

NOTRE DAME ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Pts.	Rb.
1	Tyrone Nash	G	Fr.	6-8	1.2	1.5
2	Tory Jackson	G	So.	5-11	8.1	5.0
5	Tom Kopko	G	Fr.	6-2	1.0	0.4
13	Ty Proffitt	G	Fr.	6-4	1.3	0.5
20	Jonathan Peoples	G	So.	6-3	3.4	1.7
21	Tim Abromaitis	F	Fr.	6-8	1.8	0.9
23	Kyle McAlarney	G	Jr.	6-0	15.2	2.0
31	Rob Kurz	F	Sr.	6-9	12.8	7.5
33	Zach Hillesland	F	Jr.	6-9	6.2	5.1
40	Luke Zeller	F-C	Jr.	6-10	4.7	2.3
41	Tim Andree	F	So.	6-8	1.2	0.8
42	Ryan Ayers	G-F	Jr.	6-7	7.9	3.3
44	Luke Harangody	F	So.	6-8	20.8	10.2

STARTERS ARE SHADED

RESULTS

NOVEMBER

St. Ambrose	W, 109-53	vs. Baylor	L, 68-64
St. Edward's	W, 71-56	vs. Georgia Tech	L, 70-69
Long Island	W, 82-50	Youngstown State	W, 87-75
vs. Monmouth	W, 76-33	Colgate	W, 94-63

DECEMBER

Eastern Michigan	W, 76-65	San Francisco	W, 84-76
vs. Kansas State	W, 68-59	Brown	W, 87-54
North Illinois	W, 108-62	North Florida	W, 77-58

JANUARY

West Virginia	W, 69-56	at Georgetown	L, 84-65
Connecticut	W, 73-67	at Villanova	W, 90-80
at Marquette	L, 92-66	Providence	W, 81-74
Cincinnati	W, 91-74		

FEBRUARY

DePaul	W, 89-80	at Rutgers	W, 71-68
at Seton Hall	W, 95-69	Pittsburgh	W, 82-70
Marquette	W, 86-83	Syracuse	W, 94-87
at Connecticut	L, 84-78	at Louisville	L, 90-85

MARCH

at DePaul	W, 98-81	at South Florida	W, 67-60
St. John's	W, 68-55	Marquette*	L, 89-79

*BIG EAST TOURNAMENT

DIFFERENCE MAKER



Kyle McAlarney might be the best three-point shooter in the tournament, shooting 44.8 percent, and preventing his open looks could decide the game. In Irish wins, McAlarney shot 49.1 percent from beyond the arc. In losses, he shot just 27.7 percent

[5] NOTRE DAME vs. [12] GEORGE MASON



WHEN: 9:50 p.m. **WHERE:** Pepsi Center, Denver (19,155). **TV:** WUSA-9, WJZ-13.
TV ANNOUNCERS: Gus Johnson, Len Elmore. **RADIO:** WTEM (980 AM).
RECORDS: Fighting Irish (Big East, at-large), 24-7; Patriots (CAA, champion), 23-10.
WINNER FACES: Washington State-Winthrop winner on Saturday in Denver.



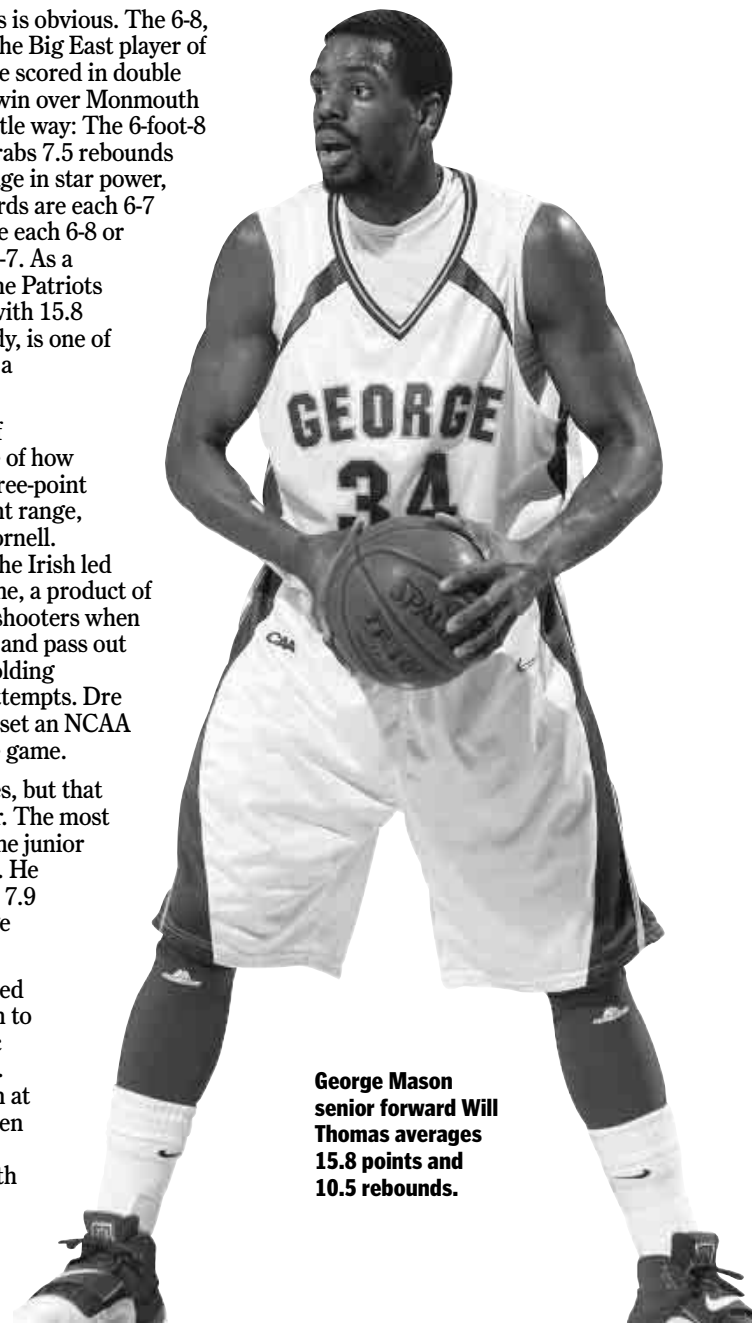
FRONT COURT: The threat Luke Harangody presents is obvious. The 6-8, 251-pound battering ram of a forward was named the Big East player of the year after averaging 20.8 and 10.2 rebounds. He scored in double figures every game this season but one, a blowout win over Monmouth in November. Rob Kurz is dangerous in a more subtle way: The 6-foot-8 forward shoots 40 percent on three-pointers and grabs 7.5 rebounds per game. The Irish will enjoy not only the advantage in star power, but also size. George Mason's three primary forwards are each 6-7 or shorter; Notre Dame's four primary forwards are each 6-8 or taller. Will Thomas, though, plays far bigger than 6-7. As a sophomore, he dominated future NBA players as the Patriots beat Connecticut in the region final. This season, with 15.8 points and 10.5 rebounds, he, along with Harangody, is one of just seven players in the tournament who averages a double-double.

