

NOTRE DAME 2006 SCHEDULE (O-O)

FEBRUARY

* – BIG EAST game

Thur. 23	vs. Indiana St. (Mill., TN)	3:00 p.m.
<i>Service Academies Classic (Millington, TN)</i>		
Fri. 24	vs. Air Force	10:00 a.m.
Sat. 25	vs. Memphis	4:00 p.m.
Sun. 26	vs. Oklahoma	noon

MARCH

Minnesota Dairy Queen Classic (Metrodome)

Fri. 3	vs. Nebraska	12:15 P.M.
Sat. 4	vs. Minnesota	6:35 p.m.
Sun. 5	vs. Arizona	11:05 a.m.

UTSA Express Classic (Wolff Stadium; San Antonio)

Fri. 10	vs. Texas A&M	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 11	vs. Iowa	11:00 a.m.
Sun. 12	vs. Illinois	7:00 p.m.
Mon. 13	vs. Iowa	7:00 p.m.

Irish Baseball Classic (Wolff Stadium; San Antonio)

Thur. 16	vs. Iowa	1:30 p.m.
Fri. 17	vs. Southern Illinois	1:30 p.m.
Fri. 17	vs. Iowa	5:30 p.m.
Sat. 18	vs. Southern Illinois	1:30 p.m.

Tues. 21	Wright State	5:05 p.m.
Wed. 22	Central Michigan	5:05 p.m.

at Povich Field (Bethesda, MD)

Sat. 25	vs. Georgetown (DH)*	noon
Sun. 26	vs. Georgetown*	noon

Tues. 28	Valparaiso	5:05 p.m.
Wed. 29	Western Michigan	5:05 p.m.
Fri. 31	Pittsburgh*	6:05 p.m.

APRIL

Sat. 1	Pittsburgh*	1:05 p.m.
Sun. 2	Pittsburgh*	12:05 p.m.
Tues. 4	Chicago State	5:05 p.m.
Wed. 5	Ball State	5:05 p.m.
Fri. 7	at South Florida*	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 8	at South Florida*	1:00 p.m.
Sun. 9	at South Florida*	Noon
Tues. 11	Oakland	5:05 p.m.
Wed. 12	Manchester	5:05 p.m.
Thur. 13	St. John's (DH)* (CSTV)	12:05 p.m.
Sat. 15	St. John's*	12:05 p.m.
Tues. 18	Toledo	5:05 p.m.
Wed. 19	IPFW (Comcast Local)	5:05 p.m.
Fri. 21	Rutgers*	6:05 p.m.
Sat. 22	Rutgers*	3:05 p.m.
Sun. 23	Rutgers*	12:05 p.m.
Tues. 25	Purdue	7:05 p.m.
Wed. 26	Bowling Green	5:05 p.m.
Sat. 29	at Connecticut (DH)*	noon
Sun. 30	at Connecticut*	11:00 a.m.

MAY

Tues. 2	Cleveland State	5:05 p.m.
Fri. 5	Louisville*	6:05 p.m.
Sat. 6	Louisville*	1:05 p.m.
Sun. 7	Louisville*	12:05 p.m.
Sat. 13	at Seton Hall (DH)*	noon
Sun. 14	at Seton Hall*	noon
Tues. 16	vs. Michigan (Comcast Local)	7:00 p.m.
<i>(5th/3rd Park; Comstock Park, MI)</i>		

at Villanova Ballpark (Plymouth Meeting, PA)

Thur. 18	vs. Villanova*	4:00 p.m.
Fri. 19	vs. Villanova*	4:00 p.m.
Sat. 20	vs. Villanova*	noon

Tues.- 23- *BIG EAST Tournament*

Sat. 27 *Br. House Net. Field (Clearwater, FL)*

Fri.- 2- *NCAA Regionals*

Sun. 4 *(Campus Sites)*

Fri.- 9- *NCAA Super Regionals*

Sun. 11 *(Campus Sites)*

Fri.- 16- *College World Series*

Mon. 26 *(Omaha, NE)*

2006 NOTRE DAME BASEBALL

(Service Academies Classic; Millington, Tenn.; Feb. 23-26)

PLAY BALL! – The 22nd-ranked Notre Dame baseball team takes the nation's seventh-best winning pct. of the 2000s (.729; 279-103-2) into its 2006 opener on Thursday, Feb. 23 (3:00 CST), vs. Indiana State in the first of four games for the Irish at USA Baseball Stadium in Millington, Tenn. ... ND will face Air Force (Feb. 24; 10:00 a.m.), Memphis (Feb. 25, 4:00) and Oklahoma (Feb. 26, noon) in the annual Service Academies Classic ... the veteran Irish lineup returns 8-of-9 position starters, with six seniors in the probable opening-day lineup ... ND's pitching staff is fronted by a seasoned three-man rotation that includes senior LHP Tom Thornton and a pair of junior RHPs (Jeff Manship and Jeff Samardzija) who are rated among the nation's top 100 prospects) ... the Irish will be looking to resume their 2005 late-season momentum that included an unprecedented fourth straight BIG EAST tournament title before advancing to the NCAA Regional final for the sixth straight season, en route to a 38-24-1 final record.

RADIO, LIVE-STATS & HOTLINE – All of Notre Dame's 2006 regular-season and postseason again will be broadcast by South Bend's ESPN Radio (now on 1490 AM) ... the broadcasts are available via the internet at www.und.com (All Access subscription) ... und.com also provides links to livestats on the website's main page, for all home games and select road games (including all four of this week's games in Millington) ... call the ND Sports Hotline at 574-631-3000 for schedule and result information for all varsity sports currently in season (from the main menu, select "4" and then select "1" for baseball information).

PROBABLE WEEK-1 PITCHING MATCHUPS

2/23 vs. Indiana State – Sr. LHP Tom Thornton ('05: 4.69, 6-6, 40 Ks, 19 BB, 115 H, 96 IP; career: 3.74, 20-9, 146 Ks, 57 BB, 264 H, 250.1 IP, 47 GP/39 GS)

2/24 vs. Air Force – Jr. RHP Jeff Samardzija ('05: 3.89, 8-1, 56 Ks, 30 BB, 85 H, 78.2 IP; career: 3.47, 13-4, 98 Ks, 47 BB, 135 H, 142.2 IP, 35 GP/16 GS)

2/25 vs. Memphis – So. LHP Wade Korpi ('05: 5.47, 4-3, 32 Ks, 33 BB, 73 H, 54.1 IP)

2/26 vs. Oklahoma – Jr. RHP Jeff Manship ('05: 3.97, 2-1, SV, 20 Ks, 10 BB, 24 H, 22.2 IP ... missed '04 due to elbow injury; slowed in '05 by rehab)

Opponent probable starters vs. ND ('06 stats, unless indicated):

ISU – RHP Ryan Tatusko ('05: 3.09, 8-2, 17 GP, 55 Ks, 38 BB, 75 H, 84.1 IP)

Air Force – RHP Mitch Brown (4.60, 1-1, 3 GS, 14 K, 7 BB, 17 H/.279, 15.2 IP)

Memphis – LHP Lance Scoggins ('05 Jackson St. JC: 5.62, 4-4, 65 Ks, 57.2 IP)

Oklahoma – RHP P.J. Sandoval (3.86, 2-1, 8 Ks, 5 BB, 13 H/.260, 14 IP)

NOTRE DAME PROBABLE OPENING-DAY STARTING LINEUP (vs. RHP)

* indicates lefthander hitter, ** indicates switch hitter

Pos.	Player	Yr./Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2006 Statistics and Notes
2B	#2 Brett Lilley*	Fr./5-7/165	North Canton, OH	Freshman All-American .355, 28 RBI, 30 HBP
C	#11 Sean Gaston*	Jr./6-0/175	Brownsburg, IN	Cape Cod League All-Star .293, HR, 28 RBI, 27 R
1B	#9 Craig Cooper	Sr./6-2/210	Plainview, NY	2-time BIG EAST bat. champ .325, 7 HR, 58 RBI, 14 SB
DH	#36 Steve Andres*	Sr./5-10/200	Napa, CA	Also could start in LF .232, 5 HR, 25 RBI, 21 BB
SS	#4 Greg Lopez	Sr./6-0/190	Upper Arlington, OH	2nd-year team captain .274, 2 HR, 34 RBI, 7 SAC
LF	#12 Matt Bransfield	Sr./6-1/200	Englewood, CO	Led '04 BIG EAST in RBI .313, 16 RBI, 6 2B (inj.)
2B	#7 Ross Brezovsky*	So./5-10/170	Naples, FL	Prep shortstop .261, 2 HR, 20 RBI, 35 R
CF	#16 Alex Netley	Sr./6-1/200	Dolton, IL	Strong defensive CF .288, 2 HR, 24 RBI, 44 R
RF	#17 Cody Rizzo	Sr./6-1/195	Temecula, CA	Also serves as #2 catcher .252, 6 HR, 24 RBI, 17 SB

Indiana State Sycamores

Series: Indiana State Leads 7-5

Location: Terre Haute, Indiana

Enrollment: 11,484

Colors: Royal Blue and White

Field: Sycamore Field

Conference: Missouri Valley

2005 Record: 30-20

Conference Record/Finish: 10-14/5th

Postseason: 2-2 at MVC Tournament

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 19/7

Head Coach: Bob Wran (So. Illinois '68)

Overall: 1,050-713-9 (30 yrs, pre-'06)

At ISU: 1,134-751-9 (33 yrs, pre-'06)

Assistants: C.J. Keating, Matt Kennedy

Baseball SID: Dan Gisel

E-Mail: dgisel@indstate.edu

SID Phone: (812) 237-4073

SID Fax: (812) 237-4157

Website: www.indstate.edu/athletics

Top Returners (2005 Stats)

Nevin Ashley, C, Jr. (.328, 1 HR, 41 RBI)

Ryan Tatusko, RHP, So. (3.09, 8-2, 55 Ks)

Jake Eigsti, SS, Sr. (.300, 4 HR, 45 RBI)

Tim Brewer, OF, Sr. (.317, 2 HR, 22 RBI)

Ryan Bond, 2B, Jr. (.285, 2 HR, 33 RBI)

Andrew Galle, RHP, Sr. (5.01, 2-9, 70 Ks)

ND vs. INDIANA STATE (5-7)

