

Pre-game Notes  
 Notre Dame vs. Louisville  
 May 22, 2010

- Freshman Frank DeSico started the final 47 games of the season at second base for the Irish, the last 32 of which were error-free for the Cleveland native. He has gone 155 consecutive chances without an error, last making a miscue in the first game of the doubleheader with USF on March 27. DeSico's fielding stats in his first 18 games compared to his last 32:

	PO	A	E	FLD%
First 18 games	33	51	5	.944
Last 32 games	64	91	0	1.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>.980</b>

- The 47 consecutive starts at second base are the most for an Irish player since Steve Sollman made 86 straight starts at second from 3/30/02-4/22/03.
- While the slick-fielding DeSico kept his error-free streak intact, his counterpart, Louisville second baseman Ryan Wright, could not, as he committed errors on back-to-back plays in the ninth inning of the second game of the doubleheader to halt his streak of 24 consecutive errorless games and 135 straight errorless chances. Wright entered the final game of the series with just one error all season and a .996 fielding percentage.
- The one-run loss for Notre Dame in the first game of the doubleheader was the sixth in a 10-game span in the series with Louisville; the Cardinals took four of the six, including the last two.
- With a solid outing (6.0 IP, 2 ER, 76 pitches) in the first game of the doubleheader, sophomore Steve Sabatino notched back-to-back quality starts for the first time in his career (2.92 ERA over that stretch), as he worked 6.1 innings and yielded two earned runs in his previous start against Villanova on May 15. Sabatino did not walk a batter against the Cardinals, the third time in his career he has not allowed a base on balls in a start; since walking seven in 5.2 innings against Cincinnati on April 24, Sabatino has walked just four in his last 20.2 innings (15 strikeouts) to lower his season walks per nine innings rate from 5.12 to 4.14.
- Sabatino has also worked at least 6.0 innings in three consecutive starts, the first time in his career he has done so. The southpaw did work at least 5.0 innings in five straight outings earlier this season (3/6-4/2).
- Two-out runs continued to hurt the Irish in the Louisville series, as the Cardinals plated nine of their first 10 runs in the series with two away. Irish foes ended the season hitting .309 (198-for-641) with two outs and notched 45.4% (154-of-339) of their RBI on the year after two were away.
- Notre Dame collected its third error-free game in four contests in the first game of the doubleheader; the Irish committed just one error (a catcher's interference) over that period for a fielding percentage of .994 (153-for-154).
- Senior Ryan Connolly went 0-for-4 in Thursday evening's loss and failed to reach base for the first time since his 47-game streak of reaching base safely ended at the hands of Michigan on April 21; Connolly had reached in 15 straight games and 62 of his last 63. Connolly went 1-for-4 in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader and still has not been kept off the basepaths in two consecutive appearances since March 26 and April 22 of 2008 (0-for-1 versus Milwaukee and Chicago State, respectively).

- Louisville righty Justin Amlung plunked Connolly in the third inning in the second game of the doubleheader, giving Connolly 30 HBP for his career. He is now tied with Craig Cooper for 10th in ND history in that category, and his 20 HBP this season finished ninth in the Irish annals. Connolly's 30 HBP have all come in the last two seasons; only NCAA hit-by-pitch king Brett Lilley, Cody Rizzo, and Alex Nettey have had more HBP in a two-season stretch in ND history. Here are the top two-season HBP runs in school history:

1.	Lilley (07-08)	58 (27-31)
2.	Lilley (05-06)	51 (30-21)
3.	Rizzo (03-04)	49 (28-21)
4.	Lilley (06-07)	48 (21-27)
5.	Rizzo (04-05)	42 (21-21)
6.	Nettey (05-06)	38 (15-23)
7.	Rizzo (05-06)	35 (21-14)
8.	<b>Connolly (09-10)</b>	<b>30 (10-20)</b>

- Connolly's 20 HBP in 2010 came in 20 different games.
- Connolly struck out once in each of the first two games of the series and twice in the final game, giving him at least one strikeout in each of the final 15 games of the season (25 strikeouts over that stretch). Connolly (59 SO) broke the school record for strikeouts in a season, set by Joe Binkiewicz in 1992 (57).
- Connolly finished the season 7-for-7 in stolen bases, the fifth-most stolen bases in a season in Irish history without being caught. Senior David Mills holds the school record for steals in a season without being tossed out, going 9-for-9 in 2008. Mills also stole nine consecutive bases from 5/10/09-3/13/10 before being thrown out against Pacific on March 14.
- Mills has not walked a batter since March 27 at USF (first game of the doubleheader), a stretch covering 15 appearances, 21.2 innings, and 89 batters. The streak ended as the longest (in terms of innings) for an Irish hurler since Tom Thornton worked 22.1 consecutive innings (89 batters) without allowing a walk from May 14-June 3 of the 2006 campaign. Here are the longest stretches without yielding a walk by Notre Dame pitchers since the beginning of the 2002 season:

