

2003 NOTRE DAME BASEBALL

11th-Ranked Irish Set To Open Season With Four Games In Arizona

The Notre Dame baseball team – coming off a landmark 2002 season that ended with a trip to the College World Series (the program's first CWS appearance since 1957) – embarks on another challenging season with four games slated for this week in Tempe, Ariz. (all games at ASU's Packard Stadium) ... Notre Dame and Dayton will face each other in both team's opener, on Friday, Feb. 21 (1:00 p.m.) ... the Irish – who are ranked as high as 11th in the nation (by *Baseball America*) – then will take on Newman University (11:00 a.m.) and #4-ranked Arizona State (3:00 p.m.) on Sat., Feb., 22 – with ND and ASU (which is off to an 18-1 start) meeting once again on Sun., Feb. 23 (1:00 p.m.) ... the Irish beat the Sun Devils in a 2002 meeting at Eck Stadium (9-4), which served as the homecoming for current ASU head coach Pat Murphy (who built ND into a national power from 1988-94) and ASU assistant Mike Rooney (an ND player in the early '90s) ... ESPN Radio 1620 (WDND) and its sister station WDNV 1490 AM again will provide commercial broadcasts of the entire ND season ... subscribers to the College Sports Pass also can listen via the internet (see main page of www.und.com) while live-stats will be available for the ASU games (and possibly the UD and Newman games) ... KAZ-TV (an Arizona statewide independent station) will provide live telecasts of both games (no satellite feeds are available).

Weekend Schedule

Fri., Feb. 21 – vs. Dayton (1:00 p.m. MST)
 Sat., Feb. 22 – vs. Newman (11:00 a.m. MST)
 Sat., Feb. 22 – at Arizona State (3:00 p.m. MST)
 Sun., Feb. 23 – at Arizona State (1:00 p.m. MST)

All games at ASU's Packard Stadium; MST is two hours earlier than South Bend/New York time.

NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE STARTING LINEUP * – lefthanded hitter; # – switch hitter

Pos.	Player	Yr.	Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2002 Stats and Notes
SS	Matt Macri	So.	6-2/195	Clive, IA	.206 (68 ABs), 13 RBI, 1 HR-3 2B, 7 BB, 24 Ks, 1-2 SB, 10 R (17 GP/16 GS) Limited mostly to early DH duty in 2002 (elbow injury); nation's #40 prospect for '03 draft
2B	Steve Sollmann	Jr.	5-10/190	Cincinnati, OH	.362, 47 RBI, 53 R, 2 HR-4 3B-8 2B, 22 BB, 6 SB, 8 Es (59 GP/57 GS) MVP of South Bend Regional (13-for-16, 8 RBI); team tri-captain
RF	Kris Billmaier	Sr.	5-10/205	Woodinville, WA	.313, 41 RBI, 34 R, 3 HR-3B-8 2B, 14 BB, 11 SAC (65 GP/62 GS) Career .471 hitter in NCAAAs (33-for-70, 17 RBI); tam tri-captain
1B	*Joe Thaman	Jr.	6-4/215	St. Louis, MO	.272, 33 RBI, 43 R, 6 HR-6 2B, 24 BB, 13 SAC (62 GP/58 GS) Hit .354 at Eck Stadium in '02 (22 RBI, 28 R); grand slams in back-to-back games vs. BC
C	Javi Sanchez	Jr.	6-2/200	Miami, FL	.281, 29 RBI, 50 R, 5 HR-3 3B-7 2B, 25 BB (66 GP/65 GS) Hit .313 in 2002 postseason play (15-for-48, 2 HR); converted IF, after starting at SS in '02
DH	*Steve Andres	Fr.	5-11/205	Napa, CA	Siena HS: .323, 27 RBI, 4 HR, 10 2B, 8 SB Last-minute walk-on and 4th-gen. ND student (GGF William Andres played baseball, '17-'19)
3B	Matt Edwards	So.		Mechanicsville, VA	.290 (31 ABs), 4 RBI, 2B, 3 BB, 6 Ks, 3 R, 1-1 SB, 6 Es (9 GP/8 GS) Missed most of 2002 season with broken leg; started at SS in '02, in place of Macri
LF	*Brennan Grogan	Fr.	6-2/170	Tequesta, FL	Benjamin HS: .434, 30 RBI, 3 HR, 29 SB Scrappy hitter; former prep CF, with good speed and strong arm
CF	Craig Cooper	Fr.	6-2/195	Plainview, NY	Chaminade HS: .380, 19 RBI, 5 HR, 10 SB Gold Glove award-winner as a prep

Top Reserves

OF/C	Cody Rizzo	Fr.	6-1/180	Temecula, CA	.501, 29 RBI, 6 HR, 19 SB Accomplished baseball and soccer player as a prep
IF	Greg Lopez	Fr.	6-0/175	Upper Arlington, OH	UAHS: .484, 32 RBI, 5 HR, 14 2B, 14 SB Ohio co-state player of the year in 2002; second-generation ND student

NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE PITCHING ROTATION * – lefthanded hitter; # – switch hitter

Pos.	Player	Yr.	Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2002 Stats and Notes
RHP	Chris Niesel	So.	5-11/195	Plantation, FL	3.36, 4-0, 71.2 IP, 62 Ks, 18 BB, 68 H, .241 opp. avg., 4 HB, 2 WP (14 GP/11 GS) 22-1 in last 23 decisions (also 13-0 in HS, 4-0 at ND, 3-1 Cape Cod, 2-0 BG Series)
RHP	John Axford	So.	6-5/180	Port Dover, ONT	3.95, 5-2, 70.2 IP, 64 Ks, 59 BB, 59 H, .231 opp. avg., 6 HB, 7 WP (17 GP/12 GS) 7th-round Seattle Mariners draft pick in 2001; can touch mid-90s with fastball
RHP	Peter Ogilvie	Sr.	6-3/220	Buffalo Grove, IL	4.65, 7-5, 79.1 IP, 58 Ks, 26 BB, 90 H, .295 opp. avg., 4 HB, 4 WP (17 GP/14 GS) Owns noteworthy complete-game wins over Michigan, FIU ('01 NCAAAs), VT and BC
RHP	Ryan Kalita	Sr.	6-2/210	Oak Park, IL	3.16, 5-0, 42.2 IP, 36 Ks, 14 BB, 45 H, .278 opp. avg., 2 HB, 1 WP (16 GP/4 GS) Logged seven gutsy shutout innings to deliver ND its first BIG EAST title ('02, vs. Rutgers)

The Bullpen

RHP	J.P. Gagne	Sr.	6-0/205	Bloomington, MN	3.14, 9-4, 6 SV, 94.2 IP, 69 Ks, 16 BB, 86 H, .245 opp. avg., 12 HB, 4 WP (28 GP/7 GS) Spent two-plus seasons as weekend starter; totaled 15 Ks/1 BB in '02 postseason (18 IP)
RHP	Martin Vergara	So.	6-0/185	Paterson, NJ	3.79, 5-1, 35.2 IP, 33 Ks, 17 BB, 33 H, .236 opp. avg., 8 HB, 5 WP Posted key 2002 wins over USC and West Virginia (pivotal comeback)
LHP	Tom Thornton	Fr.	6-6/205	Middleboro, NJ	Middleboro HS: 0.82, 8-1, SV, 60 IP, 109 Ks, 18 BB, 26 H (10 GP/9 GS) Career at MHS: 1.09, 19-4, 147.2 IP, 236 Ks, 48 BB, 26 H
RHP	Ryan Doherty	Fr.	7-1/230	Toms River, NJ	T.R. East HS: 1.14, 5-4, 63 IP, 85 Ks, 19 BB N.J. player of the year; career at TREHS: 1.22, 15-5, 185 Ks, 31 BB
RHP	Brandon Vilorio	Sr.	5-11/210	Wailuku, HI	2.45, 2-1, 3 SV, 22 IP, 8 Ks, 5 BB, 16 H, .203 opp. avg., 1 HB (16 GP) Low career walk average (1.63 per 9 IP) would best the ND record
RHP	Matt Laird	Sr.	6-0/185	Bellaire, TX	5.73, 0-0, SV, 11 IP, 9 Ks, 9 BB, 14 H, .292 opp. avg., 3 WP (12 GP) Served as closer on 2001 squad that claimed nation's No. 1 ranking
RHP	Tyler Jones	So.	6-4/205	Arlington, TX	4.00, 1-0, SV, 9 IP, 6 Ks, 9 BB, 9 H, .243 opp. avg., WP (4 GP/1 GS) Named all-Jayhawk League wit Hays Larks in summer of 2002 (3.58, 5-1, 39 Ks)

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2003 SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

Fri.	21	vs. Dayton (at Arizona St.)	1:00
Sat.	22	vs. Newman (at Ariz. St.)	11:00
Sat.	22	at #5 Arizona State (KAZ-TV)	3:00
Sun.	23	at #5 Arizona State (KAZ-TV)	1:00
Fri.	28	\$ vs. Nebraska	12:15

MARCH

Sat.	1	\$ vs. Minnesota (Fox Sp. No.)	2:00
Sun.	2	\$ vs. Wake Forest	11:00
Sat.	8	* vs. Vanderbilt (@UNF)	3:00
Sun.	9	* at North Florida	3:00
Mon.	10	* vs. Navy (@UNF)	2:00
Wed.	12	* at Jacksonville	7:00
Thur.	13	* vs. E. Illinois (@UNF)	5:00
Fri.	14	* vs. Navy (@UNF)	4:00
Sat.	15	* vs. Creighton (@JU)	Noon
Sat.	22	• at Villanova (DH)	Noon
Sun.	23	• at Villanova	Noon
Tues.	25	TOLEDO	5:05
Wed.	26	PURDUE	5:05
Sat.	29	• GEORGETOWN (DH)	12:05
Sun.	30	• GEORGETOWN	12:05

APRIL

Tues.	1	DETROIT	5:05
Wed.	2	VALPARAISO	5:05
Fri.	4	• at Boston College (DH)	Noon
Sun.	6	• at St. John's (DH)	Noon
Tues.	8	BOWLING GREEN	5:05
Wed.	9	WESTERN MICHIGAN	5:05
Thur.	10	CHICAGO STATE	5:05
Sat.	12	+ vs. Creighton	4:00
Sun.	13	at Creighton	Noon
Tues.	15	EASTERN MICHIGAN	5:05
Thur.	17	• PITTSBURGH (DH)	12:05
Sat.	19	• SETON HALL (DH)	11:05
Tues.	22	BALL STATE	6:05
Wed.	23	CLEVELAND STATE	5:05
Sat.	26	• CONNECTICUT (DH)	12:05
Sun.	27	• CONNECTICUT	12:05
Tues.	29	◆ vs. Michigan	7:30
Wed.	30	OAKLAND (MI)	6:05

MAY

Sat.	3	• WEST VIRGINIA (DH)	12:05
Sun.	4	• WEST VIRGINIA	12:05
Sat.	10	• at Rutgers (DH)	Noon
Sun.	11	• at Rutgers	Noon
Tues.	13	CINCINNATI	3:05
Wed.	14	BUTLER	6:05
Fri.	16	• at Virginia Tech (DH)	Noon
Sat.	17	• at Virginia Tech	Noon

BIG EAST Tournament (Bridgewater, NJ)

Thur.-	22-	Commerce Bank Ballpark
Sat.	24	

JUNE

NCAA Regionals (campus sites)

Fri.-	30-
Sun.	1

NCAA Super-Regionals (campus sites)

Fri.-	6
Sun.	8

College World Series (Omaha, NE)

Fri.-	13-	Rosenblatt Stadium
Mon.	23	

All listings indicate local starting times
 Home games (bold caps) at Frank Eck Stadium
 \$ – Dairy Queen Classic (Metrodome; Minneapolis)
 * – Kennel Club Classic (Jacksonville, FL)
 + – Rosenblatt Stadium (Omaha, NE)
 • – BIG EAST Conference game
 ◆ – Fifth/Third Bank Ballpark (Grand Rapids, MI)

MATCHUP NOTES

STRONG UP THE MIDDLE – Notre Dame boasts the only pair of middle infielders who each received 2003 preseason All-America honors, with junior 2B **Steve Sollmann** earning a second-team nod from the National College Baseball Writers Association while sophomore SS **Matt Macri** (who saw most of his freshman season cut short by an elbow injury that ultimately required “Tommy John” reconstructive surgery) was a *Baseball America* third team preseason All-American ... *BA* and the BIG EAST coaches forecasted Sollmann as the 2003 BIG EAST player of the year while *Collegiate Baseball* magazine predicted Macri for that honor ... three other second basemen and five shortstops were named to at least one of the three major preseason All-America teams (which featured 10 total middle infielders) ... Southern University 2B Rickie Weeks and Florida State SS Stephen Drew were unanimous first-team picks (also *Collegiate Baseball*) while Texas 2B Tim Moss was the only other middle infielder named to all three teams ... middle infielders cited on two of the preseason teams also included Georgia Tech SS Eric Patterson, Eastern Michigan 2B Brian Bixler and Louisiana State SS Aaron Hill ... two other shortstops – Richmond’s David Reaver and USC’s Anthony Lunetta – also received preseason All-America honors.

