

## 2006 SCHEDULE (10-7)

**FEBRUARY** \* – BIG EAST game

Thur. 23	vs. Indiana St. (Mill., TN)	W, 3-0
<i>Service Academies Classic (Millington, TN)</i>		
Fri. 24	vs. Air Force	W, 8-2
Sat. 25	vs. Memphis	L, 6-7 (10)
Sun. 26	vs. Oklahoma	L, 3-4

## MARCH

*Minnesota Dairy Queen Classic (Metrodome)*

Fri. 3	vs. #4 Nebraska	L, 1-11
Sat. 4	vs. Minnesota	L, 0-8
Sun. 5	vs. Arizona	L, 0-2 (10)

*UTSA Express Classic (Wolff Stadium; San Antonio)*

Fri. 10	vs. Texas A&M	W, 5-4
Sat. 11	vs. Iowa	W, 16-2
Sun. 12	vs. Illinois	W, 4-2
Mon. 13	vs. Iowa	W, 6-2

*Irish Baseball Classic (Wolff Stadium; San Antonio)*

Thur. 16	vs. Iowa	W, 7-5
Fri. 17	vs. Southern Illinois	W, 12-2
Fri. 17	vs. Iowa	L, 8-10
Sat. 18	vs. Southern Illinois	W, 4-0
Tues. 21	Wright State	L, 2-4
Wed. 22	Central Michigan	W, 11-9

*at Povich Field (Bethesda, MD)*

Sat. 25	vs. Georgetown (DH)*	noon
Sun. 26	vs. Georgetown*	noon
Tues. 28	Valparaiso	5:05 p.m.
Wed. 29	Western Michigan	5:05 p.m.
Fri. 31	Pittsburgh*	6:05 p.m.

## APRIL

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

## MAY

Tues. 2	Cleveland State	5:05 p.m.
Fri. 5	Louisville*	6:05 p.m.
Sat. 6	Louisville*	1:05 p.m.
Sun. 7	Louisville*	12:05 p.m.
Sat. 13	at Seton Hall (DH)*	noon
Sun. 14	at Seton Hall*	noon
Tues. 16	vs. Michigan (Comcast Local)	7:00 p.m.

(5th/3rd Park; Comstock Park, MI)

*at Villanova Ballpark (Plymouth Meeting, PA)*

Thur. 18	vs. Villanova*	4:00 p.m.
Fri. 19	vs. Villanova*	4:00 p.m.
Sat. 20	vs. Villanova*	noon
Tues.-23	<i>BIG EAST Tour.</i> (final on ESPN-U)	
Sat. 27	Br. House Net. Field (Clearwater, FL)	
Fri.-2	<i>NCAA Regionals</i>	
Sun. 4	(Campus Sites)	
Fri.-9	<i>NCAA Super Regionals</i>	
Sun. 11	(Campus Sites)	
Fri.-16	<i>College World Series</i>	
Mon. 26	(Omaha, NE)	

## 2006 NOTRE DAME BASEBALL

(vs. Georgetown – Povich Field/Bethesda, Md.; March 25-26)

**CONFERENCE PLAY SET TO BEGIN** – The Notre Dame baseball team (10-7), riding an 8-2 streak in its past 10 games, opens BIG EAST play this week-end in Bethesda, Md., with a series vs. Georgetown (10-12) at Shirley Povich Field (located in Cabin John Park) ... the teams will play a doubleheader on Saturday, March 25, and a single game on the 26th (both days starting at noon) ... Povich Field is the home facility for the Clark-Griffith League's Bethesda Big Train college summer-ball team ... the Irish are spending the first five weekends of the season on the road and will be away from home for 22 of the first 33 days of the season ... ND is 7-3 in 10 previous BIG EAST openers (including a 1998 win over GU) and 19-13 overall in BIG EAST opening weekends (4-1 vs. the Hoyas) ... the Irish went 7-1 in San Antonio during Spring Break, sparked by a rally vs. #15 Texas A&M (5-4) ... ND already has suffered several tough losses – including a pair of one-run games in Millington, Tenn., in which the Irish held late leads but gave up costly unearned runs (7-6 vs. Memphis, in 10; 4-3 vs. Oklahoma) and three games at Minnesota's DQ Classic in which ND batted a combined 3-for-23 with runners in scoring position ... two of the DQC losses came vs. pitchers ranked among the top-15 prospects in all of college baseball (Nebraska's Joba Chamberlain and Arizona's Mark Melancon) ... the Arizona game (2-0, in 10) was ND's second extra-inning loss in '06 ... the Irish entered '06 with the nation's 7th-best winning pct. of the 2000s (now .723; 289-110-2) ... the veteran Irish lineup returns 8-of-9 position starters, with six seniors in the regular lineup ... ND's pitching staff is fronted by a seasoned three-man rotation that includes senior LHP Tom Thornton and a pair of junior RHPs (Jeff Manship and Jeff Samardzija) who are rated among the nation's top 100 prospects) ... the Irish – picked in '06 to win the program's sixth BIG EAST regular-season title – won an unprecedented fourth straight BIG EAST tournament title in '05 and advanced to the NCAA Regional final for the sixth straight season (38-24-1 final record).

**RADIO, LIVE-STATS, TEXT-MESSAGES UPDATES & HOTLINE** – All of ND's 2006 regular-season and postseason games again will be broadcast by South Bend's ESPN Radio (now on 1490 AM) ... the broadcasts are available online at www.und.com (All-Access subscription) ... und.com provides links to livestats on the website's main page, for all home games and select road games (including the GU series) ... a free text-message service, Irish Alert, now is available (see und.com for details) ... call the ND Sports Hotline at 574-631-3000 for schedule and results of all varsity sports (from main menu, select "4" and then select "1" for baseball information).

### PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

**Game 1** – ND jr. RHP Jeff Manship ('06: 1.44, 2-0, 32 Ks, 5 BB, 16 H/176, 25.0 IP ... '05: 3.97, 2-1, SV, 20 Ks, 10 BB, 24 H, 22.2 IP; injured in '04) ... GU sr. RHP Warren Sizemore ('06: 1.54, 1-1, 8 Ks, 2 BB, 16 H/327, 11.1 IP)

**Game 2** – ND jr. RHP Jeff Samardzija ('06: 4.09, 1-1, 7 Ks, 12 BB, 21 H/259, 22.0 IP; '05: 3.89, 8-1, 56 Ks, 30 BB, 85 H, 78.2 IP; career: 3.55, 14-5, 105 Ks, 59 BB, 156 H/247, 164.2 IP) ... GU fr. RHP Darren Sizemore (5.65, 1-1, 22 Ks, 8 BB, 28 H/237, 28.2 IP)

**Game 3** – ND sr. LHP Tom Thornton ('06: 3.12, 3-1, 16 Ks, 1 BB, 25 H/258, 26.0 IP ... '05: 4.69, 6-6, 40 Ks, 19 BB, 115 H, 96 IP ... career: 3.68, 23-10, 162 Ks, 58 BB, 289 H/275, 276.1 IP) ... GU soph. LHP Michael Gaggioli (7.62, 0-4, 21 Ks, 10 BB, 34 H/333, 26 IP) or sr. RHP Stephen Burns (5.81, 3-1, 17 Ks, 18 BB, 29 H/287, 26.1 IP)

