

## 2003 NOTRE DAME BASEBALL

### Irish Head To Jacksonville For Spring Break Kennel Club Classic

The Notre Dame baseball team (3-4) – ranked as high as 17th in the national polls – returns to the road this week by playing seven games in eight days at the Kennel Club Classic in Jacksonville, Fla. (the Irish also played in the 2000 KCC) ... ND's starting pitcher rotation (in order) is slated to include sophomore RHPs Chris Niesel and John Axford, followed by senior RHPs Ryan Kalita and Peter Ogilvie ... the Irish open play on Saturday, March 8 (3:00 p.m. at host North Florida's Harmon Stadium) vs. a 9-5 Vanderbilt team that already has posted three wins at the KCC ... the Commodores have not announced a starter but the Irish could face sophomore Jeremy Sowers, one of the nation's top-rated young LHPs ... the Irish – coming off a landmark 2002 season that ended with a trip to the College World Series (the program's first CWS appearance since '57) – already have played four games vs. teams ranked in the top 20 (three in the top seven).

**FOLLOWING THE ACTION** – ESPN Radio 1620 (WDND) and its sister station WDNV 1490 AM again will provide commercial broadcasts of the entire ND season ... bonus gametracker "live stats" may be available, based on phone-line availability (check und.com main page for links when applicable).

**ND QUICK NOTES** – Junior 2B Steve Sollmann was named BIG EAST player of the week after hitting 8-for-17 in the season-opening four games ... senior RHP **J.P. Gagne** (6 shutout IP) then was named BIG EAST pitcher of the week for his win in the 13-inning game vs. #7 Wake Forest at Minnesota's DQ Classic ... the seven freshman position players combined to hit .389 (21-for-54) in opening week while the offense enjoyed one its most productive opening weeks in recent memory (.367 batting, 36 runs; compared to .273, 22 R in first four games of '02).

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

Pos.	Player	Yr.	Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2003 Stats and Notes
SS	Matt Macri	So.	6-2/195	Clive, IA	.231, 4 RBI, HR-2 2B, 4 R, 3 BB, 5 Ks, 2 HBP, 4 Es Limited mostly to early DH duty in '02 (elbow inj.); nation's #40 prospect (#2 SS) for '03 draft
2B	Steve Sollmann	Jr.	5-10/190	Cincinnati, OH	.379, 2 RBI, 3B-2B, 6 R, 3 BB, 2 Ks, SAC, 5-5 SB, 1 E MVP of '02 South Bend Regional (13-for-16, 8 RBI); hit .362 in '02 (47 RBI, 2 HR, 22 BB)
RF	Kris Billmaier	Sr.	5-10/205	Woodinville, WA	.333, 9 RBI, 3 HR-2B, 6 R, 5 Ks Career .471 hitter in NCAAAs (33-for-70, 17 RBI); hit .313 in '02 (41 RBI, 3 HR, 11 SAC)
1B	*Joe Thaman	Jr.	6-4/215	St. Louis, MO	.241, 3 RBI, 2 2B, 3 R, 2 BB, 12 Ks Hit .354 at Eck Stadium in '02 (22 RBI, 28 R); grand slams in back-to-back games vs. BC
C	Javi Sanchez	Jr.	6-2/200	Miami, FL	.259, 2 RBI, 2B, 2 R, BB, 5 Ks, 2 Es, 2 PB Hit .313 in 2002 postseason play (15-for-48, 2 HR); converted IF, after starting at SS in '02
DH	*Steve Andres (or Edwards)	Fr.	5-11/205	Napa, CA	.316, 3 RBI, HR-3B-2B, 8 R, 3 BB, 4 Ks, 3 HBP Last-minute walk-on and 4th-gen. ND student (GGF William Andres played baseball, '17-'19)
3B	Matt Edwards	So.		Mechanicsville, VA	.391, 4 RBI, 2B, 4 R, 2 BB, 5 Ks, SF Missed most of 2002 season with broken leg; started at SS in '02, in place of Macri
or	Greg Lopez	Fr.	6-0/175	Upper Arlington, OH	.231, 2 RBI, R, K, SF, E Ohio co-state player of the year in '02 (.484, 32 RBI, 5 HR, 14 2B, 14 SB)
CF	Cody Rizzo	Fr.	6-1/180	Temecula, CA	.350, 5 RBI, HR-2B, 3 R, 7 Ks, 3 HBP Accomplished baseball (.501, 6 HR, 19 SB) and soccer player as a prep
LF	*Brennan Grogan	Fr.	6-2/170	Tequesta, FL	.333, 2 RBI, 2 R, 3 Ks, HBP, SAC Hit .434 in '02 (3 HR, 29 SB); former prep CF
or	Craig Cooper	Fr.	6-2/195	Plainview, NY	.238, 2 RBI, 2B, R, 2 BB, 6 Ks, 3-3 SB Gold Glove award-winner as a prep (hit .380 in '02, 5 HR, 10 SB)

#### NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE PITCHING ROTATION

Pos.	Player	Yr.	Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2003 Stats and Notes
RHP	Chris Niesel	So.	5-11/195	Plantation, FL	9.00, 10.0 IP, 2 GS (0-1), 3 Ks, 3 BB, 15 H (.333 opp. avg.), WP 22-2 in last 24 overall decisions; '02: 3.36, 4-0, 71.2 IP, 62 Ks, 18 BB, .241 opp. avg.
RHP	John Axford	So.	6-5/180	Port Dover, ONT	2.08, 13.0 IP, 2 GS (1-0), 5 Ks, 4 BB, 12 H (.267 opp. avg.), 2 WP 7th-rd Seattle draft pick ('01); '02: 3.95, 5-2, 70.2 IP, 64 Ks, 59 BB, .231 opp. avg.
RHP	Ryan Kalita	Sr.	6-2/210	Oak Park, IL	7.71, 7.0 IP, 2 GP/1 GS (0-0), 3 Ks, 9 BB, 10 H (.370 opp. avg.), WP, 2 HB, BK Beat RU in '02 BIG EAST title game (7 shutout IP); '02: 3.16, 5-0, 42.2 IP, 36 Ks, 14 BB, 45 H
RHP	Peter Ogilvie	Sr.	6-3/220	Buffalo Grove, IL	6.00, 9.0 IP, 2 GS (0-2), 5 Ks, 4 BB, 10 H (.270 opp. avg.), 2 HB CG wins over Mich., FIU ('01 NCAAAs), VT and BC; '02: 4.65, 7-5, 79.1 IP, 58 Ks, 26 BB, 90 H
<b>The Bullpen</b>					
RHP	J.P. Gagne	Sr.	6-0/205	Bloomington, MN	4.70, 7.2 IP, 3 GP, 1-1, SV, 3 Ks, 4 BB, 11 H (.314 opp. avg.) Spent two-plus seasons as weekend starter; '02: 3.14, 9-4, 6 SV, 94.2 IP, 69 Ks, 16 BB, 86 H
RHP	Martin Vergara	So.	6-0/185	Paterson, NJ	31.50 (7 ER in 2.0 IP), GP, 0 Ks, 5 BB, 4 H (.400 opp. avg.), 2 WP, HB Posted key '02 wins over USC and WVU; '02: 3.79, 5-1, 35.2 IP, 33 Ks, 17 BB, .236 opp. avg.
LHP	Tom Thornton	Fr.	6-6/205	Middleboro, NJ	1.42, 6.1 IP, 2 GP, K, 2 BB, 6 H (.273 opp. avg.), 2 HB Career at Middleboro HS: 1.09, 19-4, 147.2 IP, 236 Ks, 48 BB, 26 H
RHP	Ryan Doherty	Fr.	7-1/230	Toms River, NJ	33.75, 1.1 IP, 2 GP, 2 Ks, 4 BB, 4 H (.571 opp. avg.), HB N.J. '02 player of the year; career at T.R. East HS: 1.22, 15-5, 185 Ks, 31 BB
RHP	Brandon Vilorio	Sr.	5-11/210	Wailuku, HI	0.00, 1-0, 2.2 IP, 2 GP, 0 Ks, 0 BB, 0 H Low career walk avg. (1.56/9 IP) would best ND record; '02: 2.45, 2-1, 3 SV, 22 IP, 8 Ks, 5 BB
RHP	Matt Laird	Sr.	6-0/185	Bellaire, TX	36.00 (4 ER in 1.0 IP), GP, 2 Ks, 4 BB, 2 H (.400 opp. avg.), 2 WP Served as closer on 2001 squad that claimed nation's No. 1 ranking
RHP	Tyler Jones	So.	6-4/205	Arlington, TX	2002: 4.00, 1-0, SV, 9 IP, 6 Ks, 9 BB, 9 H, .243 opp. avg., WP (4 GP/1 GS) Named all-Jayhawk League with Hays Larks in summer of 2002 (3.58, 5-1, 39 Ks)

#### ND's Kennel Club Classic Schedule

Sat., March 8 – vs. Vanderbilt (3:00 p.m.)  
 Sun., March 9 – at North Florida (3:00 p.m.)  
 Mon., March 10 – vs. Navy (2:00 p.m.)  
 Wed., March 12 – at Jacksonville (7:00 p.m.)  
 Thur., March 13 – vs. E. Illinois (5:00 p.m.)  
 Fri., March 14 – vs. Navy (4:00 p.m.)  
 Sat., March 15 – vs. Creighton (noon)  
*All games at North Florida's Harmon Stadium, except JU and CU (@JU's Brest Field)*

## NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2003 SCHEDULE

### FEBRUARY

Fri.	21	vs. Dayton (at ASU)	W, 10-9
Sat.	22	vs. Newman (at ASU)	W, 15-5
Sat.	22	at #4 Arizona St. (KAZ-TV)	L, 3-16
Sun.	23	at #4 Arizona St. (KAZ-TV)	L, 8-14
Fri.	28	\$ vs. #16 Nebraska	L, 1-7

### MARCH

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

### APRIL

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

### MAY

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

### BIG EAST Tournament (Bridgewater, NJ)

Thur.-	22-	Commerce Bank Ballpark
Sat.	24	

### JUNE

#### NCAA Regionals (campus sites)

Fri.-	30-
Sun.	1

#### NCAA Super-Regionals (campus sites)

Fri.-	6
Sun.	8

#### College World Series (Omaha, NE)

Fri.-	13-	Rosenblatt Stadium
Mon.	23	

All listings indicate local starting times

Home games (bold caps) at Frank Eck Stadium

\$ – Dairy Queen Classic (Metrodome; Minneapolis)

\* – Kennel Club Classic (Jacksonville, FL)

+ – Rosenblatt Stadium (Omaha, NE)

• – BIG EAST Conference game

◆ – Fifth/Third Bank Ballpark (Grand Rapids, MI)

## MATCHUP NOTES

**EARLY CHALLENGES** – Notre Dame completed one of the most challenging five-game stretches in the program's history, with a pair of games at then-No. 4 Arizona State (which rose as high as No. 2 in last week's polls) before the daunting Dairy Queen Classic field that included Nebraska (ranked as high as 16th), the host Gophers (who beat the Irish with 5,343 Metrodome fans cheering them on) and Wake Forest (ranked as high as 7th) ... the win over WFU averted what would have been the first five-game losing streak in the nine-year Paul Mainieri era, with the Irish also losing four straight in 1995, '99 and 2002.