NO KEYSTONE COPS – The ND-ASU matchup will feature two of the nation’s top middle-infield tandems, with the Irish duo of junior 2B **Steve Sollmann** and sophomore SS **Matt Macri** each earning preseason All-America honors (see note above) ... ASU junior 2B **Steve Garrabrants** and sophomore SS **Dustin Pedroia** both earned preseason all-Pac 10 Conference honors from *Baseball America*, which also tabbed Pedroia as the Pac-10’s best defensive SS ... *BA* has forecasted Macri (40th overall, 2nd among SS), Sollmann (124th) and Garrabrants (173rd) among the top college prospects for the 2003 MLB draft – while Pedroia played with Team USA during the summer of 2002

SCOUTING THE OPPONENTS – Dayton returns just five of 21 letterwinners from its 2002 team that went 32-21 and finished 6th in the Atlantic-10 (14-10) ... see www.daytonflyers.com for more information on UD ... Newman University (an NAIA school in Wichita, Kansas) returned four of 10 starters from its 2002 team that went 29-34, with the Jets finishing third in the Midlams Collegiate Conference race (10-8; see www.newmanbaseball.com for more info.) ... Arizona State (which faces Dayton on Friday night) has raced to an 18-1 start and No. 4 national ranking, after returning 21 of 28 letterwinners from the 2002 ASU team (37-21, 3rd in Pac 10 with 15-9 mark, went 2-2 in NCAA regionals) ... ASU played six games at Hawaii-Hilo (gaining a schedule exemption), with their only wins coming vs. San Diego State (3), Long Beach State (2), BYU (2), Gonzaga, Oklahoma State and Oregon State ... the Sun Devils dropped an 11-5 game at LBSU on Jan. 31 but now are riding a nine-game winning streak ... see www.thesundevils.com for complete ASU coverage.

SCOUTING THE IRISH – Notre Dame returns the bulk of its pitching staff and several position starters (see p. 1), led by senior RF **Kris Billmaier**, junior 2B **Steve Sollmann**, junior 1B **Joe Thaman** and junior **Javi Sanchez** (who is slated to shift from shortstop to catcher) ... highly-touted sophomore SS **Matt Macri** also is on schedule to make his debut at that position with the Irish, after missing most of his sophomore season due to injury (he was limited to 14 starts at DH and two at 2B in '02).

UPSET SPECIALS – The Notre Dame baseball program – dating back to the late 1980s and the early days of the Pat Murphy era – has a tradition of knocking off high-ranked opponents (most often on those team’s home fields) ... most recently, the 2000 Irish squad nearly no-hit eventual NCAA champion Miami in a 1-0 game at Eck Stadium while the 2002 squad knocked off top-ranked Florida State in the 2002 NCAA Super Regionals (10-4, 5-12, 3-1; at FSU) ... see p. 14 of the 2003 ND baseball media guide for a complete list of the most noteworthy upsets posted by the Notre Dame baseball program during the previous 15 seasons.

Probable Pitching Matchups

ND – Chris Niesel (RHP, So., 5-11/195)
 '02: 3.36, 4-0, 71.2 IP, 62 Ks, 18 BB, 68 H
 Dayton – RHP Drew Cheeseboro (RHP, So.)
 '02: 7.43, 3-3, 38 Ks

ND – John Axford (RHP, So., 6-5/180)
 '02: 3.95, 5-2, 70.2 IP, 64 Ks, 59 BB, 59 H
 Newman – JR James (Jr.)
 '02: 9.25, 3-1, 36 IP, 24 Ks, 17 BB

ND – Peter Ogilvie (RHP, Sr., 6-3/220)
 '02: 4.65, 7-5, 79.1 IP, 58 Ks, 26 BB, 90 H
 ASU – Beau Vaughan (RHP, Sr., 6-4/230)
 '02: 8.84, 1-0, 19.1 IP, 23 Ks, 23 BB

ND – Ryan Kalita (RHP, Sr., 6-2/210)
 '02: 3.16, 5-0, 42.2 IP, 36 Ks, 14 BB, 45 H
 ASU – Ben Thurmond (RHP, Sr., 6-0/190)
 '02: 3.52, 4-3, 64 IP, 61 Ks, 21 BB, 54 H

Note: Vaughan pitched at New Orleans in '02, Thurmond at Winthrop in '02.

PRESEASON HONORS

THREE NAMED PRESEASON ALL-AMERICANS – An unprecedented three Notre Dame baseball players – junior 2B **Steve Sollmann**, sophomore SS **Matt Macri** and sophomore RHP Grant **Johnson** – were tabbed for preseason All-America honors, with Sollmann and Macri earning preseason BIG EAST player-of-the-year recognition from different sources (see listings below).

PROSPECTS-A-PLenty – Six Irish players also have been listed among national college prospect rankings, as compiled by *Baseball America* Perfect Game and Team One Baseball ... the Dec. 15 *BA/PG* list forecasting the top-100 prospects for the 2004 draft included four ND sophomore RHPs: **Grant Johnson** (5th), **John Axford** (19th), **Chris Niesel** (49th) and **Martin Vergara** (78th) ... no other school had more than three pitchers among that top-100 prospects list (Rice had three, Texas and Old Dominion two) ... Macri (a draft-eligible sophomore) was listed 40th (second among shortstops) on the *BA/PG* prospects list for the 2003 draft while Sollman was 124th on that list.

Two other sophomores from BIG EAST teams – Boston College RHP Chris Lambert (12th) and Rutgers OF Jeff Frazier (17th) – also are among the top prospects on the *BA/PG* top-100 prospects list for the 2004 draft ... the BIG EAST is the only conference with four-plus schools represented on that top-100 prospect list while the six total BIG EAST players matches the Atlantic Coast Conference for the most from one conference among the *BA/PG* top 100 prospects for the '04 draft.

NIESEL HIGHLY-REGARDED – Sophomore RHP **Chris Niesel** impressively was forecasted by the Major League Scouting Bureau's 2002 fall rankings as the No. 1 overall college prospect for the 2004 draft, followed by Florida State SS Stephen Drew, Ohio State LHP Scott Lewis, Vanderbilt LHP Jeremy Sowers and Clemson LHP Tyler Lumsden.

TRI-CAPTAINS SET TO LEAD IRISH – Notre Dame embarks on its 2003 season led by its team tri-captains: senior RF **Kris Billmaier** (Woodinville, Wash.), senior RHP **J.P. Gagne** (Bloomington, Minn.) and junior 2B **Steve Sollmann** (Cincinnati, Ohio) ... Gagne is just the fourth pitcher in the last 27 seasons (since Bob Stratta in 1976) to serve as a captain of the Irish baseball program, with others including Craig Allen ('96), Alex Shilliday ('99) and Aaron Heilman ('00, '01) ... Sollmann is just the third junior in the last nine seasons to serve as an ND baseball captain, with the others recently including 3B Andrew Bushey ('01), Heilman, SS Brant Ust ('99), catcher Bob Lisanti ('94) and 1B Joe Binkiewicz ('91) ... Gagne – who made a key move to the bullpen midway through the '02 season – first joined the ND program as a walk-on before excelling in several roles during the 2000-02 seasons (21-10, 6 SV, 64 GP, 238 IP) ... he could join former greats Chris Michalak ('93) and Heilman ('01) as the third ND pitcher ever to post 20-plus wins and 10-plus saves ... Billmaier has been a classic prime-time performer during his ND career, batting .471 in 2000-02 NCAA Tournament games (33-for-70), a full 200 points higher than his batting average in the other '00-'02 games (.271) ... Sollmann hit .362 in 2001 and again in '02, overcoming a nagging quad injury to play a key role in the 2002 postseason push ... the former prep CF has developed into a steady 2B (just 8 Es in '02) and earned national player-of-the-week honors after batting 13-for-16 in the 2002 NCAA South Bend Regional .

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2003 PRESEASON HONORS AND RANKINGS (as of Feb. 16)

John Axford (So., RHP) – Nation's #19 college prospect (11th pitcher) for 2004 draft (*Baseball America* Perfect Game, 12/15/02), BIG EAST's #5 overall prospect (*BA*)

Craig Cooper (Fr., CF) – BIG EAST's #2 newcomer (*BA*)

Grant Johnson (So., RHP) – Nation's #5 college prospect for 2004 draft (*BA/PG*, 12/14/02), preseason third team All-American (*Collegiate Baseball* magazine, National College Baseball Writers), preseason all-BIG EAST (coaches, *BA*), BE's #1 prospect and best control pitcher (*BA*)

Matt Macri (So., SS) – Preseason third team All-American (*Baseball America*), preseason BIG EAST player of the year (*Collegiate Baseball* magazine), nation's #40 college prospect (#2 among SS) for 2003 draft (*BA* Perfect Game, 12/15/02), preseason all-BE (*BA*), BE's #3 overall prospect and best IF arm (*BA*)

Chris Niesel (So. RHP) – Preseason all-BIG EAST (*BA*), nation's #49 college prospect for 2004 draft (*BA* Perfect Game, 12/15/02), preseason all-BIG EAST (*BA*), BE's #6 overall prospect, best breaking ball (*BA*)

Steve Sollmann (Jr., 2B) – preseason second team All-American (National College Baseball Writers), preseason BIG EAST player of the year (BIG EAST coaches and *Baseball America*), #124 college prospect for 2003 draft (*BA* Prospects Plus, 12/15/02), preseason all-BIG EAST (coaches; *BA*), BE's #7 overall prospect (all *BA*), best defensive 2B (*BA*)

Joe Thaman (Jr., 1B) - BIG EAST's best defensive 1B (*Baseball America*)

Martin Vergara (So., RHP) – Nation's #78 college prospect for 2004 draft (*BA* Perfect Game, 12/15/02), BIG EAST's #8 overall prospect (*BA*)

National Polls (Feb. 17)

BASEBALL AMERICA TOP 25

Team	W-L	Final '02
1. Georgia Tech	2-0	(8)
2. Rice	3-1	(5)
3. Florida State	8-1	(7)
4. Texas	10-1	(1)
5. Arizona State	17-1	(22)
6. Cal State Fullerton	8-1	(-)
7. Wake Forest	2-1	(12)
8. USC	5-2	(14)
9. Baylor	4-3	(-)
10. Stanford	6-5	(4)
11. NOTRE DAME	0-0	(6)
12. South Carolina	4-1	(2)
13. Long Beach State	6-3	(21)
14. LSU	4-3	(11)
15. Richmond	0-0	(16)
16. Auburn	6-1	(-)
17. Mississippi State	0-0	(-)
18. Clemson	0-0	(3)
19. Nebraska	2-1	(9)
20. Houston	2-4	(10)
21. North Carolina	0-0	(17)
22. Florida International	10-1	(-)
23. Stetson	3-3	(-)
24. Tulane	5-1	(-)
25. Mississippi	2-0	(-)

COLLEGIATE BASEBALL TOP 30

Team	W-L	Pts (Final '02)
1. Texas	10-1	495 (1)
2. Florida State	8-1	493 (9)
3. Cal State Fullerton	8-1	490 (28)
4. Georgia Tech	2-0	487 (5)
5. Arizona State	17-1	486 (26)
6. Rice	3-1	484 (7)
7. South Carolina	4-1	480 (2)
8. Long Beach State	6-3	476 (27)
9. USC	5-2	475 (12)
10. Mississippi State	0-0	468 (-)
11. Stanford	6-5	464 (4)
12. LSU	4-3	461 (11)
13. Miami	4-2	458 (17)
14. Wake Forest	2-1	457 (14)
15. Richmond	0-0	456 (13)
16. Baylor	4-3	452 (-)
17. Clemson	0-0	449 (3)
18. NOTRE DAME	0-0	447 (6)
19. Texas A&M	3-1	443 (-)
20. Houston	2-4	440 (10)
21. Kansas	9-3	438 (-)
22. Nebraska	2-1	437 (8)
23. Auburn	6-1	435 (-)
24. Tulane	5-1	433 (-)
25. Florida Int'l	10-1	430 (-)
26. Tennessee	6-0	426 (-)
27. Wichita State	3-0	422 (22)
28. Oklahoma	1-1	419 (-)
29. Ohio State	0-0	416 (-)
30. Florida	4-1	412 (-)

USA TODAY/ESPN COACHES POLL

Team (1st)	W-L	Pts (Final '02)
1. Texas (29)	10-1	987 (1)
2. Florida State (1)	5-1	957 (9)
3. Georgia Tech (5)	2-0	926 (5)
4. Arizona State (1)	17-1	894 (19)
5. Cal State Fullerton (4)	8-1	873 (-)
6. Rice (1)	3-1	832 (6)
7. USC	5-2	750 (14)
8. South Carolina	4-1	730 (2)
9. Stanford	6-5	558 (4)
10. Wake Forest	2-1	548 (13)
11. Baylor	4-3	547 (-)
12. Clemson	0-0	517 (3)
13. Long Beach State	6-3	495 (-)
14. NOTRE DAME	0-0	463 (7)
15. Mississippi State	0-0	439 (-)
16. Auburn	6-2	323 (-)
17. LSU	4-3	302 (11)
18. Richmond	0-0	298 (16)
19. Nebraska	2-1	285 (8)
20. Miami	4-2	280 (20)
21. Houston	2-4	242 (10)
22. Texas Tech	8-2	133 (-)
23. Florida	4-1	112 (-)
24. Florida International	10-1	103 (-)
25. California	8-3	96 (-)

Others receiving votes: Tennessee (95), No. Carolina (85), Tulane (81), Alabama (60), Wichita St. (49), Texas A&M (41), Stetson (24), Arizona (24), Kansas (23), Oklahoma St. (23), UNLV (20), Arkansas (19), Fla. Atlantic (13), Coastal Carolina (13), TCU (11), SW Missouri (11), Washington (10), Oklahoma (10), E. Carolina (5), UNC-Greensboro (5), So. Alabama (5), Louisville (4), Minnesota (3), Ohio St. (2), Pepperdine (1), Mississippi (1).

