

## **NOTRE DAME BASEBALL – GAMEDAY NOTES VS. INDIANA STATE (FEB. 23, 2006)**

**WARMUP GAME** – Today's game vs. Indiana State will be played prior to Friday's start of the 15th annual Service Academies Classic ... outside of the academies and the University of Memphis, Notre Dame is the most-common participant in the S.A.C.

### **Notre Dame in the Service Academies Classic (11-2)**

1992 – 2-1 vs. Army, 7-6 vs. Navy, 12-4 vs. Air Force, 10-0 vs. Memphis

1996 – 12-3 vs. Army, 1-0 vs. Navy, 12-8 vs. Air Force, 2-4 vs. Memphis

1997 – 8-0 vs. Army, 8-5 vs. Arkansas (also played non-tournament game vs. Christian Brothers, winning 12-1)

2000 – 6-0 vs. Air Force, 4-5 vs. Ohio State, 4-3 vs. Memphis

### **Notre Dame All-Time in Tennessee (33-17, including games above and below)**

1923 – at Vanderbilt (3-1, 1-10)

1928 – at Vanderbilt (4-2)

1953 – at Memphis Naval Air Station (7-1), vs. Arkansas State (11-2, at Memphis)

1954 – vs. Arkansas State (0-10; in Memphis), at Memphis Air Station (7-3, 3-12), at Southwest Tennessee (8-2), at Memphis (9-1)

1959 – at Memphis (1-6)

1960 – at Memphis Naval Station (16-0), at Memphis (9-4), at Lipscomb (7-6), at Vanderbilt (6-4), at Austin Peay (4-6)

1965 – at Memphis (1-6, 3-4)

1966 – at Tennessee (2-4, 0-4)

1971 – at Memphis (13-10, 2-1, 5-0)

1972 – at Memphis (5-0), at Christian Brothers (6-7, 9-0, 6-0)

1977 – at Christian Brothers (5-2, 4-0, 0-8), at Memphis (0-12, 6-11)

1981 – at Memphis (5-6, 6-8, 2-12)

**ROAD WARRIORS** – Notre Dame players typically hit for a higher average in the home confines of Eck Stadium but two 2005 starters hit at a higher clip on the road during the '05 season ... current senior RF/C Cody Rizzo hit .244 at Eck but 34 points higher (.278) in all road games during the '05 season ... current 2B Ross Brezovsky hit 29 points higher on the road (.262) than at home (.233) in 2005.

**LOPEZ JOINS WEEKLY DIARY STAFF FOR COLLEGE BASEBALL INSIDER** – Senior shortstop and second-year captain Greg Lopez is one of four players in all of Division I baseball who will be featured this season during a weekly diary feature on [www.collegebaseballinsider.com](http://www.collegebaseballinsider.com) ... check the CBI website and look for more on this diary series at und.com.

**LANGFORD LOST FOR SEASON AFTER ELBOW SURGERY** – Notre Dame sophomore Tony Langford – who was poised to be a valuable two-way player for the Irish in 2005 – will be lost for the season after undergoing reconstructive “Tommy John” elbow surgery on Feb. 22 ... Langford was in line to be on the top late-game righthanded relievers for the Irish and also figured to be heavily in the mix as a righthanded-hitting DH.

**VETERAN UNIT** – Notre Dame's 2006 opening-day lineup includes six seniors, a junior and two sophomores ... it marks just the third time in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era (and only second time since his first season at ND, in '95) that the Irish have not featured at least one position starter:

### **Notre Dame Freshman Starters in the Paul Mainieri Era**

1995 – no freshman starters

1996 – Jeff Wagner (C) and Paul Turco (SS)

1997 – Brant Ust (2B) and Jeff Felker (1B), Jeff Perconte (RF platoon)

1998 – Alec Porzel (LF)

1999 – Steve Stanley (CF), Paul O'Toole (C) and Andrew Bushey (3B)

2000 – Brian Stavisky (RF)

2001 – Steve Sollmann (2B)

2002 – Matt Macri (SS, injured)

2003 – Craig Cooper (LF), Cody Rizzo (RF), Greg Lopez (3B), Steve Andres (DH)

2004 – none

2005 – Brett Lilley (2B/3B), Ross Brezovsky (3B/2B)

**TOM THORNTON CAREER STATS (LHP, Sr., 6-6/220; Middleboro, MA ... 2nd Team All-BIG EAST in '05)**

Year	ERA	W-L	App	GS	CG	SHO/CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	BF	B/Avg	WP	HBP
2003....	1.81	5-1	15	8	0	0/0	0	54.2	54	18	11	14	29	15	0	0	.269	3	6	
2004....	3.88	9-2	16	15	1	1/0	0	99.2	95	53	43	24	77	19	0	8	.251	4	8	
2005....	4.69	6-6	16	16	4	0/0	0	96.0	115	57	50	19	40	21	0	8	.306	2	9	
<b>TOTAL...</b>	<b>3.74</b>	<b>20-9</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>250.1</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>.276</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	

**THORNTON'S SITUATIONAL PITCHING** – Allowed 41% of leadoff batters to reach (avg. of 3.8 per 9 IP) in 2005 while allowing opponents to hit .318 with runners on base but just .243 with 2 outs ... totaled nearly the same number of groundouts (120) and flyouts (106) in '05 ... averaging team-best 6.0 IP per start ... his 9-inning averages included 3.8 Ks, 1.8 walks, 10.8 hits allowed and 11.3 groundouts ... LH batters hit .311 vs. him in '05 (.304 by RH batters).