### ND STARTING POSITION PLAYERS

\*lefthander hitter, \*\* switch hitter

Pos.	Player	Yr./Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2006 Statistics
C	#11 Sean Gaston*	Jr./6-0/175	Brownsburg, IN	.333, 7 RBI, 3B, 2 2B
1B	#9 Craig Cooper	Sr./6-2/210	Plainview, NY	.358, 17 R, 3 RBI, 3 2B, 8 BB
2B	#7 Ross Brezovsky*	So./5-10/170	Naples, FL	.320, HR, 10 RBI
SS	#4 Greg Lopez	Sr./6-0/190	Upper Arlington, OH	.286, 12 RBI, 1 E
3B	#2 Brett Lilley*	Fr./5-7/165	North Canton, OH	.255, 8 R, 6 RBI, 5 HBP
LF	#12 Matt Bransfield	Sr./6-1/200	Englewood, CO	.344, 2 HR, 13 RBI, 7 2B
CF	#16 Alex Nettey	Sr./6-1/200	Dolton, IL	.280, 12 R, 9 HBP
RF	#17 Cody Rizzo	Sr./6-1/195	Temecula, CA	.269, 15 RBI, HR
DH	#20 Jeremy Barnes	Fr./5-11/185	Garland, TX	.268, 5 RBI, 8 R, 3 2B, 8 BB
OF	#8 Danny Dressman	Jr./5-9/180	San Jose, CA	.364, 13 RBI, 2 3B, 9 BB

## ND-GU MATCHUP NOTES

**THE SERIES:** Notre Dame holds a 25-3 series edge vs. Georgetown, including 24-2 since joining the BIG EAST in 1996 (also a win in 1908 and loss in '14, both at GU) ... ND won 24 straight vs. GU before losing the second game of last season's doubleheader at Eck Stadium (8-9).

### RECAPPING THE 2005 GAMES

• **ND 6, GU 2** – Tom Thornton came one out shy of pitching a shutout (7 IP, 6 H, 3 BB, 5 Ks, 5 GOs; 18 of first 19 pitches were strikes; 70 of 97 pitches were strikes) ... Joe Graziano's single and a Parker Brooks home run avoided the shutout ... Eddie Pena took the loss (6 IP, 6 R/5 ER, 6 H, 2 BB, 3 Ks, 2 HB, 3 WP, 105 pitches) ... Craig Cooper was ND's only multi-hit player (2-2, 2 RBI, BB, SB) while Graziano (2-3) and Brooks (2-4) led GU's six-hit game.

• **GU 9, ND 8 (12)** – Ryan Craft's solo shot helped win the game for the Hoyas ... the game lasted 3:54 (3rd-longest in Eck Stadium history) ... ND's top hitters in gm-2 included Greg Lopez (3-6, 2 RBI, R), Tony Langford (3-7, RBI, 2 R), Brett Lilley (2-6, HBP, R), Cooper (1-3, 4 BB, R, SB) and Cody Rizzo (1-2, 3 BB, 2 HBP, R) ... Andrew Cleary (4-6, 3 RBI, 2 R, BB) and Timmy Jones (3-7, R) paced the Hoyas ... GU owned the key gm-2 edges in batting with runners in scoring position (.357 to .227) and in 2-out batting (.450/4 RBI to .267) ... Tom Braun picked up the win (4.1 IP, H, 4 BB, 4 Ks, 66 pitches) while Ryan Doherty took the loss (4 IP, 2 H, BB, 2 HBP, 3 Ks) ... Jeff Manship had the pre-determined short start for ND (2 IP, 2 H, 2 BB, K).

**Series Stats** – GU scored 6 of its 11 runs in the 2005 doubleheader via HRs and out-hit ND .321-.274 (ND also had 10 BB and 5 HBP) ... ND plated just 8-of-32 baserunners in the doubleheader (20 LOB, including 14 in scoring position).

### TOP HITTERS IN '05 ND-GU SERIES

• Craig Cooper (ND) – 3-for-5, 5 BB, 2 RBI, R, 2 SB  
 • Brett Lilley (ND) – 3-for-8, 2 R, HBP  
 • Greg Lopez (ND) – 3-for-9, BB, 2 RBI, R, 3 2B, SB  
 (rest of ND team hit .212)

• Ryan Craft (GU) – 3-for-8, 2 RBI, 3 R, 2 BB, K, HR  
 • Timmy Jones (GU) – 3-for-10, R, 4 Ks, SB  
 • Joe Graziano (GU) – 3-for-5, R, 2 Ks  
 • Parker Brooks (GU) – 3-for-10, 2 RBI, R, HR

**NEW SERIES FORMAT** – Most BIG EAST series in 2006 have shifted to a three-day format (typically Fri.-Sat.-Sun.) ... all BIG EAST games will be nine innings this season, except in the instance where a doubleheader must be played on Sunday ... there also no longer is the option to use Monday as a makeup day for a weekend series.

**IRISH MAKE THIRD TRIP TO SPF** – ND has won five previous games vs. GU at Shirley Povich Field (10-6/12-3 in 2002 and 18-7/11-4/9-6 in '04) ... Povich, the deceased father of TV personality Maury Povich, was an award-winning sportswriter from the D.C. area.

**BIG TRAIN DEPOT** – Povich Field serves as the home facility for the Bethesda Big Train team that competes in the Clark-Griffith League, a wood-bat summer league for college players ... two current ND sophomore pitchers – LHP Wade Korpi (Staunton Braves) and RHP Joey Williamson (Luray Wranglers) – played in the CGL during the summer of '05, as did current junior OF Danny Dressman with the 2004 Fauquier Gators (junior RHP Jess Stewart played sparingly with the '04 Herndon Braves, due to injury).

**SISKO KID CREATES MEMORABLE SPF MOMENT** – ND closed out its three-game sweep of GU in the 2004 series at Povich Field, with senior 2B Zach Sisko pulling a grand-slam home run over the rightfield fence to break a 5-5 tie in the 7th (ND trailed 5-4 en route to the 9-6 win) ... Sisko was in the lineup due to an injury suffered two weeks earlier by his All-America classmate Steve Sollmann (who suffered a fractured jaw two weeks earlier while chasing a fly ball into shallow right field) ... Sisko hit 5-for-10 in the '04 GU series.

**SHARK TALES** – This weekend's game-2 starter Jeff Samardzija was the winner in the 2004 GU game won by Sisko's grand slam ... Samardzija (4.2 IP, 3 R/2 ER, 6 H, 0 BB, 5 Ks) participated in an ND football scrimmage the day before and then flew into the D.C. area ... he entered the game in relief of Grant Johnson, who logged just 3.0 innings due to illness.