In Mainieri Era: Tied 1-1

At ND: Series tied 3-3

At ISU: ISU leads 4-2

One-Run Wins: ND 2, ISU 2

Current Streak: ND 1 win

Date	Site	Result	Score
4/18/82	ISU	L	2-3
4/18/82	ISU	L	6-7
4/16/83	ND	L	0-3
4/16/83	ND	L	1-4
4/24/91	Coveleski	W	6-5
4/20/92	ISU	W	18-7
4/28/93	CS	L	0-2
5/10/93	ISU	W	20-9
4/27/94	ND	W	4-0
5/12/94	ISU	L	8-11
3/21/95	ISU	L	8-12
3/27/96	ND	W	5-4

Series Scoring	Runs	Avg.
Notre Dame	78	6.5
ISU	67	5.6

ND Most Runs (Gm): 20 (1993)

ND Widest Margin: 11 (1992, 1993)

ISU Most Runs (Gm): 12 (1995)

ISU Widest Margin: 4 (12-8, '95)

High-Scoring Game: 29 (ND 20-9; 1993)

Low-Scoring Game: 2 (ISU 2-0; 1993)

ND Win Streak: 2 (1991-92; 1993-94)

ISU Win Streak: 4 (1982-83)

Shutouts By: ISU 2, ND 1

FOR OPENERS

• Notre Dame is 7-1 in its past eight season openers and 7-4 in previous openers during the Paul Mainieri era

• The Irish suffered a tight loss to New Orleans in the 2001 opener (7-6, at Mississippi State) but have opened with wins in 1998 (10-1 vs. Florida State, in Orlando), 1999 (8-4 over James Madison, at Florida International), 2000 (6-0 vs. Air Force, in Millington, Tenn.), 2002 (7-6 vs. Missouri, at UNO), 2003 (10-9 over Dayton, at ASU), 2004 (7-1, over San Diego State, at USC) and 2005 (19-8 vs. Florida A&M, at UCF).

• The 2001-03 openers each produced one-run games (the Missouri game in '02 went 10 innings) but Notre Dame won the 2004 and '05 openers by a combined 26-9 margin ... the 19-8 win over FAMU in 2005 was ND's largest margin of victory and most runs in a season opener since the 1963 team won 20-3 at Indiana.

SCOUTING THE SYCAMORES (www.indstate.edu/athletics) – Indiana State will join Notre Dame in making its season debut in Millington ... see sidebar for additional info. on Indiana State.

ND-ISU SERIES NOTES – This will be the first game in the series since the first two seasons of the Paul Mainieri at Notre Dame, when the Irish lost at ISU in 1995 (8-12) but won the rematch at ND's Eck Stadium in 1996 (5-4) ... the '96 win included a strong start from LHP Greg Henebry (6 IP, R), a 2-run single off the bat of Jeff Wagner (2-for-3) and a save by freshman Alex Shilliday (3 IP, 4 Ks), with Scott Sollmann scoring a pair of wins (2-for-4, RBI, 2 SB).

SUPER SKIPPERS – Notre Dame's Paul Mainieri (22nd; 819) and Indiana State's Bob Wran (10th; 1,050) rank among the top-25 on the NCAA list for winningest active coaches, combining for 1,869 wins in 53 seasons as college head coaches ... Mainieri will match wits in 2006 with five others among the NCAA's top-50 winningest active coaches: Minnesota's John Anderson (17th; 871), Fred Hill of Rutgers (18th; 864), Arizona's Andy Lopez (20th; 828), South Florida's Eddie Cardieri (28th; 767) and Louisville's Leo Prado (49th; 562) ... with Mainieri, Hill, Cardieri and Prado, the BIG EAST Conference currently features four coaches among that NCAA top-50 list (only the Atlantic Coast and Missouri Valley conferences have more coaches on the list).

IN-STATE BATTLES – Notre Dame owns a 43-9 record (.827) vs. fellow Indiana-based schools during the Paul Mainieri era (since '95), with games versus: Valparaiso (10-1), Butler (7-0), Purdue (6-2), IUPUI (5-0), Indiana Tech (4-1), Indiana (3-0), Indianapolis (2-0), IPFW (2-0), Ball State (2-3), Indiana State (1-1) and Evansville (1-1).

AVOIDING 0-AND-2 – If Notre Dame wins at least one of its first two games in Millington, it will mark the 46th time in 50 total Mainieri-era tournaments (regular season and postseason) that the Irish have avoided an 0-2 start ... ND never has gone 0-2 at a postseason tournament in the Paul Mainieri era (since '95) ... that's a streak of 21 postseason events, including 11 conference tournaments, eight NCAA Regionals, the 2002 Super Regional at Florida State and the '02 College World Series ... the Irish also have gone 0-2 just four times in 28 regular-season tournaments during the Mainieri era.

FRIEND OR FOE? – Two members of Notre Dame's junior class, catcher **Sean Gaston** and LHP/1B **Mike Dury**, played on the Indiana Bulls with ISU junior catcher **Nevin Ashley** ... Dury also was a teammate of ISU junior 2B **Ryan Bond** with the Madison Mallards during the summer of 2004.

THE MASTERMIND – Current Notre Dame head coach **Paul Mainieri** provided the primary inspiration for the Service Academies Classic, during his time as the Air Force head coach from 1989-94 ... the tournament began in 1992, primarily as a chance for the three academies to face one another at an annual site (Memphis and other schools later were added to the format) ... Mainieri's Air Force (5-7) and Notre Dame (7-2) teams have combined to go 12-9 in Service Academies action (see previous page for ND results at the SAC) ... the 1992 Air Force team lost to Army (2-5) and Memphis (4-5) but beat Navy (6-5); the '93 team lost to Army (6-8), beat Navy (8-7) and Minnesota (3-0) and lost to Memphis (2-5); and the '94 team split with Army (6-1) and Navy (5-6), beat Memphis (10-0) and then lost the rematch with the Tigers in the 6-5 championship game.

SCOUTING THE FALCONS (www.airforcesports.com) – Air Force has opened 5-3, after winning two games from Colorado Christian (5-0, 2-1), going 1-2 in action at Pueblo's Runyon Field (5-13 vs. Northern Colorado; 2-1 and 4-3 vs. York College) and then posting a 1-2 mark at HoHoKam Park in Mesa, Ariz. (10-3 vs. Illinois-Chicago, 2-9 vs. Creighton, 1-14 vs. UIC) ... Notre Dame played at HoHoKam (spring training site of the Chicago Cubs), in 2005 ... Air Force is batting .261 while averaging 3.9 runs per game, with one home run and 20-of-26 stolen bases ... the Falcons pitchers have compiled a 5.40 staff ERA, with 65 strikeouts, 27 walks and 70 hits allowed (.285 opp. avg.) in 65 innings ... Air Force owns a .969 fielding pct. (9 Es; 4 DPs turned) ... top hitters include sophomore OF Chay Derbigny (.429, 2 RBI, 3B, 2B, 8 R, 5 SB, 2 BB) and junior SS Geno Salazar (.346, 4 RBI, 2B, 4 R, 3 SB, 2 BB), with no other player batting above .278 ... junior RHP Mitch Brown (3.71, 2-1, 3 GS, 22 Ks, 6 BB, 12 H/.203, 17 IP) is the likely starter vs. the Irish ... senior RHP Paul Vignola has logged 10.2 innings while making five shutout relief appearances with three saves, 15 Ks and just one walk (1-0, 8 H/.205).

FRIEND OR FOE?, PART II. – Notre Dame junior RHP **Jeff Manship** has former teammates on eight different 2006 opponents, including Air Force junior infielder **Andrew Vasquez**.

COLORADO CONNECTIONS – The Notre Dame baseball program's history has included monogram winners from 44 different states, with three of the four Colorado natives playing for the Irish during the Paul Mainieri era ... those players include one who grew up near the Air Force Academy – infielder **J.J. Brock** (Colorado Springs/Air Academy HS; '94-'98) and two Englewood natives who played at Cherry Creek HS: current Houston Astros ace closer **Brad Lidge** ('96-'98) and current senior LF/DH **Matt Bransfield** ... recent signee **Andrew Scheid** (Highlands Ranch, Colo.), an ace RHP at Regis Jesuit HS, will extend the ND program's recent Colorado ties when he joins the Irish starting in the fall of 2006.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON – Six current Irish players are second-generation college baseball players: senior IF Eddie **Smith** (Ed Smith, Gonzaga), junior LHP/1B Mike **Dury** (John Dury, N.C. State), junior RHP Jeff **Manship** (John Manship, Arizona), freshman IF Evan **Sharpley** (Tom Sharpley, Spring Arbor) and freshman C **Mike Many** (Bob Many, Northern Illinois).

Air Force Falcons

Series: Notre Dame Leads 6-0
Location: Air Force Academy, Colorado
Enrollment: 4,000
Colors: Blue and Silver
Field: Falcon Field (349-400-316)
Conference: Mountain West
2005 Record: 9-44
Conference Record/Finish: 4-26/6th
Postseason: 0-2 at MWC Tournament
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 18/7
Head Coach: Mike Hutcheon (Wayne St. '84)
Overall Record: 259-236 (12 years)
Record at Air Force: 20-96 (3 years)
Assistants: Ryan Thompson, Marty Nelson
Baseball SID: Nick Arseniak
E-Mail: nicholas.arseniak@usafa.af.mil
SID Phone: (719) 333-9251
SID Fax: (719) 333-3798
Hotline: (719) 333-2313
Website: www.airforcesports.com

Top Returners (2005 Stats)

Karl Bolt, 1B, Jr. (.317, 12 HR, 39 RBI)
Dustin Smith, IF, Sr. (.323, 3 HR, 22 RBI)
Geno Salazar, 2B/SS, Jr. (.305, 4 HR, 29 RBI)
Price Paramore, IF, Sr. (.290, 2 HR, 20 RBI)
Matt Ghigna, OF, So. (.280, 2 HR, 27 RBI)
Paul Pratt, RHP, Sr. (9.42, 3-9, SV, 41 Ks)

ND vs. AIR FORCE (6-0)

Date	Site	Result	Score
3/16/90	Kingdome	W	4-3
3/17/90	Kingdome	W	4-3
3/15/91	Kingdome	W	9-6
2/29/92	Millington, TN	W	12-4
2/24/96	Mill., TN (7)	W	12-8
2/24/00	Millington, TN	W	6-0

Series Scoring	Runs	Avg.
Notre Dame	47	7.8
Air Force	24	4.0

ND-AFA SERIES NOTES – The previous three meetings between the Irish and Falcons also came at the Service Academies Classic, with Notre Dame winning in 1992 (12-4; AFA coached by current ND head coach Paul Mainieri), in 1996 (12-8) and most recently in 2000 (6-0) ... RHP Scott Cavey (6 IP, H, 6 Ks, BB, 20 BF) and catcher Paul O'Toole (3 RBI) led the way in the 2000 season-opening win over Air Force.