**THORNTON 2005 GAME-BY-GAME (Second Team All-BIG EAST Selection)**

Date	Opponent (updated ERA)	GS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	WP	BK	HBP	DP	IBB	Score
Feb. 19	at Central Florida (1.80)	*	5.0	5	1	1	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1-2
Feb. 26	vs. Dayton (W; 2.45)	*	6.0	6	2	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10-2
March 5	vs. Texas A&M (L; 5.51)	*	5.1	9	7	7	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5-13
March 11	vs. Oral Roberts (L; 6.33)	*	5.0	8	5	5	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8-15
March 18	at Evansville (L; 6.08)	*	5.1	4	4	3	2	4	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3-10
March 24	Georgetown (W; 5.35)	*	7.0	6	2	2	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6-2
April 4	at Rutgers (L; 5.59)	*	5.0	5	5	4	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3-5
April 9	vs. Boston Coll. (W; 4.72)	*	9.0	8	2	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3-2
April 16	Connecticut (W; 4.13)	*	9.0	6	1	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7-1
April 22	Villanova (W; 3.84)	*	9.0	10	2	2	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	5-2
April 29	Cleveland State (3.95)	*	5.0	9	6	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7-6
May 7	at St. John's (4.12)	*	8.0	10	5	5	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	5-6
May 15	at Pittsburgh (L; 4.72)	*	1.1	6	6	6	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5-8
May 20	West Virginia (W; 4.50)	*	6.0	7	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5-1
May 26	Boston College,@BET (4.50)	*	6.0	7	3	3	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6-5
May 26	N. Carolina,@NCAAs (L; 4.69)*	*	4.0	9	5	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1-5

**GAME-1 STARTER** – Nearly half of Thornton's starts in '05 were in the first game of a series/tournament, etc. (listed above, vs. Dayton, A&M, Georgetown, Rutgers, Villanova, Cleveland State, BC in the BET and UNC in the NCAAs) ... Thornton met with mixed results in those games, compiling a 3-3 record, 18 Ks, 12 walks and 61 hits allowed in 47.1 innings (his only 2 WP of the season also came in game-1 starts) ... his most impressive game-1 outing in '05 came in the Friday-night opener vs. Villanova at Eck Stadium (9 IP, 2 R, 10 H, BB, 2 Ks, 5-2 win).

**BIG GAME PITCHER** – Tom Thornton made a name for himself as a big-game pitcher during the 2004 season, capped by a stellar outing vs. Kent State in an NCAA elimination game (career-high 12 Ks in 8.1 IP, 3 H, R, 2 BB, 29 BF/4 over min.) ... Thornton took a no-hitter into the 5th inning of that game and 21 of his 25 outs came via Ks, groundouts (7) or infield popups (2) as he allowed just six balls to leave the infield (two through the left side) ... he located nearly 70% of his pitches for strikes (81 of 118), allowed just two leadoff batters to reach, held Kent State to 2-for-8 batting with runners on and allowed no 2-out hits (0-for-8) ... Thornton's six career postseason appearances (BIG EAST and NCAA) include a 3.50 ERA, 2-1 record (4 GS) and better than a 4-to-1 K-to-walk ratio (21/5) with nearly as many IP (28.1) as hits allowed (29).

**TALL TOM TERRIFIC** – Senior LHP Tom Thornton in 2005 became the first pitcher in the Paul Mainieri era (since '95) to toss three consecutive 9-inning complete-game victories (vs. Boston College, UConn and Villanova) ... Thornton's season ERA dropped from 5.59 to 3.84 during that stretch of three straight 9-inning CGs.

**LEADER OF THE PACK** – Thornton was the season-long leader of a 2005 ND pitching staff that coped with the departure of three key regulars (Grant Johnson, Chris Niesel and Joe Thaman) and the injury limitations of three other pitchers (Jeff Manship, John Axford and Jess Stewart).

**DON'T WALK** – Thornton entered the 2005 postseason with just 2 walks in his previous 47.1 IP (avg. of 0.38 BB per 9 IP in those 7 GP) ... he did issue a pair of walks in the BET vs. Boston College (none in NCAAs vs. UNC) and ultimately totaled just 19 walks in 96 IP of the '05 season (1.78 BB per 9 IP) ... his career avg. of 2.05 walks per 9 IP ranks 7th in the ND record book (3rd-best in the Mainieri era):

**Fewest Walks Per 9 IP in a Career**

1. Brandon Vilorio (2000-03).....1.61
2. Alan Walania (1990-93) .....1.64
3. Tom Price (1991-94).....1.86
4. James Cross (1983, '86-'86).....1.88
- Chris Niesel (2002-04).....1.88
6. Nick Palihnich (1958-60).....1.94
7. Tom Thornton (2003- ).....2.05

**HOME BOY** – Tom Thornton posted a 4-0 record and 2.25 in 2005 home games (15 Ks, 5 BB, 38 H/.277 opp. avg. in 36 IP) but he went just 2-6 with a 6.15 ERA in all '05 road games (25 Ks, 14 BB, 77 H in 60 IP).

**AMONG THE BIG EAST'S BEST** – Thornton led 2005 BIG EAST pitchers in starts (16), also ranking 2nd in innings (96), 6th in complete games (4) and 10th in wins (6-6) ... in BIG EAST games only, he finished 13th among the league's pitchers with a 2.83 ERA, also ranking 4th in wins (5-2) and 5th in innings (54.1).

**JUST THE STATS** – Thornton led the '05 staff in starts (16) and innings (96), also 2nd in wins (6) and 4th in Ks (40) ... situationally, he led the staff in groundouts (120) and IP per outing (6.0), also 2nd in low walks per 9 IP (1.8), 3rd in groundouts per 9 IP (11.3) and 4th in opp. 2-out batting (.243).

**SEASON RECAP** – Thornton bounced back from a 1-3 start to win 4-of-5 decisions in '05 ... his top '05 outings included a no-decision at UCF (5 IP, 5 H, R, 3 BB, 3 Ks), 9-inning CG wins vs. BC (3-2; 8 H, 1 ER, 5 Ks), UConn (7-1; 6 H, 4 Ks) and Villanova (5-2; 10 H, BB, 2 Ks), and the win over WVU in the final series (5-1; 6 IP, 7 H, R, BB, K) ... he was in line to win the BET opener vs. Boston College but the bullpen lost the lead before the Irish rallied to win, 6-5.