### CAREER STATS VS. GEORGETOWN

Steve Andres	.400 (4-for-10)	4 RBI, 4 R, HR, 2B, 6 BB, 3 Ks
Greg Lopez	.393 (11-for-28)	7 RBI, 5 R, 4 2B, 2 BB, 4 Ks
Danny Dressman	.375 (6-for-16)	3 RBI, 4 R, 2B, BB, 4 Ks
Matt Bransfield	.375 (6-for-16)	3 RBI, 3 R, HR, 2B, 3 Ks, SB
Brett Lilley	.375 (3-for-8)	2 R, K, SB
Cody Rizzo	.368 (7-for-19)	6 RBI, 9 R, 3B, 2B, 5 BB, 3 Ks, 2 SB
Craig Cooper	.357 (5-for-14)	3 RBI, 3 R, 6 BB, K, 2 SB
Sean Gaston	.222 (2-for-9)	RBI, R
Alex Nettey	.167 (2-for-12)	2 RBI, 2 R, HR, 2 Ks, SB
Mike Dury	.111 (1-for-9)	2 RBI, K
Ross Brezovsky	.000 (0-for-3)	K
Eddie Smith	1 GP	

Jeff Manship 0.00 1 GP, 2 IP, 2 H, 2 BB, K  
 Jeff Samardzija 3.86 1 GP, win, 4.2 IP, 3 R/2 ER, 6 H, 5 Ks  
 Tom Thornton 4.77 2 GS (2-0), 11.1 IP, 9 R/6 ER, 5 BB, 11 K  
 Others – Wade Korpi (0.2 IP, 5 R/4 ER, 0.2 IP); David Gruener (0.2 IP, H), Jess Stewart (0.1 IP, BB)

**FRIEND OR FOE?** – ND senior outfielders **Matt Bransfield** and **Cody Rizzo** played during the summer of 2005 alongside GU shortstop **Matt Johnson**, with the Alaska League's Mat-Su Miners.

**GU/D.C. AREA CONNECTIONS** – First-year Georgetown athletic director **Bernard Muir** previously served as an associate AD at Notre Dame ... former ND assistant coach **Brian Wiese** recently was hired as GU's head men's soccer coach ... GU assistant baseball coach **Matt Bok** was the starting DH for ND's '02 College World Series team ... the Irish are staying in nearby Rockville, Md. (hometown of ND men's basketball coach **Mike Brey**).

**OPP. INFO.** – For additional info. on Georgetown, see [www.guhoyas.com](http://www.guhoyas.com).

**GU Career Stats vs. Manship**

Mark McLaughlin sac. bunt (1-4) ... F-9 down RF line  
 Ryan Craft walk  
 Timmy Jones singled through the right side  
 Matt Johnson sac. bunt (3-4)

**GU Career Stats vs. Samardzija**

Timmy Jones KS ... F-7 ... 4-3  
 Matt Johnson 1B-8/R ... KL ... E6T

**ND Stats vs. Warren Sizemore** (12-5 in '03; 4 IP, 9 R, 9 H, 5 BB, 2 Ks)

Cody Rizzo FC sac. bunt/R ... BB/SB/R ... 3B-RC/3 RBI  
 Steve Andres KL ... 1B/RBI/R ... BB  
 Greg Lopez F-8/SF/RBI ... 2B/RBI ... L-9

**ON THE ROAD ... AGAIN?** – Notre Dame is opening BIG EAST play on the road for the 10th time in 12 seasons ... the only times that ND has started BIG EAST play at home both came vs. GU ('98 and '05).

**NOTRE DAME BIG EAST SEASON OPENER HISTORY**

1996	win	9-0	at Boston College (on Cape Cod)
1997	loss	4-5	at Seton Hall
1998	win	7-6	vs. Georgetown
1999	win	4-1	at West Virginia
2000	win	4-0	vs. Villanova (Richie Ashburn Field)
2001	win	3-0	at Pittsburgh
2002	loss	3-4	at Connecticut
2003	win	2-3	vs. Villanova (VU Ballpark)
2004	win	5-3	at West Virginia
2005	win	6-2	vs. Georgetown

**Totals: 7-3 (5-3 on the road)**

**NOTRE DAME BIG EAST OPENING WEEKEND HISTORY**

1996	3-1	vs. Boston College (2-0; Cape Cod), at Providence (1-1)
1997	0-3	at Seton Hall
1998	3-0	vs. Georgetown
1999	2-0	at West Virginia
2000	2-1	vs. Villanova (Richie Ashburn Field)
2001	2-2	at Pittsburgh (2-0), at Virginia Tech (0-2)
2002	0-3	at Connecticut
2003	1-2	vs. Villanova (VU Ballpark)
2004	3-0	at West Virginia
2005	3-1	vs. Georgetown (1-1) and Seton Hall (2-0)

**Totals: 19-13 (4-1 vs. GU), 13-12 on the road**

**CONFERENCE COMMAND** – Despite winning just 59% of its opening-week games in BIG EAST play (19-13), ND won 72% of its total regular-season games during its first 10 yearss of BIG EAST play (.716; 195-77-1) – the best win pct. by any BIG EAST team since the Irish joined the league in 1996 ... ND has played 93 previous BIG EAST series and has lost the series just 13 times (66 series wins, 14 even series) ... the Irish have been swept in just nine of 90 all-time BIG EAST doubleheaders (50 ND sweeps, 31 splits) ... Paul Mainieri (.716) owns the best BIG EAST regular-season win pct. in the conference's history.

**MAINIERI'S MILESTONES** – Notre Dame 12th-year head coach Paul Mainieri enters the GU series two wins shy of his 500th victory with the Irish ... his 700th overall career coaching win came vs. Georgetown, on March 29, 2003, at Eck Stadium (13-3).

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

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

- '95 – no freshman starters
- '96 – Jeff Wagner (C) and Paul Turco (SS)
- '97 – Brant Ust (2B) and Jeff Felker (1B), Jeff Perconte (RF platoon)
- '98 – Alec Porzel (LF)
- '99 – Steve Stanley (CF), Paul O'Toole (C) and Andrew Bushey (3B)
- '00 – Brian Stavisky (RF)
- '01 – Steve Sollmann (2B)
- '02 – Matt Macri (SS, injured)
- '03 – Craig Cooper (LF), Cody Rizzo (RF), Greg Lopez (3B), Steve Andres (DH)
- '04 – none
- '05 – Brett Lilley (2B/3B), Ross Brezovsky (3B/2B)
- 2006 – none

**LOPEZ JOINS WEEKLY DIARY STAFF FOR COLLEGE BASEBALL INSIDER**

Notre Dame senior shortstop and second-year captain Greg Lopez is one of four players in all of Division I baseball who will be featured this season during a weekly diary feature on [www.collegebaseballinsider.com](http://www.collegebaseballinsider.com) ... check the CBI website and look for more on this diary series at [und.com](http://und.com).

**LANGFORD LOST FOR SEASON AFTER ELBOW SURGERY**

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

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

- Two home games have shifted their start times – April 22 vs. Rutgers at 3:05 and April 25 vs. Purdue at 7:05 (live ESPN-U telecast – while the April 13 doubleheader vs. St. John’s will be telecast live by CSTV.