Memphis Tigers

Series: Notre Dame Leads 10-8

Location: Memphis, Tennessee

Enrollment: 20,668

Colors: Royal Blue and Gray

Field: Nat Buring Stadium

Conference: Conference USA

2005 Record: 13-42 (5-25 C-USA/12th)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 16/14

Head Coach: Daron Schoenrock (TN Tech '84)

Overall Record: 38-94 (3 years)

Record at Memphis: 13-42 (1 year)

Assistants: Michael Federico, Jerry Zulli

Baseball SID: Jason Redd

E-Mail: jredd@memphis.edu

SID Phone/Fax: (901) 678-4640/4134

Website: www.gotigersgo.com

Top Returners (2005 Stats):

Adam Amar, 1B, Jr. (.301, 7 HR, 53 RBI)

Drew Jaudon, RHP, Sr. (3.27, 3-3, 2 SV, 18 Ks)

Jordan Tolliver, IF, Sr. (.286, 3 HR, 21 RBI)

K.C. Chalmers, OF, So. (.269, 2 HR, 21 RBI)

Robbie Goss, 3B/1B, Sr. (.251, 2 HR, 20 RBI)

Chris South, RHP, So. (5.22, 2-2, 16 Ks)

ND vs. MEMPHIS (10-8)

In Mainieri Era: Tied 1-1

At ND: Memphis leads 2-0

At Memphis: ND leads 9-5

Neutral Sites: Tied 1-1

One-Run Wins: ND 3, Memphis 2

Date	Site	Result	Score
4/21/54	Memphis	W	9-1
3/31/59	Memphis	W	6-1
4/19/60	Memphis	W	9-4
3/22/65	Memphis	W	6-5
3/23/65	Memphis	L	1-6
3/24/65	Memphis	L	3-4
3/19/71	Memphis	W	13-10
3/19/71	Memphis	W	2-1
3/20/71	Memphis	W	5-0
3/28/72	Memphis	W	5-0
3/15/77	ND	L	0-12
3/15/77	ND	L	6-11
3/20/81	Memphis	L	5-6
3/20/81	Memphis	L	6-8
3/21/81	Memphis	L	2-12
3/1/92	Mill., TN (7)	W	10-0
2/25/96	Millington, TN	L	2-4
2/27/00	Memphis	W	4-3

Series Scoring	Runs	Avg.
Notre Dame	94	5.2
Memphis	88	4.9

ND Most Runs (Game): 13 (1971)

ND Widest Margin: 10-0 (1992)

Memphis Most Runs: 12 (1977, 1981)

Memphis Widest Margin: 12-0 (1977)

High-Scoring Game: 23 (ND 13-10; 1971)

Low-Scoring Game: 3 (ND 2-1; 1971)

ND Win Streak: 4 (1954-65; 1971-72)

Memphis Win Streak: 5 (1977-81)

Shutouts By: ND 3, Memphis 1

ND-MEMPHIS SERIES NOTES – The Irish and Tigers are set to meet for the first time since a 2000 Service Academies Classic game, won by the Irish (4-3; played at Memphis due to rain delays) ... Brian Stavisky hit the game-tying home run (6th inning) while Alec Porzel's solo shot in the 8th held up as the game-winning hit in the 2000 game ... Memphis owned an early 2-0 lead before four ND relievers held the fort over the final seven innings ... John Corbin recorded the final five outs for the win (4 Ks, BB, H) ... Drew Duff – a native of Sevierville, Tenn. – allowed the pair of early runs, as the ND starter (2 IP, 3 H, 3 BB, 2 Ks) ... J.P. Gagne, Matt Laird, LHP Mike Naumann and Corbin then held the Tigers to one run the rest of the way ... Matt Nussbaum played a key role in the win, with a single, run scored and sacrifice fly.

TIGERS NOTES (www.gotigersgo.com) – Memphis opened its season on Feb. 21 by posting a 2-0 win at Alabama, the Tide's first shutout loss at home since 1995 ... the Tigers scored twice in the 1st inning, on a two-out single by Robbie Goss ... Memphis starter Marcus Davis, a transfer from Virginia Commonwealth, worked 4.2 shutout innings ... LHP Dusty Davis entered the game in the 5th with two runners in scoring position and served up a rally-ending flyout, en route to picking up the win (3.1 IP, BB, K) ... Phillip Utley retired the side in the 9th for the save(2 Ks) ... Memphis held Alabama to five hits while Kyle Norrid (3-for-4) accounted for nearly half of the seven Tigers hits.

FRIEND OR FOE, PART III.? – Notre Dame sophomore RHP **Joey Williamson** was a 2005 summer-league teammate of four Memphis players – senior IF **Jordan Tolliver**, junior OF/RHP **Josh Irvin**, junior 1B **Adam Amar** and senior RHP **Marcus Davis** – with the Luray (Va.) Wranglers of the Valley League.

TENNESSEE NATIVES – The Notre Dame baseball programs has featured more than 800 all-time monogram winners hailing from 44 states, including five Tennessee natives: catcher and Tillahoma native Michael Campbell (who played for the program's third and fourth teams, in 1895 and '96); a pair of RHPs from Memphis in Hugh Mageveney ('92-'24; 20-5 career record and Walt Mahannah ('46-'49; 18-8); 2B Jack Moran (Memphis/Christian Brothers HS; '82-'85) and recent RHP Drew Duff (Sevierville HS).

SCHEDULE CHANGES – There have been several minor changes to the Notre Dame 2006 baseball schedule, since its initial release on Dec. 10:

- Two home games have shifted their start times (April 22 vs. Rutgers at 3:05; April 25 vs. Purdue at 7:05) while the April 13 doubleheader vs. St. John's will be telecast live by CSTV (other TV broadcasts are TBA).

- The BIG EAST also has announced that the eight-team conference tournament will be held in the new venue of Bright House Networks Field (Clearwater, Fla.), the Philadelphia Phillies spring-training site and home field for their single-A affiliate.

- Also of note is the fact that South Bend/Notre Dame now observes Eastern time (including DST) all year-round ... that's a switch from past years when South Bend residents never changed their clocks (and were on EST year-round) ... thus, South Bend no longer will be on the equivalent of Central time from April through October, as it has been in recent years (South Bend's time zone now will be aligned with the east coast all 12 months).

SCOUTING THE SOONERS – Oklahoma has been on the fringe of the national top-25 and is off to a 7-2 start, with wins over Texas State (7-6), Texas-Pan American (16-3), Western Illinois (13-4, 14-0, 9-1), Lamar (11-4) and #19 Long Beach State (2-1), plus losses to Lamar (9-21) and #5 Rice (2-8) ... OU is batting .354 with 9.2 runs per game, 3 home runs, 24 doubles and 17 stolen bases ... top hitters include: senior CF Chuckie Caulfield (.421, 10 RBI, 3B, 4 2B, 10 R, 5 SB), sophomore catcher Jackson Williams (.412, 6 RBI, 2 2B, 4 R, 2 SB) and senior 3B Ryan Rohlinger (.407, 5 RBI, HR, 3 2B, 11 R, 2 SB) ... the OU pitchers own a 5.03 staff ERA, with 58 Ks, 22 walks and 86 hits allowed (.289) in 77 innings ... OU's impressive .985 fielding pct. includes just five errors and eight double plays ... senior RHP P.J. Sandoval (3.86, 2-1, 8 Ks, 5 BB, 13 H/.260, 14 IP) is the likely starter vs. the Irish.

FRIEND OR FOE, PART IV.? – Three current ND seniors were 2005 summer teammates of players on the Oklahoma team ... LF/DH **Matt Bransfield** and RF/C **Cody Rizzo** played in the Alaska League alongside Oklahoma LHP **Kevin Duke** (on the Mat-Su Miners) ... ND infielder **Eddie Smith** and Sooners sophomore OF **Joe Dunigan** played together on the DuPage Dragons ... ND junior RHP **Jeff Manship** is a former teammate of OU sophomore RHP **Ryan Mottern** (with the Ohio Thunder and Team Texas).

PLAYING THE FIELD – Oklahoma's rival Big 12 team Oklahoma State is one of just a handful of teams from the nation's top conferences that Notre Dame never has faced (as are Kansas, also of the Big 12, and ACC team Maryland) ... ND baseball has faced 285 opponents in its 115-year history, including 177 of 283 teams (63%) that played on the Div. I level in 2005 (many of the teams ND has not faced are from the smaller conferences) ... other teams of note that ND has yet to face include emerging programs such as the College of Charleston, Virginia Commonwealth, Coastal Carolina, Louisiana-Lafayette, East Carolina and Southern Mississippi – plus west-coast teams such as Cal Poly, San Jose State, UNLV and Utah.

SEASON-OPENING SITES

- This marks the 73rd season – and 16th straight, since the 1990 team played a rare Feb. 5 home game (vs. Goshen) to open that season – that Notre Dame has opened its season away from home.
- Tennessee and Florida (7) are tied for being the site of the the second-most season-opening road games in the history of the Notre Dame baseball program, with six previous Irish teams also opening in the volunteer state (13 ND teams have opened in other Indiana cities).
- The Irish are opening their season at USA Baseball Stadium for the third time (also 1992 and 2000), with only two fields serving as the site of more ND season openers (6 at Indiana University, 4 at Purdue; also 3 at Georgia Tech).
- ND teams also have opened their seasons in the state of Tennessee at the Memphis Naval Air Station (in '53), at Memphis State twice (in 1954 and '65), and at the University of Tennessee (in '66).
- Other states that have been the site of multiple ND season openers include: Georgia (6), Kentucky, Louisiana and Texas (5 each), California (4), Arizona, Arkansas, Illinois, Ohio and Oklahoma (3 each), Mississippi (2), and Alabama, Michigan, Missouri and North Carolina.
- Other sites that have seen two ND season openers include: St. Mary's (Ky.), Ft. Benning (Ga.), Cincinnati, Arkansas State, Rollins, New Orleans, Delta State, Arizona State, Duke and Central Florida ... the other 33 sites for ND season openers: Rose Poly (1918), Western Kentucky, Ouachita (Ark.) College, Univ. of Chicago, Western Michigan, Illinois, Camp Atterbury (Ind.), Washington Univ., Illinois Wesleyan, Ohio State, Camp Breckinridge (Ky.), Florida A&M, Georgia, Evansville, California, Keesler Air Force Base (Miss.), St. Mary's (Texas), Miami, Murray State, Tulsa, Texas Wesleyan, Alabama, Oklahoma, Oral Roberts, St. Edward's, TCU, Trinity, Phoenix, Tulane, Cal State Fullerton, Long Beach State, Mississippi State and USC.