**STEADY STARTER** – Thornton in 2005 became just the seventh ND pitcher to start 16-plus games in a season (four have started 17-plus), with the others including fellow LHPs Tom Price, Chris Michalak and Tim Kalita, plus RHPs Brian Piotrowicz, Eric Madsen, Alex Shilliday ... Thornton also is one of six ND pitchers ever to log 15-plus starts in multiple seasons (also 15 in '04), joining Price, Madsen, Michalak and RHPs Pat Leahy and Chris Niesel in that distinction ... Thornton also is one of 13 all-time ND pitchers to post 20-plus wins in their career:

**Most Starts in a Season**

- 1. Tom Price (1994) .....19
- 2. Brian Piotrowicz (1989).....18
- 3. Erik Madsen (1989) .....17  
    Alex Shilliday (1998) .....17
- 5. Chris Michalak (1992) .....16  
    Tim Kalita (1999) .....16
- Tom Thornton (2004).....16**

**Pitchers with 15-Plus Starts in Multiple Seasons**

- Tom Price .....15 in '93, 19 in '94
- Erik Madsen .....15 in '88, 17 in '89
- Chris Michalak .....16 in '92, 15 in '93
- Pat Leahy .....15 in '90 and '92
- Chris Niesel .....15 in '03 and '04
- Tom Thornton .....15 in '04; 16 in '05**

**Victories**

- 1. Aaron Heilman (1998-2001) .....43-7
- 2. Tom Price (1991-94) .....40-10
- 3. Chris Michalak (1990-93).....34-13
- 4. David Sinnes (1990-93) .....32-8
- 5. Alan Walania (1990-93) .....30-12  
    Darin Schmalz (1994-97) .....30-13
- 7. Brian Piotrowicz (1987-90) .....27-17
- 8. Pat Leahy (1990-92) .....25-7  
    J.P. Gagne (2000-03) .....25-16  
    Alex Shilliday (1996-99) .....25-17
- 11. Herb Kelly (1912-14) .....22-2
- 12. Chris Niesel (2002-04) .....21-4
- 13. Tom Thornton (2003- ) .....20-9**

**ALL-CONFERENCE (finally)** – Tom Thornton's all-BIG EAST honors in 2005 (2nd team) ostensibly arrived a year late, as he turned in a more consistent and statistically impressive season in 2004 (when he was overlooked even for 3rd team all-BIG EAST) ... he is the 10th different Notre Dame pitcher to earn all-BIG EAST honors, joining a group that includes current big-leaguers Aaron Heilman (2nd team in '98; 1st team in '99-'01; '00 and '01 pitcher of the year) and Brad Lidge (1st team/pitcher of the year in '98) ... others who have been all-BIG EAST include (all RHPs): Darin Schmalz (2nd team in '96 and '97), Danny Tamayo (1st team, '01), J.P. Gagne (3rd team in '01 and '03), Chris Niesel (1st team/pitcher of the year in '03, 2nd team in '04), Grant Johnson (1st team, '04) and Ryan Doherty (2nd team, '04).

**STEVE ANDRES (LF/DH, Sr., Bats: Left, 5-10/200 ... Napa, CA ... 2004 NCAA Regional All-Tournament Team)**

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003	.269	43/29	104	26	28	2	2	4	22	46	.442	19	9	27	3	.415	3	0	2-3	1
2004	.320	57/49	169	38	54	13	4	8	39	99	.586	44	6	44	0	.471	2	1	4-9	4
2005	.281	41/25	112	28	26	8	1	5	25	51	.455	21	7	22	0	.383	1	0	0-0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>.279</b>	<b>141/103</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>.509</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>.431</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6-12</b>	<b>5</b>

**Opening Week** – a .296 career batter in opening-week games, with a pair of home runs and 12 runs scored (8-for-27, 4 RBI, 3B, 2B, 4 BB, 7 Ks, 0-1 SB).

**Home & Away** – hit 34 points higher in '05 home games (.250, 9-for-36, 9 RBI, 8 R, HR, 3B, 3 2B, 8 BB, 4 Ks) than in all road games (.216, 17-for-74, 16 RBI, 19 R, 4 HR, 5 2B, 12 BB, 6 HBP, 18 Ks) ... 4 of his 5 HRs, 16 of 25 RBI in '05 came on road ... 11 of his 17 career HRs have come outside of Eck Stadium ... hit well on the road in 2004 (.317, 3 HR, 21 RBI, 20 BB).

**2005 Team Ranks** – finished 3rd on team in slugging pct. (.455), 4th in home runs (5) and 5th in walks (21).

**Situational Summary** – ranked 7th on 2005 team in 2-out RBI (11) ... his junior-year totals included a .286 leadoff on-base pct. while batting .220 with runners in scoring position and .275 with 2 outs ... hit .238 in '05 vs. RHPs and .182 vs. LHPs (1-for-3 with the bases loaded; delivered RBI 5-of-10 times with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs).

**Lineup Notes** – slated to open 2006 season batting in cleanup spot (he hit in the 4th spot 27 times in his first three seasons) ... his '05 starts included 18 in LF, 9 as DH, 1 at C (owns 59 career starts in LF) ... made 13 starts in '05 as cleanup batter, with other starts in the 3rd (8), 5th (4), 7th (2) and 8th (1) spots.

**A Little Extra** – totaled more extra-base hits (14; 5 HR, 3B, 8 2B) than singles (12) in the 2005 season ... his career totals include 61 singles and 47 extra-base hits (17 HR, 7 3B, 23 2B).

**Milestone Watch** – enters 2006 season eight runs shy of 100 for his career.

**Plate Discipline** – ranked 5th on 2005 team with a +6 plate-discipline ratio (19 BB + 6 HBP – 19 Ks).

**At the 2005 BIG EAST Tournament** – hit team-best 4-for-9 in 3 GP/2 GS (4 RBI, HR, 2 2B, 2 R, HBP, 2 Ks), boosting his season batting avg. from .203 to .223 ... led off top of the 9th inning with pinch-hit single as Irish scored twice to claim 6-5 lead and win over BC in BET opener ... smacked 2-run HR the next day for 3-0 lead in winners-bracket game vs. Pitt (4-2) ... closed with pair of doubles (one a 2-run hit) and scored a run vs. the Panthers in 11-4 title game ... now is a .345 career hitter at the BET (10-for-29, 10 RBI, 7 R, HR, 3B, 5 2B, 5 BB, 2 HBP, 8 Ks, E), well above his overall .279 career batting avg.