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

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

**ND BASEBALL AND ECK STADIUM FEATURED IN EA SPORTS GAME**

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

**GOLDEN GLOVE** – Senior shortstop **Greg Lopez** enters the weekend riding a 14-game errorless streak, spanning 55 fielding chances ... Lopez has made just one error all season (vs. Memphis) and owns a sparkling .985 fielding pct. ... he made 20 errors as a sophomore and 23 as a junior (both while playing mostly SS) and now has totaled 101 error-free games in the past three seasons (138 GP), with just eight multiple-E games in that stretch ... Lopez also had a strong defensive start in 2005 (no Es in first 15 games) and rattled off a 17-game error-free streak in '04.

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

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

**START ME UP** – Senior LHP Tom Thornton, junior RHPs Jeff Manship and Jeff Samardzija, and sophomore LHP Wade Korpi have combined for a 2.83 ERA in their 15 starts this season (7-3 record) while holding opposing batters to a combined .237 batting avg., with a 3.5-to-1 strikeout-to-walk ratio (78/22) and 10 more innings pitches (89) than hits allowed (79) ... their 9-inning combined averages in 2006 starts include 7.9 Ks, 2.2 BB and 8.0 hits allowed.

**THREE ACES** – All three members of Notre Dame’s weekend rotation already have taken their turn as the “No. 1” starter this season while combining for a 1.84 ERA, holding opponents to .230 batting, owning a combined 3.1 K-to-walk ratio (55/18) and totaling 11 more innings (73) than hits allowed (62) ... their combined 9-inning averages: 6.8 Ks, 2.2 BB and 7.5 hits allowed ... senior LHP **Tom Thornton** already has been named BIG EAST pitcher of the week twice this season and made “game-1” starts on opening day vs. Indiana State and vs. Nebraska at Minnesota’s DQ Classic ... junior RHP **Jeff Samardzija** then delivered a strong effort as the “No. 1 starter” to help beat #15 Texas A&M (5-4) on the first day of the UT San Antonio Classic ... junior RHP **Jeff Manship** now is set to take his turn, as the game-1 starter vs. Georgetown.

**OUTFIELD VETERANS** – Notre Dame’s current four veteran outfielders – the senior trio of LF **Steve Andres**, CF **Alex Nettey** and RF **Cody Rizzo**, plus junior **Danny Dressman** – have combined to make 339 outfield starts in their Notre Dame careers ... that total does not include the 115 career outfield starts by senior Craig Cooper, who has shifted to first base in 2006:

<b>Career OF Starts</b>	<b>LF</b>	<b>CF</b>	<b>RF</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cody Rizzo	13	30	101	144
Craig Cooper	50	8	57	115
Alex Nettey	4	85	2	91
Steve Andres	59	0	2	61
Danny Dressman	7	30	6	43
<b>Totals</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>454</b>

**ON A ROLL** – Junior catcher **Sean Gaston** (5 rbi, 3 R) and sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (2 RBI, 3 R) enter the GU series having hit 6-for-16 (.375) in the past four games ... senior CF **Alex Nettey** has hits in six of the past seven games while senior 1B **Craig Cooper** saw his 9-game hit streak end in the 11-9 win over Central Michigan, with just one official at-bat (3 BB, sac. fly).

**SURPRISE LEADERS** – Sophomore 2B **Ross Brezovsky** leads Notre Dame with six multiple-hit games this season, followed by junior OF **Dannet Dressman's** five multi-hit games ... Dressman and another unlikely offensive force, senior SS **Greg Lopez**, are tied for second on the team with four multiple-RBI games.

**TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADOFF (MAN)** – Senior 1B **Craig Cooper** shifted into the leadoff spot starting with the Texas A&M game (that opened the Spring Break trip) and responded with a nine-game hit streak that ended in an 0-for-1 game vs. Central Michigan (3 BB, SF) ... Cooper has reached base on 9-of-10 first-inning plate appearances since taking over the leadoff spot (3 singles, 3 walks, 2 doubles, HBP) ... he also has reached on a team-best 63.2% of his overall plate appearances when leading off any inning (12-of-19).

**KEY HITS** – Senior RF/C Cody Rizzo ranks just 8th among the ND regulars in batting avg. (.269) but leads the team with 15 RBI, while batting mostly in the 9-hole ... Rizzo's batting with runners in scoring position (.360, 9-for-25) is 4th-best on the team, is more than 100 points above his overall batting avg. and is double his batting numbers with non-RBI chances (.185, 5-for-27; no runners or runner on 1st-base only) ... he also leads the team with nine 2-out RBI.

**BIG EAST Stat Leaders**

**Jeff Manship** – 2nd in strikeouts looking (14), 4th in ERA (1.44) and opp. batting avg. (.176), 5th in Ks (32)

**Danny Dressman** – 5th in triples (2), 6th in sac/ bunts (4), 7th in on-base pct. (.500) and 13th in batting avg. (.364)

**Matt Bransfield** – 4th in doubles (7) and 26th in batting avg. (.344)

**Alex Nettey** – 1st in HBP (9)

**Brett Lilley** – 9th in HBP (6)

**Kyle Weiland** – 1st in saves (5) and 3rd in games finished (7)

**Craig Cooper** – 17th in batting avg. (.358)

**Jeff Samardzija** – 25th in ERA (4.09)

**Tom Thornton** – 16th in ERA (3.12)

**Wade Korpi** – 27th in ERA (4.15)

**Team Offense**

1st in HBPs (31) 4th in batting avg. (.298)

5th in on-base pct. (.391) and sac. bunts (17)

6th in slugging pct. (.389) and triples (4)

7th in stolen bases (28)

**Team Pitching**

1st in saves (6) and fewest walks allowed (51)

2nd in fewest home runs allowed (3)

3rd in strikeouts (131), Ks looking (45) and fewest hits allowed (139)

4th in ERA (3.55) and opp. batting avg. (.246)

5th in wins (10)

**Team Fielding** – 5th with .970 fielding pct.

**NOTRE DAME BASEBALL  
2006 QUICK FACTS**

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

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

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

Head Coach .... Paul Mainieri (Fla. Int'l '80)  
 Career Record .... 829-482-3 (24th season)  
 Record at ND ..... 498-203-2 (12th season)

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

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

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

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

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

Greg Lopez ..... 99 runs  
 Paul Mainieri ..... 498 wins (at ND)  
 Matt Bransfield ..... 97 RBI  
 Alex Nettey ..... 97 hits  
 Cody Rizzo ..... 94 RBI  
 Steve Andres ... 94 runs, 88 RBI, 88 walks  
 Craig Cooper ..... 187 hits

## NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 ROSTER BREAKDOWN

### Position Starters Returning (Avg/HR/RBI)

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

### Position Starter Lost (Avg/HR/RBI)

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

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

### Top Returning Pitchers ('05 stats)

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

### Top Pitcher Lost ('05 stats)

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

\* Note: asterisks indicate LHPs

### Key Freshmen (stats for 2005)

Kyle Weiland (RHP; Albuquerque, NM)  
 First team all-state  
 (5.20 ERA, 4-1, 2 SV, 53 Ks, 19 BB, 35 IP)

David Phelps (RHP; Hazelwood, MO)  
 First team all-state  
 (1.56 ERA, 6-2, 88 Ks, 18 BB, 25 H, 54 IP)