**PLAYERS TO WATCH** – In addition to Notre Dame's highly-rated prospects in the junior and sophomore class (see notes below, ND's Kennel Club Classic opponents include several other players who are rated among the nation's top prospects ... Vanderbilt sophomore LHP **Jeremy Sowers** – a teammate and roommate of ND's Grant Johnson with the 2001 USA Junior National Team – has been forecasted as high as the No. 3 college prospect for the 2004 MLB draft (according to *Baseball America's* survey of MLB scouting directors, with the MLB Scouting Bureau's 2002 fall rankings forecasting Sowers 4th) ... the scouting directors also listed Johnson 5th while the Scouting Bureau listed Notre Dame RHP **Chris Niesel** as its top prospect for 2004 ... the *BA/Perfect Game* top-200 prospects list for the 2003 draft includes three other players from ND's Kennel Club opponents: Navy senior LHP Matt Foster (68th), Creighton LHP **Tom Oldham** (83rd) and Vanderbilt RHP **Robert Ransom** (94th).

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

**BEEN THERE** – After last week's 2-1, 13-inning win over Wake Forest, the Irish now own a mark of 15-2-1 in their last 18 extra-inning games (dating back to 1997; 6-1 in the last seven, dating back to the 2001 NAAs).

**7 DOWN, 49 TO GO** – The Irish traditionally have started slow (now 26-26 in Jan./Feb. during the nine-year Paul Mainieri era) compared to 97-41-1 in March and 159-36 in April, with plenty of the 56-game regular season still to be played.

**WALK-TO-K RATIOS** – One of the most noticeable differences in ND's team stats at this point in the season (compared to the seven-game totals in 2002) is the batters' ratio of walks to strikeouts (21 BB/44 Ks in '02, 16 BB/57 Ks in '03) and the pitchers' K-to-BB ratio (60 Ks/15 BB in '02, 25 Ks/40 BB in '03).

**MAN WITH THE AX** – Sophomore RHP **John Axford's** strong start to the 2003 season (2.08 ERA) has dropped his career ERA to 3.66 in 19 appearance and 83.2 IP, with the team's other top starters owning similar career ERAs: senior RHPs **Ryan Kalita** (3.50) and **Peter Ogilvie** (3.72) and sophomore RHP **Chris Niesel** (4.04), plus solid numbers from senior RHP relievers **J.P. Gagne** (4.21) and **Brandon Vilorio** (2.84).

**STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE** – Junior 2B Steve Sollmann made a fielding error in the Nebraska game, just his second error in his last 24 games with the Irish (including the Minnesota and WFU games) ... a converted CF, Sollmann totaled just eight Es in 2002 ... Sollmann had not struck out in 16 games with ND, including nine NCAA Tournament games in 2002, before a pair of Ks vs. Minnesota (he totaled just three multi-K games in 2002).

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

### KENNEL CLUB CLASSIC TEAM WEBSITES

#### Notre Dame

www.und.com

#### Vanderbilt

www.vucommodores.com

#### North Florida

www.unf.edu/sports

#### Navy

www.navysports.com

#### Jacksonville

www.judolphins.com

#### Eastern Illinois

www.eiu.edu/~panthers

#### Creighton

www.gocreighton.com

## PRESEASON HONORS

**THREE NAMED PRESEASON ALL-AMERICANS** – An unprecedented three Notre Dame players – junior 2B **Steve Sollmann**, sophomore SS **Matt Macri** and sophomore RHP **Grant Johnson** – were tabbed for preseason All-America honors, with Sollmann and Macri earning preseason BIG EAST player-of-the-year recognition from different sources (see listings on p. 3).

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

**PROSPECTS-A-PLENTY** – Six Irish players also have been listed among national college prospect rankings, as compiled by *Baseball America/Perfect Game* and *Team One Baseball* ... the Dec. 15 *BA/PG* list forecasting the top-100 prospects for the 2004 draft included four ND sophomore RHPs: **Grant Johnson** (5th), **John Axford** (19th), **Chris Niesel** (49th) and **Martin Vergara** (78th) ... no other school had more than three pitchers among that top-100 prospects list (Rice had three, Texas and Old Dominion two) ... Macri (a draft-eligible sophomore) was listed 40th (second among shortstops) on the *BA/PG* prospects list for the 2003 draft while Sollman was 124th on that list ... two other sophomores from BIG EAST teams – Boston College RHP Chris Lambert (12th) and Rutgers OF Jeff Frazier (17th) – also are among the top prospects on the *BA/PG* top-100 prospects list for the 2004 draft ... the BIG EAST is the only conference with four-plus schools represented on that top-100 prospect list while the six total BIG EAST players matches the ACC for the most from one conference among the *BA/PG* top 100 prospects for the '04 draft.

**NIESEL HIGHLY-REGARDED** – Sophomore RHP **Chris Niesel** impressively was forecasted by the Major League Scouting Bureau’s 2002 fall rankings as the No. 1 overall college prospect for the 2004 draft, followed by Florida State SS Stephen Drew, Ohio State LHP Scott Lewis, Vanderbilt LHP Jeremy Sowers and Clemson LHP Tyler Lumsden ... the Irish saw Lewis and Drew up-close during the 2002 NAAs (posting a pair of wins over both OSU and FSU) and could face Sowers at next week’s Kennel Club Classic in Jacksonville (Lumsden and his Clemson teammates joined Niesel and the Irish at the 2002 CWS).

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

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

**Craig Cooper** (Fr., CF) – BIG EAST’s #2 newcomer and nation’s #50 freshman prospect (*BA*)

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

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

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

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

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

**Grant Johnson** (So., RHP; injured) – Nation’s #5 college prospect for 2004 draft (*BA/PG*, 12/15/02), preseason third team All-American (*Collegiate Baseball* magazine, NCBWA), preseason all-BIG EAST (coaches, *BA*), BE’s #1 prospect and best control pitcher (*BA*)

## National Polls (March 3)

### BASEBALL AMERICA TOP 25

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

### COLLEGIATE BASEBALL TOP 30

Team	W-L	Pts (Final '02)
1. Florida State	14-1	495 (2)
2. Cal State Fullerton	14-1	494 (3)
3. Georgia Tech	9-0	493 (4)
4. Arizona State	24-1	492 (26)
5. Rice	11-1	491 (7)
6. South Carolina	9-2	485 (2)
7. Baylor	12-3	480 (-)
8. Stanford	11-7	479 (4)
9. Long Beach State	10-5	476 (27)
10. Mississippi State	5-1	470 (-)
11. Texas	13-5	468 (1)
12. Richmond	3-0	465 (13)
13. Wake Forest	5-3	462 (14)
14. Miami	9-3	459 (17)
15. Auburn	12-3	456 (-)
16. Florida	11-1	452 (-)
17. Kansas	13-4	446 (-)
18. LSU	7-6	443 (11)
19. Clemson	3-3	440 (3)
20. Nebraska	7-2	438 (8)
21. Arizona	11-5	435 (-)
22. Texas A&M	10-4	434 (-)
23. Tennessee	9-1	432 (-)
24. Wichita State	9-1	429 (22)
25. UNC Greensboro	10-0	426 (-)
26. NOTRE DAME	3-4	423 (6)
27. Ala.-Birmingham	13-0	422 (-)
28. Arkansas	8-0	419 (-)
29. Tulane	9-4	415 (-)
30. Oklahoma	5-2	413 (-)

### USA TODAY/ESPN COACHES POLL

Team (1st)	W-L	Pts (Final '02)
1. Florida State (19)	14-1	974 (9)
2. Cal State Fullerton (11)	14-1	955 (-)
3. Arizona State (8)	24-1	945 (19)
4. Georgia Tech (3)	9-0	927 (5)
5. Rice	11-1	891 (6)
6. Baylor	12-3	762 (-)
7. South Carolina	9-2	728 (2)
8. Stanford	11-7	709 (4)
9. Texas	13-5	668 (1)
10. Long Beach State	10-5	618 (-)
11. Auburn	12-3	526 (-)
12. Nebraska	7-2	520 (8)
13. Mississippi State	5-1	465 (-)
14. Wake Forest	5-3	455 (13)
15. Florida	11-1	448 (-)
16. Richmond	3-0	400 (16)
17. Miami	9-3	346 (20)
18. Clemson	3-3	296 (3)
19. Wichita State	9-1	253 (-)
20. USC	7-8	184 (14)
21. Texas Tech	13-5	177 (-)
22. Tennessee	9-1	125 (-)
23. NOTRE DAME	3-4	111 (7)
24. Alabama	8-3	90 (-)
25. Kansas	13-4	88 (-)

**Others receiving votes:** Tennessee (100), Kansas (100), Houston (75), Florida International (72), Alabama (66), Texas A&M (58), California (56), Arkansas (30), UNLV (18), North Carolina-Greensboro (16), Coastal Carolina (14), Oklahoma (13), Arizona (13), Southern Mississippi (12), Southwest Missouri (11), Florida Atlantic (7), Ohio St. (6), Louisville (5), TCU (5), South Florida (3), Oklahoma State (2).

*Italics – 2003 Notre Dame opponents*

## Notre Dame Baseball "By the Numbers"

- 3,186** – All-time varsity baseball games
- 1892** – First varsity baseball season
- 1,032** – Combined college starts by the 2002 eight-member senior class
- 805** – All-time letterwinners
- 689** – Paul Mainieri's career coaching wins
- .362** – Steve Sollmann's final season batting average in 2001 and again in '02
- 279** – All-time Notre Dame opponents
- 99** – Notre Dame's combined victory total during the 2001 and '02 seasons (bested only by Florida State's 107 and South Carolina's 106)
- 79** – Winning seasons (out of 110)
- 72.3** – Team winning percentage in the 1990s
- 50** – Victory total in 2002 CWS season
- 43** – States represented in all-time roster
- 34** – Players' home states during nine-year tenure of head coach Paul Mainieri
- 34** – States played in by Irish (since '57)
- 19** – States represented on 2003 roster
- 17** – Players who posted a GPA of 3.0-plus in 2001 fall semester
- 14** – Former Irish players in pro baseball in 2002
- 14** – Active streak of consecutive seasons with 40-plus wins
- 12** – Preseason ranking for Notre Dame in 2003 *Baseball America* poll
- 6** – Number of ND players who are slated made their first college starts at their respective positions in the '03 opener vs. Dayton (C, SS, 3B, LF, CF and DH)
- 4** – Longest ND losing streaks of Paul Mainieri era
- 3.57** – Team ERA in 2002 (13th in nation)
- 3.097** – Baseball team GPA in 2002 fall semester
- 2** – Teams that won more games than Notre Dame (99) in 2001 and '02 (FSU and South Carolina)
- 1** – Notre Dame's ranking for top 2002 recruiting classes (*Baseball America*)

## TEAM NOTES

**SEASON STARTS** – Notre Dame's average seven-game start in the nine-year Paul Mainieri era has been 4-3, ranging from 2-5 in 1998 to 6-1 in 2001.