**In '05 BIG EAST Play** – hit .148 in 12 GP/7 GS (4-for-27, 5 RBI, 6 R, 3 2B, 7 BB, 4 Ks, SF) ... a .282 career hitter in all games vs. BIG EAST teams (44-for-156, 36 RBI, 5 HR).

**In a Pinch** – owns .407 career batting avg. as a pinch-hitter (11-for-27), including 3-for-6 in '05 (rest of team is 7-for-27/.259).

**Left-Coast Lounge** – one of three California natives who patrol the Notre Dame outfield (also junior Danny Dressmman from San Jose and senior RF Cody Rizzo from Temecula).

**Generation Gap** – 4th-generation ND student who combines with William Andres as first great-grandfather and great-grandson ever to monogram with ND baseball program ... William Anddres was a catcher on the 1916-18 teams (his teammates included future ND Hall-of-Fame coach Jake Kline) and he also was a right end on the Knute Rockne-coached 1917 football team.

## MATT BRANSFIELD (LF/DH, Sr., Bats: Right, 6-1/200 ... Englewood, CO ... 2004 BIG EAST RBI Champion)

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.310	33/17	71	13	22	3	0	0	10	25	.352	3	3	19	1	.354	2	1	0-0	0
2004....	.306	59/54	206	44	63	12	3	12	58	117	.568	22	9	30	0	.388	5	1	0-3	0
2005....	.313	32/29	96	14	30	6	0	0	16	36	.375	10	7	17	4	.409	2	2	1-1	1
TOTAL...	.308	124/100	373	71	115	21	3	12	84	178	.477	35	19	66	5	.388	9	4	1-4	1

**Opening Week** – saw limited duty in opening-week games his first two seasons (2-for-5, R, 2 Ks), suffering broken hand after being hit-by-pitch on first trip to the plate in 2005

**Home and Away** – hit 77 points higher in '05 home games (.345, 19-for-55, 11 RBI, 6 R, 4 2B, 6 BB, 5 HBP, 7 Ks, SAC, SB, E) than on the road (.268, 11-for-41, 5 RBI, 8 R, 2 2B, 4 BB, 2 HBP, 10 Ks, SAC, 2 SF) ... had solid .306 batting avg. in 2004 road games (7 HR, 30 RBI).

**2005 Team Ranks** – finished 4th in batting avg. (.313) and on-base pct. (.409) ... missed 18 games after suffering broken hand in season opener.

**Situational Summary** – led 2005 team with .448 batting vs. LHPs (.254 vs. RHPs) ... also 2nd on team in leadoff on-base pct. (.542), and 4th in batting with runners on (.321) ... hit .286 in '05 with 2 outs, 2-for-8 (.250) with the bases loaded ... delivered RBI 7-of-10 times with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

**In '05 BIG EAST Play** – hit .273 in 15 GP/13 GS (12-for-44, 5 RBI, 6 R, 2 BB, 2 HBP, 10 Ks, 2 SAC, SF) ... a .295 career hitter in all games vs. BIG EAST teams (56-for-190, 38 RBI, 8 HR) ... led league with 33 RBI in '04 BE regular season.

**In a Pinch** – has batted at a .368 clip as a pinch-hitter during his ND career (7-for-19), including 2-for-3 in 2005 pinch-hit ABs (rest of team was 9-for-32/.281).

**Plate Discipline** – finished with a +2 plate-discipline ratio in 2005 (10 BB + 7 HBP – 17 Ks) ... enters 2006 with a -12 career plate-discipline ratio (35 BB + 19 HBP – 66 K).

**Lineup Notes** – his 27 starts in '05 included 21 at DH (6 at C, 2 at 1B) ... made 10 starts in '05 batting cleanup, 12 in the 6-hole, 5 in 5-hole (also batted 7th in pair of postseason games).

**Summer Ball** – joined classmate Cody Rizzo as member of the Mat-Su Miners of the Alaska League during the summer of 2005, earning all-league honors while leading team in slugging (.469) and doubles (12), ranking 2nd in RBI (3) and 3rd in both batting (.312) and on-base (.409).

## ROSS BREZOVSKY (2B, So., Bats: Left, 5-10/170 ... Naples, FL)

Year	Avg	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2005....	.261	56-53	188	35	49	8	2	2	20	67	.356	17	4	42	11	.329	4	6	3-5	13

**Opening Week** – had a solid start to his college career while playing in his home state of Florida during 2005 opening week, batting 6-for-16 (.375) with 5 RBI and 3 doubles (2 R, BB, 4 Ks)

**Home and Away** – hit at a clip 34 points higher on the road (.278, 30-for-108, 11 RBI, 18 R, HR, 3 3B, 4 2B, 4 BB, 4 HBP, 24 Ks, 2 SAC, SB, 9 Es) than at home (.244, 19-for-78, 9 RBI, 17 R, HR, 3 2B, 13 BB, 14 Ks, 4 SAC, 2 SB, 4 Es) during '05 season

**2005 Team Ranks** – finished as team co-leader with 2 triples, also ranking 4th in doubles (8) and 5th in sac. bunts (6).

**Situational Summary** – hit .320 in 2005 vs. LHPs (.239 vs. RHPs) ... finished with a .298 leadoff on-base pct. while batting .288 with runners in scoring position and .246 with 2 outs (8 RBI)... 0-for-6 with the bases loaded ... delivered RBI 7-of-14 times (50%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

**In '05 BIG EAST Play** – hit .200 in 21 GP/18 GS (12-for-60, 3 RBI, 10 R, HR, 2B, 4 BB, 14 Ks, SB, 4 SAC, SF)

**Plate Discipline** – owned a -21 plate-discipline ratio in 2005 (17 BB + 4 HBP – 42 Ks)

**Lineup Notes** – his 53 starts in '05 included 15 at 3B, 34 at 2B and 3 at SS (plus a single start at LF) ... hit mostly at bottom of the order (24 in 8-hole, 13 in 9th and 12 in 7-hole), plus 4 as leadoff hitter (early-season).