Italics – 2003 Notre Dame opponents

Notre Dame Baseball "By the Numbers"

- 3,179** – All-time varsity baseball games
- 1892** – First varsity baseball season
- 1,032** – Combined college starts by the 2002 eight-member senior class
- 805** – All-time letterwinners
- 686** – Paul Mainieri's career coaching wins
- .362** – Steve Sollmann's final season batting average in 2001 and again in '02
- 278** – All-time Notre Dame opponents
- 99** – Notre Dame's combined victory total during the 2001 and '02 seasons
- 79** – Winning seasons (out of 110)
- 72.3** – Team winning percentage in the 1990s
- 50** – Victory total in 2002 College World Series season
- 43** – States represented in all-time roster
- 34** – Players' home states during nine-year tenure of head coach Paul Mainieri
- 34** – States played in by Irish (since '57)
- 19** – States represented on 2003 roster
- 17** – Players who posted a GPA of 3.0-plus in 2001 fall semester
- 14** – Former Irish players in pro baseball in 2002
- 14** – Active streak of consecutive seasons with 40-plus wins
- 12** – Preseason ranking for Notre Dame in 2003 Baseball America poll
- 6** – Number of ND players who are slated to make their first college start at their respective positions in the opener vs. Dayton (C, SS, 3B, LF, CF and DH)
- 3.57** – Team ERA in 2002 (13th in nation)
- 3.097** – Baseball team GPA in 2002 fall semester
- 2** – Teams that won more games than Notre Dame (99) in 2001 and '02
- 1** – Notre Dame's ranking for top 2002 recruiting classes (*Baseball America*)

TEAM NOTES

THE RIGHT STUFF – Notre Dame's lineup – which had been predominantly lefthanded for the past four seasons – will take on a decidedly lefthanded slant in 2003, following the graduation of four lefthanded starters (CF and leadoff batter Steve Stanley, 3B and cleanup/#5 hitter Andrew Bushey, catcher Paul O'Toole and DH Matt Bok) and the pro signing of junior LF and 3-hole hitter Brian Stavisky ... those five players were among the teams's top hitters from 2000-02, with Stanley, Bushey and O'Toole also playing in 1999 alongside fellow lefthanded hitters Jeff Felker (1B, '97-'00), Ben Cooke (IF/OF, '98-'01) and Jeff Perconte (IF/OF, '97-'00) ... junior 1B Joe Thaman is the only lefthanded hitter among the returning starters, with 2B **Steve Sollmann**, RF **Kris Billmaier** and C **Javi Sanchez** (the '02 SS) all hitting from the right side ... the spots held by Stanley and Bushey both have been filled by righthanded hitters (freshman CF **Craig Cooper** and sophomore 3B **Matt Edwards**) while O'Toole's spot essentially has been filled by sophomore righthanded-hitting SS **Matt Macri** (after Sanchez' position switch) ... freshman LF Brennan Grogan gives the Irish another lefthanded bat at that position while his classmate Steve Andres is available to fill the lefthanded DH role.

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA CANDIDATES – Several Notre Dame players will be under consideration for Academic All-America honors in 2003, with an unmatched two ND baseball players earning that honor in each of the past three seasons ... top Academic All-America candidates in 2003 include senior RHPs **Brandon Vioria** (3.63, electrical engineering), **J.P. Gagne** (3.35, finance) and **Peter Ogilvie** (3.21, product design), plus junior 2B **Steve Sollmann** (3.26, marketing).

KEY PIECE OF THE PUZZLE – The Irish were **45-11** in 2002 games started by B Steve **Sollmann**, compared to just 5-7 in games when he was out of the starting lineup (due to a quad pull).

BIG SHADOWS – Notre Dame's 2003 roster includes some big bodies, with eight players 6-4 or taller – led by freshman RHP **Ryan Doherty** (7-1, 230), senior 1B **Mike Holba** (6-8, 240), freshman LHP **Tom Thornton** (6-6, 205), sophomore RHPs **Grant Johnson** (6-6, 220) and **John Axford** (6-5, 180), and sophomore 1B **Joe Thaman** (6-4, 215).

INJURY UPDATE: Sophomore RHP Grant Johnson and sophomore DH Brant Weiss both are slated to miss the 2003 season after undergoing preseason shoulder surgery.

ND's 2002 BIG EAST STAT LEADERS (ret. players)

Sophomore 2B Steve Sollmann	
• 3rd in overall triples	4
• 4th in overall runs	53
• 5th in overall hits	77
Junior RHP Peter Ogilvie	
• 5th in BIG EAST ERA	3.13
• 7th in overall wins	7-5
• 7th in BIG EAST opp. batting avg. ...	.246
Freshman RHP Chris Niesel	
• 6th in overall ERA	3.35
• 8th in overall opp. batting avg. ....	.241
Junior RHP J.P. Gagne	
• 1st in overall appearances	28
• 2nd in overall wins	9-4
• 5th in overall ERA	3.14
• 5th in BIG EAST saves	3
• 5th in BIG EAST appearances 11• 6th in overall innings pitched	94.2
• 6th in overall saves	6
• 9th in overall opp. batting avg. ....	.245
Freshman RHP John Axford	
• 5th in overall opp. batting avg. ....	.231
• 6th in BIG EAST opp. batting avg. ...	.232
• 7th in BIG EAST wins	4-1
Overall Team Batting	1st (.321)
BIG EAST Team Batting	4th (.310)
Overall Team ERA	1st (3.57)
BIG EAST Team ERA	1st (3.74)
Overall Team Fielding	5th (.961)
BIG EAST Team Fielding	4th (.960)

TEAM NOTES

DEAR DIARY – Several Notre Dame baseball players made internet diary entries during their respective 2002 summer seasons (see baseball page at www.und.com for Summer Diaries link button) ... pitchers **Grant Johnson** (Team USA), **J.P. Gagne** (Alaska Goldpanners) and **Chris Niesel** (Falmouth Commodores, of the Cape Cod League) joined infielder **Javi Sanchez** (Hays, Kan., Larks of the Jayhawk League) in sharing their various – and unique – summer tales.

OPENING NIGHT DINNER AGAIN A SMASH HIT – Nearly 1,000 area baseball fans were on hand Feb. 4 in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse for the Notre Dame baseball program's second annual Opening Night Dinner, with Chicago Cubs general manager Jim Hendry serving as the keynote speaker ... the night included a ballpark-style dinner and also featured two videos, one recapping Notre Dame's 2002 College World Series season and the other previewing the Cubs' 2003 campaign ... admission price included becoming members of the second season-ticket-holder base in the history of the Notre Dame baseball program (season tickets may be ordered by calling 574-631-7356).

Attendees also had the chance to receive autographs from the current Notre Dame players prior to the dinner and each of the 33 players sat with the fans at individual tables after being introduced to the group ... more than 100 pieces of sports memorabilia were awarded as door prizes ... the evening was played out against a backdrop of two largescreen televisions showing the televised broadcasts of Notre Dame's 3-1 win at Florida State that sent the Irish on to the 2003 CWS (the final inning of the CWS win over Rice also was shown on the bigscreens as the event concluded).

Hendry is a longtime friend of ND head coach Paul Mainieri (they were baseball coaches together at Miami's Columbus High School) and Hendry also was a successful coach at Creighton University, with current ND associate head coach Brian O'Connor playing on Creighton's 1991 squad that advanced to the College World Series.

HEAD COACH PAUL MAINIERI

Ninth-year Notre Dame head coach Paul Mainieri owns a 686-421-1 (.620) record in 20 college seasons ... in addition to his 354-142-1 (.713) mark in eight seasons at ND, Mainieri's teams were 180-121 in six seasons at St. Thomas (Fla.) and 152-158 in six seasons at Air Force ... Mainieri's ND teams have combined for a 121-41(.747) record in regular-season BIG EAST games, making the Irish skipper the winningest coach in BIG EAST history (based on winning pct.) ... he also ranks second all-time at Notre Dame in career coaching wins, behind Hall of Famer Jake Kline (558-449-5, 1934-75)

GAME #500 – Saturday's game vs. Arizona State is slated to be the 500th game of the Paul Mainieri era at Notre Dame (he enters the week with a 354-142-1 record at ND) ... Mainieri also is nearing his 700th victory as a college head coach (686-421-1, in 20 FULL seasons)

HONORARY MONOGRAM – Paul Mainieri counted himself among those who were not surprised in the least when his Notre Dame baseball team made its historic run to the 2002 College World Series, an accomplishment that was recognized with the Sept. 14 ring ceremony at Eck Stadium (see linked photo gallery) ... but he was the most surprised spectator at the end of that ceremony, when the Notre Dame National Monogram Club presented the ninth-year Irish coach with an honorary Notre Dame varsity monogram.

MONTH-BY-MONTH WITH THE IRISH

Notre Dame traditionally has posted a better won-loss record in the second half of the season, with the first eight seasons of the Paul Mainieri era featuring a 120-63-1 (.655) combined record during Jan.-March and a 234-79 (.748) record during April-June (a difference of nearly 100 pct. points).

NDs Monthly Record in the Mainieri Era

	Feb.*	March	April	May*
1995	1-2	10-8	24-6	5-5
1996	3-3	14-4	18-7	9-4
1997	3-3	10-8	20-6	8-2
1998	5-6*	10-3	20-3	6-5
1999	3-4	13-3	18-4	9-7
2000	2-1	14-4	20-6	10-7
2001	5-1	15-3-1	20-2	9-7
2002	1-2	11-8	19-2	19-6*
Tot.	23-22	97-41-1	159-36	75-43
	(.511)	(.701)	(.815)	(.636)

*Note: The 5-6 start in 1998 included 1-1 in Jan., the 19-6 finish in '02 included 5-3 in June.

Career Record Book

Batting Average

1. Dan Peltier (1987-89) .....	.406
2. Eric Danapolis (1990-93) .....	.405
3. Steve Stanley (1999-02) .....	.384
4. Scott Sollmann (1994-96) .....	.372
5. Robbie Kent (1993-94) .....	.368
Brant Ust (1997-99) .....	.368
7. Pat Pesavento (1986-89) .....	.367
8. Randall Brooks (1994-97) .....	.364
9. Steve Sollmann (2001- ) .....	.362
10. Mike Amrhein (1994-97) .....	.361
11. James Sass (1988-89) .....	.357
12. Brian Stavisky (2000-02) .....	.355

Stolen Bases

10. Craig Counsell (1989-92)	37
Randall Brooks (1994-97)	37
– Steve Sollmann (2001-)	29

Times Hit-By-Pitch

9. Rowan Richards (1993-96)	17
Allen Greene (1996-98)	17
– Steve Sollmann (2001-)	12

Victories

8. Pat Leahy (1990-92)	25-7
Alex Shilliday (1996-99)	25-17
10. Herb Kelly (1912-14)	22-2
– J.P. Gagne (2000-)	21-10

Fewest Walks Per 9 IP

1. Brandon Vloria (2000-)	1.63
2. Alan Walania (1990-93)	1.64
3. Tom Price (1991-94)	1.86
4. James Cross (1983, '85-'86)	1.88
5. Nick Palihnich (1958-60)	1.94
6. Darin Schmalz (1994-97)	2.05
7. Mike Naumann (1998-2001)	2.23
8. Chris Niesel (2002-)	2.24
Scott Cavey (1997-2000)	2.24
10. Jim Gibbons (1952-53)	2.33
11. J.P. Gagne (2000-)	2.35
12. A.J. Jones (1993-94)	2.46
13. Danny Tamayo (1998, 2000-01)	2.48
– Peter Ogilvie (2001-)	2.54

Pitching Appearances

6. David Sinnes (1990-93)	69
7. Tony Livorsi (1988-91)	68
8. Brian Piotrowicz (1987-90)	67
John Corbin (1997-2000)	67
10. Mike Naumann (1998-2001)	66
– J.P. Gagne (2000-)	64

Innings Pitched

10. Tom Buknowski (1952, '56-'57)	255.0
– J.P. Gagne (2000-)	238.0

Saves

5. Larry Mohs (1994-97)	10
6. Rich Sauget (1994-96)	9
7. Alan Walania (1990-93)	8
– J.P. Gagne (2000-)	6

Strikeouts

10. Pat Leahy (1990-92)	192
Darin Schmalz (1994-97)	192
– J.P. Gagne (2000-)	160

Fielding Putouts

1. Joe Binkewicz (1989-92)	1,583
2. Jeff Felker (1997-2000)	1,411
3. Paul O'Toole (1999-2002)	1,347
4. Tim Hutson (1986-88)	1,147
5. Joe Thaman (2001-)	1,064

Fielding Assists

8. Mike Moshier (1986-89)	400
– Steve Sollmann (2001-)	320

SERIES NOTES

FOR OPENERS – Notre Dame has split its eight previous season openers in the Paul Mainieri era (4-1 in the last five), with those eight games including several challenges vs. top-ranked opponents ... the Irish lost their season openers in 1995 (6-10 vs. Texas, at Cal State Fullerton), 1996 (4-12 at Georgia Tech) and 1997 (8-10) before knocking off Florida State (10-1) at the 1998 ACC/Disney Blast in Orlando ... ND added two more season-opening wins in 1999 (8-4 vs. James Madison, at Florida International) and 2000 (6-0 vs. Air Force, in Millington, Tenn.) before losing a heartbreaker to New Orleans at the 2001 Mississippi State Classic (6-7) ... the Irish opened 2002 with a 7-6 win over Missouri in 10 innings (at the New Orleans Classic).

ND-DAYTON SERIES NOTES – Notre Dame holds a 41-10 series edge (nine straight wins) vs. its old Midwestern Collegiate Conference rival Dayton ... the teams have met just once since 1993, an 8-1 ND win in 2001 (at Eck Stadium) ... then-senior LHP and Arizona native Mike Naumann picked up that '01 win over UD (6 IP, 5 H, R, 2 BB, K) while several current players led the offense: senior RF Kris Billmaier (2 RBI, R), junior 1B Joe Thaman (2-for-4, 2 RBI) and junior 2B Steve Sollmann (2-for-4, 2 R) ... current senior RHPs Brandon Vilorio (IP, 3 BF) and Matt Laird (IP, 4 BF) pitched in relief to help close the win ... none of the Flyer's current top players competed in the 2001 ND-UD games ... the series dates back to a 1922 game at Dayton (10-0 ND win), with the teams not playing again until 1978 ... Friday's game will mark the first in the series to be played on a truly neutral site (ND posted MCC Tournament wins over UD at South Bend's Coveleski Stadium in 1989, '90 and '91) ... the Irish have averaged 9.2 runs in the series (UD 3.9).

