

Post Game Notes
Notre Dame vs. Cincinnati
April 23, 2010

- A game after his own streak of consecutive games reaching base safely concluded, senior Ryan Connolly (Binghamton, N.Y.) ended another streak on Friday night. His third-inning solo home run ended Notre Dame's stretch of 6+ games without a home run, a streak spanning 266 batters. In fact, over Notre Dame's last eight games, 537 straight batters (including opponents) had come to the plate without homering before Connolly's blast.
- The Irish pitching staff did keep Cincinnati in the park, extending its home-run free stretch to eight games and 326 batters. The last longer streak was a nine-game homer-free stretch during the 2008 season (3/14-3/26).
- Justin Riddell's RBI single with two outs in the seventh inning ended junior Brian Dupra's (Rochester, N.Y.) stretch of not allowing an earned run at 13.2 consecutive innings; the right-hander had last allowed an earned run in the fifth inning of his April 9 start against Rutgers. In his last three outings, Dupra is 1-0 with a 1.26 ERA and 13 strikeouts in 14.1 innings of work.
- The aforementioned two-out Cincinnati run, coupled with another two-out run in the eighth, means that the last 16 runs scored against the Irish have all come with two outs.
- Dupra punched out eight Bearcat batters in the game, tying his career high (he also fanned eight in Notre Dame's win over Gonzaga earlier this season). Dupra walked just one in the game, not surprising given that in his career, Dupra has tended to walk next to none whenever the strikeouts keep coming: in all but one of his nine career games with 5+ strikeouts, he has walked one batter or fewer. In those nine games, he has struck out 55 batters while walking just eight for a strikeout-to-walk ratio of 6.88.
- Dupra's start (7.1 innings) was his longest since April 25 of last season, when he picked up the win at Louisville, allowing five earned runs in 7.1 innings.
- Senior Casey Martin (Chesterton, Ind.) continues to see dead-red with Cincinnati pitcher Brian Garman on the mound, as the senior is now 4-for-7 (.571) with two RBI against the southpaw in his career after going 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI against Garman in Friday's contest. Martin had no problem with Garman exiting the game, though, as he smacked a two-run dinger off of Garman's replacement, Andrew Strenge, in the eighth inning. Martin finished a triple shy of the cycle (he would have needed his just his second career three-bagger to accomplish the feat).
- After going 3-for-4 with a home run and three RBI in the game, Martin now has seven multi-hit games in his last eight contests. He is batting .447 (17-for-38) with seven RBI over that stretch.
- Garman entered the game having allowed just four runs all season in 31.2 innings (1.14 ERA), but the Irish pinned three runs on the lefty and handed him his first loss of the season.
- Opponents have been hard-pressed to strike out Notre Dame's two and three hitters lately, as freshman Frank DeSico (Cleveland, Ohio) and senior David Mills (Battle Creek, Mich.) each went without a strikeout once again on Friday and are now batting a combined .369 (38-for-103) with just one strikeout (compared to 10 walks) in the last 13 games. Perhaps not coincidentally, the first of those games was the one in which Mills switched from leadoff to the three-hole and DeSico moved to the second spot after batting primarily seventh for the first part of the season.
- DeSico went 2-for-3 against Garman and is now batting .500 (17-for-34) on the season against left-handed pitching.
- Mills has now gone 64 consecutive plate appearances without striking out, while DeSico has gone down on strikes just once in his past 64 trips to the dish (he had his streak of 59 straight plate appearances without a strikeout snapped against Michigan on Wednesday). DeSico still has not fanned more than once in a game in his career.
- With his seventh career save, senior Steven Mazur (Round Rock, Texas) moved into 11th place in the Notre Dame record books in that category. His next save will tie him with Alan Walania (1990-93) for 10th.
- Mills retired the only batter he faced in the game, giving him six straight scoreless outings from the hill, covering 8.0 innings. He also has faced 57 consecutive batters without issuing a walk.
- The two hour and 10 minute game was the shortest 9+-inning game for the Irish since April 4, 2009, when Notre Dame blanked Villanova, 4-0, in the first game of a doubleheader at Frank Eck Stadium in an hour and 43 minutes. The starting pitcher in that game was also Dupra, who allowed just three hits in tossing a complete-game shutout.