BACK COURT: While Harangody receives the bulk of attention, opponents can't collapse on him because of how dangerous Notre Dame's guards are beyond the three-point arc. Notre Dame shoots 41 percent from three-point range, best among teams in the tournament other than Cornell. Larranaga was quick to point out to his team that the Irish led the country in assists this season with 18.9 per game, a product of Harangody's underrated ability to find open sharpshooters when double-teamed and the guards' ability to penetrate and pass out the ball. The Patriots defend the perimeter well, holding opponents to 33 percent shooting on three-point attempts. Dre Smith is coming out of a slump that began after he set an NCAA record by making all 10 threes he attempted in one game.

BENCHES: Neither team relies heavily on its reserves, but that might change with the mile-high altitude in Denver. The most dangerous reserve for either team is 6-8 Notre Dame junior Ryan Ayers, who can play like a guard or a forward. He made 46.5 percent of his three-pointers and scored 7.9 points per game. Freshman Cam Long leads George Mason's reserves at 4.1 points per game.

COACHES: Kryptonite, anyone? Jim Larranaga earned widespread fame as the face of George Mason's run to the 2006 Final Four with his inspiring and comedic pregame speeches. "They're spontaneous," he said. Mike Brey, a former Duke assistant and head coach at Delaware, arrived in South Bend, Ind., in 2000, when the Irish had not been to the NCAA tournament in more than a decade. He has led them there for a fifth time, including a trip to the round of 16 in 2003.

— Adam Kilgore



George Mason senior forward Will Thomas averages 15.8 points and 10.5 rebounds.

GEORGE MASON ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Pts.	Rb.
1	Dre Smith	G	Jr.	6-0	8.6	2.0
2	Jordan Carter	G	Sr.	6-0	2.8	1.9
4	Jay Threatt	G	Fr.	5-10	0.0	0.5
20	Cam Long	G	Jr.	6-4	4.1	2.3
23	John Vaughan	G	Jr.	6-3	12.6	4.0
25	Isaiah Tate	G	Fr.	6-4	1.2	0.5
33	Louis Birdsong	F	So.	6-6	6.2	3.9
34	Will Thomas	F	Sr.	6-7	15.8	10.5
40	Chris Fleming	F	Jr.	6-7	1.5	0.8
41	Vlad Moldoveanu	F	Fr.	6-10	2.3	2.1
42	Folarin Campbell	G-F	Sr.	6-4	15.9	4.5

STARTERS ARE SHADED

RESULTS

NOVEMBER

Vermont	W, 60-53	vs. Villanova	L, 84-76
Cleveland State	W, 56-47	vs. South Carolina	W, 69-68
Dayton	W, 67-56	Drexel	W, 85-38
vs. Kansas State	W, 87-77		

DECEMBER

vs. East Carolina	L, 68-65	at Florida Int'l	W, 86-68
Hampton	W, 57-54	Liberty	W, 72-64
at Kent State	L, 73-55		

JANUARY

at Georgia State	L, 66-64	at J. Madison	W, 96-75
Towson	W, 72-63	Old Dominion	W, 86-53
at Delaware	L, 73-68	at Wilmington	L, 61-58
Northeastern	W, 80-52	VCU	W, 63-51
at Hofstra	W, 85-78		

FEBRUARY

James Madison	W, 72-46	Wilmington	L, 75-73
at Drexel	W, 75-65	Delaware	W, 70-58
at Old Dominion	L, 72-64	at Ohio	L, 69-57
at Towson	W, 85-73	William & Mary	W, 60-54

MARCH

at Northeastern	L, 70-59	Wilmington*	W, 53-41
Northeastern*	W, 63-52	William & Mary*	W, 68-59

*CAA TOURNAMENT

DIFFERENCE MAKER



Jim Larranaga moved **Folarin Campbell** back to point guard after a loss to Kent State. Campbell also adjusted to being a father and, as he said, "the face of George Mason." He scored at least 15 points in each of the Patriots' final 17 games.