

Sports on campus

<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/campusrivalry/post/2012/08/notre-dame-football-bad-citizens-/1>

Aug 29, 2012

## Former Notre Dame star: Irish need 'bad citizens'

By [Andy Nesbitt](#), USA TODAY

Updated 10m ago

Former Notre Dame All-American **Allen Pinkett** knows exactly what the Irish need in order to become a power again in college football: A few "bad citizens."



Notre Dame opens its season Saturday against Navy in Dublin, Ireland.

CAPTION

By Joe Raymond, AP

Pinkett, who serves as the team's radio analyst, didn't stop there during an interview Wednesday on The McNeil and Spiegel Show on 670 The Score in Chicago.

From [ESPNChicago.com](#):

"I've always felt like to have a successful team you've got to have a few bad citizens on the team," Pinkett said. "That's how Ohio State used to win all the time. They would have two or three guys that were criminals and that just adds to the chemistry of the team. I think Notre Dame is growing because maybe they have some guys that are doing something worthy of a suspension which creates edge on the football team.

"You can't have a football team full of choirboys. You get your butt kicked if you've got a team full of choirboys so you've got to have a little bit of edge. But the coach has to be the dictator and the ultimate ruler. Here's my opinion: You don't hand out suspensions unless you know you've got somebody behind that guy that can make plays."

Pinkett didn't stop there, even when given the chance to backtrack.

"I absolutely meant that. Chemistry is so important on a football team. You have to have a couple of bad guys that sorta teeter on that edge to add to the flavor of the guys that are going to always do right. ... You look at the teams that have won in the past. They always have a couple of criminals.

"I don't want any mass murders or rapists. I want guys that maybe get caught drinking that are underage, or guys that maybe got arrested because they got in a fight at a bar, or guys that are willing to cuss in public and don't mind the repercussions of it. That's the type of criminal I'm talking about."

The Irish open their season Saturday against Navy in Dublin, Ireland. They will be without four players who have been suspended due to off-the-field infractions.

Notre Dame quickly responded to Pinkett's comments, [courtesy the \*New York Daily News\*](#):

"Allen Pinkett's suggestion that Notre Dame needs more 'bad guys' on its football team is nonsense. Of course, Allen does not speak for the University, but we could not disagree more with this observation," Notre Dame vice president and athletic director Jack Swarbrick said.