**Summer Ball** – joined classmate David Gruener as member of Hays (Kan.) Larks in Jayhawk League, during summer of '05 ... slated to return to Hays in summer of 2006.

**CRAIG COOPER (1B/OF, Sr., Bats: R, 6-2/210 ... Plainview, NY)**  
**2006 Preseason First Team All-BIG EAST Selection (*Baseball America*)**  
**Second Team All-BIG EAST ('04; 3rd team in '05) ... Two-time BIG EAST Batting Champ**

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.303	46/31	122	22	37	6	2	0	15	47	.385	15	4	23	3	.397	0	2	10-13	1
2004....	.360	58/46	175	42	63	13	1	10	48	108	.617	25	2	22	0	.441	2	4	12-17	2
2005....	.325	60/58	209	48	68	14	1	7	58	105	.502	33	14	22	6	.446	2	4	14-17	3
<b>TOTAL...</b>	<b>.332</b>	<b>164/135</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>.514</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>.443</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>36-47</b>	<b>6</b>

**Opening Week** – hit .308 during opening-week games in his first three seasons (8-for-26, 3 RBI, 3 R, 2B, 4 BB, 6 Ks, 4-6 SB).

**Home and Away** – had similar 2005 batting avg. in road games (team-best .312, 39-for-125, 25 RBI, 27 R, 4 HR, 9 2B, 19 BB, 4 HBP, 15 Ks, 6 SB, 3 SAC,E) and at home (.345/4th on team, 29-84, 33 RBI, 21 R, 3 HR, 3B, 5 2B, 14 BB, 10 HBP, 5 Ks, SAC, 8 SB, 2 Es).

**Double Distinction** – repeated as BIG EAST batting champ in '05 (.403, in league games, after .470 in '04) ... joined former BC player Kevin Penwell ('95, '96) as only repeat batting champs in 21-year history of BIG EAST baseball ... moved into 3rd place on BE career batting list, at .420 (68-for-162), behind Joe Cirone (.443, 51-for-115; Rutgers, '97-'00) and Marteese Robinson (.432, 83-for-192; Seton Hall, '85-'87) ... joins Cirone as only players in past 18 seasons to hit above .420 or higher in their BIG EAST career.

**2005 Team Ranks** – finished 2nd among ND players in six categories – slugging pct. (.502), RBI (58), home runs (7), doubles (14), stolen bases (14) and total bases (105) – also ranking 3rd in batting avg. (.325), on-base pct. (.446), runs (48), hits (68) and walks (33), 4th in hit-by-pitch (14) and games played (60), and 5th in HBPs (14) starts (58) ... shares team lead with 17 multiple-RBI games (2 w/ 5 RBI, 2 w/ 3 RBI), also 3rd with 16 multi-hit games (7 w/ 3 hits).

**Among '05 BIG EAST Stat Leaders** – finished 3rd among league's players in overall RBI (58) ... also surged to 7th among BE players with a .446 overall on-base pct. ... repeated as BIG EAST leader in conference batting (.403; .470 in '04) and on-base pct. in conference games (.529; .471 in '04) while finishing 8th in league slugging pct. (.582), 6th in RBI (19), 10th in doubles (6) and walks (12) ... only four players in the league finished with a higher OPS (on-base plus slugging) during '05 BE games than his 1.111, including fellow ND junior OF Cody Rizzo.

**Situational Summary** – finished 2nd on '05 team in batting with runners in scoring position (.434) ... also was 2nd on team in 2-out batting (.369) and 2-out RBI (17), 5th in leadoff on-base pct. (.419) ... hit .323 vs. RHPs and .333 vs. LHPs ... 2-for-8 (.250) with the bases loaded ... delivered RBI 22-of-30 times (73%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

**At the '05 BIG EAST Tournament** – hit 5-for-13 with 5 runs scored (RBI, BB, K) in games vs. BC (1) and Pittsburgh (2) ... went 3-for-5 and scored 3 times from leadoff spot in title-game win over Pitt (11-4).

**In '05 BIG EAST Play** – repeated as BIG EAST batting champ, hitting .403 in 23 GP/21 GS (27-for-67, 19 RBI, 14 R, 2 HR, 6 2B, 13 BB, 6 HBP, 9 Ks, 5 SB, 3 SAC, SF, 2 Es) ... a .408 career hitter in all games vs. BIG EAST teams (73-for-179, 45 RBI, 7 HR)

**Plate Discipline** – ranked 2nd on 2005 team with +25 plate-discipline ratio (33 BB + 14 HBP – 22 Ks), after totaling just a +1 in his first two seasons combined ... enters 2006 with a +26 career plate-discipline ratio (73 BB, 20 HBP, 67 Ks)

**Lineup Notes** – his 58 starts in '05 included 23 in RF and 20 in LF (15), plus starts at 1B (9), CF (4) and DH (2) ... made 12 starts in '05 as leadoff batter, also batting in the cleanup (23), 5th (8), 6th (7), 7th (3) and 3rd spots (5) ... slated to open 2006 season as 3-hole hitter, a spot occupied for most of 2005 by the departed Matt Edwards.

**Milestone Watch** – has 17 career home runs, 36 stolen bases (2 shy of ND top-10 list) ... former teammates Alec Porzel ('01; 37 HR-32 SB) and Paul O'Toole ('02; 31 HR-54 SB) are the only ND players ever to reach 30 HR and 30 SB in their career

**Summer Ball** – returned to Cape Cod League's Brewster Whitecaps in summer of 2005

**SEAN GASTON (C, Jr., Bats: Left, 6-0/175 ... Brownsburg, IN)  
Cape Cod League 2005 All-Star (Cotuit Kettleers)**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>GP-GS</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>SLG%</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>HBP</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>GDP</u>	<u>OB%</u>	<u>SF</u>	<u>SH</u>	<u>SB-ATT</u>	<u>E</u>
2004....	.316	23-12	57	11	18	3	0	0	11	21	.368	5	0	9	0	.365	1	0	4-4	1
2005....	.290	47-41	155	26	45	5	1	1	27	55	.355	5	3	16	4	.321	2	7	4-4	4
TOTAL...	.297	70-53	212	37	63	8	1	1	38	76	.358	10	3	25	4	.333	3	7	8-8	5

**Opening Week** – did not play in the two 2004 opening-week games (vs. SDSU and home team at USC Classic) before batting 0-for-9 in 2005 opening-week games (2 RBI, 3 R, BB, K).