Jeremy Barnes (RHP/IF; Garland, TX)  
 All-state shortstop  
 (.430, 4 HR ... team-record 1.31 ERA in '04)

Sam Elam (LHP; Mesquite, TX)  
 Led team to regional championship  
 (2.50 ERA, 9-3, 72 Ks, 35 IP)

Eddy Mendiola (3B/C; Miami, FL)  
 All-country honors  
 (.390, 3 HR, 6 2B, 14 RBI, 20 BB, 14 SB)

**STRONG STARTERS** – Notre Dame has racked up a 16-3 scoring edge in the 1st inning this season, including its most productive opening inning of 2006 (7 runs) in this week's 11-9 win over Central Michigan ... the Irish have yet to allow multiple 1st-inning runs in a game this season ... ND's 2-5 start featured just one 1st-inning run for the Irish (vs. Memphis) but the current 8-2 streak has included 15 ND runs in the 1st, with at least one 1st-inning run in six of those 10 games (three with 2 each) ... ND is batting .344 in the 1st inning this season (21-for-61), with 5 doubles, a triple, a .455 on-base pct. and a +7 plate-discipline ratio (8 walks + 6 HBPs – 7 Ks) ... the Irish pitchers have combined for a 1.59 first-inning ERA, allowing just 13 hits and a .217 opp. batting avg. in the 17 games – plus nearly a 5-to-1 K-to-walk ratio (18/4), only 2 hit batters and just a single wild pitch ... Jeff Manship (4 IP, .077/1-for-13, 6 Ks, 0 BB) and Wade Korpi (3 IP, .357/5-for-14, 6 Ks, BB) have yet to allow a 1st-inning run in seven combined starts this season ... Jeff Samardzija (.091/1-for-11, K, 3 BB, HB, WP) and Tom Thornton (.333/5-for-15, 3 Ks, 0 BB, HB) each have allowed just one 1st-inning run while both making four starts so far in 2006 ... top 1st-inning hitters have included Sean Gaston (4-for-5, 2 RBI, R, 3B, 2B, BB) and Craig Cooper (6-for-9, RBI, 5 R, 2 2B, 3 BB, HBP, K).

**IS THE EIGHTH ENOUGH?** – The Irish have put away several games this season in the 8th, owning a 21-6 scoring edge in the inning (+15, the team's top margin in any inning) ... ND is batting .437 (34-for-78) in the 8th inning this season, with a .590 team slugging pct. in the inning (HR, 2 3B, 5 2B) and a .483 on-base pct. (7 BB, 2 HBP) ... seven ND regulars are batting .500 or better in the 8th inning this season:

Greg Lopez	4-for-5	3 RBI, 2 R, 2B, SF, GDP
Brett Lilley	3-for-5	2 RBI, 2B, BB, K, SAC, GDP
Alex Nettey	4-for-7	RBI, 2 R, HBP, 2 Ks
Craig Cooper	4-for-7	4 R, HBP
Danny Dressman	5-for-9	RBI, 5 R, 2 3B, 2 BB, K
Matt Bransfield	4-for-8	3 RBI, 2 R, 2B, BB, 2 Ks
Jeremy Barnes	2-for-4	2 RBI, 3 R, 2B, BB

**SCORING STREAK ENDS AT 215** – The second-longest scoring streak in Notre Dame baseball history (215 games, dating back to 2002) ended in the recent 8-0 loss to the host team Minnesota at the Dairy Queen Classic ... a 2002 shutout loss to Rutgers ended ND's record scoring streak (231) but the Irish then scored in 215 straight before the loss to the Gophers ... ND now has been shut out just eight times in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era (never more than twice in the same season).

### Here's a look at ND's record in various situations:

ND scores in 1st inning	4-3
Opponent scores in 1st inning	2-1
ND scores first	7-3
ND leads after 8th inning	10-1
ND hits a home run	4-1
Opponent hits a home run	0-3
ND does not make an error	3-1
ND is out-hit by the opponent	0-4
One-run games	1-2
Extra-inning games	0-2

## JEFF MANSHIP 2006 GAME-BY-GAME

Date	Opponent	GS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	WP	BK	HBP	IBB	Score
Feb 26, 2006	vs Oklahoma	*	5.0	2	2	2	2	8	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3-4
Mar 05, 2006	vs Arizona	*	6.0	3	0	0	2	10	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0-2
Mar 11, 2006	vs Iowa (W)	*	6.0	4	2	2	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16-2
Mar 11, 2006	vs. Southern Illinois (W)	*	8.0	7	2	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12-2
<b>Totals (1.44 ERA, .176 opp. avg.)</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31-10</b>

## MANSHIP INNING-BY-INNING

Inning	ERA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF	B/Avg	2B	3B	HR	HB	WP	BK	SH	SF	GDP	BB/G	SO/G
1st.....	0.00	4.0	1	0	0	0	6	13	13	.077	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	13.5
2nd.....	4.50	4.0	4	2	2	2	6	14	17	.286	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4.5	13.5
3rd.....	4.50	4.0	2	2	2	0	5	14	15	.143	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	11.2
4th.....	0.00	4.0	2	0	0	1	6	14	16	.143	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2.2	13.5
5th.....	0.00	4.0	2	0	0	1	3	14	15	.143	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2.2	6.8
6th.....	0.00	3.0	2	2	0	1	3	13	14	.154	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3.0	9.0
7th.....	0.00	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	4	4	.250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	9.0
8th.....	0.00	1.0	2	0	0	0	2	5	5	.400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	18.0

## JEFF MANSHIP QUICK NOTES

- Leads the ND staff in ERA (1.44; 4th in BIG EAST), low opp. batting avg. (.176; 4th BE), strikeouts (32; 5th BE), Ks looking (14; 2nd BE), opp. 2-out batting (.156) and groundouts (27)
- 2nd on staff in wins (2), innings (25), batting by LH hitters (.184), batting with runners on (.128), IP per outing (6.1), Ks per 9 IP (11.5) and low walks per 9 IP (1.8) ... also 3rd on staff on RH opp. batting (.170) and groundout/flyout ratio (1.8) and 5th in opp. leaoff on-base pct (.360) ... allowing just 5.8 hits per 9 IP, with a 6.4 K-to-walk ratio
- Has hit just one batter to go along with his low walk total (5)
- Yet to allow a 1st-inning while allowing just a single 1st-inning hot (1-for-13, .077), with 6 Ks and no walks
- Has allowed earned runs in only the 2nd and 3rd innings, with 17 combined shutout innings from the 4th-8th (9-for-50/.180 opp. batting in those innings, with 15 Ks, just 3 BB and 2 UERs)
- His 9-inning averages of 11.52 strikeouts and 5.76 hits allowed are on pace to challenge longstanding ND records hel by Frank Carpin (12.63 Ks per 9 IP, in 1958) and Ed Lupton (4.83 H per 9 IP, in '63) ... current sophomore LHP Wade Korpi is averaging 12.98 Ks per 9 IP ... Manship's current 6.4 K-to-walk ratio would rank 2nd on that ND single-season list (Tom Price holds that record, with 12.14 in 1994) ... he is averaging 21.1 outs per 9 IP via Ks or GOs.
- His outing vs. Arizona included a career-best 10 strikeouts and seven groundball outs in six innings, allowing just three hits (none with runners on base or with 2-outs) and two walks ... hw became the first Notre Dame pitcher with a double-digit strikeout game since Tom Thornton's 12 strikeouts vs. Kent State in the 2004 NAAs.