**SLUMP BUSTERS** – Notre Dame's winning sequence in the 13th inning vs. Wake Forest included hits from several players who had struggled in their previous at-bats at the DQ Classic ... ND entered the bottom of the 13th riding a frustrating 0-for-12 day with runners in scoring position before staging the winning rally ... three freshmen sparked the sequence with singles, as CF **Cody Rizzo** ended a 1-for-11 slump by sending RHP Adam Hanson's first-pitch offering into center field (he then was picked off for the second out) before reserve DH **Alex Nettey** (who was 1-for-5 in '03) stroked another first pitch into shallow left field ... LF **Craig Cooper** then snapped out of his 0-for-9 funk by delivered on a 1-0 pitch, placing a linedrive into left-center that moved Nettey to third (Cooper took second on a bad throw) ... junior 1B **Joe Thaman** shook off his own 0-for-9 slump by working ahead in the count before sending an 0-2 pitch that sliced between the second-base bag and a diving 2B Chris Getz, with Nettey racing home to end the three-hour, 44-minute game.

**EXTRA-INNING DRAMA** – Junior 1B **Joe Thaman** now has ended two noteworthy extra-inning games for the Irish ... as a freshman, Thaman hit a double that held up as the game-winner in a similar game at Mississippi State early in the 2001 season (4-2, in 11 innings) ... much like the 2002 game at MSU (which would have ended in a tie after the 11th inning), Sunday's game could have ended as a tie in the record books if neither team had scored by the end of the 14th.

**CLUTCH HITTING** – One of the key statistical categories in college baseball continues to be batting with runners in scoring positions ... the Irish hit just .273 with runners in scoring position during the first seven games, led by freshman CF **Cody Rizzo** (3-for-4), sophomore 3B **Matt Edwards** (2-for-4), freshman OF **Brennan Grogan** (2-for-5), junior 2B **Steve Sollmann** (1-for-3) ... other ND batting average with RBI opportunities include: senior RF **Kris Billmaier** (4-for-13), junior C **Javi Sanchez** (2-for-7), freshman DH **Steve Andres** (1-for-4), freshman OF **Craig Cooper** (2-for -11), freshman IF **Greg Lopez** (1-for-6), sophomore SS **Matt Macri** (1-for 6) and junior 1B **Joe Thaman** (2-for-12).

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

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

**KEY PIECE OF THE PUZZLE** – The Irish were **45-11** in 2002 games started by 2B **Steve Sollmann**, compared to just 5-7 in games when he was out of the starting lineup (due to a quad pull).

## TEAM NOTES

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

**GAGNE RECEIVES BIG EAST SCHOLARSHIP** – Senior righthander **J.P. Gagne** – an Academic All-America candidate who carries a 3.35 cumulative GPA as a finance major – recently was named the 2002-03 BIG EAST/Aéropostale Male Scholar-Athletes of the Year for Notre Dame and will receive a \$2,000 stipend, which will be applied to graduate studies (he intends to pursue postgraduate studies in law or business) ... Gagne joins former LHP Mike Naumann ('01) as the second ND baseball player to receive the BIG EAST postgraduate scholarship in the last three years ... he combines with Virginia Tech shortstop Spencer Harris and West Virginia third baseman Tim McCabe as the only 2003 baseball players who were selected by their respective schools as the BIG EAST scholarship recipients.

**MORE J.P. HONORS** – **J.P. Gagne** was named BIG EAST pitcher of the week for the second time in his career, after a stellar relief performance in the 2-1, 13-inning win over #7 Wake Forest at Minnesota's Dairy Queen Classic ... Gagne closed the game in relief of starter John Axford by logging six shutout innings (4 H, BB, 2 Ks, 86 pitches) ... he retired the final 10 batters he faced, with his outing also including 12 groundball outs and just four flyouts ... it was the 22nd of Gagne's ND career, moving him into a tie for 10th in the Irish record book. He also made his 67th career appearance with the Irish, tying Brian Piotrowicz ('90) and former teammate John Corbin ('00) for 8th in ND history ... Gagne was named BIG EAST pitcher of the week in mid-April of his junior season, after picking up a pair of key relief wins in shutout outings vs. Pittsburgh (12-2; 2 IP, H, BB) and Virginia Tech (2-1 in 11 innings; 5 IP, 3 H, BB, K).

### HEAD COACH PAUL MAINIERI

Ninth-year Notre Dame head coach Paul Mainieri owns a 689-425-1 (.618) record in 20-plus college seasons ... in addition to his 357-146-1 (.709) mark in eight-plus seasons at ND, Mainieri's teams were 180-121 in six seasons at St. Thomas (Fla.) and 152-158 in six seasons at Air Force ... his ND teams have combined for a 121-41 (.747) record in regular-season BIG EAST games, making the Irish skipper the winningest coach in BIG EAST history (based on win pct.) ... he also ranks second all-time at ND in career coaching wins, behind Hall of Famer Jake Kline (558-449-5, 1934-75)

**GAME #500** – Last week's first game vs. Arizona State was the 500th game of the Paul Mainieri era at Notre Dame (he enters this week with a 357-146-1 record at ND) ... Mainieri also is nearing his 700th victory as a college head coach (689-425-1, in 20-plus seasons)

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

### MONTH-BY-MONTH WITH THE IRISH

Notre Dame traditionally has posted a better won-loss record in the second half of the season, with the first nine seasons of the Paul Mainieri era (including last week) featuring a 123-67-1 (.647) combined record during Jan.-March and a 234-79 (.748) record during April-June (a difference of nearly 100 pct. points).

#### ND's Monthly Record in the Mainieri Era

	Feb.*	March	April	May*
1995	1-2	10-8	24-6	5-5
1996	3-3	14-4	18-7	9-4
1997	3-3	10-8	20-6	8-2
1998	5-6*	10-3	20-3	6-5
1999	3-4	13-3	18-4	9-7
2000	2-1	14-4	20-6	10-7
2001	5-1	15-3-1	20-2	9-7
2002	1-2	11-8	19-2	19-6*
2003	2-2	—	—	—
<b>Tot.</b>	<b>26-26</b>	<b>97-41-1</b>	<b>159-36</b>	<b>75-43</b>
	<b>(.500)</b>	<b>(.701)</b>	<b>(.815)</b>	<b>(.636)</b>

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

## Career Record Book

### Batting Average

1. Dan Peltier (1987-89) .....	406
2. Eric Danapilis (1990-93) .....	405
3. Steve Stanley (1999-02) .....	384
4. Scott Sollmann (1994-96) .....	372
5. Robbie Kent (1993-94) .....	368
Brant Ust (1997-99) .....	368
7. Pat Pesavento (1986-89) .....	367
8. Randall Brooks (1994-97) .....	364
<b>9. Steve Sollmann (2001- ) .....</b>	<b>363</b>
10. Mike Amrhein (1994-97) .....	361
11. James Sass (1988-89) .....	357
12. Brian Stavisky (2000-02) .....	355

### Stolen Bases

10. Craig Counsell (1989-92) .....	37
Randall Brooks (1994-97) .....	37
– <b>Steve Sollmann (2001- ) .....</b>	<b>34</b>

### Times Hit-By-Pitch

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

### Victories

8. Pat Leahy (1990-92) .....	25-7
Alex Shilliday (1996-99) .....	25-17
10. Herb Kelly (1912-14) .....	22-2
<b>J.P. Gagne (2000- ) .....</b>	<b>22-11</b>

### Earned-Run Average (min. 60 IP)

6. Brian Piotrowicz (1987-90) .....	2.72
7. Tom Price (1991-94) .....	2.82
<b>8. Brandon Vilorio (2000- ) .....</b>	<b>2.84</b>

### Fewest Walks Per 9 IP (min. 60 IP)

<b>1. Brandon Vilorio (2000- ) .....</b>	<b>1.56</b>
2. Alan Walania (1990-93) .....	1.64
3. Tom Price (1991-94) .....	1.86
4. James Cross (1983, '85-'86) .....	1.88
5. Nick Palihnich (1958-60) .....	1.94
6. Darin Schmalz (1994-97) .....	2.05
7. Mike Naumann (1998-2001) .....	2.23
8. Scott Cavey (1997-2000) .....	2.24
<b>9. Chris Niesel (2002- ) .....</b>	<b>2.30</b>
10. Jim Gibbons (1952-53) .....	2.33
<b>11. J.P. Gagne (2000- ) .....</b>	<b>2.42</b>
12. A.J. Jones (1993-94) .....	2.46
13. Danny Tamayo (1998, 2000-01) .....	2.48
– <b>Peter Ogilvie (2001- ) .....</b>	<b>2.63</b>

### Pitching Appearances

6. David Sinnes (1990-93) .....	69
7. Tony Livorsi (1988-91) .....	68
8. Brian Piotrowicz (1987-90) .....	67
John Corbin (1997-2000) .....	67
<b>J.P. Gagne (2000- ) .....</b>	<b>67</b>

### Innings Pitched

10. Tom Buknowski (1952, '56-'57) .....	255.0
– <b>J.P. Gagne (2000- ) .....</b>	<b>245.2</b>

### Saves

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

### Strikeouts

10. Pat Leahy (1990-92) .....	192
Darin Schmalz (1994-97) .....	192
– <b>J.P. Gagne (2000- ) .....</b>	<b>161</b>

### Fielding Putouts

1. Joe Binkiewicz (1989-92) .....	1,583
2. Jeff Felker (1997-2000) .....	1,411
3. Paul O'Toole (1999-2002) .....	1,347
4. Tim Hutson (1986-88) .....	1,147
<b>5. Joe Thaman (2001- ) .....</b>	<b>1,144</b>

### Fielding Assists

8. Mike Moshier (1986-89) .....	400
– <b>Steve Sollmann (2001- ) .....</b>	<b>337</b>

## SERIES NOTES

**FOR OPENERS** – After the 10-9 win over Dayton, Notre Dame is 5-4 in season openers in the Paul Mainieri era (5-1 in the last six), with those nine games including several challenges vs. top-ranked opponents ... the Irish lost their season openers in 1995 (6-10 vs. Texas, at Cal State Fullerton), 1996 (4-12 at Georgia Tech) and 1997 (8-10) before knocking off Florida State (10-1) at the 1998 ACC/Disney Blast in Orlando ... ND added two more season-opening wins in 1999 (8-4 vs. James Madison, at Florida International) and 2000 (6-0 vs. Air Force, in Millington, Tenn.) before losing a heart-breaker to New Orleans at the 2001 Mississippi State Classic (6-7) ... the Irish opened 2002 with a 7-6 win over Missouri in 10 innings (at the New Orleans Classic).