**Home and Away** – hit 30 points higher in 2005 home games (.310, 22-for-71, 14 RBI, 9 R, HR, 3 2B, 2 BB, 7 Ks, 3 SB, E) than in road games (.280/4th on team, 26-for-93, 14 RBI, 18 R, 3B, 2 2B, 3 BB, 4 HBP, 10 Ks, 3 SAC, SB, 3 Es)

**2005 Team Ranks** – finished 3rd on 2005 team in sacrifice bunts (7), 4th in RBI (28) and 5th in batting avg. (.293).

**Situational Summary** – ranked 4th on 2005 team in 2-out RBI (15) and batting with runners in scoring position (.322), 5th in 2-out batting (.302) and 5th with .296 batting vs. RHPs (.282 vs. LHPs) ... advanced baserunners 59% of the time (2nd-best on team) ... compiled .347 leadoff on-base pct. ... 2-for-7 with the bases loaded (.286)... delivered the RBI 10-of-14 times (71%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

**In '05 BIG EAST Play** – ranked 5th on team with .286 batting in 18 GP/17 GS (16-for-56, 13 RBI, 6 R, HR, 2B, 3 BB, HBP, 6 Ks, 4 SB, 4 SAC, SF, 3 Es)

**Lineup Notes** – made all 43 of his starts at catcher while batting all over the lineup, with 12 starts in the 6-hole, 8 starts each in the 8- and 9-holes, plus starts in the 2nd (2), 4th (2), 5th (4) and 7th (7) spots

**Plate Discipline** – owned a -8 plate-discipline ratio in 2005 (5 BB + 3 HBP – 16 Ks), with a -12 for his career (10 BB, 3 HBP, 25 Ks)

**Summer Ball** – joined classmate Jeff Manship as member of the Cape Cod League's Cotuit Kettleers during summer of '05, earning CCL all-star honors and being named Cotuit's team MVP while batting .298 (12 RBI, .328 on-base, 4 extra-base hits)



**BRETT LILLEY (3B, So., Bats: Left, 5-7/165 ... North Canton, OH)**  
**BIG EAST 2005 Freshman of the Year ... Freshman All-American**

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2005....	.355	63/63	214	56	76	5	0	0	28	81	.379	34	30	33	2	.502	1	9	9-18	12

**Opening Week** – hit 4-for-13 in the pair of games vs. both Florida A&M and UCF that opened the 2005 season (3 R, BB, K, 0-1 SB, 4 HBP).

**Home & Away** – hit significantly higher (107 points) in 2005 home games (.415/2nd on team, 39-for-94, 15 RBI, 30 R, 2 2B, 18 BB, 10 HBP, 14 Ks, 6 SAC, 7 SB, 8 Es) than in road games (.308/2nd on team, 37-for-120, 16 RBI, 26 R, 3 2B, 16 BB, 20 HBP, 19 Ks, 3 SAC, 2 SB, 6 Es).

**At 2005 NCAA Gainesville Regional** – joined RHP Dan Kapala as ND's selections for the all-regional team, after batting 5-for-12 (3 RBI, 2 R, 4 HBP, K, 2 Es).

**2005 Team Ranks** – led team in batting (.355), on-base pct. (.502; 9th in ND history), HBP (30; ND record) and sac. bunts (9), also 2nd in hits (76), runs (56) and walks (34), 4th in RBI (28), stolen bases (9) and total bases (81) ... third ND freshman (second since '71) ever to lead ND in batting ... joined Matt Edwards as only players to start all 63 games (Greg Lopez was only other with 63 GP) ... 2nd on team with 20 multi-hit games (5-hit vs. Cincinnati, 1 w/ 4 hits, 5 w/ 3 hits), 3rd with 9 multi-RBI games.

**Situational Summary** – led team in 2-out batting (.439, 12 RBI) and batting with runners in scoring position (.448) ... also led team with .368 batting vs. RHPs (4th with .323 vs. LHPs), plus 3rd in leadoff on-base pct. (.515) ... 2-for-6 with the bases loaded ... delivered RBI 11-of-15 times (73%/2nd on team) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs ... advanced runners a team-best 66% of the time.

**Among the BIG EAST Stat Leaders** – led the league charts all season in on-base pct. (.502), also leading all BIG EAST freshmen in walks (34; 6th overall) and batting avg. (.355; 9th overall) ... ranked 6th among BE players with 56 runs scored ... in conference games only, he finished 7th (tops among freshmen) in walks (14) and on-base pct. (.460).

**In '05 BIG EAST Play** – ranked 3rd on team with .333 batting in 24 GS (27-for-81, 5 RBI, 20 R, 2 2B, 14 BB, 6 HBP, 8 Ks, 2 SB, 4 SAC, .990 fielding pct. with just a single error in 103 fielding chances)

**Plate Discipline** – owned team-best +31 plate-discipline ratio in 2005 (34 BB + 30 HBP – 33 Ks)

**Lineup Notes** – made first 28 starts in '05 at 2B before starting final 35 games at 3B, with the Irish going 24-10-1 in that stretch ... hit mostly in the 2-hole (51), plus 11 starts at leadoff (including the late WVU series and one game at the BET).

**Great Glove Man** – had 51 error-free games in '05, including 21-game span without an error (96 fielding chances) from March 24-April 21 (spanning time at 2B and 3B) and 12-game E-free streak prior to NCAAs (33 chances) ... four of his teammates combined for 18 errors at 3B in first 28 games of the season but he then turned in 9 error-free games to open his stint at the hot corner (40 chances) ... totaled 29 error-free games in 35 GP at 3B (8 Es) ... made just a single E in 2005 BIG EAST regular-season games (24 GP, plus no Es in 3 GP at the BET).