ANOTHER OPPONENT JOINS THE LIST: Newman will become the 278th different baseball opponent in the 111-year history of Notre Dame baseball, with Jacksonville slated to become No. 279 later this season ... Fairfield, Sacred Heart, Arkansas-Little Rock and Rice joined the ND opponent list in 2002 ... other teams that have faced ND for the first time in recent years include James Madison, Florida International, Missouri and Oakland (all in 1999), North Florida and Akron (both in 2000) and 2001 opponents Florida Atlantic, New Mexico, Pacific, Sam Houston State, South Florida and UC Santa Barbara ... the most noteworthy opponents that ND has yet to face include Oklahoma and Texas Tech ... ND's most common all-time opponents include: Northwestern (130 games), Michigan State (125), Western Michigan (122), Wisconsin (119), Michigan (115) and Purdue (114).

THE ND-ASU SERIES – Arizona State swept a 1992 home series from Notre Dame (16-2, 10-5, 9-5), with the Irish winning the only other game of the ND-ASU series (11-4 in '93, at ASU) prior to last year's 9-4 win at Eck Stadium (see recap on next page).

IN THE VALLEY OF THE SUN – Notre Dame is 3-10 all-time in games played in the state of Arizona, including a 1-3 mark at ASU (see above), an 0-5 record at Arizona (3-5, 4-12, 1-6 in 1960; 6-19, 9-10 in 1993) and a split of four games at the 1991 Oakland A's Tournament in Phoenix (4-2 win over Dartmouth, 8-5 win over Nebraska, 6-1 loss to Ohio State and 12-11 loss to OSU in 11 innings)

VS. THE PAC-10 – Notre Dame owns a 14-20 all-time record vs. teams from the Pac 10 Conference (4-4 in the Paul Mainieri era), most commonly vs. Washington (5-3, 1-1 PM era), California (3-2), ASU (2-3, 1-0 PM era) and Arizona (0-5) ... ND's other series records vs. Pac-10 schools include: 2-0 vs. Washington State (1-0 PM era), 1-1 vs. UCLA, 1-2 vs. USC (1-1 PM era), 0-1 vs. Oregon State and 0-3 vs. Stanford (0-2 PM era) ... ND's eight games vs. Pac-10 teams in the Mainieri era include two games at the Kingdome in 1995 (21-10 vs. Washington, 2-1 vs. Washington State), a 2-1 loss to UW at the Kingdome in 1996, a 14-4 loss to USC at the 1997 Long Beach State Classic, 2002 regular-season games vs. USC (15-8, at Round Rock, Texas) and ASU (9-4) and the pair of 2002 CWS losses to Stanford (3-4, 3-5).

ON THE MAP – Current ASU head coach **Pat Murphy** spent seven seasons as head coach at Notre Dame (1988-94), inheriting a team that had gone just 15-29 in 1987 before leading the 1988 team to a 39-22 season ... the 1989 squad then went 48-19-1, highlighted by a stirring performance (winning four rain-soaked games in 24 hours) to win the Midwestern Collegiate Conference and claim the program's first NCAA Tournament berth since 1960 (followed by NCAA trips in '92, '93 and '94) ... Murphy's final six Irish teams all won 40-plus games (he was 318-116-1 overall), with the 1992 (at Miami) and 1993 (at Florida State) teams nearly advancing from NCAA Regional play to the College World Series (each had defeated the host team) ... Mainieri's high standard has been carried on by current ND head coach Paul Mainieri – with their teams combining for the nation's seventh-best winning percentage (.724, 440-168) during the 1990s ... the program's current string of 14 consecutive seasons with 40-plus wins is the nation's fourth-longest active 40-win streak ... 46 Notre Dame players from the 1990s have gone on to play professional baseball, including 14 who were selected in the first 10 rounds of the MLB draft.

OTHER ND-ASU CONNECTIONS: Current Notre Dame athletic director **Kevin White** held the same position at Arizona State from 1996-2000 (prior to coming to Notre Dame) ... 12th-year Notre Dame volleyball coach **Debbie Brown** coached the previous six seasons at ASU (117-83 from 1983-88) and is a 1982 graduate of Arizona State (after starring at USC in the late 1970s) ... Brown also was an assistant coach at ASU in the 1980 and '81 seasons and was an assistant at Central Arizona in '82 ... 5th-year ASU assistant baseball coach **Mike Rooney** lettered with the 1991 and '92 Notre Dame baseball teams (as an outfielder).

FRIEND OR FOE? – Several players from this week's opponents are former teammates of current ND players ... pitchers **J.P. Gagne** (ND) and **Ryan Schroyer** (ASU) helped the Alaska Goldpanners summer-league team win the 2002 National Baseball Congress World Series (in Wichita), the Goldpanners record-setting sixth national title ... three ND players – senior RHP **Ryan Kalita**, senior 1B **Mike Holba** and junior LHP **Cody Wilkins** – were teammates of former ASU player **Eric Keefner** on the 2001 Waynesboro (Va.) Generals in the Shenendoah League ... Dayton's **Rory Thornton** played alongside three ND players – **Kalita**, junior C **Javi Sanchez** and sophomore RHP **Tyler Jones** – on the 2002 Hays (Kan.) Larks of the Jayhawk League.

BRAGGING RIGHTS – Two Arizona Diamondbacks players had a rooting interest in the 2002 NCAA Regional game between Notre Dame and South Alabama, as third baseman Craig Counsell ('92) was a four-year starter with the Irish while outfielder Luis Gonzalez starred with the Jaguars ... the two made a friendly wager and Gonzalez was forced to wear a Notre Dame baseball hat and t-shirt around New York City throughout a Diamondbacks' trip to the Big Apple shortly after ND's 25-1 win over South Alabama ... Counsell and former ND rightfielder John Counsell ('64) and his son are the only father/son combination to captain the same team sport at Notre Dame.

SERIES NOTES

ROADTRIPPERS – Notre Dame – which typically plays its first 20-some games on the road (first 16 in 2002) – regularly travels to top-notch facilities and noteworthy cities ... in Paul Mainieri's nine seasons (including '03), the Irish have visited: Fullerton and Long Beach, Calif., Seattle (Kingdome), San Antonio and Round Rock, Texas, five Florida cities (Miami, Orlando, Jacksonville, St. Petersburg and Tallahassee), Atlanta, New Orleans, Boston, Washington, D.C. New York City, Minneapolis (Metrodome) and Tempe, Ariz.

FACING THE ALMA MATER – First-year Notre Dame assistant coach **David Grewe** will be looking to help guide the Irish past his alma mater in the 2003 season opener ... Grewe was a three-year letterwinner while playing third base, first base and catcher at Dayton from 1995-98 ... he started at 3B on the 1996 team that set the UD record for wins before helping the 1998 Flyers post the program's first winning season since 1979 (he hit .324 on that team while ranking near the top of most statistical categories) ... Grewe graduated from Dayton in 1998, with a degree in sports management (he then was an assistant coach at the University of Chicago in the 1999 and 2000 season and at Central Michigan from 2001-02).

OHIO CONNECTIONS – Several Ohio natives have played key roles for Notre Dame baseball in recent years, with the 2001 squad including eight from Ohio ... the 2002 College World Series team was led by five starters from Ohio, including four seniors – DH Matt Bok (Akron), 3B/C Andrew Bushey (Boardman, near Youngstown), C/3B Paul O'Toole (Cleveland suburb of Lakewood) and CF Steve Stanley (Upper Arlington, near Columbus) – plus current junior 2B Steve Sollmann (Cincinnati) ... another Upper Arlington native, freshman IF Greg Lopez, has joined the Notre Dame program for 2003.

STREAK ALIVE – Notre Dame's 9-4 win over ASU in 2002 represented the 12th victory in a 16-game winning streak (April 12-May 4), matching the longest of the eight-year Paul Mainieri era (also '01) and tying for third-longest in the program's 110-year history, behind an 18-game streak in 1991 (Pat Murphy's fourth season at ND) and a 17-gamer in 1907 ... the '91 squad is the only ND team in the last 85 seasons to win more than 16 consecutive games.

ND's ARIZONA NATIVES

* The Notre Dame baseball program has produced letterwinners from 43 home states, including two from Arizona: LHP **Mike Naumann** (Tucson/Salpointe Catholic; '98-'01) and 3B **Thomas Lux** (Phoenix; '67-'69).

* Many products of the Phoenix-area Brophy Prep have been varsity letterwinners at Notre Dame, including football linebacker **John Likovich** ('75-'76), punter **Scott Palumbo** ('95) and defensive tackle Noah Van Hook-Drucker ('99), men's soccer midfielder **Scott Wells** ('96-'98), golfer **Paul Nolta** ('88-'91) and men's swimmer **Tim Szniewajs** ('93-'96, distance freestyle).

* St. Mary's HS also has produced Notre Dame football fullback **Dave Mitchell** ('77), QB/flanker **Steve Belles** ('86-'89) and kicker **Jim Sanson** ('96-'99).

* Other Arizona products who have lettered at Notre Dame include two football players from Tucson's Saguaro HS – DT **Thomas Roggerman** ('84) and WB **Kevin Smith** ('83) – plus volleyball players **Molly Stark** (Scottsdale/Horizon HS; '90-'93) and **Laura Reckmeyer** (Peoria/Catus HS; '93), tennis player Kristy Doran (Tucson/Catalina HS; '89-'92), basketball player **Ruth Kaiser** (Tempe/deNiza HS; '82-'85), swimmers **Haley Scott** (Phoenix/Xavier Prep; '92), **Lindsay Moorhead** (Carefree/Cactus Shadows HS, '00-'02) and **Josh Milligan** (Scottsdale/Arcadia HS; '95) and hockey defenseman **Jim Brown** (Phoenix/Aquinas Institute, '79-'82; went on to play in the NHL) – plus old-time tennis player **Bob Kendall** (Globe; '30-'31) and 1800s football halfback **Ralph Palmer** (Ft. Huachua ; 1895-96, did not letter).

* Several current ND student-athletes are Arizona products: senior softball SS **Andria Bledsoe** (Higley/Highland HS), sophomore women's swimming All-America hopeful **Kelli Barton** (IM/free), senior men's swimming breaststroke specialist **Jason Fitzpatrick** (Gilbert/Highland HS), freshman volleyball setter **Kelly Burrell** (Phoenix/Xavier Prep), sisters and Scottsdale Christian HS track products **Jill** (junior pole vaulter) and **Julie Van Weelden** (sophomore, mid-distance), sophomore track jump specialist **Ryan Mineburg** (Tucson/Sabino HS) and sophomore women's rower **Tricia David** (Page HS).

RECAPPING THE 2002 ND-ASU GAME

An overflow Eck Stadium crowd was treated to exciting Friday-night baseball, as Notre Dame answered Arizona State's rally with three runs of its own in the pivotal fifth inning – en route to the 12th straight victory for the Irish, 9-4 ... all 2,800 tickets were sold - in addition to 100 standing-room-only passes – to shatter the stadium's previous attendance record by nearly 800 tickets (2,104 fans saw the ND-Evansville game on April 23, 1994).

Senior DH **Matt Bok** again delivered the decisive hit while junior righthander **J.P. Gagne** continued his mastery out of the bullpen, logging the final 4 1/3 innings to pick up the win ... ASU tied the game with four runs in the top of the 5th but the Sun Devils were shut out in the other eight innings, after hitting into two double plays and stranding 11 (plus a runner caught stealing).

Gagne (5 IP, 5 Ks, BB, 2 H) and freshman righthanded starter **John Axford** (4 IP, 4 R/1 ER, 3 H, 5 BB, 3 HB, 5 Ks) held ASU to five hits but there were plenty of other baserunners (6 BB, 3 HBP, 3 Es) ... Bok's big hit came with a tie score, two outs and a 1-2 count ... Brian Stavisky had reached with one out, on a full-count double down the rightfield line, before **Andrew Bushey** walked on four pitches to end the night for junior RHP **Robbie McClellan** ... ASU opted for junior LHP **Bryce Kartler** to face the lefthanded-hitting **Paul O'Toole** but Kartler plunked O'Toole with his first and only pitch, loading the bases ... RHP **Mark Sopko** then took the mound and Bok came through on a 1-2 pitch, drilling the two-run single into right for the 6-4 lead ... O'Toole later scored on a wild pitch and the Irish added single runs in the 6th and 8th for the final cushion.

ND's four-run 2nd inning included an RBI single from **Joe Thaman**, a two-run single to center by **Steve Stanley** and an RBI groundball off the bat of **Steve Sollmann** ... ASU used three hits, three hit batters and a costly error to tie the game in the 5th – with **Jeff Larish** providing the tying hit on a two-out, two-run single up the middle ... McClellan was tagged for six runs on six hits (3 BB, 5 Ks)

ARIZONA STATE 0-0-0 0-4-0 0-0-0 – 4 5 4
NOTRE DAME 0-4-0 0-3-1 0-1-X – 9 9 3

Robbie McClellan (L, 7-3), Bryce Kartler (5), Mark Sopko (5) and Cesar Castillo.

John Axford, J.P. Gagne (W, 6-3) and Paul O'Toole.

Triple: Steve Garrabrants (ASU).

Doubles: Cesar Castillo (ASU), Brian Stavisky (ND).