Oklahoma Sooners

Series: Oklahoma Leads 1-0
Location: Norman, Oklahoma
Enrollment: 31,400
Colors: Crimson and Cream
Field: L. Dale Mitchell Park
Conference: Big 12
2005 Record: 35-26
Conference Record/Finish: 14-13/5th
Postseason: 2-2 at NCAA Oxford Regional
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 19/5
Coach: Sunny Golloway (Okla. Christian '84)
Overall Record: 347-162 (9 years)
Record at Oklahoma: 12-6 (1 year)
Assistants: Fred Corral, Tim Tadlock
Baseball SID: Craig Moran
E-Mail: cmoran@ou.edu
SID Phone/Fax: (405) 325-8231/7623
Website: www.soonersports.com

Top Returners (2005 Stats)

Ryan Rohlinger, IF, Sr. (.345, 11 HR, 53 RBI)
 Kody Kaiser, OF, So. (.305, 10 HR, 34 RBI)
 Will Savage, RHP, Sr. (3.98, 9-4, 6 SV, 53 Ks)
 Chuckie Caulfield, OF, Sr. (.315, 4 HR, 19 RBI)
 Freddy Rodriguez, IF, Sr. (.311, 0 HR, 30 RBI)
 Daniel McCutcheon, RHP, Sr. (4.18, 4-5, 2 SV, 84 Ks)
 Kevin Smith, IF, Sr. (.294, 6 HR, 42 RBI)
 Russell Raley, IF, Sr. (.302, 2 HR, 41 RBI)

ND vs. OKLAHOMA (0-1)

Date	Site	Result	Score
3/15/82	OU	L	3-15

VERSUS THE BIG 12

- Notre Dame owns a 19-15-1 (.557) all-time record vs. teams that currently comprise the Big 12 Conference (3-6 in the Paul Mainieri era), having faced all of the current Big 12 teams that play baseball with the exception of Oklahoma State and Kansas ... the most-common Big 12 teams faced by ND have included Nebraska (10-2 series edge for the Irish), Texas (3-3) and Baylor (2-3), plus a handful of games vs. Texas Tech (1-0), Missouri (1-1), Texas A&M (1-2), Oklahoma (0-1) and Kansas State (0-2) ... ND went 1-1-1 vs. Big 12 team Iowa State (the Cyclones recently dropped their baseball program).
- The Mainieri-era games (3-6) vs. Big 12 teams include: a 6-1 win over Texas Tech at the 2004 Round Rock (TX) Classic; splits with Nebraska (5-3 at 1995 Irish Baseball Classic in San Antonio; 1-7 at '03 DQ Metrodome Classic) and Missouri (1-13 at '99 UNO Classic; 7-6 at '02 UNO Classic); a 10-6 loss to Texas in Mainieri's first game at ND (at CS Fullerton); a 13-5 loss to Texas A&M at the '05 Round Rock Classic; and a pair of losses to Baylor in San Antonio at the 1995 IBC (1-2; 4-10).

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 QUICK FACTS

Location Notre Dame, IN 46556
 Founded 1842
 First Season of Baseball 1892
 Undergraduate Enrollment 8,311

Nickname Fighting Irish
 Colors Gold and Blue
 Conference BIG EAST
 Athletic Director Kevin White

Stadium (cap.) Eck Stadium (2,500)
 Surface, Dim. Grass, 331-401--331

Head Coach Paul Mainieri (Fla. Int'l '80)
 Career Record 819-475-3 (23 seasons)
 Record at ND 488-196-2 (11 seasons)

Asst. Coach Terry Rooney (Radford '96)
 Asst. Coach Cliff Godwin (ECU '01)
 Vol. Asst. John Gumpf (CS San Bernadino '97)

Letterwinners Ret./Lost 21/7
 Position Starters Ret./Lost 8/1
 Letterwinning Pitchers Ret./Lost 10/5
 Total Returners 21 (13 pos./10 pitchers)
 Newcomers 11

2005 Record 38-24-1
 2004 BIG EAST Record/Finish .. 14-9-1/3rd
 Postseason 2-2 NCAA Gainesville Reg.

Baseball SID Contact Pete LaFleur
 Sports Information Office... (574) 631-7516
 LaFleur's E-mail lafleur.4@nd.edu
 Sports Information Fax (574) 631-7941
 Notre Dame Sports Hotline (574) 631-3000
 Website www.und.com

MILESTONE MARKERS – The following individuals are approaching statistical milestones in their Notre Dame careers:

Jeff Samardzija 98 strikeouts
 Cody Rizzo 147 hits, 91 RBI
 Tom Thornton 146 strikeouts
 Greg Lopez 94 RBI, 91 runs
 Steve Andres ... 92 runs, 86 RBI, 84 walks
 Paul Mainieri 488 wins (at ND)
 Matt Bransfield 84 RBI
 Alex Nettey 83 hits

CURRENT NOTRE DAME PLAYERS' OPENING-WEEK CAREER STATS

<i>Player (Year)</i>	<i>H-AB</i>	<i>RBI</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>SLUG</i>	<i>HR-3B-2B</i>	<i>BB/K</i>	<i>SB</i>	<i>AVG</i>
Alex Nettey ('03-'05)	4-7	1	2	.714	0-0-1	0/0	1-2	.571
Cody Rizzo ('03-'05)	11-26	8	4	.577	1-0-1	4/7	1-1	.423
Matt Bransfield ('03-'05)	2-5	0	1	.400	0-0-0	0/2	0-0	.400
Ross Brezovsky ('05)	6-16	5	2	.563	0-0-3	1/4	0-0	.375
Greg Lopez ('03-'05)	8-22	3	5	.364	0-0-0	0/3	1-2	.364
Craig Cooper ('03-'05)	8-26	3	3	.346	0-0-1	4/6	4-6	.308
Brett Lilley ('05)	4-13	0	3	.308	0-0-0	1/1	0-1	.308
Steve Andres ('03-'05)	8-27	4	12	.630	2-1-1	4/7	0-1	.296
Danny Dressman ('04-'05)	5-22	7	4	.227	0-0-0	2/2	0-0	.227
Eddie Smith ('05)	1-5	0	1	.200	0-0-0	0/0	0-0	.200
Sean Gaston ('04-'05)	0-9	2	3	.000	0-0-0	1/1	0-0	.000

<i>Pitcher (Year)</i>	<i>R/ER</i>	<i>IP</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>BB</i>	<i>H-AB</i>	<i>AVG</i>	<i>WP/HB</i>	<i>W-L</i>	<i>ERA</i>
Jess Stewart ('05)	1/0	5.0	3	3	5-20	.250	0/0	0-0	0.00
Joey Williamson ('05)	0/0	3.0	2	2	2-12	.167	1/0	0-0	0.00
Mike Dury ('04-'05)	0/0	0.1	0	0	1-2	.500	0/0	0-0	0.00
Jeff Samardzija ('04-'05)	1/1	5.0	1	3	4-17	.235	0/2	1-0	1.80
David Gruener ('05)	2/1	4.0	3	1	5-17	.294	0/0	0-0	2.50
Tom Thornton ('03-'05)	4/3	10.1	7	6	9-39	.231	0/1	1-0	2.61
Wade Korpi ('05)	3/2	5.1	3	5	7-17	.412	0/1	0-0	3.38

TOP OPENING-WEEK HITTERS IN MAINIERI ERA (SINCE '95; MIN. 8 AB)

<i>Player (Year)</i>	<i>H-AB</i>	<i>RBI</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>SLUG</i>	<i>HR-3B-2B</i>	<i>BB/K</i>	<i>SB</i>	<i>AVG</i>
Brian Stavisky ('01)	9-13	3	3	1.154	0-2-2	3/2	1-1	.692
Cody Rizzo ('03)	5-8	5	3	1.125	1-0-1	0/1	0-0	.625
Andrew Bushey ('02)	6-9	3	1	1.111	1-0-1	0/2	0-1	.667
Rowan Richards ('95)	6-11	5	5	.909	1-0-1	2/2	1-2	.545
Steve Sollmann ('01)	7-13	2	1	.615	0-0-1	1/3	2-3	.538
Mike Amrhein ('97)	7-13	3	3	.615	0-0-1	1/1	0-0	.538
Mike Amrhein ('95)	7-13	2	2	.692	0-0-2	1/3	0-0	.538
Jeff Wagner ('97)	7-14	0	2	.571	0-0-0	0/2	0-0	.500
Ryan Topham ('95)	6-13	8	4	1.154	1-1-4	2/4	0-0	.462
Paul O'Toole ('00)	5-11	5	1	.636	0-1-0	0/1	0-0	.455
Craig DeSensi ('95)	5-11	1	4	.545	0-0-1	2/1	0-0	.455
Jeff Wagner ('98)	5-11	4	3	.727	1-0-0	3/1	0-0	.455

TOP OPENING-WEEK STARTERS: MURPHY/MAINIERI ERA (SINCE '88; MIN. 3 IP)