**DOLPHINS TO BECOME 280TH ALL-TIME OPPONENT:** The opening week of the 2003 season saw Newman become the 279th different baseball opponent in the 111-year history of Notre Dame baseball, with Jacksonville slated to become No. 280 at the Kennel Club Classic ... Fairfield, Sacred Heart, Arkansas-Little Rock and Rice joined the ND opponent list in 2002 ... other teams that have faced ND for the first time in recent years include James Madison, Florida International, Missouri and Oakland (all in 1999), North Florida and Akron (both in 2000) and 2001 opponents Florida Atlantic, New Mexico, Pacific, Sam Houston State, South Florida and UC Santa Barbara ... the most noteworthy opponents that ND has yet to face include Oklahoma and Texas Tech ... ND's most common all-time opponents include: Northwestern (130 games), Michigan State (125), Western Michigan (122), Wisconsin (119), Michigan (115) and Purdue (114).

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

**IRISH RETURN TO THE KCC** – Notre Dame posted a 7-1 record at the 2000 Kennel Club Classic, with wins over Duquesne (5-1), Central Michigan (5-0), Illinois (5-1, 12-3), Butler (3-2), Iowa (3-2) and Akron (10-3) – plus a 6-1 loss to host North Florida.

**THE ND-VANDERBILT SERIES (3-2)** – Saturday's game will be the first between the teams since 1989 (an 11-2 win by the Commodores, at Rollins College) ... it's also just the second game in the series since 1960 and just the third in the last 76 seasons ... the teams split a pair of 1923 games at Vanderbilt (3-1 ND win, 10-1 VU win), with ND winning a 1927 game at VU (4-2) ... 33 years later, the Irish returned to Vanderbilt and posted a 6-4 win (in 1960).

**THE ND-UNF SERIES (0-1)** – North Florida (ranked #3 in Division II at game time) beat Notre Dame at the 2000 Kennel Club Classic (6-1), behind freshman RHP Brian Rauch (7 IP, R, 6 H, 4 Ks) and an offense that chipped away for runs in four different innings ... UNF opened the scoring in the 2nd, on a Jeff Stockton RBI double and Nick Steppe's run-scoring single ... the Ospreys manufactured another run in the 5th and stretched to 5-0 on a bases-loaded walk and hit batter in the 6th ... ND scored in the 8th, after doubles from Ben Cooke and Steve Stanley ...

**THE ND-NAVY SERIES (6-3-1)** – Recent meetings in the series include ND wins at USA Baseball Stadium (Millington, Tenn.) in the annual Service Academies Classic (7-6 in '92, 1-0 in '96) and a rare 4-4 tie in 2001 at the Fresno State Classic (the game was halted due to time limits) ... the first three games of the series came during the early 1900s (when the schools were growing football rivals), with games at Annapolis in 1913 (7-1 Navy win) and 1914 (4-2 ND win) and a 1915 game at Notre Dame (5-2 Navy win) ... ND then won the next three (6-4 at home in '29, 5-2 at home in '31 and 5-4 at Navy in '40), with the Midshipmen posting a 5-4 win at ND in 1941.

**THE ND-EIU SERIES (4-1)** – The series opened with a pair of games at Eck Stadium in 1994 (an 8-4 EIU win and 10-3 ND win), followed by three ND wins in the Mainieri era (all at Eck): 9-3 in '95, 5-0 in '96 and 7-5 in '97.

**THE ND-CREIGHTON SERIES (5-3)** – Notre Dame and Creighton split a pair of Spring Break games in 2002, with CU posting an 8-7 win over ND at the Round Rock Express Classic before the Irish won two days later in San Antonio (6-2, at the Irish Baseball Classic) ... that game is one of five in the series played at Wolff Stadium, with a 7-3 ND win and 8-5 CU win (title game) in the 1997 IBC while the Irish posted two wins over CU at the 1999 IBC (5-4, 5-3 title game) ... the teams met a third time in 1999, an 8-1 win for the Irish in the NCAA South Bend Regional opener ... the first game of the series came in 1983 at Oral Roberts (a 6-5 Creighton win).

**THREE GAMES, THREE SITES** – The Notre Dame-Creighton series already has featured four different sites (Oral Roberts, San Antonio's Wolff Stadium, ND's Eck Stadium and Round Rock's Dell Diamond) but the teams are slated to play three times in 2003 at three more sites: March 15 (at Jacksonville University's Brest Field), April 12 (at Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium) and April 13 (at Creighton).

**FRIEND OR FOE?** – Several players from the Kennel Club Classic opponents are former teammates of current ND players ... sophomore SS **Matt Macri** is a former teammate of Creighton's **Ryan Fitzgerald** (Dowling HS and Belizza MacRae Legion team) and **Mike Sirianni** (Perfect Game Wood Bat League) ... Irish senior RHP **J.P. Gagne** played alongside CU's **Sean Piekert** with the Lions All-Stars and was a prep opponent of CU's **Steve Grasel** (Gagne homered vs. Grasel in an American Legion state-title game) ... Gagne and Navy's **Andy Froistad** were teammates during their youth baseball days ... another senior RHP, **Peter Ogilvie**, and CU's **Keith Hood** were teammates at Stevenson HS ... sophomore RHP **John Axford** and Creighton ace LHP **Tom Oldham** were on the same staff with the 2002 Hyannis Mets of the Cape Cod summer league ... injured ND sophomore RHP **Grant Johnson** and Vanderbilt ace sophomore LHP **Jeremy Sowers** were roommates on the 2001 USA Junior National Team ... freshman walk-on LHP **Matt Arminio** was a prep teammate of Vanderbilt's Ryan Mullins (Father Ryan HS).

## SERIES NOTES

### ND BASEBALL'S FLORIDA NATIVES

• The 2003 Notre Dame baseball includes players from 19 states, with two from Florida: sophomore RHP **Chris Niesel** (Plantation/St. Thomas Aquinas HS) and freshman OF **Brennan Grogan** (Tequesta/Benjamin School) ... 11 Florida natives have played for the Irish during the Paul Mainieri era.

• Niesel is one of several noteworthy Florida RHPs who have played for the Irish, with the others including: **Mike Passilla** (Windemere/Bishop Moore HS; '87-'89; 4.85 ERA, 17-11, 3 SV, 78 Ks, 200.1 IP), **David Sinnes** (Miami/Palmetto HS; '90-'93; 2.91, 32-8, 6 SV, 315 Ks, 297.1 IP), **John Corbin** (Hollywood Hills HS; '98-'00; 4.64, 13-7, 20 SV, 112 Ks, 114.1 IP) and **Danny Tamayo** (Miami/Ransom Everglades HS; '98-'01; 3.27, 12-5, SV, 141 Ks, 160 IP) ... Sinnes held ND records for career win pct. and Ks (bested by Aaron Heilman in 2001) while Corbin is the Irish career saves leader and Tamayo formed a potent 1-2 punch with Heilman in '01.

• Other noteworthy ND baseball letterwinners from the sunshine state have included: SS **Daniel Cunha** (St. Petersburg; '33-'35), IF **Joe LaRocca** (Ft. Lauderdale/Cardinal Gibbons HS; '70-'72), OF **Mike Galloway** (Cocoa Beach HS; '75-'77), 1B **Henry Valenzuela** (Tampa/Jesuit HS; '79-'82), C/OF **Phil Dingle** (Tampa/Jesuit HS; '82-'83) and DH **Ken Meyer** (Fort Myers/Bishop Verot HS; '99-'02).

### NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS LETTERWINNERS FROM JACKSONVILLE

• Notre Dame letterwinners from Jacksonville have included freestyle distance swimmer **Matt Obringer** ('01 letter; Bolles School) and two football centers: **John Lanahan** ('40-'42; Immaculate Conception HS) and **Jon Spickelmier** ('96-'97; Bolles).

**VS. THE SEC** – Notre Dame owns a 37-42 all-time record vs. teams that currently comprise the Southeastern Conference (7-3 in the Paul Mainieri era), with ND's most-common SEC opponents including Georgia (7-5), Arkansas (6-6), Kentucky (5-5), Alabama (4-3), LSU (4-3) and Mississippi State (4-2) – plus a handful of games vs. Vanderbilt (3-2), Mississippi (1-4), Tennessee (1-4), Florida (1-3), Auburn (0-4) and South Carolina (1-1) ... games vs. SEC teams in the Mainieri era include: a pair of 1995 games at Eck Stadium vs. Alabama (5-3, 1-9), an 11-5 loss to Mississippi at the 1997 Long Beach State Classic, an 8-5 win over Arkansas at the '97 Service Academies Classic (in Millington, Tenn.), a 6-4 win over Georgia at the 2000 Minnesota Classic (Metrodome), the three games vs. Mississippi State at the 2000 NCAA Starkville Regional (1-8, 7-0, 9-10) and the early-season wins at MSU in 2001 (7-5, 4-2) ... the Irish also competed at the 1996 NCAA South I Regional in Tuscaloosa (ND did not face Alabama at that regional).

**OPENING NIGHT DINNER AGAIN A SMASH HIT** – Nearly 1,000 area baseball fans were on hand Feb. 4 in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse for the Notre Dame baseball program's second annual Opening Night Dinner, with Chicago Cubs GM **Jim Hendry** the keynote speaker ... the night included a ballpark-style dinner and also featured videos recapping ND's 2002 CWS season and previewing the Cubs' 2003 campaign ... admission price included becoming members of the second season-ticket-holder base in the history of ND baseball (for season tickets, call 574-631-7356) ... attendees also had the chance to receive autographs from the current ND players, who sat with fans at individual tables ... more than 100 pieces of sports memorabilia were awarded as door prizes ... Hendry – a longtime friend of ND head coach Paul Mainieri (they coached together at Miami's Columbus High School) – also was a successful coach at Creighton, with current ND associate head coach Brian O'Connor playing on Creighton's 1991 CWS squad.

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

### OTHER KENNEL CLUB CONNECTIONS

• Notre Dame associate head coach **Brian O'Connor** – now in his ninth season on the Notre Dame staff – is a 1993 Creighton graduate and was a top relief pitcher on CU's 1991 College World Series team.

• Notre Dame (4th, 85%) and Vanderbilt (6th, 80%) own two of the nation's best graduation rates for student-athletes.

• Third-year Navy head coach **Steve Whitmyer** lettered with the 1981 and '82 Notre Dame baseball teams (as a RHP), posting nine career wins and 109 Ks in 135.2 IP.

• Several current ND head coaches have connections to military academies, with 9th-year baseball coach **Paul Mainieri** coaching six previous seasons at Air Force while men's tennis coach **Bobby Bayliss** and women's rowing coach **Martin Stone** coached at Navy before coming to Notre Dame.

• Current Xavier athletic director **Mike Bobinski** – who lettered at ND as a RHP in '78 and '79 – served as AD at Navy before accepting the Xavier position.

• The Notre Dame football team has competed in Jacksonville at the Gator Bowl following the 1976, 1998 and 2002 seasons.

• Eastern Illinois has competed in NCAA Tournament women's soccer action at Notre Dame during each of the past two seasons.