PITCHING STAFF NOTES

DANDY DEBUT – Current sophomore RHP **Chris Niesel** (Plantation, Fla.) became the first Notre Dame freshman ever to post double-digit strikeouts in his debut, vs. Southern Illinois at the 2002 New Orleans Classic (Feb. 24) ... Niesel left that game with a 2-1 lead (ND lost 6-2) while racking up 10 Ks in five innings (5 H, 0 BB) ... he then posted nine Ks and one walk the next week vs. Fairfield (in Homestead, Fla.), yielding 19 Ks and just one walk in his first 12 innings.

JUST WIN, BABY – Sophomore RHP **Chris Niesel** heads into 2003 with an impressive streak of winning decisions that began with the start of his senior season at Aquinas High School (13-0) and continued with the Irish in 2002 (4-0, in addition to leaving several other games in line for wins) – followed by a 3-1 record with the Falmouth Commodores in the Cape Cod League during the summer of '02 ... Niesel also opened ND's annual Blue-Gold intrasquad series with impressive wins (in the fall of '01, and again in the fall of '02), yielding a mark of 22-1 in his last 23 decisions.

BACK IN STEREO – **Chris Niesel** (Plantation/Aquinas HS) – who tossed the clinching win at Florida State in the 2002 NCAA Super-Regional series – missed five weeks in '02 due to a bout with mononucleosis (April 8-May 11) before three solid relief efforts, strong starts in the BIG EAST Tournament vs. Virginia Tech (his first start in seven weeks) and another solid start vs. Ohio State in the South Bend Regional (he was the winner in the 9-6 clincher; 6 IP, 2 H, 2 R, 2 BB, 4 Ks, 94 pitches) ... he then added the clinching 3-1 win at FSU (8 IP, 6 H, 3 BB, 5 Ks) and had a strong outing vs. Rice in the CWS (6.2 IP, 5 H, 2 R, 2 BB, 7 Ks; with ND rallying for a 5-3 win in the 9th) ... his postseason stats included a 2.05 ERA in five outings (four starts, 22 Ks, 7 BB, 23 H in 26.1 IP).

DECEIVING W-L MARK – Chris Niesel's 4-0 season record in 2002 (in 11 starts) could have included several more early-season wins, as he left with leads vs. Southern Illinois (2-1, ND lost 6-2), Arkansas-Little Rock (5-1, with ND scoring twice in 9th to win 7-5), Connecticut (8-3, lose 9-8) and St. John's (2-1, with ND scoring three in 7th for 5-2 win) ... Niesel was one of five high school pitchers in the nation who were named by *Baseball America* as a 2001 first team All-American.

ELITE E.R.A. – Notre Dame has finished in the top-16 of the national charts for team earned-run average in four of the previous five seasons, owning the nation's best team ERA during portions of 2000 and '01 ... the 2000 staff surged atop the national ERA charts in late April (2.72) and finished 16th (3.93) ... the Irish then returned to the top spot among the 2001 team ERA leaders for three weeks in April, finishing fifth at 3.22 (best at ND since '92, third-best since '75) ... ND went on to finish 13th in the 2002 ERA rankings (3.57), joining Texas and Rice as the only teams ranked among the nation's top-20 ERA leaders in 2000, '01 and '02 ... the Irish also finished 12th in the final 1998 team ERA rankings (4.02) while the first eight ND staffs led by pitching coach **Brian O'Connor** ('95-'02) averaged a 4.10 team ERA.

JOHNSON LOST FOR SEASON – Notre Dame sophomore righthander **Grant Johnson** (Burr Ridge, Ill.) underwent arthroscopic shoulder surgery in late December and is slated to miss the entire 2003 season ... Johnson – a preseason All-American who was tabbed by *Collegiate Baseball* magazine as the preseason BIG EAST Conference pitcher of the year – enjoyed a stellar 2002 season in which he earned Freshman All-America honors and was selected to pitch with Team USA during the summer of '02 ... Johnson posted a 3.46 ERA in 18 appearances as a freshman, ranking second among BIG EAST pitchers in overall wins (9-5), third in starts (14, with nine "game-one" starts) and sixth in Ks (86) ... the 6-6, 220-pounder's other '02 stats included 44 walks, 94 hits allowed, a .249 opponent batting average, five wild pitches and nine hit batters ... *Collegiate Baseball* named Johnson the national pitcher of the week after his one-hit, one-walk masterpiece in the 25-1 NCAA win over South Alabama – becoming just the 13th pitcher (fourth since '81) ever to toss a no-hitter or one-hitter in NCAA tournament action ... he then posted an opening-game victory in the NCAA Super Regional round at top-ranked Florida State and started the opening-game vs. Stanford at the College World Series ... Johnson logged 20 innings with Team USA during the summer of '02, helping the staff post a team-record 1.48 ERA – with his personal stats including a 1.80 ERA and 2-1 record in five appearances (three starts), plus 25 Ks, 13 walks and 11 hits allowed.

PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE ON THE HILL – Despite the loss of Grant Johnson, Notre Dame's other 11 returning pitchers combined to log 77 percent of the team's innings in the 2002 season (449 of 584), in addition to posting 39 of the 50 victories, making 54 of the 68 starts and combining for 358 strikeouts in 2002.

SOPHOMORE SURGE? – Hard-throwing sophomore RHP **John Axford** will be looking for more consistent pitch location in 2003, after totaling the same number of walks and strikeouts (89) in his combined 2002 Notre Dame (59 BB/64 Ks) and Cape Cod League seasons (with the Hyannis Mets, 30 BB/25 Ks) ... Axford's .231 opponent batting average was best among the 2002 Irish staff (also 10th-best by an ND pitcher, since '91) while he served up a team-high 18 double-play balls ... Axford actually turned in some of the best numbers ever by an ND freshman pitchers in the eight-year Paul Mainieri era (notably his 3.95 ERA, 70.2 innings and 64 Ks) but his season was somewhat overshadowed by the dominating postseasons turned in by his classmates Grant Johnson and Chris Niesel.

THREE AMIGOS – Three senior RHPs could be key parts of Notre Dame's 2003 pitching success, as starters **Peter Ogilvie** (12-6, 131.1 IP, 88 Ks/37 BB, 134 H, 25 GP/21 CS, 5 CG) and **Ryan Kalita** (7-0, 54.2 IP, 46 Ks/24 BB, 55 H, 21 GP/6 GS, CG) have combined with former weekend starter/current closer **J.P. Gagne** (21-10, 6 SV, 238.0 IP, 160 Ks/62 BB, 263 H, 64 GP/33 GS, 2 CG) for the following combined career statistics: 3.84 ERA, 40-16, 6 saves, 424.0 IP, 294 Ks/123 BB, 452 H, 106 GP/60 GS and 8 CG.

READY FOR THE OUTDOORS – Notre Dame benefits from use of one of the nation's premier indoor college baseball facilities, at the indoor hitting and pitching facility located adjacent to Frank Eck Stadium ... the 2000 addition, donated by Notre Dame alumnus Eck, includes wall-to-wall artificial turf floor, four full-length batting tunnels, two regulation clay pitching mounds within the tunnels, a clay home plate area for catchers drills and an "Iron Mike" pitching machine.

PITCHING STAFF NOTES

ROOKIE RARITY – Notre Dame's first 24 BIG EAST Tournament games featured just three freshman starters on the mound – with the Irish equaling that number in 2002 alone, when freshmen **Grant Johnson** and **Chris Niesel** started the first two games of the BIG EAST Tournament and their classmate **John Axford** started ND's decisive fourth game, a 3-2 win over Rutgers ... ND then started two freshman pitchers in all three rounds of the NCAAs, with Johnson drawing Game-1 starts in the Regional (vs. Ohio State), Super Regional (vs. Florida State) and College World Series (vs. Stanford) while Niesel won the clinching third games in the Regional (also a short relief stint) and Super Regionals – followed by a strong start in the CWS elimination-game win over Rice (Axford added impressive relief outings vs. FSU and Stanford) ... the trio's combined 2002 postseason stats included a 5-1 record, 2.71 ERA and .229 opponent batting average in 12 appearances (nine starts), with 50 Ks, 27 walks and 53 hits allowed in 63 innings.

TOP TOOLS (pitching) – *Baseball America* rated several Notre Dame players among its "top tools" list for the 2003 BIG EAST Conference ... ND sophomore RHPs **Chris Niesel** ("best breaking ball") and **Grant Johnson** ("best control") joined Boston College sophomore RHP Chris Lambert ("best fastball") as the pitchers cited on *BA's* list for BIG EAST top tools.

CLOSING WITH THE CLOSER – Current senior RHP and closer **J.P. Gagne** had some rocky moments early in the 2002 postseason but he still managed to post an amazing ratio of strikeouts (15) to walks (1) during 18 innings of postseason action ... his best two outings came at key times, retiring nine straight to close the 10-4 opening win at Florida State before coming on to strike out the side in the 9th inning of the 3-1 clincher in that three-game NCAA Super-Regional series.

SENIOR SAVERS – Notre Dame's senior class includes three righthanders – J.P. Gagne (6), Brandon Vilorio (5) and Matt Laird (5) – who each have totaled five-plus saves in their ND careers ... Laird and his 3/4 delivery produced four saves in the closing role with the 2001 team that climbed to the No. 1 national ranking ... his more noteworthy saves that season included the first of two wins on opening week at Mississippi State (7-5, 0.2 IP) and the final two innings to cap a 3-0 shutout of Cleveland State ... he also went 7-2 in his final nine decisions of the 2002 season.

NO WALKING ZONE – Senior RHP **Brandon Vilorio** has averaged just 1.63 walks per 9 IP during his career (11/60.2) – which would challenge the ND record of 1.64 set by Alan Walania from 1990-93 (59/324) ... Vilorio posted a 2.45 season ERA in 2002 (second-best on the staff), plus a 2-1 record and three saves, with just five walks in 21 IP (no wild pitches and one hit batter), plus an eye-popping .203 opponent batting avg. (16-for-79) ... he has yet to throw a wild pitch in 61 career innings, with just one hit batter ... several other ND pitchers also have low career walk ratios, including sophomore **Chris Niesel** (2.24, would rank 8th) and seniors **J.P. Gagne** (2.35) and **Peter Ogilvie** (2.54).

PITCHING WITH CLASS – Notre Dame's current group of six sophomore pitchers – which led the way in helping Notre Dame earn top recruiting class honors from *Baseball America* in 2002 – combined for a 3.64 ERA, 25-8 record and four saves during the 2002 season (also 263 Ks, 148 walks and 273 hits allowed in 299.1 innings, 71 appearances and 43 starts) ... the five active members of the sophomore pitching group (minus injured ace Grant Johnson) combined for the following '02 numbers: 3.73 ERA, 16-3, 4 SV, 53 GP/29 GS, 198.0 IP, 177 Ks/104 BB, 179 H) ... here's a breakdown of their individual 2002 stats:

Chris Niesel	14 GP/11 GS (72.1 IP)	62 Ks/18 BB/68 H	4-0 (2 SV), 3.36
Martin Vergara	12 GP/5 GS (35.2)	33 Ks/17 BB/33 H	5-1, 3.79
John Axford	17 GP/12 GS (70.2 IP)	64 Ks/59 BB/59 H	5-2, 3.95
Tyler Jones	4 GP/1 GS (9.0 IP)	6 Ks/9 BB/9 H	1-0 (SV), 4.00
Scott Bickford	6 GP (10.1 IP)	12 Ks/1 BB/10 H	1-0 (SV), 4.35

GOOSE EGGS ALL AROUND: Current senior RHP **Ryan Kalita** had a unique memento from the 3-2, 10-inning win over Rutgers that clinched the 2002 BIG EAST Tournament title ... Kalita had entered in the 5th inning of that game and proceeded to toss seven shutout innings, allowing six hits and three walks (six Ks) ... what made that performance all the more remarkable was that Kalita took a linedrive off the right side of his forehead (off the bat of RU hitting ace Val Majewski), with the ball glancing off Kalita's glove before thumping off his skull ... after being examined by the medical staff on hand (and monitored throughout the game), Kalita returned to the mound to continue the biggest outing of his career ... a couple hours later, as the Irish celebrated their first BIG EAST title on the field at Commerce Bank Ballpark, Kalita still was sporting the major welt – a fitting souvenir to his gutsy outing that wrapped up an NCAA bid for the Irish.

ANOTHER BIG WIN: **Ryan Kalita** also turned in a clutch effort as the starter in ND's key 2-1 win over Virginia Tech, on April 12, 2002 ... that 7-inning game extended to 10 innings, with the Irish outlasting the Hokies ace LHP (and eventual 1st-round draft pick) Joe Saunders ... Kalita logged the first six innings, allowing an unearned run on six hits and one walk, with five strikeouts ... ND then won in the 10th, after Matt Bok's pinch-hit triple and Joe Thaman's single back to the mound ... that win essentially helped ND claim the BIG EAST's No. 1 seed, after the Irish and Hokies both finished 18-8 in league play – with ND going on to sweep the double-header for the tiebreaker.

WINDY-CITY WONDERS: Three Chicago-area natives have emerged among Notre Dame's top-five starting pitchers in the 2002 season: current senior RHPs **Peter Ogilvie** (Buffalo Grove/Stevenson HS) and **Ryan Kalita** (Oak Park/OP-River Forest HS) and current sophomore RHP **Grant Johnson** (who is slated to miss all of the 2003 season after undergoing shoulder surgery) ... that Windy City trio combined in 2002 for a 21-10 record and 3.83 ERA, with 180 strikeouts, 84 walks and 229 hits allowed in 223.1 innings ... some of the top players in the nine-year Paul Mainieri era have hailed from Chicagoland, including IF/C Mike Amrhein (OPRF HS), CF Randall Brooks (Hazelcrest/Hillcrest HS), C Bob Lisanti (Chicago/Fenwick HS) and SS Alec Porzel (Lisle/Naperville North HS) – plus pitchers Tim Kalita (Ryan's brother) and Darin Schmalz (Barrington HS).