**OPENING-DAY HOME RUNS** – Current seniors **Steve Andres** and **Matt Bransfield** are two of 13 Notre Dame players in the Pat Murphy/Paul Mainieri era (since '89) to hit a home run on opening day, with Andres doing so in 2005 vs. Florida A&M (at UCF) and Bransfield in the 2006 opener vs. Indiana State (in Millington) ... Matt Edwards also homered in the 2005 game vs. FAMU, one of two openers since '89 in which the Irish have hit multiple HRs (Craig DeSensi, Paul Failla and Eric Danapilis all homered in the 1993 opener, a 11-4 win at Arizona State) ... ND players have homered in each of the past five season openers – also Matt Bok in '02 (vs. Missouri, at UNO), Kris Billmaier in '03 (vs. Dayton, at ASU) and Edwards in '04 (vs. San Diego State, at USC) ... Edwards is the only player from the Murphy/Mainieri era to hit multiple opening-day HRs in his career ... the program's 13 opening-day HRs in the past 18 seasons have come from six seniors, five juniors and two sophomores (none since '93); three first basemen, two catchers, two DHs, two shortstops and two leffilder (also a CF and RF).

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

**STATE ROLL CALL** – The Notre Dame list of all-time monogram winners includes players from 44 home states ... pitchers Brandon Vilorio (Wailuku, Hawaii) in 2000 and Cody Wilkins (Hudson, N.C.) in 2004 became the first players from their respective states ever to monogram with the Irish baseball program ... the only states that have not produced ND baseball letterwinners include Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Vermont ... the 12-year Paul Mainieri era has featured players from 36 states, including 15 states on the 2006 roster (see list below):

**Florida (4)** – Ross Brezovsky (Naples), Wade Korpi (Lake Worth), Eddy Mendiola (Miami), Joey Williamson (Lantana)

**Indiana (4)** – Mike Dury (Indianapolis), Sean Gaston (Brownsburg), Jeff Samardzija (Valparaiso), John Seabaugh (Granger)

**Texas (4)** – Jeremy Barnes (Garland), Sam Elam (Mesquite), Tony Langford (Fort Worth), Jeff Manship (San Antonio)

**California (3)** – Steve Andres (Napa), Danny Dressman (San Jose), Cody Rizzo (Temecula)

**Illinois (3)** – Brett Graffy (Homer Glen), Mike Many (Naperville), Alex Netthey (Dolton)

**Michigan (2)** – Dan Kapala (Royal Oak), Evan Sharpley (Marshall)

**New York (2)** – Ryan Connolly (Binghamton), Craig Cooper (Plainview)

**Ohio (2)** – Brett Lilley (North Canton), Greg Lopez (Upper Arlington)

**Washington (2)** – David Gruener (Gig Harbor), Eddie Smith (Olympia)

**Colorado (1)** – Matt Bransfield (Englewood)

**Massachusetts (1)** – Tom Thornton (Middleboro)

**Missouri (1)** – David Phelps (Hazelton)

**New Jersey (1)** – Chris Soriano (Randolph)

**New Mexico (1)** – Kyle Weiland (Albuquerque)

**Virginia (1)** – Jess Stewart (Manassas)

## **NOTRE DAME PLAYER TEAM RANKS**

**Jeremy Barnes** – ranks 2nd on team with 8 walks, also 3rd in on-base pct. (.412), doubles (3) and stolen bases (3) ... 2nd on team in batting with runners in scoring position (.417) and 5th in 2-out batting (.308)

**Matt Bransfield** – leads team in slugging (.590), hits (21), home runs (2), doubles (7), total bases (36) and games played (16); 2nd in RBI (13) and starts (16); 3rd in batting (.344) and 4th in runs (9) ... leads team in batting vs. LHPs (.500), 2nd in leadoff on-base (.533) and 2-out RBI (6), 3rd in 2-out batting (.320), batting with runners on (.364) and with runners in scoring position (.360), 5th in batting vs. RHPs (.306) and runners advanced (.486)

**Ross Brezovsky** – 3rd on team in hits (16), 4th in total bases (20), 5th in batting (.320), slugging (.400) and RBI (10) ... 2nd on team in 2-out batting (.332), 3rd in batting vs. RHPs (.316), 4th in 2-out RBI (4)

**Craig Cooper** – leads team in runs (17), 2nd in batting (.358), on-base (.462), hits (19), doubles (3), total bases (22) and walks (8); 3rd in HBP (3); 4th in slugging (.415) ... owns team-best .632 leadoff on-base pct., 2nd in batting vs. RHPs (.372), 3rd in runners advanced (56.3%) and 4th in batting with runners on base (.321)

**Danny Dressman** – leads team in batting (.364), on-base (.500), walks (9) and triples (2); 2nd in slugging (.477) and RBI (13); 3rd in runs (10), hits (16), total bases (21) and HBP (3) ... leads team in batting vs. RHPs (.412), 2-out batting (.500), batting with runners on (.545) and in scoring position (.533) and pct. of runners advanced (83.3%)

**Sean Gaston** – 3rd on team in slugging (.422) and on-base (.412); 4th in batting (.33) and walks (6) ... 2nd on team in runners advanced (59.1%), 3rd in batting vs. RHPs (.355) and batting with runners in scoring position (.357)

**Brett Lilley** – 2nd on team in HBP (5) ... 2nd on team in batting with runners on (.450), 4th in batting vs. LHPs (.333) and leadoff on-base pct. (.455)

**Greg Lopez** – leads team with 16 starts, 2nd in games played (16), 3rd in hits (16) and 4th in RBI (12) ... 4th on team in batting vs. LHPs (.333) and runners advanced (.537), 5th in batting with runners on (.314)

**Alex Netthey** – leads team in HBP (9) and stolen bases (5); 2nd in runs (12) and games played (16); 5th in on-base (.510) ... 3rd on team in batting vs. LHPs (.355) and 4th in 2-out batting (.313)

**Cody Rizzo** – leads team in RBI (15), stolen bases (5) and games played (17); 2nd in triples (3); 3rd in HBP (3); 4th in bases (6) and total bases (20) ... leads team in 2-out RBI (9), 2nd in batting vs. LHPs (.455), 3rd in batting with runners in scoring position (.360) and 5th in leadoff on-base pct. (.375)



**HBP HIGHWAY RETURNS** – The ND batters were hit-by-pitch just six times in the first seven games of the 2006 season but now are averaging nearly 2.0 HBPs per game (31 in 17 GP) ... senior CF **Alex Nettey** leads all BIG EAST players with 9 HBPs (9th in ND history with 28 career HBPs) ... senior RF/C **Cody Rizzo** (3 HBP in '06) ranks 4th in NCAA history with 73 career HBPs ... sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (5 HBP in '06) already is 5th in ND history with 35 career HBPs, two behind Dan Bautch and Greg Layson and three shy of Craig DeSensi ... senior SS **Greg Lopez** (30) and senior 1B **Craig Cooper** rank 8th and 12th on the ND career HBP list.