	<b>Pitcher</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Innings</b>	<b>Batters</b>
1.	Thornton	4/4/05-4/22/05	24.2	96
2.	Thornton	4/22/05-5/20/05	23.2	109
3.	Thornton	5/14/06-6/3/06	22.1	89
4.	<b>Mills</b>	<b>3/27/10-Present</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>89</b>

- The 15 consecutive walk-free outings were the most by a Notre Dame pitcher since Brandon Vioria avoided the base on balls in 16 straight appearances from 5/15/02-4/27/03, a stretch covering 19.0 innings and 69 batters. Vioria holds the school's career record for fewest walks per nine innings (1.61).
- Mills snapped an 0-for-25 string with a fifth-inning homer to right in the first game of Saturday's twinbill. The senior's last hit had come against St. John's at home on May 2. He promptly collected three more hits in the double-dip to finish the day 4-for-7 (.571) with three runs scored.

- After stealing eight bases in his first 12 games this season, Mills has attempted to steal just one time in his last 39 games.
- Mills finished his Irish career 13th in career triples (11), fourth in career sacrifice bunts (31), first in season sacrifice bunts (19), fifth in season sac flies (seven), third in career sacrifices (46), third in career fewest walks per nine innings (1.70), third in season walks per nine innings (0.89), and third in season strikeout-to-walk ratio (6.33).
- Louisville first baseman Andrew Clark entered the series having gone 13 straight games without a strikeout (66 plate appearances), but junior Brian Dupra got two strikes on the slugger in each of his four plate appearances on Thursday night and finally punched him out for the second out of the eighth inning. Sabatino also got to Clark on Saturday, sending him down on strikes looking in the third inning.
- Senior Eric Maust allowed a pair of earned runs in 3.1 innings in the second game of the doubleheader, the 21st consecutive start in which he has allowed five earned runs or less; Maust last allowed six earned runs or more on March 29, 2009 at Pittsburgh, when he was tagged for 12 runs (11 earned) in 4.0 innings. The stretch is the longest for an Irish tosser since Wade Korpi began his career with 31 consecutive starts yielding five earned runs or fewer, beginning on February 19, 2005 and spanning the entirety of his first three seasons at Notre Dame, before giving up six earned against Iowa on February 23, 2008 (the single time in his career Korpi allowed more than five earned runs in a game).
- Senior Billy Boockford was tossed out stealing in the second game of the doubleheader, snapping Notre Dame's streak of successful steal attempts at eight. The Irish had been last caught on April 20 at Michigan; the 18 consecutive games without a caught stealing was the longest streak for Notre Dame since at least the 1997 season.
- Junior Mick Doyle seems to have the number of Louisville left-hander Dean Kiekhefer, as the shortstop doubled off of Kiekhefer on Saturday and is now 3-for-6 with a home run, a double, and three RBI in his career against the junior.
- Current Irish hitters continue to have great success against Louisville southpaw Bob Revesz, as the 2010 Irish squad was a combined 11-for-20 (.550) against Revesz coming into the series and notched three more hits (six at bats) off of the reliever in the second game of the doubleheader. The errors by Wright did ensure that the two runs charged to Revesz were unearned, however.
- Senior Ryne Intlekofer scorched a pinch-hit double over the head of left fielder Drew Haynes and then singled an inning later in his final two at bats in an Irish uniform on Saturday. In his last nine plate appearances, Intlekofer had four hits (.571 batting average), scored twice, walked, was hit by a pitch, and registered a .667 on-base percentage.
- The Irish homered in the first two games of the series, the eighth and ninth consecutive games with a dinger for Notre Dame, before failing to clear the fence in the final game of the set. Notre Dame has had a history of becoming homer happy at the end of the season over the last few years, as the Irish homered 14 times in the final 14 games of 2008 before going yard in each of the last 12 games of last season (22 total long balls).
- Senior Steven Mazur ended his career ranked ninth in Notre Dame history in career saves (nine), eighth in season saves (seven), and ninth in career strikeouts per nine innings (9.32).
- Senior Casey Martin ended his Irish playing days with the ninth-most putouts in ND history (911).