DEFENSE NOTES

NEW NAME IN CENTER – Freshman **Craig Cooper** – who earned Gold Glove honors as a prep – is slated to become just the second Notre Dame player to start in center field during the last five seasons, with 2002 graduate and lead-off hitter **Steve Stanley** starting all 256 games from 1999-2002 (he played all but 25 innings in that span) ... the last player (other than Stanley) to start in center field for the Irish was switch-hitter and leadoff batter Allen Greene, who made most of the starts in CF during the 1998 season ... other recent CFs for the Irish have included Randall Brooks ('97), Scott Sollmann ('94-'96), Eric Danapilis ('90, '93), Dan Bautch ('91-'92) and Dan Peltier ('87-'89) – with Peltier (.406), Danapilis (.405), Stanley (.384) and Scott Sollmann (.372) ranking atop the Notre Dame career batting average list (in addition to dominating several other offensive categories) ... the only players other than Stanley who patrolled center field for the Irish during 1999-2000 included catcher Paul O'Toole (2 innings), utility player Ben Cooke (5), LHP Mike Naumann (1) and walk-ons John Heintz (5) and George Howard (11).

TOP TOOLS (defense): *Baseball America* rated several Notre Dame players among its "top tools" list for the 2003 BIG EAST Conference ... the junior rightside infield tandem of **Joe Thaman** (1B) and **Steve Sollmann** (2B) both were rated by *BA* as the BIG EAST's best defensive players for their respective positions ... Thaman also earned that recognition prior to the 2002 season ... Sollmann has made an impressive transition from center field (where he starred as a prep) to the middle infield.

TRANSITION MAN – Junior **Javi Sanchez** – who filled in admirably as the starting SS in 2002 – will be tackling another new position in 2003, as ND's opening-day catcher ... under the guidance of first-year assistant coach David Grewe, Sanchez has made significant progress behind the plate in the past few months as the Irish look to replace graduates Paul O'Toole and Andrew Bushey ... Sanchez made just one error at SS during the 2002 NAAs (nine games).

LEFT SIDE READY TO GO – Notre Dame is slated to open the 2003 season with new starters at shortstop (**Matt Macri**) and third base (**Matt Edwards**), as the sophomores return from injuries that held them out of most of the 2002 season ... Edwards suffered a broken leg during an on-field collision in the ninth game of the '02 season while the highly-touted Macri logged just 17 games before undergoing "Tommy John" reconstructive elbow surgery.

POSITION PLAYER NOTES

LONG-BALL LONGING – Notre Dame – which hit 12 home runs in 13 games during the 2002 postseason (after 41 in 55 regular-season games) – will be looking to replace several of its top long-ball threats, including C Paul O'Toole (11 HRs in 2002), LF Brian Stavisky (9 HRs in '02), 3B Andrew Bushey (6 HRs in '02) and DH Matt Bok (3 HRs in '02) ... all told, ND's current active players accounted for just 17 of the team's 53 HRs (32%) in 2002, led by junior 1B Joe Thaman (6), junior C Javi Sanchez (5) and senior RF Kris Billmaier (3; plus 2 by junior 2B Steve Sollmann and 1 from sophomore SS Matt Macri, who played just 17 games in '02 due to injury) ... other 2002 HRs came from '02 graduates Ken Meyer (2), Matt Strickroth (1) and Steve Stanley (1), with current sophomore Brent Weiss (2, out for all of '03 season due to injury) and former walk-on IF Geoff Milsom (1) rounding out the 2002 HR total.

ANDRES EMERGES – Freshman C/DH **Steve Andres** (a fourth-generation Notre Dame student) was a pleasant surprise during the 2002 fall workouts, after deciding at the last-minute to attend walk-on trouts ... the smooth-swinging lefty didn't draw much attention from college recruiters while dominating in several sports at Justin Sienna HS in Napa, Calif. (he also was an option quarterback and came back from a major broken-leg injury) ... he could follow former catcher **William Andres** ('16-'18) as the first great-grandfather/great-grandson combination in the ND baseball all-time letterwinner list ... William Andres played as right end on the 1917 football team (during the early days of the Knute Rockne era) and earned three baseball monograms while serving as a teammate of future legendary Irish coach Jake Kline.

UNSUNG HERO: Junior **Javier Sanchez** (Miami, Fla.) headed into 2002 projected as a utility infielder, with the ability to play 1B vs. LHPs while also filling in at 2B, 3B or SS ... a few months later, Sanchez was one of the more pleasantly-surprising stories of the 2002 season ... Sanchez served virtually the entire season as the team's starting shortstop, following injuries to freshmen Matt Macri (elbow strain, "Tommy John" reconstructive surgery on April 9) and Matt Edwards (broken leg in March 9th USC game) ... Sanchez was ND's hottest hitter over the 10 games prior to the '02 Super Regionals, batting .414 (12-for-29) with 12 runs scored, a home run, a triple, three walks and just three Ks in that span... his 12-game hitting streak was bested in 2002 by just senior CF Steve Stanley (13) ... his steady defense included 45 error-free games (plus a hand in most of the team's 66 double plays, a team record) ... Sanchez played a key role in the pivotal 10-inning win at West Virginia, with his two-run double giving ND the lead in extra innings ... two weeks later, he hit the game-tying double and then scored the winning run as ND rallied for a pair of 9th-inning runs in a 5-4 win over Western Michigan ... Sanchez hit a team-best .357 at the BIG EAST Tournament (5-for-14), including a two-run shot for an early lead in the first title game vs. Rutgers (4-3 loss) ... he also made several key plays in the field during the Super Regional at Florida State, including a bases-loaded catch over-his-head in left field (in the 10-4 opening win) and a diving stop that saved an early run in the 3-1 clincher – before stroking a 3-run, gametying shot vs. Stanford in the CWS (4-3 loss).

POWER SURGE: Sophomore 1B **Joe Thaman** hit only two home runs as a freshman and had totaled just four career home runs in his first 230 career at-bats before launching his first of two HRs in the 2002 Mother's Day doubleheader vs. Villanova (in Philadelphia) ... Thaman was not done with his long-ball assault, as he blasted a pair of grand slams the next weekend, in consecutive games of the season-ending Boston College series ... that home run binge included 4 HRs in just 14 ABs, well below the total of 230 ABs that Thaman needed for his first 4 career homers (he did not hit any more HRs in '02).

PROGRAM NOTES

SIX FORMER ND PLAYERS HEADED FOR BIG-LEAGUE CAMP – Three former Notre Dame baseball players currently are on 40-man rosters for MLB Spring Training, with those players including IF **Craig Counsell** (Arizona), RHP **Brad Lidge** (Houston) and LHP **Tim Kalita** (Detroit) ... three others are non-roster invitees to Big-League Camp: RHPs **Aaron Heilman** (rated by *Baseball America* as the No. 3 prospect in the New York Mets organization) and **Christian Parker** (Yankees) and LHP **Chris Michalak** (Colorado).

OTHER PRO PLAYERS – Several other former ND players are about to embark on minor-league spring training: catchers **Mike Amrhein** and **Paul O'Toole** (both with the Cubs), 3B **Andrew Bushey** (Colorado), OFs **Steve Stanley** and **Brian Stavisky** (both with Oakland), IF **Brant Ust** (Detroit), RHP **Danny Tamayo** (Kansas City) and OF **Matt Bok** (Los Angeles).

SCORING STREAKS – Notre Dame saw its team-record scoring streak end on May 15, 2002, in an 11-0 loss to BIG EAST rival Rutgers ... the Irish scored in the final 57 games of '99, in every game of 2000 (64) and '01 (63), and in the first 46 of 2002 – for a 230-game scoring streak that stretched back to a 12-0 loss at Florida International on Feb. 21, 1999 ... the previous record 132-game scoring streak began with the first game of the Paul Mainieri era, a 10-6 loss to Texas at the Anaheim Classic, on Feb. 24, 1995 (the Irish were shut out by Auburn, 8-0, in the '94 NCAA East Regional at Clemson) ... that streak ended vs. another Texas team, 2-0 vs. Texas Pan-American in a seven-inning game on March 10, 1997 (in San Antonio) ... ND has scored in 98.8 pct. of its games in the Mainieri era (491 of 497), with the other shutouts vs. BIG EAST teams: at Seton Hall (16-0; 3/22/97), vs. St. John's (3-0; 5/9/98) and vs. Rutgers in the BIG EAST Tournament (12-0; 5/16/98) ... the Irish have scored in 295 of 297 non-conference games during the Mainieri era (99.3%), including 137 straight ... prior to the Mainieri era, the longest ND scoring streaks were: 121 (April 23, 1930-May 26, 1937) and 103-games (May 25, 1907-May 17, 1912) ... ND's five shutout losses under Mainieri have included just two on the opponent's field (also at FIU in 1999), plus one at Eck Stadium and two on neutral fields.

GOOD FOR 40 – Notre Dame has posted 14 straight seasons with 40-plus wins, led by the 50-18 season in 2002, 49 wins in '01, 48 in '89 and '92, 46 in four seasons ('90, '93 '94, '00), 45 in '91 and 44 in '95 ... that's the fourth-longest active 40-win streak in Division I baseball, behind Florida State (25), Wichita State (25) and Clemson (17).

GOING THE DISTANCE – Prior to its heartbreaking 2001 NCAA Tournament loss to Florida International (7-6, 10 inn.), Notre Dame had gone unbeaten in its previous 10 extra-inning games (9-0-1) – including three consecutive extended games at the 2001 Fresno State Classic and clutch 11-inning wins at Mississippi State (4-2) and Rutgers (5-4) in that '01 season ... the Irish quickly rebounded from the FIU loss, winning a 10-inning game later that day vs. UC Santa Barbara (11-10), and went 4-1 in 2002 extra-inning games ... ND heads into 2003 with a 14-2-1 mark in its previous 17 extra-inning games, dating back to '97.

FAR & WIDE – The Notre Dame list of all-time baseball monogram winners includes players from 43 home states ... current senior RHP **Brandon Viloria** (Wailuku, Hawaii) in 2000 became the program's first letterwinner from the island state while current junior LHP **Cody Wilkins** (Hudson, N.C.) could become the first from the Tar Heel state ... the only other states that have not produced ND baseball letterwinners include Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Vermont ... the nine-year Paul Mainieri era has featured players from 34 states/provinces (see p. 33 of media guide), including 19 on the 2003 squad: California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Ontario, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Washington

MEDIA/INTERNET NOTES

COLLEGE SPORTS PASS – Internet audio of Notre Dame's entire 2003 baseball season is available to subscribers of the College Sports Pass ... subscribers also can access video of the Notre Dame Baseball show in addition to audio access to game broadcasts, player and coach interviews, etc. ... the College Sports Pass entitles subscribers access to any of the 130 Official College Sports Network sites, with a premium package also including audio access to Major League Baseball broadcasts and other national sports, entertainment and news feeds ... for more information, see www.und.ocsn.com/multimedia/nd-multimedia.html.

TV PLANS ANNOUNCED – Three upcoming ND baseball games will be televised by stations in the respective competition areas ... ND fans throughout Arizona can watch broadcasts of this weekend's games at Arizona State (Sat., Feb. 22, 3:00 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 23, 1:00 p.m.), to be shown live on the statewide independent station KAZ-TV (see www.kaz.tv for list of affiliates, including channel 27 in Phoenix) ... Fox Sports Net North will provide a live broadcast of the Notre Dame-Minnesota game on Sat., March 1, at the Metrodome – with that start time moved from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. CST to accommodate the broadcast ... Fox Sports Net North is available to various cable sports-package subscribers (including Direct TV, at channel 641), in addition to cable systems throughout the upper Midwest ... the ND-ASU games will not be available on satellite ... North Florida also is looking into securing a broadcast arrangement with a local or regional station for the March 9th game (3:00 p.m.) between the Irish and UNF, which is part of the annual Kennel Club Classic ... consult www.und.com or www.unf.edu/sports for any updates on a possible ND-UNF broadcast.

ND BASEBALL SHOW – South Bend-based WHME-TV 46 again will broadcast the weekly Notre Dame Baseball Show, with head coach Paul Mainieri ... the first show will air in late March, then on a weekly basis on Saturday's at 11:00 a.m. EST (also via satellite, on Galaxy 6, Transponder 15) ... subscribers to the College Sports Pass can access video of the ND Baseball show in addition to audio access to game broadcasts, player and coach interviews, etc.

MAINIERI ON LIVE CHAT – A Thursday, Feb. 20 live-chat session with head coach Paul Mainieri, from Tempe at 4:00 p.m. mountain time (5:00 in Chicago, 6:00 in South Bend), will be available at www.und.com.