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

1. 92 – Tony Hurtado (San Fran.; '97-'00); 221 GP (2.40 gms/HBP)
2. 81 – Gabe Somarriba (FL Atlantic; '99-'02); 226 GP (2.79 gms/HBP)
3. 74 – Jeff Ontiveros (Texas; 1999-2002); 258 GP (3.49 gms/HBP)
4. 73\* – **Cody Rizzo (Notre Dame; '03- ); 187 GP (2.56 gms/HBP)**

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

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

*Note:* Lilley and Rizzo are the only players from the same school on the above top-10 list (28-plus HBPs in a season)

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

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

• The 2005 Notre Dame team owns the 2nd-best HBP per game among teams on the above list ... ND totaled 236 HBPs in the past two seasons, in 125 games (1.89 per game) ... ND (106 in '04; 130 in '05) and Long Beach State (124 in '98, 114 in '99) are the only teams to post 106-plus HBPs in multiple seasons

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

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

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

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

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- The Notre Dame baseball team traditionally has matched its stellar play on the field with strong performances in the classroom and that continued to be the case in the 2005 fall semester – as the 32 players combined for a 3.17 team GPA during the semester.

- The NCAA's recently-released Graduation Success Rate (GSR) data also reinforced the Notre Dame baseball program's elite academic standing, as the Irish were one of 17 teams among 268 in Division I – but one of only two teams from that group that also currently are in the national top-25 polls – to compile a 100%t graduation rate, during a four-year sample of classes entering from 1995-98.

- The Irish also own a 100% graduation rate (63-of-63) among four-year players throughout the tenure of head coach Paul Mainieri ('95-present), with 12 others who signed professionally prior to their senior season returning to complete or near completion of their degree requirements.

- Twenty-one of the ND baseball players posted a GPA of 3.0-plus during the 2005 fall semester, with 11 checking in at 3.4 or higher ... the ND players also have combined for an impressive 3.10 cumulative team GPA over the course of their college careers.

- Notre Dame boasts several strong Academic All-America candidates in 2006, most notably: senior LHP **Tom Thornton** (3.54 cumulative GPA; as a double major in anthropology and film-television-and-theater), sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (3.64; business), senior SS **Greg Lopez** (3.39; pre-professional studies and anthropology), senior LF/DH **Matt Bransfield** (3.36; sociology) and junior catcher **Sean Gaston** (3.36; political science and history) ... Notre Dame's unmatched Academic All-America history includes 20 honorees since 1992.

- The senior class led the way for the Irish during the 2005 fall semester, averaging a 3.54 semester GPA that included seven players above a 3.4 and all eight posting a semester GPA of 3.05 or higher.

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

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

### PLATE-DISCIPLINE CHART

<i>Player</i>	<i>Walks</i>	<i>Hit-By-Pitch</i>	<i>Strikeouts</i>	<i>Plate Discipline (BB+HBP-Ks)</i>
<b>Danny Dressman</b> ('06)	9	3	4	+8
<i>(2005)</i>	5	1	12	-6
<b>Craig Cooper</b> ('06)	8	3	5	+6
<i>(2005)</i>	32	14	22	+24
<b>Alex Nettey</b> ('06)	2	9	7	+4
<i>(2005)</i>	13	14	29	-2
<b>Sean Gaston</b> ('06)	6	0	4	+2
<i>(2005)</i>	5	4	16	-7
<b>Jeremy Barnes</b> ('06)	8	2	8	+2
<b>Brett Lilley</b> ('06)	3	5	8	-
<i>(2005)</i>	34	27	32	+29
<b>Ross Brezovsky</b> ('06)	4	2	6	-
<i>(2005)</i>	16	4	40	-20
<b>Greg Lopez</b> ('06)	2	1	5	-2
<i>(2005)</i>	10	16	43	-17
<b>Cody Rizzo</b> ('06)	6	3	11	-2
<i>(2005)</i>	22	21	35	+8
<b>Steve Andres</b> ('06)	4	0	8	-4
<i>(2005)</i>	21	6	20	+7
<b>Matt Bransfield</b> ('06)	4	1	13	-8
<i>(2005)</i>	10	7	14	+3
<b>TEAM TOTALS</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>+1</b>
<b>(2005)</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>+17</b>

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

**CLUTCH HITTING KEY COMPONENT** – Three stats that measure clutch offensive production – leadoff on-base pct., batting with runners in scoring position and 2-out batting – show that clutch hitting can overcome a team's dropoff in power numbers ... using a formula that combines those three situational hitting numbers, Brett Lilley was the 2005 team's runaway team leader with a "clutch hitting" score of 1.402 ... that number can be skewed a bit by the on-base pct. (which has the benefit of including walks and HBPs and thus is higher than the batting avg. stats) ... using an adjustment whereby the leadoff on-base pct. is multiplied by 75%, Lilley still checked in as ND's all-around leader in clutch hitting with a 1.273 score (.515 leadoff on-base/.386 adjusted, .448 RISP, .439 with 2-outs) ... Lilley led the '05 team in 2-out batting and batting with RISP while ranking 3rd in leadoff OB (better than his overall team-leading .502 OB pct.) ... current senior 1B Craig Cooper was 2nd overall with a 1.117 clutch-hitting score that included the team's 2nd-best batting averages with 2 outs (.439) and with runners in scoring position (.448) ... departed 1B Matt Edwards was the 2005 team's runaway leader with a .581 leadoff on-base pct. ... as a team, the most consistent part of ND's 2005 clutch offense was leadoff on-base pct. (.406/.311 adjusted), followed by batting with RISP (.309) while the 2-out batting lagged behind at .294 ... here's a look at how each 2005 player rated on the clutch-hitting matrix:

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

	<b>Leadoff On-Base Pct.</b>	<b>Batting w/ RISP</b>	<b>2-Out Batting</b>	<b>Clutch Hit Tot.</b>
Danny Dressman (2005)	.125 (.094 adjusted) (13) .182 (.137)	(1) .533 (8) .286	(1) .500 (9) .250	(1) 1,127 673
Matt Bransfield (2005)	(2) .533 (.400) (2) .542 (.407)	(3) .360 (6) .314	(3) .320 (6) .286	1,080 1,007
Craig Cooper (2005)	(1) .632 (.474) (5) .419 (.314)	.286 (2) .434	.267 (2) .369	1,027 1,117
Jeremy Barnes	.333 (.250)	(2) .417	(5) .308	975
Cody Rizzo (2005)	(5) .375 (.281) (4) .436 (.327)	(3) .360 (12) .190	.300 (10) .246	941 763
Sean Gaston (2005)	.375 (.281) (7) .357 (.268)	(5) .357 (4) .322	.250 (5) .302	888 892
Alex Nettey (2005)	.313 (.235) (6) .418 (.314)	.333 (9) .273	(4) .313 (12) .219	881 806
Ross Brezovsky (2005)	.333 (.250) (10) .298 (.224)	.294 (7) .288	(2) .333 (10) .246	877 758
Brett Lilley (2005)	(4) .455 (.341) (3) .515 (.386)	.235 (1) .448	.278 (1) .439	854 1,273
Greg Lopez (2005)	.333 (.250) (8) .353 (.265)	.318 (10) .242	.214 (7) .279	782 786
Steve Andres (2005)	(3) .500 (.375) (11) .286 (.215)	.100 (11) .220	.182 (8) .275	657 710
<b>TEAM (2005)</b>	<b>.396 (.297) .406 (.311)</b>	<b>.330 .309</b>	<b>.290 .294</b>	<b>917 908</b>