**In the Record Books** – his 30 HBP in 2005 set the ND record (besting Cody Rizzo's 28 in '03) and rank 4th in the NCAA record book while his .502 season on-base pct. ranks 10th in ND history, just shy of the ND freshman record set by Eric Danapilis in '90 (.509) ... totaled 64 free passes (also 34 BB) to go along with his 76 hits in '05 season, yielding his 140 total times on base via hits, walks and HBPs.

**Summer Ball** – slated to play with the Cotuit Kettleers in the elite Cape Cod League during the summer of 2006 (his ND teammates Sean Gaston and Jeff Manship were top player for Cotuit in the summer of '05) ... played briefly with the Delaware (Ohio) Cows of the Great Lakes League before halting his 2005 summer season due to back injury.

**GREG LOPEZ (SS, Sr. ... Bats: R, 6-0/190 ... Upper Arlington, OH)**  
**Third Team All-BIG EAST in 2004 ... Academic All-America Candidate in 2006 ... Second-Year Team Captain**

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.250	50/40	132	17	33	1	0	0	26	34	.258	4	4	22	5	.289	2	8	1-5	8
2004....	.332	59/57	199	39	66	14	0	2	34	86	.432	14	9	32	0	.396	3	10	4-5	20
2005....	.274	63/62	208	35	57	7	1	2	34	72	.346	11	16	44	3	.347	7	7	0-2	20
<b>TOTAL...</b>	<b>.289</b>	<b>168/155</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>.356</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>.351</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5-12</b>	<b>48</b>

**Opening Week** – hit a combined .364 (8-for-22) during 2003-05 opening-week games (3 RBI, 5 R, 3 Ks, 1-2 SB).

**Home and Away** – hit 28 points higher in 2005 home games (.289, 28-for-97, 16 RBI, 23 R, HR, 3B, 6 2B, 3 BB, 11 HBP, 21 Ks, 2 SAC, 13 Es) than in road games (.261, 29-for-111, 18 RBI, 12 R, HR, 2B, 8 BB, 5 HBP, 23 Ks, 5 SAC, 7 Es) ... had an impressive season hitting on the road in 2004 (.395, 22 RBI, 26 R).

**2005 Team Ranks** – one of three players who appeared in all 63 games of '05 season ... ranks 3rd on team in RBI (34), HBP (16, 5th in ND history), sac. bunts (7) and games started (62), also 5th in hits (57) and total bases (72) ... his 8 multi-RBI games ranked 5th on team, as did his 13 multi-hit games (5 w/ 3 hits).

**Situational Summary** – ranked 3rd on team in batting vs. LHPs (.333; compared to .250 vs. RHPs) ... finished with a .353 leadoff on-base pct. while batting .242 with runners in scoring position and .279 with 2 outs (5 RBI) ... 3-for-4 with the bases loaded ... delivered RBI 20-of-27 times (74%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

**At the '05 BIG EAST Tournament** – hit 4-for-10 (K, SAC) in games vs. BC (1) and Pittsburgh (2) ... owns a .400 career batting average at the BIG EAST Tournament (10-for-25, RBI, 2 E, 2 HBP, 3 Ks) that is more that 100 points above his .289 overall career avg. with the Irish

**In '05 BIG EAST Play** – hit .247 in 24 GS (19-for-77, 14 RBI, 12 R, HR, 3B, 3 2B, 7 BB, 6 HBP, 15 Ks, 2 SF, 10 Es) ... a .305 career hitter in all games vs. BIG EAST teams (72-for-236, 34 RBI, HR)

**For the Glove of the Game** – his 47 error-free games in '05 included 15 to open season and 1 E in 19 games prior to Michigan game ... played error-free throughout 2005 postseason (7 GP) ... had only four multiple-error games in '05 (none 3-plus) ... totaled 42 E-free games in '04 (85 in '04-'05)

**Hitting Ball & Books** – candidate for Academic All-America honors (3.39 GPA; anthropology/pre-professional science)

**Lineup Notes** – had 59 starts in '05 at SS (plus 3 at 3B, in midseason) while batting in the 9th (35), 8th (24), 7th (2) and 2nd (1) spots ... slated to open 2006 as 5-hole hitter, after hitting mostly near bottom of order for most of his career.

**Milestone Watch** – needs six more RBI for the 100th of his ND career, also nine runs shy of 100 ... enters 2006 ranked 4th in ND history with 37 total sacrifices, one behind Craid Counsell and 10 shy of Cory Mee's record ... also ranks 9th in ND history for career fielding assists (408), 7th in sac. bunts (25) and 8th in HBPs (29).

**Plate Discipline** – owned a -17 plate-discipline ratio in 2005 (11 BB + 16 HBP – 44 Ks) ... enters 2006 with a -40 career plate-discipline ratio (29 BB, 29 HBP, 98 Ks)

**Summer Ball** – one of several ND players who was slated to play in Cape Cod League (Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox) during summer of '05 (dnp due to injury) ... played for Delaware (Ohio) Cows of Great Lakes League in summer of '04

**ALEX NETTEY (CF, Sr., Bats: Right, 6-1/200 ... Dolton, IL)**

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.229	30/9	48	11	11	2	0	0	3	13	.271	3	1	9	1	.288	0	1	2-2	0
2004....	.194	27/9	36	9	7	3	0	0	5	10	.278	4	3	5	0	.326	0	0	1-1	0
2005....	.288	60/59	226	44	65	11	2	2	24	87	.381	14	15	29	5	.367	1	9	12-19	4
<b>TOTAL...</b>	<b>.268</b>	<b>117/77</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>.352</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>.350</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15-22</b>	<b>4</b>

**Opening Week** – hit 4-for-7 in limited duty during 2003-05 opening-week games (RBI, 2 R, 2B, 1-2 SB).

**Home and Away** – hit 67 points higher in '05 home games (.321/5th on team, 36-for-112, 14 RBI, 29 R, 2 HR, 6 2B, 6 BB, 8 HBP, 13 Ks, 4 SAC, 5 SB, 3 Es) than in road games (.254, 29-for-114, 10 RBI, 16 R, 2 3B, 5 2B, 8 BB, 7 HBP, 16 Ks, 5 SAC, 7 SB, 2 Es).