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2003 SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

Fri. 23 \$ vs. Missouri W, 7-6 (10)
Sat. 24 \$ at New Orleans L, 7-8
Sun. 25 \$ vs. Southern Illinois L, 2-6

MARCH

Fri. 1 # vs. Duquesne W, 6-0
Sat. 2 # vs. Fairfield W, 6-4
Sat. 2 # vs. Florida Int'l L, 4-13
Sun. 3 # vs. Sacred Heart W, 4-1
Fri. 8 * vs. Texas Christian L, 3-7
Sat. 9 * vs. USC W, 15-8
Sun. 10 * vs. Texas-Pan Am. L, 5-6
Mon. 11 * vs. Creighton L, 6-8
Wed. 12 + vs. Creighton W, 6-2
Thur. 13 + vs. Southern Illinois W, 5-3
Fri. 14 + vs. Ark.-Little Rock W, 7-5
Sat. 15 + vs. Southern Illinois W, 3-2
Sat. 23 • at UConn (2) L; 3-4, 8-9 (10)
Sun. 24 • at Connecticut L, 6-13
Thur. 28 • at WVU (2) L, 2-4; W, 10-6 (10)
Sat. 30 • vs. Georgetown W, 10-6, 12-3
(Povich Field; Bethesda, MD)

APRIL

Mon. 1 Brigham Young W, 1-0
Tues. 2 Brigham Young Canceled
Wed. 3 Valparaiso (2) W, 16-0, 12-1
Sat. 6 • St. John's (2) W, 4-1; L, 3-4
Sun. 7 • St. John's W, 5-2
Tues. 9 Western Michigan W, 5-4
Thur. 11 • Pittsburgh (2) L, 5-7; W, 12-2
Fri. 12 • Virginia Tech (2) W, 2-1/11, 4-2
Mon. 15 Central Michigan W, 10-9
Tues. 16 Ball State W, 10-1
Wed. 17 Toledo W, 15-4
Sat. 20 • at Seton Hall W, 9-4
Sun. 21 • at Seton Hall (2) W, 4-2, 6-1
Tues. 23 Chicago State W, 16-6
Wed. 24 Bowling Green W, 3-2 (6)
Fri. 26 Arizona State W, 9-4
Sat. 27 Arizona State canceled
Tues. 30 ♦ vs. Michigan W, 7-4

MAY

Wed. 1 Oakland (MI) 11-5
Sat. 4 • Rutgers (2) W, 6-5, 7-2
Sun. 5 • Rutgers L, 0-11
Sat. 11 • vs. Villanova L, 7-8
Sun. 12 • vs. Villanova (2) W, 8-1, 9-5
(R. Ashburn Field; Philadelphia)
Tues. 14 at Purdue canc.
Wed. 15 Rochester College W, 10-3
Wed. 15 Detroit W, 23-1
Sat. 17 • Boston College W, 8-2
Sun. 18 • Boston Coll. (2) W, 10-6, 5-2

BIG EAST Tournament (Bridgewater, NJ)

Thur. 23 vs. Rutgers W, 8-3
Fri. 24 vs. Virginia Tech W, 8-4
Sat. 25 vs. Rutgers L, 3-4
Sat. 25 vs. Rutgers W, 3-2 (10)

JUNE

NCAA Regional (Frank Eck Stadium)

Fri. 31 Ohio State W, 8-6
Sat. 1 South Alabama W, 25-1
Sun. 2 Ohio State W, 9-6

NCAA Super-Regional (Howser Stadium)

Fri. 7 at Florida State W, 10-4
Sat. 8 at Florida State L, 5-12
Sun. 9 at Florida State W, 3-1

College World Series (Omaha, NE)

Sat. 15 vs. Stanford L, 3-4
Mon. 17 vs. Texas/Rice L, 3-4
Tues. 18 vs. Stanford L, 3-5

All listings indicate local starting times
Home games (bold) at Frank Eck Stadium
\$ – Univ. of New Orleans Classic (PrivateerField)
– Homestead (FL) Challenge
* – Round Rock (TX) Classic (Dell Diamond)
+ – Irish Classic (San Antonio, TX; Wolff Stadium)
• – BIG EAST Conference game
♦ – Fifth/Third Bank Ballpark (Grand Rapids, MI)

2002 SEASON NOTES

TWO-YEAR TEAR – Notre Dame's combined victory total from the 2001 (49-13-1) and 2002 (50-18) seasons represents the third-most wins (99) in Division I baseball during that two-year span, trailing only Florida State (107) and South Carolina (106).

BOOMERANG SEASON – It was a long and winding road, but the sixth-ranked Notre Dame baseball team ended up in the College World Series and the NCAA "final eight" – ultimately living up to its billing as the nation's No. 5-ranked team in the *Baseball America* preseason poll (ND was 13th in the *USA Today*/ESPN preseason coaches poll and 19th in the *Collegiate Baseball* poll) ... the eight CWS teams all were in the top-14 of the *BA* preseason poll: Stanford (1), Clemson (2), ND (5), Nebraska (8), Texas (9), Rice (11), Georgia Tech (13) and South Carolina (14) ... others in the *BA* preseason top 10 included Miami (3), USC (4), Florida State (6), LSU (7) and Tulane (10).

HOSTS WITH THE MOST – Notre Dame is one of nine schools to serve as a Regional host team three-plus times since the NCAA field expanded to 64 teams in 1999 (Florida State, Stanford and LSU are the only teams to be a host all four years) ... the others included fellow 2002 hosts USC, Rice, Clemson and South Carolina (plus Miami, which was a host team from 1999-2001).

CLASSY CLASS – Notre Dame's eight-member senior class – DH Matt Bok, 3B Andrew Bushey, C Paul O'Toole and CF Steve Stanley, plus DH Ken Meyer, OF Matt Strickroth and RHPs Matt Buchmeier and Drew Duff – helped ND compile a four-year record of 188-67-1 (.736) from 1999-2002 ... that ranks as the most wins ever by an ND graduating class and is the fourth-best four-year winning pct. in the last 87 seasons of ND baseball.

1-0 GAME A RARITY – The 2002 narrow win over BYU marked just the fourth 1-0 game in the eight-year Paul Mainieri era at Notre Dame – with one of those coming in a seven-inning game (vs. Navy, at the 1998 Service Academies Classic in Millington, Tenn.) ... the Irish then posted a 1-0 win over Valparaiso on April 22, 1998 (7-inning game extended to 9) before the memorable 1-0 win over the Miami Hurricanes, on May 12, 1999, at Eck Stadium (Alex Shilliday, Chris McKeown and Aaron Heilman combined on a near-no-hitter).

HOMEBODIES – Several 2002 ND players hit significantly higher at Eck Stadium than on the road, including current junior 1B **Joe Thaman** (148 points higher, .206-.354) and current senior RF **Kris Billmaier** (+83, .279-.362) ... as a team, the 2002 ND team hit 54 points higher at home (.290-.344) while the staff ERA was more than one run smaller (3.99 - 2.84).

ROAD-TESTED – Current junior C **Javi Sanchez** (Miami) was ND's only 2002 starter who hit better on the road (.299, 40-for-134, including neutral-site games) than at Eck Stadium (.263, 25-for-95) ... Sanchez hit four of his five 2002 home runs on the road, including a 2-run blast (after an RBI single) at Third Fifth Ballpark vs. Michigan (a rare HR in the ND-UM series at the minor-league park) and postseason HRs in minor-league parks vs. Rutgers (BIG EAST Tournament, Commerce Bank Ballpark) and vs. Stanford (at the CWS) ... his other top road performances including a key role in the pivotal comeback at West Virginia (10-4, in 10 inn.), with his 2-for-4, 2-RBI, 2-run day including the go-ahead double in the 10th

DOGPILES – After coming up short in previous seasons, Notre Dame finally broke through with four major postseason celebrations in 2002 (see p. 81) – winning the BIG EAST Tournament, the NCAA South Bend Regional and the Super Regional at Florida State (plus a 9th-inning rally vs. Rice in the College World Series) ... just two of those celebrations featured the traditional dogpile as the BIG EAST title game vs. Rutgers (3-2, 10 inn.) and the 5-3 CWS elimination-game win over Rice ended on Brian Stavisky hits.

HOMESTANDERS: Notre Dame's impressive home record during the 2002 season (26-3, .897) ranks as the third-best home winning pct. in the program's history (min. 15 home games) ... the 1997 squad went 25-2 at Eck Stadium while the 1980 team won 19 of its 20 home games at Jake Kline Field ... ND's all-time home record in 110 seasons is 1,062-330 (.763), well above the program's overall win pct. of .623.

2002 STARTS BY BATTING ORDER

LEADOFF

Stanley 59 (44-15) ... 36 straight @lead.
Meyer 9 (7-2) last vs. VT, 4/12

2ND SPOT

Sollmann 33 (26-7) last 27 in 2-hole
Bok 19 (14-5) last vs. BG, 4/24
Stanley 5 (4-1) last vs. VT, 4/12
Sanchez 4 (2-2) last vs. UALR, 3/15
Macri 4 (3-1)
Edwards 2 (1-1)
O'Toole 1 (1-0) vs. WVU, 3/28)

3RD SPOT

Stavisky 45 (36-9) last 40 in 3-hole
Macri 8 (4-4)
O'Toole 4 (3-1) last vs. SJU, 4/7
Stanley 4 (3-1) last vs. SJU, 4/6
Sollmann 3 (3-0) last vs. Valpo, 4/3
Bushey 2 (1-1) last vs. WVU, 3/28
Edwards 2 (1-1)

CLEANUP

O'Toole 20 (15-5) last vs. BSU, 4/16
Bushey 26 (21-5) . 17 of last 22 cleanup
Billmaier 12 (8-4) last vs. FSU (6/7)
Stavisky 5 (3-2) last vs. WVU, 3/28
Meyer 3 (2-1) last vs. Roch., 5/15
Weiss 2 (1-1) last vs. S. Heart, 3/3

5TH SPOT

O'Toole 28 (19-9)
Bushey 22 (18-4)
Meyer 9 (7-2)
Billmaier 5 (4-1)
Edwards 2 (0-2)
Sollmann 1 (1-0)
Bok 1 (1-0)

Italics indicate 2003 active players (Johnson and Weiss out for season due to injuries)

6TH SPOT

Bok 19 (14-5)
Sollmann 12 (11-1)
Bushey 9 (6-3)
O'Toole 10 (8-2)
Billmaier 4 (3-1)
Sanchez 4 (3-1)
Meyer 3 (0-3)
Thaman 2 (2-0; last vs. Detroit, 5/15)
Edwards 2 (2-0)
Macri 2 (1-1)
Srickroth 1 (1-0)

7TH SPOT

Billmaier 35 (27-8)
Sanchez 8 (7-1)
Bok 8 (6-2)
Meyer 7 (6-1)
Bushey 4 (1-3)
O'Toole 2 (1-1)
Macri 2 (0-2)
Sollmann 1 (1-0), Weiss 1 (1-0)

8TH SPOT

Sanchez 44 (33-11)
Billmaier 5 (4-1)
Bok 5 (2-3)
Thaman 4 (3-1)
Holba 4 (4-0)
Gagne 2 (2-0)
Sollmann 1 (0-1), Weiss 1 (1-0)
Meyer 1 (1-0), Strickroth 1 (0-1)

9TH SPOT

Thaman 52 (39-13)
Sollmann 6 (4-2) last vs. VT, 4/12
Sanchez 5 (3-2)
Sisko 2 (2-0)
Bok 1 (1-0) vs. Fairfield, 3/2
Milsom 1 (1-0)
Billmaier 1 (0-1, vs. TCU, 3/8)

2002 Notre Dame Inning-By-Inning Scoring

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Ex.	Tot
Notre Dame	65	52	69	58	54	55	58	41	33	7	492
Opponents	49	28	36	33	16	43	27	38	20	1	292

One-Run Games: 9-8 **Two-Run Games:** 8-4 **Extra Innings:** 4-1
Win Streak: 16 **Losing Streak:** 4 **Average Home Attendance:** 1,379 (23 dates)

All 2002 Postseason Games

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Ex.	Tot
Notre Dame	14	7	12	9	4	7	14	14	11	1	93
Opponents	14	2	2	8	3	11	5	6	4	0	55

2002 NCAA Tournament Games

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Ex.	Tot
Notre Dame	13	2	10	6	2	4	14	10	10	0	71
Opponents	13	2	1	7	2	6	3	5	3	0	42

BIG INNING: ND owned a 54-16 scoring edge (+38) in the 5th inning of the 2002 season, with Arizona State's 4-run output in the 5th-inning on April 26th nearly matching the total number of 5th-inning runs allowed by the Irish in the previous 41 games (5) ... ND's most dominating innings in 2002 spanned the 3rd (+33, 69-36), 4th (+25, 58-33) and 5th – with the Irish owning a +86 scoring edge in that three-inning span (181-85) ... for most of the '02, the opponents owned an edge vs. ND in only the 8th (final 41-38 edge in favor of the Irish, who also had a 65-49 first-inning edge and 52-28 in the 2nd).

2002 STARTS BY POSITION

PITCHER

Johnson 14 (7-7)
Ogilvie 14 (9-5)
Axford 12 (11-1)
Niesel 11 (9-2)
Gagne 7 (4-3)
Vergara 5 (5-0)
Kalita 4 (4-0)
Jones 1 (1-0)

CATCHER

O'Toole 46 (38-8)
Bushey 14 (9-5; last vs. Detroit, 5/15)
Bok 7 (3-4)
Weiss 1 (1-0; vs. Rochester, 5/15)

FIRST BASE

Thaman 58 (45-13)
Meyer 9 (5-4; last vs. VT, 4/12)
Strickroth 1 (1-0; vs. Rochester, 5/15)

SECOND BASE

Sollmann 56 (45-11; 49 straight starts)
O'Toole 4 (1-3)
Sanchez 3 (1-2)
Macri 2 (1-1)
Milsom 1 (1-0)
Billmaier 1 (1-0)
Bok 1 (1-0)

SHORTSTOP

Sanchez 59 (46-13; started 58 of last 60)
Edwards 8 (4-4)
Sisko 1 (1-0; vs. Detroit, 5/15)

THIRD BASE

Bushey 49 (39-10)
O'Toole 15 (last vs. Oakland, 5/1)
Sanchez 3 (2-1)
Sisko 1 (1-0; vs. Rochester, 5/15)

LEFT FIELD

Stavisky 46 (37-9; 36 straight starts)
Meyer 10 (7-3; last vs. SJU, 4/6)
Bok 8 (4-4; last vs. G'town, 3/30)
Billmaier 3 (2-1; last vs. SJU, 4/7)
Weiss 1 (1-0; vs. Fairfield, 3/2)

CENTER FIELD

Stanley 68 (50-18)

RIGHT FIELD

Billmaier 58 (44-14; 36 of last 37)
Stavisky 4 (2-2; last vs. UConn, 3/23)
Bok 3 (3-0; last vs.)
Meyer 2 (2-0; last vs. Rochester, 5/15)
Strickroth 1 (0-1; vs. SIU, 2/24)

DESIGNATED HITTER

Bok 35 (28-7; started 30 of last 34)
Macri 14 (7-7)
Meyer 10 (8-2; last vs. FSU, 6/7)
Holba 4 (4-0; last vs. Rochester, 5/15)
Gagne 2 (2-0)
Weiss 2 (1-1; vs. SIU, 2/24)
Sollmann 1 (1-0; vs. WVU, 3/28)

2002 FALL SIGNEES

Notre Dame signed nine highly-touted high school seniors to national letters of intent in the 2002 early fall period (see www.und.com for complete release) ... the signees included four RHPs – 6-0, 170-pounder **Jeff Manship** (San Antonio, Texas), 6-3, 210 **Derik Olvey** (Pelham, Ala.), 6-4, 210 **Jess Stewart** (Manassas, Va.) and 6-5, 195 **Dan Kapala** (Royal Oak, Mich.) – plus one of the nation's premier utility players in 6-4, 220-pound **Chris Vasami** (Mamaroneck, N.Y.), 6-4, 210 switch-hitting first baseman **Mike Dury** (Indianapolis), 6-1, 185 infielder **Chris Fournier** (Fairfield, Conn.), 6-1, 175 lefthanded-hitting catcher **Sean Gaston** (Brownsburg, Ind.) and 5-9, 160 lefthanded-hitting centerfielder **Danny Dressman** (San Jose, Calif.).

