Education Delay for medical school, school to be determined

Elnora Mariner: Active Duty Signal, Branch Detail Armor

Stefan Mesaric: Active Duty Signal, Branch Detail Infantry

Lindsey Michie: Active Duty Aviation

Michael Owers: Active Duty Transportation

Jack Schichtel: Active Duty Aviation

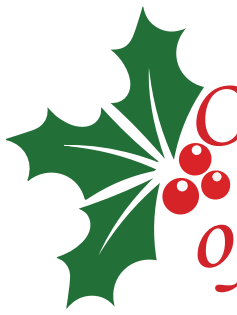
Sophia Severson: Active Duty Engineers

Lauren Crowe: National Guard Medical Service Corps, state to be determined

Jack Davies: Montana Army National Guard Aviation

Lauren Glynn: U.S. Army Reserves in her home state of Illinois, awaiting branch

Connor Tsikitas: West Virginia Army National Guard Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)



*On behalf of the cadets and cadre
of the Notre Dame Fightin' Irish
Battalion, we wish you a merry and
bright holiday season, and a happy
New Year!*



Thank you for your continued support!



Cadets pose together in "ugly" Christmas sweaters at the 5 Leaf Clover Night

GO IRISH!!



Cadre smiling by the Christmas Tree