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

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

### Opening Week Stats at Arizona State

Player	H-AB	Avg.	RBI	HR-3B-2B	R	BB/K	SB	E
Andres	6-14	.429	2	1-1-1	8	2/2	0-0	0
Bransfield	0-2	.000	0	0-0-0	0	0/1	0-0	0
Billmaier	8-19	.421	9	3-0-1	5	0/2	0-0	0
Cooper	4-11	.364	2	0-0-1	1	1/3	1-1	0
Edwards	4-11	.364	2	0-0-1	4	2/2	0-0	0
Grogan	2-6	.333	2	0-0-0	1	0/2	0-0	0
Lopez	3-8	.375	2	0-0-0	1	0/0	0-0	1
Macri	4-13	.308	3	1-0-1	3	3/3	0-0	4
Murray	0-1	.000	0	0-0-0	0	0/0	0-0	1
Nettey	1-5	.200	0	0-0-0	0	0/1	0-0	0
Rizzo	5-8	.625	5	1-0-1	3	0/1	0-0	0
Sanchez	3-13	.231	2	0-0-1	1	1/1	0-0	2
Sollmann	8-17	.471	2	0-1-1	6	1/0	1-1	0
Thaman	6-19	.316	2	0-0-2	3	0/6	0-0	0
<b>TEAM</b>	<b>54-147</b>	<b>.367</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6-2-10</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10/24</b>	<b>2-2</b>	<b>8</b>

**HBP:** Andres 2, Macri 2, Rizzo 2, Grogan

**Sac Bunts:** Grogan, Sollmann

Pitcher	ERA	W-L (S)	IP	R/ER	K/BB	H/HR	HB/WP
Axford	3.00	1-0 (0)	6.0	2/2	2/2	8/0	0/1
Doherty	67.50	0-0 (0)	0.2	5/5	0/2	4/0	1/0
Gagne	21.60	0-1 (1)	1.2	9/4	1/3	7/1	0/0
Kalita	7.36	0-0 (0)	3.2	4/3	3/6	4/0	1/1
Laird	36.00	0-0 (0)	1.0	4/4	2/4	2/0	0/2
Niesel	6.00	0-0 (0)	6.0	4/4	1/2	6/0	0/1
Ogilvie	1.80	0-1 (0)	5.0	5/1	2/2	4/1	1/0
Thornton	3.86	0-0 (0)	2.1	1/1	0/1	3/0	1/0
Vergara	31.50	0-0 (0)	2.0	7/7	0/5	4/2	1/2
Viloria	0.00	1-0 (0)	2.2	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Wilkins	27.00	0-0 (0)	1.0	3/3	1/1	4/0	0/0
<b>STAFF</b>	<b>9.56</b>	<b>2-2 (1)</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>44/34</b>	<b>11/28</b>	<b>46/4</b>	<b>5/7</b>

### GAME NOTES FROM OPENING WEEK

• The first game vs. Arizona State marked the 500th game at Notre Dame for ninth-year head coach Paul Mainieri (he's now 357-145-1), who also is nearing his 700th career coaching win (689-424-1).

• **Kris Billmaier's** 8th-inning solo home run thwarted Dayton's upset bid (10-9) ... ND took a 9-4 lead into the 7th before seeing UD rally to tie the game ... the Irish offense – despite losing five starters from the '02 CWS team – pounded out 18 hits for one of the most productive openers in ND history (the '02 squad managed just eight hits in its 7-6 opening win over Missouri) ... the 10 runs equal the most by ND in a season opener since the '93 squad posted an 11-3 win at ASU ... the '95 Irish team also scored 10 runs in its opener, vs. Florida State at the ACC Disney Blast in Orlando (10-1).

• In the first game vs. ASU (16-3 loss), ND took a 1-0 lead into the bottom of the 5th before ASU cashed in a pair of defensive miscues to claim the lead ... sophomore SS Matt Macri allowed a routine double-play ball grounder to skip under his glove, setting up a 2-out grand slam (all four runs were unearned).

• In the second ASU game, ND used a 7-run top of the 6th to claim an 8-4 lead but ASU answered with a 2-out, 9-run rally (the inning took 53 minutes, the game 3:24) ... three ND errors led to six unearned runs and provided the margin of defeat ... freshman CF **Cody Rizzo** hit an early home run for the Irish while **Macri** capped the top of the 6th with a 2-run shot.

### Dairy Queen Classic Stats

Player	H-AB	Avg.	RBI	HR-3B-2B	R	BB/K	SB	E
Andres	0-5	.000	1	0-0-0	0	1/2	0-0	0
Billmaier	3-14	.214	0	0-0-0	1	0/3	0-0	0
Bransfield	dnp							
Cooper	1-10	.100	0	0-0-0	0	1/3	2-2	0
Edwards	5-12	.417	2	0-0-0	0	0/3	0-0	0
Grogan	1-3	.333	0	0-0-0	1	0/1	1-1	0
Lopez	0-5	.000	0	0-0-0	0	0/1	0-0	0
Macri	2-13	.154	1	0-0-1	1	0/2	0-0	0
Murray	dnp							
Nettey	1-1	1.000	0	0-0-0	1	0/0	0-0	0
Rizzo	2-12	.167	0	0-0-0	0	0/6	0-0	0
Sanchez	4-14	.286	0	0-0-0	0	0/4	0-0	0
Sollmann	3-12	.250	0	0-0-0	0	2/2	4-4	1
Thaman	1-10	.100	1	0-0-0	0	2/6	0-0	0
<b>TEAM</b>	<b>23-111</b>	<b>.207</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0-0-1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6/33</b>	<b>7-7</b>	<b>1</b>

**HBP:** Andres, Rizzo 2

**Sac Bunts:** None

Pitcher	ERA	W-L (S)	IP	R/ER	K/BB	H/HR	HB/WP
Axford	1.29	0-0 (0)	7.0	1/1	4/2	4/0	0/1
Doherty	0.00	0-0 (0)	0.2	0/0	2/2	0/0	0/0
Gagne	0.00	1-0 (0)	6.0	0/0	2/1	4/0	0/0
Kalita	8.10	0-0 (0)	3.1	3/3	0/3	6/0	1/0
Laird	dnp						
Niesel	13.50	0-1 (0)	4.0	6/6	2/1	9/1	0/0
Ogilvie	11.25	0-1 (0)	4.0	5/5	3/2	6/1	1/0
Thornton	0.00	0-0 (0)	4.0	1/0	1/1	3/0	1/0
Vergara	dnp						
Viloria	dnp						
Wilkins	dnp						
<b>STAFF</b>	<b>4.66</b>	<b>1-2 (0)</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>16/15</b>	<b>14/12</b>	<b>32/2</b>	<b>3/1</b>

### GAME NOTES FROM THE DQ CLASSIC

• **ROLLERCOASTER RIDE** – ND's seven freshman position players had an impressive debut in the four games played at Arizona State, batting .389 (21-for-54; 13 RBI, 14 R, 2 HR, 3B, 3 2B, 3 BB, 10 Ks, SB, 5 HBP, SAC) – including HRs from DH **Steve Andres** and CF **Cody Rizzo** (a rarity in recent years for ND freshmen) ... the rookies joined their teammates in coming back to earth vs. challenging pitching at the DQ Classic – Nebraska LHP Aaron Marsden (8 IP, R, 5 H, 10 Ks), Minnesota RHP C.J. Woodrow (6 IP, UER, 4 H, 8 Ks), Wake Forest LHP Tim Morley (6.2 IP, R, 4 H, 3 BB, 7 Ks) – with the freshmen combining to hit just .128 (5-for-39, 13 Ks).

• Sophomore 3B **Matt Edwards** (5-for-12) was the only ND starter to hit above .290 in the three games.

• The 2-1, 13-inning win over Wake Forest game ranks as the third-longest in the nine-year Paul Mainieri era and is the longest for the Irish in five years, since Alec Porzel's home run ended a 15-inning, 5-3 game vs. West Virginia on May 3, 1998 (at Eck Stadium) ... the longest game of the Mainieri era came on May 2, 1995, when the Irish outlasted Michigan in a 16-inning game at Old Kent Park in Grand Rapids, Mich. (7-6).

• ND outhit WFU 11-8 but the Irish left 12 runners on base (with two others picked off) ... ND had the potential winning run on base every inning from the 9th-12th before finally ending the game in the 13th.

• Nebraska CF Jeff Leise sparked the NU offense with an early HR and a 2-run triple ... Minnesota scored its first three runs on RBI groundouts before 2B Luke Appert's 2-run blast in the 5th.

• ND overcame its offensive struggles by making just one error and turning five doubles plays.



## POSITION PLAYER NOTES

**LINEUP TAKING SHAPE** – ND's lineup continues to evolve as the Irish replace five starters from the '02 CWS team ... sophomore SS **Matt Macri** has made four starts in the leadoff spot (after entering 2003 as the likely 3-hole hitter, where he hit at the DQ Classic vs. Nebraska and Minnesota) while **Cody Rizzo's** hot-hitting start (5-for-8, 5 RBI, HR, 2B) placed him in the CF mix, along with fellow freshmen **Craig Cooper** and **Brennan Grogan** ... senior RF **Kris Billmaier** was shifted from the cleanup to No. 3 spot for opening week and responded by batting 8-for-19 (.421) with nine RBI and three home runs (equaling his 2002 HR total, with 10 career HRs prior to '03).

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

**ANDRES EMERGES** – Freshman C/DH **Steve Andres** (a 4th-generation ND student) was a pleasant surprise in 2002 fall workouts, after deciding at the last-minute to attend walk-on tryouts ... he then delivered in opening week, batting 6-for-14 (.429) with a home run, triple, double, two RBI, eight runs, two walks and two times hit-by-pitch (before going 0-for-5 at the DQ Classic) ... the smooth-swinging lefty didn't draw much attention from college recruiters while dominating in several sports at Justin Sienna HS in Napa, Calif. (he also was an option quarterback and came back from a major broken-leg injury) ... he could follow former catcher **William Andres** ('16-'18) as the first great-grandfather/great-grandson combination in the ND baseball all-time letterwinner list ... William Andres played as right end on the 1917 football team (during the early days of the Knute Rockne era) and earned three baseball monograms while serving as a teammate of future legendary Irish coach Jake Kline.

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

## DEFENSE NOTES

**NEW NAMES IN CENTER** – Freshman **Craig Cooper** became just the second ND player to start in center field during the last five seasons, with '02 graduate Steve Stanley starting all 256 games from '99-'02 (he played all but 25 innings in that span) ... Cooper's classmate **Cody Rizzo** then also drew a CF start, in the second game vs. ASU (and at the DQ Classic) ... the last player (other than Stanley) to start in center field for the Irish was switch-hitter and leadoff batter Allen Greene (in '98) ... other recent CFs include Randall Brooks ('97), Scott Sollmann ('94-'96), Eric Danapilis ('90, '93), Dan Bautch ('91-'92) and Dan Peltier ('87-'89) – with Peltier (.406), Danapilis (.405), Stanley (.384) and Scott Sollmann (.372) ranking atop the ND career batting list (dominating several other categories) ... the only players other than Stanley who patrolled CF for the Irish during '99-'02 included catcher Paul O'Toole (2 innings), utility player Ben Cooke (5), LHP Mike Naumann (1) and walk-ons John Heintz (5) and George Howard (11).