Four of the signees were ranked among the nation's top-100 high school players by either the Perfect Game/*Baseball America* "Prospects Plus" (first number) or by Team One Baseball: Manship (6th/18th), Olvey (58th/86th), Dury (277th/ 37th) and Vasami (100th/NR), with Dury the top-rated first baseman by Team One ... Fournier (225) and Stewart (269) were included on PG/*BA*'s list of top 300 prep players.

Perfect Game/*BA* ranked eight of the nine Irish signees among the top-11 in their respective states, led by Manship, Olvey, Vasami (first in their states), Kapala (2nd), Dury (6th), Gaston (9th) and Stewart (11th) ... Team One cited Fournier (10th) and Vasami (14th) among the nation's "best pure hitters," projecting Dury as the No. 4 "best pure hitter for the future" among 2003 draft-eligible preps ... Vasami ranked 7th for "best raw power," 10th for "best linedrive power" (Fournier was 9th in linedrive power) ... Vasami was one of just two players in the nation included on Team One's top 15 for each of the pure hitting, raw power and linedrive power categories.

Vasami also could combine with Manship and Olvey as one of the nation's top-rated trios of freshman pitchers in '04 (Manship was the 2nd pitcher listed on the PG/*BA* lists, Olvey 32nd, Vasami 53rd).

2002 SEASON HIGHS

TEAM

At-Bats

56 – vs. South Alabama (61)
46 – vs. Detroit (5/15)
45 – vs. USC (3/9)
45 – at Connecticut (3/23)
45 – vs. Virginia Tech (4/12)

Runs Scored

25 – vs. South Alabama (6/1)
23 – vs. Detroit (5/15)
16 – vs. Valparaiso (4/03)
16 – vs. Chicago State (4/23)

Hits

32 – vs. South Alabama (6/1)
(6-Sollmann, 5-O'Toole, 4-Stanley, 3-Bushey, Thaman)
28 – vs. Detroit (5/15)
(5-Stavisky, 4-Bushey, 3-Stanley, Billmaier, Sisko)
22 – vs. Georgetown (3/30)
(4-Sanchez; 3-Stanley, O'Toole, Bushey, Sollmann;
2-Bok, Billmaier; 1-Meyer, Thaman)

Doubles

7 – vs. Rochester College (5/15)
(Holba 3, Sollmann, Meyer, Bushey, Sisko)
6 – vs. Chicago State (4/23)
(Bok 2, Billmaier, Sanchez, Stavisky, Sollmann)
6 – vs. South Alabama (6/1)
(O'Toole 2, Bushey, Billmaier, Strickroth, Weiss)

Triples

3 – vs. South Alabama (6/1; Sollmann 2, Billmaier)
2 – vs. Toledo (4/17; Bushey, Sanchez)
2 – vs. Villanova (5/11; Stanley, Stavisky)

Home Runs

5 – vs. South Alabama (6/1)
(Bushey, Stavisky, Sollmann, O'Toole, Weiss)
3 – vs. Arkansas-Little Rock (3/15)
(Stavisky 2, Thaman)
3 – vs. Villanova (5/12)
(Thaman, Sollmann, Stavisky)

Total Bases

56 – vs. South Alabama (6/1) (NCAA record)
40 – vs. Detroit (5/15)
33 – vs. Georgetown (3/30)

Walks

9 – at West Virginia (3/28)
9 – vs. Oakland (5/1)

Double Plays Turned

4 – vs. Seton Hall (4/20)

Strikeouts Thrown

13 – vs. Fairfield (3/2)

Sacrifice Bunts

5 – vs. Villanova (5/11)

INDIVIDUALS

At-Bats

7 – Sollmann vs. South Alabama (June 1)
6 – 9 times

Runs Scored

6 – Sollmann vs. USA (June 1) (NCAA Record)
5 – Stavisky vs. Detroit (5/15)

Hits

6-for-7 – Sollmann vs. South Alabama (June 1)
(ties NCAA Record)
5-for-5 – Bushey at UNO (2/23)
5-for-5 – Stavisky vs. Detroit (5/15)
5-for-5 – O'Toole vs. USA (6/1)

RBI

7 – Bushey vs. Detroit (5/15)
7 – Sollmann vs. South Alabama (June 1)
5 – O'Toole vs. Toledo (4/17)
5 – O'Toole vs. Seton Hall (4/20)
5 – Billmaier vs. Florida State (6/7)

Home Runs

2 – Stavisky vs. Ark.-Little Rock (3/15)
2 – O'Toole vs. Seton Hall (4/20)

Total Bases

13 – Sollmann vs. South Alabama (6/1)
11 – O'Toole vs. Pittsburgh (4/11)

Walks

4 – Stanley vs. Toledo (4/17)

Hit-By-Pitch

2 – Bok vs. Rutgers (5/5)
2 – Sollmann vs. Villanova (5/11)
2 – Billmaier vs. Boston College (5/15)

Innings Pitched

9.0 – Gagne vs. BYU (4/1)
9.0 – Ogilvie vs. Virginia Tech (4/12)
9.0 – Ogilvie vs. Boston College (5/18)
9.0 – Johnson vs. South Alabama (6/1)

Strikeouts

10 – Niesel vs. S. Illinois, 5 IP (2/24)
9 – Niesel vs. Fairfield, 7 IP (3/2)
9 – Axford vs. Georgetown, 6 IP (3/30)
9 – Johnson vs. Pitt., 5.2 IP (4/11)

UPDATED NOTRE DAME CAREER STATISTICS

Name	GP/GS	AB	R	H	HR-3B-2B	RBI	BB	HP	K	SF/SH	SB	AVG
Billmaier	154/138	495	86	148	10-1-20	97	52	17	58	5/13	6-10	.299
Edwards	9/8	31	3	9	0-0-1	4	3	1	6	0/0	1-1	.290
Holba	28/6	48	9	15	0-0-7	6	3	1	18	0/0	0-1	.313
Macri	17/16	68	10	14	1-0-3	13	7	0	24	2/0	1-2	.206
Sanchez	75/67	244	50	65	5-3-7	29	25	5	34	1/8	1-1	.266
Sisko	13/2	18	3	6	0-0-1	4	1	0	6	0/2	0-0	.333
Sollmann	120/118	434	105	157	7-6-17	83	52	7	47	9/12	29-40	.362
Thaman	123/118	388	72	108	8-1-21	58	34	7	71	5/16	3-8	.278

Name	GP/GS	CG/Shut	IP	H	R/ER	BB	K	WP	HB	BK	AVG (AB)	HR	W-L	SV	ERA
Axford	17/12	0/0	70.2	59	45/31	59	64	7	6	0	.231	1	5-2	0	3.95
Bickford	6/0	0/0	10.1	10	5/5	1	12	0	1	0	.250	1	1-0	1	4.35
Gagne	64/33	2/1	238.0	263	127/111	62	160	9	19	1	.284	19	21-10	6	4.20
Jones	4/1	0/0	9.0	9	5/4	9	6	1	0	0	.243	0	1-0	1	4.00
Kalita	21/6	0/0	54.2	55	23/18	24	46	7	2	0	.266	3	7-0	0	2.96
Laird	49/9	0/0	90.0	92	52/38	39	71	13	15	2	.262 (352)	3	10-3	5	3.80
Niesel	14/11	0/0	72.1	68	33/27	18	62	2	4	2	.241	7	4-0	2	3.36
Ogilvie	25/21	3/0	131.1	134	63/52	37	88	7	8	0	.272	4	12-6	0	3.56
Vergara	12/5	0/0	35.2	33	20/15	17	33	5	8	0	.236	1	5-1	0	3.79
Viloria	39/1	0/0	60.2	56	26/20	11	31	1	4	0	.236 (229)	2	5-2	5	2.97
Wilkins	1/0	0/0	1.0	1	2/1	1	1	0	1	0	.200	0	0-0	0	9.00
Staff	252/99	2/1	773.2	780	401/322	278	574	52	68	5		41	71-24	20	3.75

INSIDE THE 2002 IRISH BULLPEN

Player	GP (Relief)	ERA	W-L(S)	IP	R/ER	H/Avg.	K/BB	HB	WP	Inher. Run's/Scored
Duff	9	2.38	2-0 (1)	22.2	7/6	25/.294	21/7	1	1	7/1
Viloria	16	2.45	2-1 (3)	22.0	10/6	14/.187	8/5	1	0	15/7
Gagne	21	2.81	7-2 (6)	57.2	20/18	52/.240	42/8	7	2	12/5
Jones	3	3.00	1-0 (1)	6.0	2/2	4/.182	5/6	0	0	0/0
Buchmeier	12	3.09	0-0 (3)	11.2	5/4	15.319	18/5	0	3	9/7
Bickford	6	4.35	1-0 (1)	10.1	5/5	10/.250	12/1	1	0	5/0
Laird	12	5.73	0-0 (1)	11.0	9/7	14/.292	9/9	0	3	7/2
Wilkins	1	9.00	0-0 (0)	1.0	2/1	1/.200	1/1	1	0	0/0
Starters (in relief)										
Niesel	3	0.00	0-0 (2)	5.0	0/0	1/.071	6/1	0	0	5/1
Johnson	4	1.29	2-0 (0)	14.0	2/2	8/.170	5/6	0	0	0/0
Ogilvie	3	3.18	1-0 (0)	5.2	2/2	9/.409	3/0	0	0	3/3
Vergara	7	3.18	2-1 (0)	14.2	7/5	14/.264	16/7	6	3	1/1
Axford	5	3.29	0-1 (0)	13.2	12/5	13/.255	10/15	0	3	6/0
Kalita	12	2.81	3-0 (0)	25.2	11/8	30/.300	10/4	1	1	4/3
Team	114	2.81	20-5 (18)	221.0	94/69	212/.255	175/78	18	16	74/30 (.405)

2002 Season and Career-Highs

KRIS BILLMAIER

4 hits (4-5 vs. Florida State, 6/7)
 2 runs (7 times; last vs. OSU, 6/2)
 5 RBI vs. Florida State, SR (6/7)
 2 doubles vs. Valparaiso (4/3)
Career Bests
 4-for-5 vs. Florida State (6/7/02, NCAAs)
 4-for-6 vs. UCSB (5/27/01, NCAAs)
 3 runs (3 times)
 5 RBI vs. Florida State (6/7/02), Pitt. (5/7/00),
 Georgetown (4/22/00)
 2 HRs/8 TBs at VT(3/25/01), vs. G'town (4/22/00)
 2 walks (4 times)
 6-game hitting streak (May 31-June 10, 2002 and
 Feb. 17-March 2, 2001)

JAVI SANCHEZ

4 hits vs. Georgetown (3/30), CMU (4/15)
 3 runs vs. Central Michigan (4/15)
 3 RBI vs. CMU (4/15), Michigan (4/30)
 7 total bases vs. Georgetown (3/30), CMU (4/15)
 2 walks (3 times)
 12-game hitting streak (5/12-6/1, 2002)
STEVE SOLLMANN
 6-for-7 vs. South Alabama (6/1)
 7 RBI vs. South Alabama (6/1)
 6 runs vs. South Alabama (6/1)
 13 vs. South Alabama (6/1; HR, 2 3B, 3 1B)
 2 walks (3 times), ties career-best
 10-gm hit streak (4/21-5/4), tied career-best
Career Bests
 4 hits vs. Vill. (4/21/01), New Orleans (2/17/01)
 3 runs vs. Rutgers (4/7/01), Portland (3/17/01)
 2 stolen bases vs. Toledo (3/28/01), Pitt. (3/23/01)

JOE THAMAN

3-for-5 vs. South Alabama (6/1)
 3 runs scored vs. South Alabama (6/1)
 4 RBI (3 games)
 6 total bases vs. UALR (3/15), Ball State (4/16)
 2 walks (5 times)
JOHN AXFORD
 7.2 innings at Seton Hall (4/20)
 9 strikeouts vs. Georgetown (3/30)

PETER OGILVIE

8 Ks at SHU (4/21), vs. BC (5/18), career bests

CHRIS NIESEL

10 Ks vs. Southern Illinois (2/24/02)
 8.0 innings vs. Florida State (6/10/02)