<i>Pitcher (Year)</i>	<i>R/ER</i>	<i>IP</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>BB</i>	<i>H-AB</i>	<i>AVG</i>	<i>W-L</i>	<i>ERA</i>
Chris Michalak (Jr., '92 v. Army, @Mill.)	1/0	9.0	2	1	4		1-0	0.00
Scott Cavey (Sr., '00 vs. AFA, @Mill.)	0/0	6.0	6	1	1-19	.053	1-0	0.00
Jess Stewart (So., '05 at UCF)	1/0	5.1	1	3	5-20	.250	1-0	0.00
Alex Shilliday (So., '98 vs. FSU, @Orl.)	0/0	5.0	6	4	1-16	.063	1-0	0.00
Matt Buchmeier (Jr., '01 at Miss. St.)	0/0	4.0	1	1	4-20	.250	0-0	0.00
Chris McKeown (Jr., '99 v. JMU, @FIU)	0/0	4.0	4	2	4-20	.250	0-0	0.00
Danny Tamayo (Fr., '98 v. Duke, @Orl.)	0/0	4.0	0	1	1-10	.100	0-0	0.00
Chris McKeown (So., '98 vs. FSU)	0/0	3.0	3	1	2-9	.222	0-0	0.00
David Sinnes (So., '91 vs. Dart., @Phoe.)	2/0	3.0	4	3	2		0-0	0.00
Alan Walania (Fr., '90 vs. Goshen)	0/0	3.0	2	0	1		0-0	0.00
Tom Thornton (So., '04 at USC)	1/1	6.0	4	2	4-19	.211	1-0	1.50
Aaron Heilman (Sr., '01 at Miss. St.)	5/1	6.0	6	2	4-24	.167	1-0	1.50
Jeff Samardzija (So., '05 vs. FAMU, @UCF)	1/1	5.0	1	3	4-17	.235	1-0	1.80
Tom Thornton (Jr., '05 at UCF)	1/1	5.0	3	3	5-20	.250	0-0	1.80
Peter Ogilvie (Sr., '03 at ASU)	5/1	5.0	2	2	4-19	.211	0-1	1.80
Chris Niesel (Fr., '02 vs. SIU, @UNO)	1/1	5.0	10	0	5-21	.238	0-0	1.80
Tom Price (Sr., '94, at Tulane)	2/2	9.0	5	0	8		1-0	2.00
Chris McKeown (Fr., '97 at LBSU)	1/1	4.0	5	3	2-11	.182	0-0	2.25
Alex Shilliday (Jr., '99 vs. JMU, @FIU)	3/2	7.0	8	1	5-24	.208	1-0	2.57
Tim Kraus (Sr., '95 vs. Pepperdine)	1/1	3.1	2	2	4-13	.308	1-0	2.70

Note: Michalak also won in relief vs. Dartmouth in the opening week of the 1991 season (5.1 shutout IP, 4 Ks, BB, 2 H) and won the 1993 season opener at Arizona State (9 IP, 8 H, 4 R, 3 BB, 4 Ks)

OPENING-DAY HOME RUNS – Current senior LF/DH **Steve Andres** is one of 12 Notre Dame players in the Pat Murphy/Paul Mainieri era (since '89) to hit a home run on opening day, doing so in 2005 vs. Florida A&M (at UCF) ... former standout Matt Edwards also homered in that game, one of two openers since '89 in which the Irish have hit multiple HRs (Craig DeSensi, Paul Failla and Eric Danapilis all homered in the 1993 opener, a 11-4 win at Arizona State) ... ND players have homered in each of the past four season openers – also Matt Bok in 2002 (vs. Missouri, at UNO), Kris Billmaier in 2003 (vs. Dayton, at ASU) and Edwards in 2004 (vs. San Diego State, at USC) ... Edwards is the only player from the Murphy/Mainieri era to hit multiple opening-day HRs in his ND career ... the program's 12 opening-day HRs in the past 17 seasons have come from five seniors, five juniors and two sophomores (none since '93, when DeSensi and Failla did it) ... the 12 have included three first basemen (Edwards twice and Leatherman), plus two catchers, two DHs and two shortstops (also a LF, CF and RF):

Opening-Day Home Runs in the Murphy/Mainieri Era (since 1989)

Ed Lund (Jr., C, '89) – at Trinity (12-2)
 Craig DeSensi (So., DH, '93) – at Arizona State (11-4)
 Paul Failla (So., SS, '93) – at Arizona State (11-4)
 Eric Danapilis (Sr., CF, '93) – at Arizona State (11-4)
 Bob Lisanti (Sr., C, '96) – at Georgia Tech (4-12)
 Dan Leatherman (Jr., 1B, '98) – vs. Florida State, in Orlando (10-1)
 Brant Ust (Jr., SS, '99) – vs. James Madison, at FIU (8-4)
 Matt Bok (Sr., DH, '02) – vs. Missouri, @UNO (7-6)
 Kris Billmaier (Sr., RF, '03) – vs. Dayton, @ASU (10-9)
 Matt Edwards (Jr., 1B, '04) – vs. San Diego State, @USC (7-1)
Steve Andres (Jr., LF, '05) – vs. Florida A&M, @UCF (18-3)
 Matt Edwards (Sr., 1B, '05) – vs. Florida A&M, @UCF (18-3)

OPENING-WEEK LONG BALLS – Notre Dame players combined to hit 22 opening-week home runs during the first 11 seasons under head coach Paul Mainieri ('95-'05) ... four Mainieri-era players have hit multiple opening-week HRs: infielder Brant Ust (2; '98 and '99), RF Kris Billmaier (3, in '03), 1B Matt Edwards (2; '04, '05) and current senior LF/DH **Steve Andres** (2; '03, '05) ... Billmaier is the only ND player from the Mainieri era with a multi-HR game during opening week (vs. Newman, at ASU) ... Andres (at Arizona State) is one of four Mainieri-era players to homer during opening week of their freshman season, as is Ed Golom (as a pinch-hitter, at FIU in '99), OF Brian Stavisky (at Memphis, in '00) and current senior RF **Cody Rizzo** (in the second '03 game at ASU) ... the others include just two sophomores, seven juniors and nine seniors ... the position breakdown of the opening-week HR hitters in the Mainieri era is as follows: RF (6), 1B (3), SS (3), C (3), CF (2), DH (2), 3B (1), PH (1) and LF (1).

ND Players Opening-Week Home Runs in the Mainieri Era (since 1995)

Rowan Richards (Jr., CF, '95) – game 3 vs. Pepperdine, in Anaheim (14-5)
 Ryan Topham (Jr., RF, '95) – game 3 vs. Pepperdine, in Anaheim (14-5)
 Bob Lisanti (Sr., C, '96) – game 1 at Georgia Tech (4-12)
 Justin Scholl (Sr., RF, '97) – game 2 vs. USC, at Long Beach (4-14)
 Dan Leatherman (Sr., 1B, '98) – game 1 vs. Florida State, in Orlando (10-1)
 Brant Ust (So., 3B, '98) – game 2 vs. N.C. State, in Orlando (8-10)
 Jeff Wagner (Jr., C, '98) – game 2 vs. N.C. State, in Orlando (8-10)
 Brant Ust (Jr., SS, '99) – game 1 vs. JMU, at FIU (8-4)
 Ed Golom (Fr., PH, '99) – game 2 at FIU (1-14)
 Alec Porzel (Jr., SS, '00) – game 3 at Memphis (4-3)
 Brian Stavisky (Fr., RF, '00) – game 3 at Memphis (4-3)
 Matt Bok (Sr., DH, '02) – game 1 vs. Missouri, @UNO (7-6)
 Andrew Bushey (Sr., C/3B, '02) – game 2 at New Orleans (7-8)
 Kris Billmaier (Sr., RF, '03) – game 1 vs. Dayton, @ASU (10-9)
 Kris Billmaier (Sr., RF, '03) – 2 HRs in game 2 vs. Newman, @ASU (15-5)
Steve Andres (Fr., DH, '03) – game 3 at Arizona State (3-16)
 Matt Macri (So., SS, '03) – game 4 at Arizona State (8-14)
Cody Rizzo (Fr., CF, '03) – game 4 at Arizona State (8-14)
 Matt Edwards (Jr., 1B, '04) – game 1 vs. San Diego State, @USC (7-1)
Steve Andres (Jr., LF, '05) – game 1 vs. Florida A&M, at UCF (18-3)
 Matt Edwards (Sr., 1B, '05) – game 1 vs. Florida A&M, at UCF (18-3)

**NOTRE DAME BASEBALL
 2006 ROSTER BREAKDOWN**

Position Starters Returning (Avg/HR/RBI)

1B – Craig Cooper (Sr.; .325/7/58; 14 SB)
 3B – Brett Lilley* (So.; .355/0/28; 30 HBP)
 SS – Greg Lopez (Sr.; .274/2/34; 7 SAC)
 C – Sean Gaston* (Jr.; .293/1/28; 27 R)
 RF – Cody Rizzo (Sr.; .252/6/24; 17 SB)
 LF – Matt Bransfield (Sr.; .313/0/16; 6 2B)
 CF – Alex Nettey (Sr.; .288/2/24; 44 R)
 2B – Ross Brezovsky* (So.; .261/2/20; 35 R)
 DH/LF – Steve Andres* (Sr.; .232/5/25; 21 BB)

Position Starter Lost (Avg/HR/RBI)

1B – Matt Edwards (.353/14/68; 21 2B, 46 BB)

* Notes: stats for '05 season ... asterisks indicate lefthanded hitters ... no other position players lost from the 2005 team that had more than 5 at-bats ... Cooper started in the outfield during the 2003-05 seasons ... Bransfield was injured for part of '05 and previously has been a DH and reserve catcher with the Irish.

Top Returning Pitchers ('05 stats)

Tom Thornton* (Sr.; 4.69 ERA, 6-6, 40 Ks)
 Jeff Samardzija (Jr.; 3.89 ERA, 8-1, 56 Ks)
 Jeff Manship (Jr.; 3.97 ERA, 2-1, SV, 20 Ks)
 Mike Dury* (Jr.; 1.38 ERA, 1-0, 2 SV, 17 Ks)
 Wade Korpi* (So.; 5.47 ERA, 4-3, 32 Ks)

Top Pitcher Lost ('05 stats)

Ryan Doherty (3.79 ERA, 1-3, 7 SV, 44 Ks)

* Note: asterisks indicate LHPs

Key Freshmen (stats for 2005)

Kyle Weiland (RHP; Albuquerque, NM)
 First team all-state
 (5.20 ERA, 4-1, 2 SV, 53 Ks, 19 BB, 35 IP)
 David Phelps (RHP; Hazelwood, MO)
 First team all-state
 (1.56 ERA, 6-2, 88 Ks, 18 BB, 25 H, 54 IP)
 Jeremy Barnes (RHP/IF; Garland, TX)
 All-state shortstop
 (.430, 4 HR ... team-record 1.31 ERA in '04)
 Sam Elam (LHP; Mesquite, TX)
 Led team to regional championship
 (2.50 ERA, 9-3, 72 Ks, 35 IP)
 Eddy Mendiola (3B/C; Miami, FL)
 All-country honors
 (.390, 3 HR, 6 2B, 14 RBI, 20 BB, 14 SB)

FAR & WIDE – Notre Dame's nine position player starters hail from seven states, including two outfielders from **California** (senior LF/DH Steve Andres and RF Cody Rizzo) and two leftside infielders from **Ohio** (senior SS Greg Lopez and sophomore 3B Brett Lilley), plus one each from **New York** (senior 1B Craig Cooper), **Colorado** (senior LF/DH Matt Bransfield), **Indiana** (junior C Sean Gaston), Florida (sophomore 3B Ross Brezovsky) and **Illinois** (senior CF Alex Nettey)