**ON THE MOVE ... AGAIN** – Junior **Javi Sanchez** – who filled in admirably as the starting SS in 2002 (he played 2B as a prep) – has tackled another new position, as ND's starting catcher ... under the guidance of first-year assistant coach David Grewe, Sanchez has made significant progress behind the plate in the past few months as the Irish look to replace graduates Paul O'Toole and Andrew Bushey ... Sanchez made just one error at SS during the 2002 NCAAAs (nine games) ... two sophomores – SS **Matt Macri** ("Tommy John" reconstructive elbow surgery) and 3B **Matt Edwards** (broken leg) have returned to anchor the left side of the infield.

### NOTRE DAME GAME-BY-GAME STARTS – BY POSITION

Opponent (Pitcher)	C	1B	2B	SS	3B	LF	CF	RF	DH	P
Dayton (Cheesebro/R)	Sanchez	Thaman	Sollmann	Macri	Edwards	Grogan	Cooper	Billmaier	Andres	Niesel
Newman (Nieto/R)	Andres	Thaman	Sollmann	Lopez	Edwards	Rizzo	Cooper	Billmaier	Macri	Axford
ASU (Vaughan/R)	Sanchez	Thaman	Sollmann	Macri	Edwards	Grogan	Cooper	Billmaier	Andres	Ogilvie
ASU (Drummond/R)	Sanchez	Thaman	Sollmann	Macri	Lopez	Nettey	Rizzo	Billmaier	Andres	Kalita
Neb. (Marsden/L)	Sanchez	Thaman	Sollmann	Macri	Lopez	Cooper	Rizzo	Billmaier	Edwards	Niesel
Minn. (Woodrow/R)	Sanchez	Thaman	Sollmann	Macri	Edwards	Grogan	Rizzo	Billmaier	Andres	Ogilvie
WFU (Morley/L)	Sanchez	Thaman	Sollmann	Macri	Edwards	Cooper	Rizzo	Billmaier	Andres	Axford

### NOTRE DAME GAME-BY-GAME STARTS – BY BATTING ORDER

Opponent (Pitcher)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Dayton (Cheesebro/R)	Macri	Sollmann	Billmaier	Thaman	Sanchez	Andres	Edwards	Grogan	Cooper
Newman (Nieto/R)	Macri	Sollmann	Billmaier	Thaman	Andres	Edwards	Rizzo	Lopez	Cooper
ASU (Vaughan/R)	Macri	Sollmann	Billmaier	Thaman	Sanchez	Andres	Edwards	Grogan	Cooper
ASU (Drummond/R)	Macri	Sollmann	Billmaier	Thaman	Sanchez	Andres	Rizzo	Lopez	Nettey
Neb. (Marsden/L)	Rizzo	Sollmann	Macri	Billmaier	Edwards	Sanchez	Thaman	Lopez	Cooper
Minn. (Woodrow/R)	Rizzo	Sollmann	Billmaier	Edwards	Andres	Sanchez	Macri	Thaman	Grogan
WFU (Morley/L)	Macri	Sollmann	Billmaier	Edwards	Sanchez	Rizzo	Andres	Cooper	Thaman

**LOOKING FOR LEADOFF:** Notre Dame heads into the third week of the season still searching for its top option at the leadoff spot, held down during the past four seasons primarily by All-America CF Steve Stanley (he hit leadoff in 187 of 256 games from 1999-2002) ... two of Stanley's classmates – DH Ken Meyer (43) and C Paul O'Toole (11) – accounted for 54 of the other 69 leadoff starts from '99-'02 ... sophomore SS **Matt Macri** (4 games) and freshman CF **Cody Rizzo** (3) have been featured in the leadoff role this season, combining to hit just .185 (5-for-27) with a .313 on-base pct. (3 BB, 2 HBP) and .333 slugging pct. (HR, 2B), plus three runs, three RBI, no stolen bases and nine Ks ... Macri has hit 4-for-19 (.211) in the leadoff role (3 RBI, 3 R, HR, 2B, 3 BB, 2 HBP, 4 Ks) while Rizzo is batting 1-for-8 (.125, 5 Ks) as the leadoff man ... as a team, ND owns a .406 overall on-base pct. when leading off the inning (Macri .286, Rizzo .364).

## ***Chris Niesel Notes***

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

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

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

**DECEIVING W-L MARK** – **Chris Niesel's** 4-0 season record in 2002 (in 11 starts) could have included several more early-season wins, as he left with leads vs. Southern Illinois (2-1, ND lost 6-2), Arkansas-Little Rock (5-1, with ND scoring twice in 9th to win 7-5), Connecticut (8-3, lose 9-8) and St. John's (2-1, with ND scoring three in 7th for 5-2 win) ... the trend continued last week in the opener vs. Dayton, as Niesel left with a 9-4 lead (6 IP, 6 H, 2 BB, K) only to see UD rally for to forge a 9-9 tie (ND won, 10-9) ... Niesel was one of five high school pitchers in the nation who were named by *Baseball America* as a 2001 first team All-American.

## **PITCHING STAFF NOTES**

**HARD TO HIT** – Sophomore RHP **John Axford** has proven tough to hit in 19 outings with the Irish ... Axford has allowed just .237 opponent batting and 71 hits in 83.2 career innings at ND (7.6 H per 9 IP), surrendering just one home run in 374 batters faced ... Axford owns a 2.08 season ERA to 2.08 in 13 IP (12 H, 4 BB, 5 Ks) and is averaging just 2.8 BB per 9 IP (compared to 7.5 BB per 9 IP as a freshman) ... he rolled up his second and third double-play balls of the season in the Wake Forest game, after serving up a team-best 18 DP groundballs in '02.

**CLOSING THE DEAL** – ND's starters combined for a 4.35 ERA and .336 opponent batting in opening-week action (20.2 IP, 7 Ks, 12 BB, 22 H) but the bullpen was touched for a 19.06 ERA and .400 opponent batting in 11.1 IP (4 Ks, 16 BB, 24 H).

**PUT AWAY THE BB's** – The ND pitching staff has an uncharacteristically high walk total (40 BB in 61 IP, or 5.9 BB per 9 IP) – after averaging just 3.6 walks per 9 IP in 2002 ... the ND pitchers averaged 3.47 BB per 9 IP in the first eight seasons of the Mainieri era (led by a team-record 2.5 in '01 and 3.0 in '00)

**ELITE E.R.A.** – Notre Dame has finished in the top-16 of the national charts for team ERA in four of the previous five seasons, owning the nation's best team ERA in portions of 2000 and '01 ... the 2000 staff surged atop the national ERA charts in late April (2.72) and finished 16th (3.93) ... the Irish returned to the top spot among the 2001 team ERA leaders for three weeks in April, finishing fifth at 3.22 (best at ND since '92, third-best since '75) ... ND finished 13th in the '02 ERA rankings (3.57), joining Texas and Rice as the only teams among the nation's top-20 ERA leaders in '00, '01 and '02 ... the Irish were 12th in the '98 team ERA rankings (4.02) while the first eight ND staffs coached by **Brian O'Connor** ('95-'02) averaged a 4.10.

**TALL TOM TERRIFIC** – Freshman LHP **Tom Thornton** had another strong relief outing in the Nebraska game (4 IP, UER, 3 H, BB, K) and now owns a 1.42 ERA in two outings with the Irish (6.1 IP, 6 H, 2 BB, K).

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

**SOPHOMORE SURGE?** – Hard-throwing sophomore RHP **John Axford** (13 IP, 4 BB, 5 Ks) is looking for more consistent pitch location in '03, after totaling the same number of walks and strikeouts (89) in his combined 2002 ND (59 BB/64 Ks) and Cape Cod League seasons (with the Hyannis Mets, 30 BB/25 Ks) ... Axford's .231 opponent batting was best among the 2002 staff (also 10th-best by an ND pitcher, since '91) and he actually turned in some of the best numbers ever by an ND freshman pitcher in the eight-year Paul Mainieri era (notably his 3.95 ERA, 70.2 IP and 64 Ks) – but his season was somewhat overshadowed by the dominating postseasons turned in by his classmates Grant Johnson and Chris Niesel.

**THREE AMIGOS** – Three senior RHPs could be key parts of ND's '03 success, as starters **Peter Ogilvie** (3.50, 12-7, 136.1 IP, 90 Ks/39 BB, 138 H, 26 GP/22 CS, 5 CG) and **Ryan Kalita** (3.50, 7-0, 61.2 IP, 49 Ks/33 BB, 65 H, 23 GP/7 GS, CG) and former weekend starter/current closer **J.P. Gagne** (4.21, 22-11, 7 SV, 245.2 IP, 163 Ks/66 BB, 274 H, 67 GP/33 GS, 2 CG) own the following combined career stats: 3.96, 41-18, 7 saves, 447.2 IP, 305 Ks/140 BB, 483 H, 117 GP/63 GS and 8 CG.

**JOHNSON LOST FOR SEASON** – Sophomore RHP **Grant Johnson** (Burr Ridge, Ill.) underwent arthroscopic shoulder surgery in late Dec. and is slated to miss the '03 season ... a 2003 preseason All-American, he enjoyed a stellar 2002 Freshman All-America season (3.46 ERA in 18 GP), ranking second among BIG EAST pitchers in wins (9-5), third in starts (14) and sixth in Ks (86) ... the 6-6, 220-pounder's other '02 stats included 44 walks, 94 hits allowed, .249 opponent batting, five wild pitches and nine hit batters ... *CB* named Johnson national pitcher of the week after his 1-hit, 1-walk masterpiece in the 25-1 NCAA win over South Alabama – the 13th pitcher (4th since '81) ever to toss a no-hitter or 1-hitter in the NCAAs ... he posted an opening-game win in the Super Regional at Florida State and started the opener vs. Stanford at the CWS ... Johnson logged 20 IP with Team USA in the summer of '02 (1.80 ERA, 2-1, 5 GP/3 GS, 25 Ks, 13 BB, 11 H), helping the staff post a team-record 1.48 ERA.

## PITCHING STAFF NOTES

**ROOKIE RARITY** – Notre Dame's first 24 all-time BIG EAST Tournament games featured just three freshman starters on the mound – with the Irish equaling that number in '02, when **Grant Johnson** and **Chris Niesel** started the first two games of the BIG EAST Tournament and **John Axford** started ND's decisive fourth game (3-2 vs. Rutgers) ... ND started two freshman pitchers in all three NCAA rounds, with Johnson drawing Game-1 starts in the Regional (vs. Ohio State), Super Regional (vs. Florida State) and CWS (vs. Stanford) while Niesel won the clinching third games in the Regional (also short relief stint) and Super Regional – followed by a strong start in the CWS elimination-game win over Rice (Axford added impressive relief vs. FSU and Stanford) ... the trio's combined '02 postseason stats included a 5-1 record, 2.71 ERA and .229 opp. batting in 12 GP/9 GS (50 Ks, 27 BB, 53 H in 63 IP).