**2005 Team Ranks** – shared team lead in triples (2) and sac. bunts (9/4th in BIG EAST), 3rd in doubles (11), stolen bases (12) and total bases (86), 4th in hits (65), runs (44), HBP (15), games played (60) and started (59) ... also 4th on team with 15 multi-hit games.

**Situational Summary** – ranked 4th on '05 team with .305 batting vs. RHPs (.237 vs. LHPs) ... advanced baserunners 55% of the time (5th-best on team) ... compiled a .418 leadoff on-base pct. while batting .273 with runners in scoring position and .219 with 2 outs (5 RBI) ... 1-for-6 with the bases loaded ... delivered RBI 12-of-17 times (71%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

**Among the BIG EAST Stat Leaders** – finished 8th with seven doubles in conference games.

**'05 BIG EAST Play** –hit .242 in 24 GS (23-for-95, 6 RBI, 12 R, HR, 3B, 7 2B, 5 BB, 3 HBP, 15 Ks, 2 SB, 4 SAC, SF, 2 Es)

**Plate Discipline** – finished with an even plate-discipline ratio in 2005 (14 BB + 15 HBP – 29 Ks) ... enters 2006 with -3 career plate-discipline ratio (21 BB, 19 HBP, 43 Ks)

**Lineup Notes** – made all 59 starts in 2005 in CF, batting mostly leadoff (33), plus starts in 9th (6), 2nd (6), 5th (4), 7th (8) and 8th (2) spots

**Summer Ball** – played for Fayetteville (N.C.) Swamp Dogs of Coastal Plains League during summers of '04 and '05

**CODY RIZZO (RF/C, Sr., Bats: Right, 6-1/195 ... Temecula, CA)**

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.314	58/56	191	53	60	11	1	4	38	85	.445	11	28	33	0	.425	3	1	1-2	4
2004....	.263	52/51	175	39	46	5	1	4	29	65	.371	4	21	30	0	.348	4	1	5-6	5
2005....	.252	60/50	163	41	41	8	1	6	24	68	.423	22	21	35	7	.404	2	1	17-23	4
<b>TOTAL...</b>	<b>.278</b>	<b>170/157</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>.420</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>.394</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23-31</b>	<b>13</b>

**Opening Week** – leads ND veterans with a .423 career batting avg. in opening-week games (11-for-26, 8 RBI, 4 R, HR, 2B, 4 BB, 7 Ks, 1-1 SB).

**Home and Away** – hit 29 points higher in 2005 road games (.262, 27-for-103, 17 RBI, 20 R, 4 HR, 3B, 4 2B, 12 BB, 11 HBP, 27 Ks, SAC, 7 SB, 5 Es) than in '05 home games (.233, 14-for-60, 7 RBI, 21 R, 2 HR, 4 2B, 10 BB, 10 HBP, 8 Ks, 10 SB, E).

**2005 Team Ranks** – led team with 17 stolen bases while ranking 2nd in HBP (21; 4th in ND history), 3rd in home runs (6), 4th in slugging pct. (.423), doubles (8) and walks (22), and 5th in runs (41) and on-base pct. (.404).

**Situational Summary** – finished 4th on '05 team with .436 leadoff on-base pct., 5th in 2-out RBI (13) ... hit .190 with runners in scoring position and .246 with 2 outs (12 RBI) ... batted .281 vs. RHPs and .184 vs. LHPs ... 0-for-4 with the bases loaded ... delivered RBI 6-of-10 times (60%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs ... 1-for-2 as a pinch-hitter.

**Among BIG EAST Stat Leaders** – ranked 7th among BIG EAST players with 17 stolen bases ... late surge landed him 15th among leaders in conference batting avg. (.352), also 3rd in on-base pct. (.514), 4th in slugging pct. (.648) and stolen bases (7), and 8th in home runs (4) – all for conference games ... the Pittsburgh duo of Jim Negrych (1.311) and Ben Copeland (1.205) were the only players with a higher OPS (on-base plus slugging) in BIG EAST games than his 1.162.

**In '05 BIG EAST Play** – ranked 2nd on team with .353 batting in 22 GP/18 GS (19-for-54, 11 RBI, 19 R, 4 HR, 4 2B, 5 BB, 13 HBP, 8 Ks, 7 SB, 2 Es) ... a .292 career hitter vs. BIG EAST teams (65-for-223, 39 RBI, 6 HR).

**Plate Discipline** – ranked 4th on 2005 team with a +9 plate-discipline ratio (22 BB + 21 HBP – 33 Ks) ... enters 2006 with a +9 career plate-discipline ratio (37 BB, 70 HBP, 98 Ks).

**Lineup Notes** – has 36 starts in RF while starting 11 recent games behind the plate (all-state catcher as a prep but previously just 4 starts at C with the Irish, in '03) ... has been batting mostly in the 5th, 6th and 7th spots (15 games each), plus 2 in 8<sup>th</sup> ... made 91 starts in RF during his first three seasons.

**Walking Tall** – overcame subpar 2005 batting season by getting on base via walks (22) and HBP (21; 4th in ND history) – for .404 on-base pct. (despite hitting just .252), also swiping 17 bases ... first two seasons featured total of just 15 walks and 6 SBs.

**Milestone Watch** – nine RBI shy of 100 for his career.

**Plunksville** – already ranks 4th in the NCAA record book with 70 career times hit-by-pitch (record is 92), needing four to tie former Texas player Jeff Ontiveros ('99-'02).

**Summer Ball** – joined ND teammate Matt Bransfield on Mat-Su Miners of Alaska League in summer of '05 (Matt Edwards played for Mat-Su in '04) ... saw '03 summer with Hays Larks (Jayhawk League) cut short due to injury (dnp in summer of '04).