STATE ROLL CALL – The Notre Dame list of all-time monogram winners includes players from 44 home states ... pitchers Brandon Vilorio (Wailuku, Hawaii) in 2000 and Cody Wilkins (Hudson, N.C.) in '04 became the first players from their respective states ever to monogram with the Irish baseball program ... the only states that have not produced ND baseball letterwinners include Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Vermont ... the 12-year Paul Mainieri era has featured players from 36 states, including 15 states on the 2006 roster (see list below):

- Florida (4)** – Ross Brezovsky (Naples), Wade Korpi (Lake Worth), Eddy Mendiola (Miami), Joey Williamson (Lantana)
- Indiana (4)** – Mike Dury (Indianapolis), Sean Gaston (Brownsburg), Jeff Samardzija (Valparaiso), John Seabaugh (Granger)
- Texas (4)** – Jeremy Barnes (Garland), Sam elam (Mesquite), Tony Langford (Fort Worth), Jeff Manship (San Antonio)
- California (3)** – Steve Andres (Napa), Danny Dressman (San Jose), Cody Rizzo (Temecula)
- Illinois (3)** – Brett Graffy (Homer Glen), Mike Many (Naperville), Alex Nettey (Dolton)
- Michigan (2)** – Dan Kapala (Royal Oak), Evan Sharpley (Marshall)
- New York (2)** – Ryan Connolly (Binghamton), Craig Cooper (Plainview)
- Ohio (2)** – Brett Lilley (North Canton), Greg Lopez (Upper Arlington)
- Washington (2)** – David Gruener (Gig Harbor), Eddie Smith (Olympia)
- Colorado (1)** – Matt Bransfield (Englewood)
- Massachusetts (1)** – Tom Thornton (Middleboro)
- Missouri (1)** – David Phelps (Hazeltown)
- New Jersey (1)** – Chris Soriano (Randolph)
- New Mexico (1)** – Kyle Weiland (Albuquerque)
- Virginia (1)** – Jess Stewart (Manassas)

RECENT OPENING-DAY STARTERS

Pitcher (Year)	R/ER	IP	K	BB	H	W-L	ERA
Alex Shilliday (So.; '98, FSU @Orl., 10-1)	0/0	5.0	6	4	1	W	0.00
Alex Shilliday (Jr.; '99, JMU @FIU, 8-4)	3/2	7.0	8	1	5	W	2.57
Scott Cavey (Sr.; '00, AFA @Mill., 6-0)	0/0	6.0	6	1	1	W	0.00
Danny Tamayo (Sr.; '01 UNO @Miss. St., 6-7)	3/2	5.0	3	0	6	L	3.60
Peter Ogilvie (Jr.; '02, Mo. @UNO, 7-6/10)	4/3	3.0	3	1	6	–	9.00
Chris Niesel (So.; '03, Dayton @ASU, 10-9)	4/4	5.0	1	2	6	–	7.20
Chris Niesel (Jr.; '04, SDSU @USC, 7-1)	1/1	5.2	0	1	3	W	1.59
Jeff Samardzija (So.; '05, FAMU @ UCF, 18-3)	1/1	5.0	1	3	4	W	1.80

MAINIERI ERA OPENING-WEEK TEAM STATISTICS

Yr. (15-19)	Avg. (H-AB)	Runs (R/gm)	TB (HR-3B-2B/Slug)	On-Base	SB	BB/K
1995 (1-2)	.352 (38-108)	23 (7.7)	60 (2-3-10/.556)	.450	2-4	18/25
1996 (0-2)	.246 (17-69)	8 (4.0)	28 (1-0-8/.406)	.316	1-2	4/22
1997 (0-3)	.297 (33-111)	17 (5.7)	46 (1-2-6/.414)	.350	1-1	8/25
1998 (1-2)	.260 (27-104)	19 (6.3)	39 (3-1-1/.375)	.353	2-3	14/21
1999 (1-3)	.197 (25-127)	11 (2.8)	38 (2-0-7/.299)	.270	4-4	10/36
2000 (2-1)	.279 (24-86)	14 (4.8)	40 (2-2-6/.465)	.304	2-2	4/16
2001 (2-1)	.302 (35-116)	17 (5.7)	46 (0-2-7/.397)	.385	6-9	13/22
2002 (1-2)	.257 (29-111)	16 (5.3)	43 (2-1-6/.387)	.415	6-10	8/15
2003 (2-2)	.367 (54-147)	36 (9.0)	86 (6-2-10/.585)	428	2-2	10/24
2004 (2-0)	.310 (18-58)	10 (5.0)	23 (1-0-2/.397)	.388	5-5	6/17
2005 (3-1)	.274 (34-124)	27 (6.8)	46 (2-0-6/.371)	.421	3-9	16/21
Mainieri Era	.288 (334-1161)	198 (5.8)	495 (21-13-67/.426)	.371	34-51	111/244

Per-Game Avg: 3.3 BB, 7.2 Ks, 1.0 SBs, 3.0 extra-base hits (0.6 HRs)

Year (15-19)	R/ER	IP	ERA	K/BB	H-AB	AVG	Slug. (HR)	WP/HB	ERA (Season)
1995 (1-2)	35/30	25.0	10.80	18/20	39-102	.382	.559 (2)	7/9	(4.53)
1996 (0-2)	21/18	16.0	10.13	11/11	26-72	.361	.556 (3)	1/2	(3.87)
1997 (0-3)	35/24	25.0	8.64	17/21	34-107	.318	.486 (3)	7/5	(4.51)
1998 (1-2)	14/11	25.0	3.96	22/14	24-90	.267	.345 (0)	2/4	(4.02)
1999 (1-3)	33/28	33.0	7.64	29/15	42-141	.298	.560 (10)	6/2	(5.15)
2000 (2-1)	8/5	22.0	2.05	23/7	19-79	.241	.354 (2)	0/1	(3.93)
2001 (2-1)	14/7	29.0	2.17	13/8	26-106	.245	.292 (0)	0/8	(3.22)
2002 (1-2)	20/19	27.2	6.18	22/9	37-112	.330	.473 (3)	2/4	(3.57)
2003 (2-2)	44/34	32.0	9.56	11/28	46-136	.338	.544 (4)	7/5	(3.35)
2004 (2-0)	2/1	16.0	0.57	18/5	9-53	.170	.208 (0)	1/2	(3.43)
2005 (3-1)	10/7	35.0	1.80	17/19	37-129	.287	.357 (1)	1/5	(4.41)
Mainieri Era	236/184	285.2	5.79	201/157	339-1127	.301	.431 (28)	34/47	(4.00)

9-Inn. Avg.: 6.3 Ks, 5.0 BB, 10.7 hits, 0.9 HRs, 1.1 wild pitches, 1.5 hit batters

Year (15-19)	Errors	Chances	Pct.	UE Runs	DPs	UER Loss	Margin	Fld. (Season)
1995 (1-2)	6	97	.938	5	0	0		.960
1996 (0-2)	4	73	.945	3	1	0		.953
1997 (0-3)	12	118	.898	11	1	1		.942
1998 (1-2)	4	121	.967	3	4	0		.962
1999 (1-3)	9	149	.940	5	0	0		.954
2000 (2-1)	3	102	.971	3	2	1		.965
2001 (2-1)	4	129	.969	7	3	1		.964
2002 (1-2)	4	127	.969	1	5	0		.961
2003 (2-2)	8	160	.950	10	3	1		.970
2004 (2-0)	1	64	.984	1	0	0		.967
2005 (3-1)	7	163	.957	3	10	0		.960
Mainieri Era	62	1,303	.955	52	29	4		.960

Per-Game Averages: 1.8 errors, 1.5 unearned runs, 0.9 double plays

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- The Notre Dame baseball team traditionally has matched its stellar play on the field with strong performances in the classroom and that continued to be the case in the 2005 fall semester – as the 32 players combined for a 3.17 team GPA during the semester.
- The NCAA's recently-released Graduation Success Rate (GSR) data also reinforced the Notre Dame baseball program's elite academic standing, as the Irish were one of 17 teams among 268 in Division I – but one of only two teams from that group that also currently are in the national top-25 polls – to compile a 100% graduation rate, during a four-year sample of classes entering from 1995-98.
- The Irish also own a 100% graduation rate (63-of-63) among four-year players throughout the tenure of head coach Paul Mainieri ('95-present), with 12 others who signed professionally prior to their senior season returning to complete or near completion of their degree requirements.
- Twenty-one of the ND baseball players posted a GPA of 3.0-plus during the 2005 fall semester, with 11 checking in at 3.4 or higher ... the ND players also have combined for an impressive 3.10 cumulative team GPA over the course of their college careers.
- Notre Dame boasts several strong Academic All-America candidates in 2006, most notably: senior LHP **Tom Thornton** (3.54 cumulative GPA; as a double major in anthropology and film-television-and-theater), sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (3.64; business), senior SS **Greg Lopez** (3.39; pre-professional studies and anthropology), senior LF/DH **Matt Bransfield** (3.36; sociology) and junior catcher **Sean Gaston** (3.36; political science and history) ... Notre Dame's unmatched Academic All-America history includes 20 honorees since 1992.
- The senior class led the way for the Irish during the 2005 fall semester, averaging a 3.54 semester GPA that included seven players above a 3.4 and all eight posting a semester GPA of 3.05 or higher.

FOUR-PEAT NO EASY FEAT – Oral Roberts (8) is the only team in the nation with a longer active streak of conference tournament titles than Notre Dame's four straight BIG EAST Tournament titles ... Rice won nine straight Western Athletic Conference automatic bids from 1997-2005 (the WAC does not sponsor a tournament and awards its bid to the regular-season champ) ... ORU and Rice are the only teams – among 30 Division I conferences – that are riding a streak of more than four consecutive conference automatic bids ... ND also owns the record for consecutive wins in BIG EAST tournament play (7, still active).

IRISH MAKE SEVENTH STRAIGHT NCAA TRIP – Notre Dame, which bounced back from a 14-14 start to the 2005 season by going 22-8-1 in the second half, made its seventh straight appearance in the NCAAs and eighth of the Paul Mainieri era (since '95) ... the Irish are part of an elite group of 12 teams that have appeared in the NCAAs every year since 1999, with the others including: recent NCAA champions Miami, LSU, Texas, Rice and Cal State Fullerton, plus Florida State, Stanford, Clemson, Tulane, East Carolina and Oral Roberts ... ND is part of an even smaller list of seven teams that have advanced to at least the NCAA Regional final every year since 2000 (six straight), with the other five teams including LSU, Miami, Rice, South Carolina, Stanford and Texas).