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

**CLOSING WITH THE CLOSER** – Current senior RHP and closer **J.P. Gagne** had some rocky moments early in the 2002 postseason but posted an amazing ratio of strikeouts (15) to walks (1) in 18 IP of '02 postseason ... his best two outings came at key times, retiring nine straight to close the 10-4 opening win at Florida State before coming on to strike out the side in the 9th inning of the 3-1 clincher in that Super-Regional series ... he also went 7-2 in his final nine decisions of the 2002 season.

**SENIOR SAVERS** – ND's senior class includes three RHPs – J.P. Gagne (7), Brandon Vilorio (5) and Matt Laird (5) – who have totaled five-plus saves in their ND careers ... Laird and his three-quarters delivery produced four saves in the closing role with the 2001 team that climbed to No. 1 ... his more noteworthy saves that season included the first of two wins on opening week at Mississippi State (7-5, 0.2 IP) and the final two innings to cap a 3-0 shutout of Cleveland State.

**MR. CONTROL** – Senior RHP **Brandon Vilorio** has averaged just 1.56 walks per 9 IP during his career (11/63.1) – which would best the ND record of 1.64 set by RHP Alan Walania from 1990-93 (59/324) ... Vilorio posted a 2.45 season ERA in 2002 (second-best on the staff), plus a 2-1 record and three saves, with just five walks in 21 IP (no wild pitches and one hit batter) and an eye-popping .203 opponent batting avg. (16-for-79) ... he has yet to throw a wild pitch in 63.2 career innings, with just one hit batter ... several other ND pitchers also have low career walk ratios, including sophomore **Chris Niesel** (2.30) and seniors **J.P. Gagne** (2.42) and **Peter Ogilvie** (2.63).

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

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

**FIREMAN** – Senior **Brandon Vilorio** has inherited five baserunners in '03 (allowing none to score), after allowing seven of 15 inherited baserunners to score in 2002.

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

**ANOTHER BIG W:** Kalita also turned in a clutch effort as the starter in ND's key 2-1 win over Virginia Tech (4/12/02) ... that 7-inning game extended to 10, with the Irish outlasting the Hokies ace LHP (and eventual 1st-round draft pick) Joe Saunders ... Kalita logged the first six innings, allowing an unearned run (6 H, BB, 5 Ks) ... ND then won in the 10th, after Matt Bok's pinch-hit triple and Joe Thaman's single back to the mound ... that win essentially helped ND claim the BIG EAST's No. 1 seed, after the Irish and Hokies both finished 18-8 in league play – with ND going on to sweep the double-header for the eventual tiebreaker.

**WINDY-CITY WONDERS:** Three Chicago-area natives emerged among ND's top-five starting pitchers in '02: current senior RHPs **Peter Ogilvie** (Buffalo Grove/Stevenson HS) and **Ryan Kalita** (Oak Park/OP-River Forest HS) and current sophomore RHP **Grant Johnson** (slated to miss all of the '03 season after undergoing shoulder surgery) ... that Windy City trio combined in '02 for a 21-10 record and 3.83 ERA (180 Ks, 84 BB, 229 H hits in 223.1 IP) ... some top players in the Mainieri era have hailed from Chicagoland, including IF/C Mike Amrhein (OPRF HS), CF Randall Brooks (Hazelcrest/Hillcrest HS), C Bob Lisanti (Chicago/Fenwick HS) and SS Alec Porzel (Lisle/Naperville North HS) – plus pitchers Tim Kalita (Ryan's brother and Detroit Tigers 40-man Spring Training invitee) and Darin Schmalz (Barrington HS).

### INSIDE THE 2003 IRISH BULLPEN

Player	GP (Relief)	ERA	W-L(S)	IP	R/ER	H/Avg.	K/BB	HB	WP	Inher. Run's/Scored
Doherty	2	33.75	0-0 (0)	1.1	5/5	4/.571	2/4	1	0	1/0
Gagne	3	4.70	1-1 (1)	7.2	9/4	11/.314	3/4	0	0	0/0
Kalita	1	8.10	0-0 (0)	3.1	3/3	6/.546	0/3	1	0	0/0
Laird	1	36.00	0-0 (0)	1.0	4/4	2/.400	2/4	0	2	0/0
Thornton	2	1.42	0-0 (0)	6.1	2/1	6/.273	1/2	2	0	3/1
Vergara	1	31.50	0-0 (0)	2.0	7/7	4/.400	0/5	1	2	0/0
Vilorio	2	0.00	1-0 (0)	2.2	0/0	0/.000	0/0	0	0	5/0
Wilkins	1	27.00	0-0 (0)	1.0	3/3	4/.800	1/1	0	0	0/0
<b>Team</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9.59</b>	<b>2-1 (1)</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>33/27</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>9/23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9/1</b>

## NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2002 RESULTS

### FEBRUARY

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

### MARCH

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

### APRIL

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

### MAY

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

### BIG EAST Tournament (Bridgewater, NJ)

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

### JUNE

#### NCAA Regional (Frank Eck Stadium)

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

#### NCAA Super-Regional (Howser Stadium)

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

#### College World Series (Omaha, NE)

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

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

## 2002 SEASON NOTES

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

**BOOMERANG SEASON** – The sixth-ranked Notre Dame baseball team ended up in the 2002 College World Series and the NCAA "final six" – ultimately living up to its billing as the nation's No. 5-ranked team in the *Baseball America* preseason poll (ND was 13th in the *USA Today*/ESPN preseason coaches poll and 19th in the *Collegiate Baseball* poll) ... the eight CWS teams all were in the top-14 of the *BA* preseason poll: Stanford (1), Clemson (2), ND (5), Nebraska (8), Texas (9), Rice (11), Georgia Tech (13) and South Carolina (14) ... others in the *BA* preseason top 10 included Miami (3), USC (4), Florida State (6), LSU (7) and Tulane (10).

**HOSTS WITH THE MOST** – Notre Dame is one of nine schools to serve as a Regional host team three-plus times since the NCAA field expanded to 64 teams in 1999 (Florida State, Stanford and LSU are the only host teams all four years) ... others included fellow '02 hosts USC, Rice, Clemson and South Carolina (plus Miami, a host team from 1999-2001).

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

**1-0 GAME A RARITY** – The 2002 narrow win over BYU marked just the fourth 1-0 game in Mainieri era at ND – with one in a 7-inning game (vs. Navy, at the '98 Service Academies Classic) ... the Irish posted a 1-0 win over Valparaiso on April 22, 1998 (7-inning game extended to 9) before the 1-0 win over the Miami Hurricanes, on May 12, 1999, at Eck Stadium (Alex Shilliday, Chris McKeown and Aaron Heilman combined on a near-no-hitter).

**HOMEBODIES** – Several 2002 ND players hit significantly higher at Eck Stadium than on the road, including current junior 1B **Joe Thaman** (148 pts higher, .206-.354) and current senior RF **Kris Billmaier** (+83, .279-.362) ... the '02 team hit 54 pts higher at home (.290-.344) while the staff ERA was smaller (3.99-2.84).

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

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

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

### ND's 2002 BIG EAST STAT LEADERS (active players)

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

## PROGRAM NOTES

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

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

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

**SCORING STREAKS** – Notre Dame saw its team-record scoring streak end on May 15, 2002, in an 11-0 loss to BIG EAST rival Rutgers ... the Irish scored in the final 57 games of '99, in every game of 2000 (64) and '01 (63), and in the first 46 of 2002 – for a **230-game scoring streak** that stretched back to a 12-0 loss at Florida International (2/21/99) ... the previous record 132-game scoring streak began with the first game of the Paul Mainieri era, a 10-6 loss to Texas at the Anaheim Classic, on Feb. 24, 1995 (the Irish were shut out by Auburn, 8-0, in the '94 NCAA East Regional at Clemson) ... that streak ended vs. another Texas team, 2-0 vs. Texas Pan-American in a seven-inning game on March 10, 1997 (in San Antonio) ... ND has scored in 98.8 pct. of its games in the Mainieri era (**498 of 504**), with the other shutouts vs. BIG EAST teams: at Seton Hall (16-0; 3/22/97), vs. St. John's (3-0; 5/9/98) and vs. Rutgers in the BIG EAST Tournament (12-0; 5/16/98).

Heading into the Kennel Club Classic, the Irish have **scored in 302 of 304 non-conference games** during the Mainieri era (99.3%), including **141 straight** ... prior to the Mainieri era, the longest ND scoring streaks were: 121 (April 23, 1930-May 26, 1937) and 103-games (May 25, 1907-May 17, 1912) ... ND's five shutout losses under Mainieri have included two on the opponent's field, one at Eck Stadium and two on neutral fields.

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

**GOING THE DISTANCE** – Prior to its heartbreaking 2001 NCAA Tournament loss to Florida International (7-6, 10 inn.), Notre Dame had gone unbeaten in its previous 10 extra-inning games (9-0-1) – including three at the 2001 Fresno State Classic and clutch 11-inning wins at Mississippi State (4-2) and Rutgers (5-4) in that '01 season ... the Irish quickly rebounded from the FIU loss, winning a 10-inning game later that day vs. UC Santa Barbara (11-10), and went 4-1 in 2002 extra-inning games – followed by last week's 13-inning win over Wake Forest ... ND heads into the Kennel Club Classic with a **15-2-1 mark in its last 18 extra-inning games**, dating back to '97 (6-1-0 in the last seven, starting with the 2001 NCAA win over FIU).

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

## MEDIA/INTERNET NOTES

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

**TV BROADCASTS** – Three early-season ND baseball games were televised by stations in the respective competition areas ... ND fans throughout Arizona watched broadcasts of last weekend's games at Arizona State on the statewide KAZ-TV ... Fox Sports Net North provided a live broadcast of the Notre Dame-Minnesota game on Sat., March 1, at the Metrodome.

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

**MAINIERI ON LIVE CHAT** – The transcript from a Feb. 20 live-chat session with Notre Dame head coach Paul Mainieri can be viewed at [www.und.com](http://www.und.com).