**MANSHIP, SAMARDZIJA  
AMONG NATION'S TOP PROSPECTS**

• *Baseball America* recently released its annual list of college baseball's top-100 prospects for the 2006 Major League baseball draft and Notre Dame was one of six teams in the nation to feature two starting pitchers among those top-100 prospects – as **Jeff Manship** is slotted at No. 75 on that list while fellow junior right-hander **Jeff Samardzija** is listed 94th ... the other teams with two starting pitchers among the top-100 prospects are UNC, Missouri, Cal Poly, Washington and San Diego.

• *BA's* college preview listed ND senior 1B **Craig Cooper** and sophomore B **Brett Lilley** on its preseason all-BIG EAST team ... *BA* also cites three ND players – Lilley, SS **Greg Lopez** and junior catcher **Sean Gaston** – as the BIG EAST's best defensive players at their respective positions while tabbing Lilley as the BIG EAST batter with the "best strike-zone discipline," Samardzija as the BIG EAST's best athlete, Manship as the league's pitcher with the best breaking ball and senior lefthander **Tom Thornton** as the BIG EAST pitcher with the best control.

• *BA's* prospect rankings list Manship fourth and Samardzija sixth among the BIG EAST's top prospects while Cooper is listed 44th among the nation's top senior prospects.

**LIDGE NAMED TO WBC TEAM** – Former Notre Dame ace pitcher and current Houston Astros all-star closer **Brad Lidge** ('96-'98) was one of 16 college baseball products who were named to the United States original 30-man roster for the upcoming World Baseball Classic, a 16-nation tournament held from March 3-20 at venues in Japan, Puerto Rico and the United States ... former Notre Dame standout and current Arizona Diamondbacks infielder **Craig Counsell** ('92) was not named to the team but is one of 22 players who remain on the provisional roster – with the official U.S. 30-man roster not to be submitted to WBC organizers until March 2 ... all 10 of the relief pitchers originally named to the team are former college baseball players, as is Astros starting pitcher Roger Clemens (Texas) and five position players ... Lidge saved the 2-0 win over Canada and was the pitcher of record in the 4-3 win over eventual champion Japan.

## NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 STARTS

Opp.	Catcher	1st Base	2nd Base	Shortstop	3rd Base	Left Field	Center Field	Right Field	DH	Pitcher
Ind.St.	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Andres	Thornton
AFA	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Bransfield	Dressman	Andres	Dury	Samardzija
MEM	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Barnes	Korpi
OKLA	Gaston	Dury	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Andres	Manship
NEB	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Andres	Thornton
MINN	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Andres	Dury	Samardzija
ARIZ	Rizzo	Barnes	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Mendiola	Manship
A&M	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Samardzija
IOWA	Rizzo	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Andres	Manship
ILL	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Barnes	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Andres	Thornton
IOWA	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Bransfield	Dressman	Rizzo	Lilley	Korpi
IOWA	Rizzo	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Gaston	Samardzija
SIU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Manship
IOWA	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Sharpley	Phelps
SIU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Thornton
Wr.St.	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Korpi
CMU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Barnes	Phelps

Opp.	Leadoff	2-hole	3-hole	Cleanup	5-hole	6-hole	7-hole	8-hole	9-hole
Ind.St.	Lilley	Gaston	Cooper	Andres	Lopez	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Rizzo
AFA	Barnes	Dressman	Cooper	Andres	Lopez	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Dury	Rizzo
MEM	Nettey	Lilley	Cooper	Bransfield	Lopez	Gaston	Barnes	Brezovsky	Rizzo
OKLA	Nettey	Lilley	Andres	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Brezovsky	Dury	Rizzo
NEB	Nettey	Lilley	Andres	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Brezovsky	Rizzo	Dressman
MINN	Lilley	Dressman	Gaston	Bransfield	Andres	Dury	Brezovsky	Lopez	Nettey
ARIZ	Lilley	Dressman	Bransfield	Nettey	Barnes	Mendiola	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
A&M	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Gaston	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez
IOWA	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Bransfield	Barnes	Andres	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
ILL	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Gaston	Barnes	Andres	Brezovsky	Nettey	Rizzo
IOWA	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Gaston	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
IOWA	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
SIU	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Gaston	Nettey	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
IOWA	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Sharpley	Lopez	Rizzo
SIU	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Bransfield	Gaston	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
Wr.St.	Cooper	Dressman	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lilley	Lopez	Rizzo
CMU	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo

### **Notre Dame Baseball 2006 Summer Leagues (others TBA)**

Brett Lilley (3B, So.) – Cape Cod League (Cotuit Kettleers)  
Joey Williamson (RHP, So.) – Alaska League (Anchorage Glacier Pilots)  
David Phelps (RHP, Fr.) – Alaska League (Mat-Su Miners; Palmer, AK)  
David Gruener (LHP, So.) – Alaska League (Mat-Su Miners; Palmer, AK)  
Ross Brezovsky (2B, So.) – Jayhawk League (Hays, KS, Larks)  
Sam Elam (LHP, Fr.) – Jayhawk League (Hays, KS, Larks)  
Wade Korpi – Valley League (Staunton, VA, Braves)  
Kyle Weiland (RHP, Fr.) – Great Lakes League (Delaware, OH, Cows)  
Jeremy Barnes (IF/RHP, Fr.) – Great Lakes League (Delaware, OH, Cows)  
Danny Dressman (OF, Jr.) – Northwoods League (Madison, WI, Mallards)  
Jess Stewart (RHP, Jr.) – Coastal Plains League (Wilson, NC, Tobs)  
Brett Graffy (RHP, Fr.) – Central Illinois League (DuPage Dragons)  
Eddy Mendiola (3B/C, Fr.) – Florida Collegiate League  
Ryan Connolly (OF, Fr.) – New York Collegiate League

### **Notre Dame Baseball 2005 Summer-League Statistics**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**IN-STATE BATTLES** – After the season-opening win over Indiana State, Notre Dame now owns a 44-9 record (.830) vs. fellow Indiana-based schools during the Paul Mainieri era (since '95), with games versus: Valparaiso (10-1), Butler (7-0), Purdue (6-2), IUPUI (5-0), Indiana Tech (4-1), Indiana (3-0), Indianapolis (2-0), IPFW (2-0), Indiana State (2-1), Ball State (2-3), and Evansville (1-1) ... the Irish have 2006 games schedule vs. Valparaiso, Ball state and IPFW.

**FOR OPENERS** – Following the 3-0 win over Indiana State, ND now is 8-1 in its past nine season openers, with five straight wins (29-9 margin in the past three openers).

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

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