MANSHIP, SAMARDZIJA AMONG NATION'S TOP PROSPECTS

- *Baseball America* recently released its annual list of college baseball's top-100 prospects for the 2006 Major League baseball draft and Notre Dame was one of six teams in the nation to feature two starting pitchers among those top-100 prospects – as **Jeff Manship** is slotted at No. 75 on that list while fellow junior right-hander **Jeff Samardzija** is listed 94th ... the other teams with two starting pitchers among the top-100 prospects are UNC, Missouri, Cal Poly, Washington and San Diego.
- *BA's* annual college preview issue lists ND senior 1B **Craig Cooper** and sophomore B **Brett Lilley** on its preseason all-BIG EAST team ... *BA* also cites three ND players – Lilley, SS **Greg Lopez** and junior catcher **Sean Gaston** – as the BIG EAST's best defensive players at their respective positions while tabbing Lilley as the BIG EAST batter with the "best strike-zone discipline," Samardzija as the BIG EAST's best athlete, Manship as the league's pitcher with the best breaking ball and senior lefthander **Tom Thornton** as the BIG EAST pitcher with the best control.
- *BA's* prospect rankings list Manship fourth and Samardzija sixth among the BIG EAST's top prospects while Cooper is listed 44th among the nation's top senior prospects.

LIDGE NAMED TO WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC TEAM – Former Notre Dame ace pitcher and current Houston Astros all-star closer **Brad Lidge** ('96-'98) is one of 16 college baseball products who have been named to the United States 30-man roster for the upcoming World Baseball Classic, a 16-nation tournament that will held from March 3-20 at venues in Japan, Puerto Rico and the United States ... former Notre Dame standout and current Arizona Diamondbacks infielder **Craig Counsell** ('92) was not named to the team but is one of 22 players who remain on the provisional roster – with the official U.S. 30-man roster not to be submitted to WBC organizers until March 2 ... all 10 of the relief pitchers named to the team are former college baseball players, as is Astros starting pitcher Roger Clemens (Texas) and five position players.

**NCAA RECORD BOOK
CAREER HIT-BY-PITCH**

1. 92 Tony Hurtado (San Fran.; '97-'00)
221 GP (2.40 gms/HBP)
2. 81 Gabe Somarriba (FL Atlantic; '99-'02)
226 GP (2.79 gms/HBP)
3. 74 Jeff Ontiveros (Texas; 1999-2002)
258 GP (3.49 gms/HBP)
4. 70* **Cody Rizzo (Notre Dame; '03-)**
170 GP (2.43 gms/HBP)

* At his career average pace, Rizzo would need to play in 56 more games to break the NCAA career HBP record

**NCAA RECORD BOOK
PLAYER SEASON HIT-BY-PITCH**

1. 33 Andrew Slater (Richmond, '97)
2. 32 Gary Morris (Elon, '05)
- 32 Steve Dembrowski (F. Dickinson, '79)
4. 30 **Brett Lilley (Notre Dame, '05)**
5. 29 Ryder Mathias (Wake Forest, '05)
- 29 Chris Nelson (Southern Utah, '02)
- 29 Jonah Martin (Arizona State, '00)
- 29 Corky Miller (Nevada, '98)
10. 28 **Cody Rizzo (Notre Dame, '03)**

** only teammates in top-10??

**NCAA RECORD BOOK
TEAM SEASON HIT-BY-PITCH**

Team	Yr.	Gms	HBP (per gm)
1. Notre Dame	'05	63	130 (2.06)
2. Nevada	'97	60	125 (2.08)
3. Long Beach St.	'98	67	124 (1.85)
Coll. Charleston	'04	63	122 (1.94)
5. Cal St. Fullerton	'03	66	117 (1.77)
6. Arizona State	'00	59	115 (1.95)
Long Beach St.	'99	60	114 (1.90)
8. Notre Dame	'04	63	106 (1.68)

• The 2005 Notre Dame team owns the 2nd-best HBP per game among teams on the above list

• ND totaled 236 HBPs in the past two seasons, in 125 games (1.89 per game)

• ND (106 in '04; 130 in '05) and Long Beach State (124 in '98, 114 in '99) are the only teams to post 106-plus HBPs in multiple seasons

ND BASEBALL AND ECK STADIUM FEATURED IN EA SPORTS GAME –

The Notre Dame baseball program and Eck Stadium are prominent elements in the newly-released EA Sports home video game MVP 06 NCAA Baseball ... the revolutionary game features Notre Dame and 127 other Division I teams while Eck Stadium is one of 19 stadiums featured in the popular new release ... EA Sports – the makers of the highest-rated and top-selling baseball game of the past three years – has created a completely new baseball experience: MVP 06 NCAA® Baseball. Inspired by the spirit and emotion of collegiate athletics, MVP 06 NCAA Baseball is the first-ever college baseball game.

OUTFIELD VETERANS – Notre Dame's current four veteran outfielders – the senior trio of LF **Steve Andres**, CF **Alex Nettey** and RF **Cody Rizzo**, plus junior **Danny Dressman** – have combined to make 302 outfield starts in their Notre Dame careers ... that total does not include the 115 career outfield starts by senior Craig Cooper, who is slated to shift to first base in 2006:

Career OF Starts	LF	CF	RF	Total
Cody Rizzo	13	30	91	134
Craig Cooper	50	8	57	115
Alex Nettey	4	70	2	76
Steve Andres	59	0	0	59
Danny Dressman	4	28	1	33
Totals	130	136	151	417

BACK-TO-BACK BATTING TITLES FOR COOPER – Current senior 1B/OF **Craig Cooper** ended up batting .403 in 2005 BIG EAST games, placing him 16 points ahead of second-place finishers Doug Nelms of West Virginia and Dan McDonald of Seton Hall (both hit .386) ... Cooper also led the league in batting as a sophomore (.470, in '04) and joined former Boston College player Kevin Penwell ('95 and '96) as the only repeat batting champions in the 21-year history of BIG EAST baseball.

ONE OF THE BEST THERE EVER WAS – Craig Cooper's late-season surge in 2005 also has moved him into third place on the list for career batting average in BIG EAST games, at .420 (68-for-162) ... the only players in BIG EAST history to hit at a higher clip in conference action for their career are former Rutgers player Joe Cirone (.443, 51-for-115; '97-'00) and former Seton Hall standout Marteese Robinson (.432, 83-for-192; '85-'87) ... Cooper joins Cirone as the only players in the past 18 seasons to hit above .420 or higher in their BIG EAST career.

PLATE DISCIPLINE – Here's how Notre Dame finished up in the plate-discipline formula (walks + HBPs - strikeouts) during the 2006 season:

2005 PLATE-DISCIPLINE CHART (returning players)

Player	Walks	Hit-By-Pitch	Strikeouts	Plate Discipline (BB+HBP-Ks)
Brett Lilley	34	27	32	+29
Craig Cooper	32	14	22	+24
Cody Rizzo	22	21	35	+8
Steve Andres	21	6	20	+7
Matt Bransfield	10	7	14	+3
Alex Nettey	13	14	29	-2
Danny Dressman	5	1	12	-6
Sean Gaston	5	4	16	-7
Mike Dury	2	1	11	-8
Greg Lopez	10	16	43	-17
Ross Brezovsky	16	4	40	-20
TEAM TOTALS	220	125	328	+17

Note: Lilley, Cooper and Matt Edwards (+17) were a combined +70 in the 2005 plate-discipline ratio (the rest of the team was -53)

IT'S ALL THEIR FAULT – Notre Dame would be riding a 442-game scoring streak (which would rank 2nd-longest in NCAA history) if not for one game, an 11-0 loss to Rutgers, late in the 2002 season ... that game ended ND's team-record scoring streak at 231 (stretching from 2/26/99-5/4/02) but the Irish have scored in every game since that loss (210) for the 2nd-longest scoring streak in the program's history ... ND has scored in virtually every game (all but six) of the Paul Mainieri era (99.13%; 680 of 686) ... by scoring in the first 15 games of the 2006 season, Notre Dame would join Arizona State and Wichita State as the only Division I programs ever to compile two scoring streaks of 225-plus games (ASU is the only team with two streaks of 230-plus games) ... one interesting note from the below chart is the fact that Notre Dame is the only team on the list of top scoring streaks that also has ended one of the streaks, in a near-no-hitter vs. Miami during the 1999 season (1-0).

CONSECUTIVE GAMES PLAYED WITHOUT BEING SHUT OUT

Games	Team	Dates Between Shutouts
1. 506	Arizona State	4/7/95 (Southern California, 9-0) to 2/15/04 (Oklahoma, 6-0)
2. 349	Coastal Carolina	4/16/83 (Armstrong Atlantic, 2-0) to 4/10/89 (Winthrop, 11-0)
3. 332	Wichita State	3/13/96 (Arkansas, 5-0) to 2/23/01 (La. Lafayette, 1-0)
4. 329	Nebraska	5/3/98 (Texas, 8-0) to June 1, 2003 (Missouri St., 7-0)
5. 326	Florida St.	4/29/84 (Tulane, 1-0) to Feb. 25, 1989 (South Florida, 10-0)
6. 302	Georgia Tech	4/27/79 (South Carolina, 8-0) to 4/18/84 (Maryland, 4-0)
7. 278	Arizona State	2/18/90 (Southern California, 6-0) to 4/12/94 (Grand Canyon, 5-0)
8. 276	Mississippi State	3/9/96 (Florida, 10-0) to 4/7/00 (South Carolina, 1-0)
9. 273	Alabama	3/28/96 (Vanderbilt, 5-0) to 3/31/00 (South Carolina, 2-0)
10. 269	Oklahoma State	3/16/85 (New Orleans, 7-0) to 2/24/89 (LSU, 6-0)
11. 268	Florida	3/1/95 (Florida State, 7-0) to 4/9/99 (Mississippi, 8-0)
12. 248	Miami (Fla.)	5/29/95 (Texas A&M, 4-0) to 5/11/99 (Notre Dame, 1-0)
13. 237	Houston	4/7/95 (Texas A&M, 7-0) to 4/17/99 (Tulane, 4-0)
14. 232	Clemson	4/24/87 (North Carolina, 8-0) to 5/4/86 (South Carolina, 5-0)
15. 231	Notre Dame	2/21/99 (Florida International, 12-0) to 5/5/02 (Rutgers, 11-0)
16. 229	Wichita State	4/5/87 (Bradley, 2-0) to 4/7/90 (Illinois State, 4-0)
17. 224	California	2/2/84 (Houston, 2-0) to 4/25/87 (UCLA, 9-0)
– 210	Notre Dame	5/5/02 (Rutgers, 11-0) to active

HOME-RUN HERO – Current senior 1B/OF **Craig Cooper's** 12th-inning home run beat that Purdue (9-7) at Coveleski Stadium on April 20, 2005, remains the only game-ending home run by a Notre Dame player since the 2002 College World Series game vs. Rice (when Brian Stavisky won that 5-3 game) ... Cooper's next at-bat after the home run vs. Purdue produced a first-inning grand slam that sparked a 9-8 win over Valparaiso.