## 2002 STARTS BY BATTING ORDER

### LEADOFF

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

### 2ND SPOT

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

### 3RD SPOT

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

### CLEANUP

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

### 5TH SPOT

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

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

### 6TH SPOT

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

### 7TH SPOT

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

### 8TH SPOT

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

### 9TH SPOT

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

## 2002 STARTS BY POSITION

### PITCHER

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

### CATCHER

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

### FIRST BASE

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

### SECOND BASE

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

### SHORTSTOP

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

### THIRD BASE

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

### LEFT FIELD

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

### CENTER FIELD

Stanley ..... 68 (50-18)

### RIGHT FIELD

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

### DESIGNATED HITTER

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

### 2002 Notre Dame Inning-By-Inning Scoring

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

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

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

## 2002 Individual Season and Career-Highs

### KRIS BILLMAIER

4 hits (4-5 vs. Florida State, 6/7)  
2 runs (7 times; last vs. OSU, 6/2)  
5 RBI vs. Florida State, SR (6/7)  
2 doubles vs. Valparaiso (4/3)

#### Career Bests

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

### JAVI SANCHEZ

4 hits vs. Georgetown (3/30), CMU (4/15)  
3 runs vs. Central Michigan (4/15)  
3 RBI vs. CMU (4/15), Michigan (4/30)  
7 total bases vs. Georgetown (3/30), CMU (4/15)  
2 walks (3 times)  
12-game hitting streak (5/12-6/1, 2002)

### STEVE SOLLMANN

6-for-7 vs. South Alabama (6/1)  
7 RBI vs. South Alabama (6/1)  
6 runs vs. South Alabama (6/1)  
13 vs. South Alabama (6/1; HR, 2 3B, 3 1B)  
2 walks (3 times), ties career-best  
10-gm hit streak (4/21-5/4), tied career-best

#### Career Bests

4 hits vs. Vill. (4/21/01), New Orleans (2/17/01)  
3 runs vs. Rutgers (4/7/01), Portland (3/17/01)  
2 stolen bases vs. Toledo (3/28/01), Pitt. (3/23/01)

### JOE THAMAN

3-for-5 vs. South Alabama (6/1)  
3 runs scored vs. South Alabama (6/1)  
4 RBI (3 games)  
6 total bases vs. UALR (3/15), Ball State (4/16)  
2 walks (5 times)

### JOHN AXFORD

7.2 innings at Seton Hall (4/20)  
9 strikeouts vs. Georgetown (3/30)

### PETER OGILVIE

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

### CHRIS NIESEL

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

## 2002 TEAM-BEST SEASON HIGHS

### TEAM

#### At-Bats

56 – vs. South Alabama (6/1)

#### Runs Scored

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

#### Hits

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

#### Doubles

7 – vs. Rochester College (5/15)  
(Holba 3, Sollmann, Meyer, Bushey, Sisko)

#### Triples

3 – vs. South Alabama (6/1; Sollmann 2, Billmaier)

#### Home Runs

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

#### Total Bases

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

#### Walks

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

#### Double Plays Turned

4 – vs. Seton Hall (4/20)

#### Strikeouts Thrown

13 – vs. Fairfield (3/2)

#### Sacrifice Bunts

5 – vs. Villanova (5/11)  
(Stanley, O'Toole, Billmaier, Bushey, Thaman)

### INDIVIDUALS

#### At-Bats

7 – Sollmann vs. South Alabama (June 1)

#### Runs Scored

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

#### Hits

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

#### RBI

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

#### Home Runs

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

#### Total Bases

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

#### Walks

4 – Stanley vs. Toledo (4/17)

#### Hit-By-Pitch

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

#### Innings Pitched

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

#### Strikeouts

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

### 2002 FALL SIGNEES

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

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

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

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

**UPDATED NOTRE DAME CAREER STATISTICS (prior to Kennel Club Classic)**

Name	GP/GS	AB	R	H	HR-3B-2B	RBI	BB	HP	K	SF/SH	SB	AVG
Billmaier	161/145	528	92	159	13-1-21	106	52	17	63	5/13	6-10	.301
Edwards	15/14	54	7	18	0-0-2	8	5	1	11	1/0	1-1	.333
Macri	24/23	94	14	20	2-0-5	17	10	2	29	2/0	1-2	.213
Sanchez	81/73	271	52	72	5-3-8	31	26	5	39	1/8	1-1	.266
Sollmann	127/125	463	111	168	7-7-18	85	55	7	49	9/13	34-45	.363
Thaman	130/125	417	75	115	8-1-23	61	36	7	83	5/16	3-8	.276

Name	GP/GS	CG/Shut	IP	H	R/ER	BB	K	WP	HB	BK	AVG	HR	W-L	SV	ERA
Axford	19/14	0/0	83.2	71	48/34	63	69	9	6	0	.237	1	6-2	0	3.66
Gagne	67/33	2/1	245.2	274	136/115	66	163	9	19	1	.285	20	22-11	7	4.21
Jones	4/1	0/0	9.0	9	5/4	9	6	1	0	0	.243	0	1-0	1	4.00
Kalita	23/7	0/0	61.2	65	30/24	33	49	8	4	1	.281	3	7-0	0	3.50
Laird	50/9	0/0	91.0	94	56/42	43	73	15	15	2	.263	3	10-3	5	4.15
Niesel	16/13	0/0	82.1	83	43/37	21	65	3	4	2	.254	8	4-1	2	4.04
Ogilvie	27/23	3/0	140.1	144	73/58	41	93	7	10	0	.27	6	12-8	0	3.72
Vergara	13/5	0/0	37.2	37	27/22	22	33	7	9	0	.247	3	5-1	0	5.26
Viloria	41/1	0/0	63.1	56	26/20	11	31	1	4	0	.232	2	6-2	5	2.84
<b>Staff</b>	<b>272/106</b>	<b>2/1</b>	<b>834.2</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>461/371</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>74-28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4.00</b>

**2002 STATISTICAL LEADERS**

**Games Played**

Stanley	68
Sanchez	66

**Games Started**

Stanley	68
O'Toole, Sanchez	65

**Batting Average**

Stanley	.439
Stavisky	.394
Sollmann	.362
Bushey	.323

**Hits**

Stanley	119
Sollmann	77
Stavisky	76

**Runs Scored**

Stanley	77
Sollmann	53
Sanchez	50

**Runs Batted In**

Bushey	59
Stavisky	57
O'Toole	50

**Slugging Percentage**

Stavisky	.658
Stanley	.542
O'Toole	.525

**Total Bases**

Stanley	147
Stavisky	127

**Home Runs**

O'Toole	11
Stavisky	9
Thaman, Bushey	6
Sanchez	5

**Triples**

Stavisky	5
O'Toole, Sollmann, Stanley	4

**Doubles**

Bushey	19
Stanley	17

**Hit-By-Pitch**

Bok	13
O'Toole, Billmaier	7

**Walks**

Stanley	38
O'Toole	33
Sanchez, Thaman	24

**On-Base Percentage**

Stanley	.506
Stavisky	.451
Sollmann	.420

**Stolen Bases**

Stanley	32
O'Toole	11

**Batting vs. LHPs**

Sollmann	.429
Stanley	.346

**Batting vs. RHPs**

Stanley	.479
Bushey	.340
Sollmann	.333

**2-Out RBI**

Billmaier	17
Thaman	15

**Batting w/ Runners On**

Stanley	.455
Stavisky	.441
Sollmann	.383
Billmaier	.382

**Bat. w/ Bases Loaded**

Sollmann	.750
Bushey	.667 (HR)

**Pct. Advance Runners**

Stanley	.626
Stavisky	.618
Sollmann	.583
Bok	.570
Billmaier	.569

**Runners Advanced**

Bushey	41
Bok	30
Stavisky	26
Billmaier, Sollmann	25

**Sacrifice Bunts**

Thaman	13
Billmaier	11
Bushey	10
Stanley, Sanchez	8

**Sacrifice Flies**

O'Toole	8
Bushey	7

**Total Sacrifices (SH/SF)**

Bushey	17 (10/7)
Thaman	15 (2/13)
O'Toole	14 (8/6)

**Earned-Run Average**

Duff	2.38
Viloria	2.45
Gagne	3.14
Kalita	3.16
Niesel	3.36

**Opp. Batting Average**

Viloria	.203
Axford	.231
Vergara	.236
Niesel	.241
Gagne	.245

**Opp. Batting (vs. LH)**

Viloria	.222
Gagne	.230
Axford	.230

**Opp. Batting (vs. RH)**

Viloria	.192
Niesel	.203

**Wins**

Johnson (9-5), Gagne (9-4)	7-5
Ogilvie	7-5
Kalita (5-0), Vergara (5-1), Axford (5-2)	

**Saves**

Gagne	6
Buchmeier, Viloria	3

**Strikeouts**

Johnson	86
Gagne	69
Axford	64
Niesel	62

**Strikeouts Per 9 IP**

Duff	8.34
Vergara	8.33
Axford	8.15
Niesel	7.71

**Ks "Looking"**

Johnson	24
Niesel	21

**Fewest Walks/9 IP**

Gagne	1.52
Viloria	2.05
Niesel	2.24

**K-to-BB Ratio**

Gagne	4.3
Niesel	3.4
Duff	3.0
Kalita	2.6

**Fewest Hits All/9 IP**

Viloria	6.55
Axford	7.01

**Innings Pitched**

Johnson	101.1
Gagne	94.2
Ogilvie	79.1
Niesel	72.1
Axford	70.2

**Appearances**

Gagne	28
Johnson	18
Axford, Ogilvie	17

**Games Started**

Johnson, Ogilvie	14
Axford	12

**Game One Starts**

Johnson	9
Axford	5

**Games Finished**

Gagne	19
Viloria	9

**Runners Picked Off**

Johnson	2
O'Toole, Gagne	2

**Opp. Leadoff On-Base**

Viloria	.316
Gagne	.315
Niesel	.365

**Opp. Avg. w/ 2 outs**

Vergara	.100
Duff	.154
Viloria	.214
Ogilvie	.220
Niesel	.220

**Opp. Avg. w/Runners**

Niesel	.208
Vergara	.214
Kalita	.215

**Groundout/Flyout**

Viloria	1.83
Axford	1.53
Ogilvie	1.46
Niesel	1.36

**Double Plays Turned**

Thaman	53
Sanchez	41
Sollmann	34

**2002 SITUATIONAL BATTING**

**Batting with Runners in Scoring Position**

1. Steve Stanley	.522
2. Steve Sollmann	.443
3. Brian Stavisky	.442
4. Andrew Bushey	.366
Team Average	.340
5. Joe Thaman	.329
Kris Billmaier	.329
7. Javier Sanchez	.291
8. Matt Bok	.279
9. Paul O'Toole	.270
10. Ken Meyer	.105

(2001 team avg. was .318)

**Two-out Batting Average**

1. Steve Stanley	.381
2. Brian Stavisky	.380
3. Kris Billmaier	.351
4. Matt Bok	.294
5. Andrew Bushey	.292
Team Average	.280
6. Joe Thaman	.269
7. Steve Sollmann	.268
8. Paul O'Toole	.263
9. Javier Sanchez	.210
10. Ken Meyer	.149

(2001 team avg. was .309)

**Leadoff On-Base Percentage**

1. Ken Meyer	.550
2. Matt Bok	.548
3. Brian Stavisky	.541
4. Steve Stanley	.532
5. Steve Sollmann	.500
6. Paul O'Toole	.443
Team Average	.442
7. Andrew Bushey	.414
8. Javier Sanchez	.400
9. Joe Thaman	.362
10. Kris Billmaier	.271

(2001 team avg. was .435)

**Hardest To K (plate app./K; pre-CWS)**

1. Steve Stanley	28.0	(308/11)
2. Steve Sollmann	13.1	(235/18)
3. Brian Stavisky	12.4	(211/17)
4. Andrew Bushey	11.6	(256/22)
5. Ken Meyer	10.0	(140/14)
6. Javier Sanchez	8.3	(257/31)
Team Average	8.3	(2,591/313)
7. Paul O'Toole	8.1	(259/32)
8. Kris Billmaier	8.1	(251/31)
9. Matt Bok	6.8	(205/30)
10. Joe Thaman	5.6	(212/38)

(2001 team avg. - 9.1)