Notre Dame Baseball 2005 Summer-League Statistics

Sean Gaston (Cotuit Kettleers; Cape Cod League) – named to league all-star team, also named first team all-league and team MVP ... hit .298 with 12 RBI and .328 on-base pct. (4 extra-base hits)

Jeff Manship (Cotuit Kettleers; Cape Cod League) – his win in final week of season clinched team's playoff spot (3-3, 2.88 ERA, 45 Ks, 15 BB, 44 H, 50 IP, 9 GS)

Craig Cooper (Brewster Whitecaps; Cape Cod League) – hit .217 with 11 R, 6 2B, 17 BB, 4 SB

Matt Bransfield (Mat-Su Miners; Alaska League) – named to league all-star team while leading team in slugging (.469) and doubles (12), ranking 2nd in RBI (23), and 3rd in both batting (.312) and on-base pct. (.409)

Cody Rizzo (Mat-Su Miners; Alaska League) – 2nd on team with 9 times hit-by-pitch (hit .188, 6 BB, HR, 12 R, 5 RBI)

Alex Nettey (Fayetteville, NC Swamp-dogs; Coastal Plains League) – hit .236 as starting CF (3 BB, 9 HBP, 8 R, 12 RBI, 8 SB)

Danny Dressman (Madison, WI Mal-lards; Northwoods League) – team's top defensive outfielder, making just one error in 54 GP (hit .297, 18 R, 17 RBI, 3 2B, 12 BB, 6 SB)

Ross Brezovsky (Hays, KS Larks; Jay-hawk League) – hit .256 with 18 runs scored (8 RBI, 3 2B, 15 BB, 12 K, 31 G)

David Gruener (Hays, KS Larks; Jayhawk League) – had 9 starts in 11 appearances (5-2, 59 Ks, 23 BB, 44 H, 52 IP)

Wade Korpi (Staunton, VA, Braves; Val-ley League) – went 3-3 with 4.67 ERA in 12 appearances (46 Ks, 34.2 IP, 4 GS, 18 BB, 36 H, .265 opp. avg.)

Joey Williamson (Luray, VA, Wranglers; Valley League) – posted 2.06 ERA, and 3-0 record (9 GP/6 GS, 42 Ks, 20 BB, 26 H)

Eddie Smith (DuPage Dragons; Central Illinois Collegiate League) – stole 4 bases on 5 attempts (.156, 8 R, 5 RBI, .315 OBP, .938 FLD)

**Double-Digit Hit Streaks
in the Paul Mainieri era (since '95)**

- 21 – Mike Amhein (1997; Sr., C)
- 18 – Jeff Felker (1999; Jr., 1B)
- 16 – Steve Stanley (2000; So., CF)
- 15 – Alex Nettey (2005; Jr., CF)**
- 15 – Steve Sollmann (2003; Jr., 2B)
- 15 – Jeff Wagner (1997; Sr., C/DH)
- 15 – Brant Ust (1997; Fr., 2B/SS)
- 14 – Steve Andres (2004; So., LF)**
- 14 – Brian Stavisky (2000; Fr., RF)
- 14 – Matt Nussbaum (1999; Jr., LF)
- 13 – Craig Cooper (2005; Jr., LF)**
- 13 – Steve Sollmann (2003; Jr., 2B)
- 13 – Steve Stanley (2002; Sr., CF)
- 13 – Andrew Bushey (2001; Jr., 3B)
- 13 – Allen Greene (1997; So., LF)
- 12 – Javi Sanchez (2002; SS, So.)
- 12 – Steve Stanley (1999; CF, Fr.)
- 12 – Jeff Wagner (1998; Jr., C)
- 11 – Steve Stanley (2002; CF, Sr.)
- 11 – Brian Stavisky (2002; Jr., LF)
- 11 – Allen Greene (1998; Jr., CF)
- 11 – Scott Sollmann (1996; Jr., CF)
- 10 – Matt Edwards (2005; Sr., 1B)
- 10 – Matt Macri (2004; Jr., 3B)
- 10 – Matt Edwards (2004; Jr., 1B)
- 10 – Matt Edwards (2003; So., 3B)
- 10 – Steve Stanley (2002; Sr., CF)
- 10 – Steve Sollmann (2002; So., 2B)
- 10 – Steve Stanley (2001; Jr., CF)
- 10 – Ken Meyer (2001; Jr., DH)
- 10 – Steve Sollmann (2001; Fr., 2B)
- 10 – Steve Stanley (2000; So., CF)
- 10 – Brian Stavisky (2000; Fr., RF)
- 10 – Steve Stanley (1999; Fr., CF)
- 10 – Brant Ust (1998; So., 3B)
- 10 – J.J. Brock (1997; Sr., 3B)
- 10 – Randall Brooks (1996; Jr., 2B)
- 10 – J.J. Brock (1996; Jr., 3B)

**Most Double-Digit Hit Streaks
in the Mainieri Era**

- 8 – Steve Stanley
- 4 – Steve Sollmann
- 3 – Brian Stavisky, Matt Edwards
- 2 – Brant Ust, Allen Greene,
Jeff Wagner, J.J. Brock

CLUTCH HITTING KEY COMPONENT – Three stats that measure clutch offensive production – leadoff on-base pct., batting with runners in scoring position and 2-out batting – show that clutch hitting can overcome a team's dropoff in power numbers, as then-freshman 3B Brett Lilley proved to be a valuable addition to the 2005 team ... using a formula that combines those three situational hitting numbers, Lilley was the runaway team leader with a "clutch hitting" score of 1.402 ... that number can be skewed a bit by the on-base pct. (which has the benefit of including walks and HBPs and thus is higher than the batting avg. stats) ... using an adjustment whereby the leadoff on-base pct. is multiplied by 75%, Lilley still checked in as ND's all-around leader in clutch hitting with a 1.273 score (.515 leadoff on-base/.386 adjusted, .448 RISP, .439 with 2-outs) ... Lilley led the team in 2-out batting and batting with RISP while ranking 3rd in leadoff OB (better than his overall team-leading .502 OB pct.) ... current senior 1B Craig Cooper was 2nd overall with a 1.117 clutch-hitting score that included the team's 2nd-best batting averages with 2 outs (.439) and with runners in scoring position (.448) ... departed 1B Matt Edwards was the 2005 team's runaway leader with a .581 leadoff on-base pct. ... as a team, the most consistent part of ND's 205 clutch offense was leadoff on-base pct. (.406/.311 adjusted), followed by batting with RISP (.309) while the 2-out batting lagged behind at .294 ... here's a look at how each 2005 player rated on the clutch-hitting matrix:

CLUTCH-HITTING CHART (team rank listed before each stat)

	<i>Leadoff On-Base Pct.</i>	<i>Batting w/ RISP</i>	<i>2-Out Batting</i>	<i>Clutch Hit Tot.</i>
Brett Lilley	(3) .515 (.386 adjusted)	(1) .448	(1) .439	1,273
Craig Cooper	(5) .419 (.314)	(2) .434	(2) .369	1,117
<i>Matt Edwards</i>	<i>(1) .581 (.436)</i>	<i>(3) .337</i>	<i>(3) .320</i>	<i>1,093</i>
Matt Bransfield	(2) .542 (.407)	(6) .314	(6) .286	1,007
Sean Gaston	(7) .357 (.268)	(4) .322	(5) .302	892
<i>Tony Langford</i>	<i>(11) .286 (.215)</i>	<i>(5) .317</i>	<i>(4) .309</i>	<i>841</i>
Alex Nettey	(6) .418 (.314)	(9) .273	(12) .219	806
Greg Lopez	(8) .353 (.265)	(10) .242	(7) .279	786
Cody Rizzo	(4) .436 (.327)	(12) .190	(10) .246	763
Ross Brezovsky	(10) .298 (.224)	(7) .288	(10) .246	758
Steve Andres	(11) .286 (.215)	(11) .220	(8) .275	710
Danny Dressman	(13) .182 (.137)	(8) .286	(9) .250	673
Mike Dury	(9) .333 (.250)	(13) .182	(13) .167	599
TEAM	.406 (.311)	.309	.294	908

FIVE-HIT HOME DEBUT – Current sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** turned in a 5-for-5 game vs. Cincinnati on March 22, 2005, becoming the first ND freshman ever to produce five hits in a home opener ... Lilley is one of 29 all-time ND players with 5-plus hits in a game (done 31 total times) and just the second to do so in a home opener ... LF Allen Greene needed extra innings to complete the feat during the home opener of his sophomore season in 1997, batting 5-for-6 in an 8-7, 12-inning win over IUPUI ... the 5-foot-7 Lilley joined another short list as one of four ND freshmen ever to post a 5-hit game at any time in their debut season ... current junior C **Sean Gaston** went 5-for-6 early in the 2004 season vs. Florida Memorial (at FAU) while CF Scott Sollmann hit 5-for-6 at Purdue in his freshman season (5/10/94) and 1B Joe Binkiewicz had a 5-for-5 game vs. Dayton as a rookie (5/20/89) ... each of the above four players is a lefthanded hitter – in fact, 10 of the past 17 Irish players to get five-plus hits in a game have been lefthanded or switch-hitters ... starting with Steve Stanley late in the '01 season, five of the past seven to do so have hit from the left side (also Brian Stavisky and Paul O'Toole in '02 and Gaston in '04, plus righthanders Steve Sollmann in '02 and Matt Macri in '04) ... Sollmann (6-for-7 vs. South Alabama, '02 NCAA regionals) and his former teammate Alec Porzel (6-for-6 vs. Pittsburgh, '01) share the ND record for hits in a game.