



2002 NCAA Division I Baseball Championships
South Bend Regional
May 31-June 2, 2002
Frank Eck Stadium

Notre Dame vs. South Alabama (Game #4) Notes

SOUTH ALABAMA

- The 25-1 loss to Notre Dame was the largest margin of defeat for South Alabama. The previous margin was 21 set in a 26-5 loss to Missouri in 1996. The 25 runs against are the second most ever given up by the Jaguars.
- South Alabama was held to one hit for just the second time in school history. The fewest hits the Jaguars had this season prior to today was two (vs. New Orleans - April 7).
- South Alabama sophomore starter **Clark Girardeau** lasted just one inning versus Notre Dame (four runs, four earned, five hits) for his shortest start of the season. His previous shortest outing was 3.2 innings versus Western Kentucky (March 17).
- South Alabama second baseman **Josh Touchstone** had his team and Sun Belt Conference record hitting streak snapped at 30 games. Touchstone was 45-for-115 (.391) during the streak.
- South Alabama is 42-18 and has won 22 of its last 29 games. The Jaguars are 31-41 all-time in the NCAA tournament.
- South Alabama will play an elimination game at 7:05 p.m. versus Ohio State. Ohio State eliminated Kent State earlier in the day with a 12-8 win over the Golden Flashes.
- South Alabama is now 1-1 versus Notre Dame. The Jaguars defeated the Irish 9-7 in 1991 at South Alabama.

NOTRE DAME

- Notre Dame's 32-hit game is the most in recorded history for the Irish. The 32 hits are the second highest total in an NCAA tournament game (33 by Rice versus Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1999).
- Notre Dame's three most veteran players (**Steve Stanley, Andrew Bushey and Paul O'Toole**) were 1-for-12 in the opening win versus Ohio State. In the first inning versus the Jaguars, the trio was 3-for-3 with two singles, three runs scored, a home run and three rbi. The trio finished the game 12-for-15 (.800) with three doubles, two triples, two home runs and eight runs batted in.
- The 25 runs scored by Notre Dame is the highest total by the Irish in an NCAA game. The Irish took a 23-3 decision versus Colorado State in the 1957 College World Series.
- Notre Dame opened the game versus South Alabama with a four-run first inning, highlighted by Andrew Bushey's three-run homer. The four-run outburst was the third highest first inning run total for Notre Dame this season. Season-best was 10 versus Detroit, followed by a pair of five-run firsts versus Georgetown.
- Freshman pitcher **Grant Johnson** pitched the first complete game and the first one-hitter of his career. Johnson struck out eight and walked one to improve his record to 8-4. He threw 97 pitches in the game with 64 for strikes. Johnson has won his last six decisions. The lone hit was rbi double by Erik Smallwood in the first inning.
- **Grant Johnson's** complete game was the first for an Irish pitcher since Danny Tamayo pitched a three-hit shutout in a 7-0 win over Mississippi State in the 2000 Starkville Regional.
- **Steve Sollmann** (6-for-7) and **Paul O'Toole** (5-for-5) became just the second Irish duo to have five-hit games in 99 years. Ed Ruelbach, Anton Stephan and Roy Gage each had five hits in a 24-0 win over Hillsdale on April 23, 1903.
- Second baseman **Steve Sollmann** set an NCAA Tournament record with six runs scored. He equalled a tournament mark with two triples. He tied three Notre Dame records for hits (6 - Alec Porzel went 6-for-6 vs. Pittsburgh in 2001), runs (6 - Bobby Lynch in 1900 vs. Indiana) and rbi's (7 - six previous players have had seven rbi's with Andrew Bushey the last to do it this season versus Detroit).
- Senior third baseman **Andrew Bushey** snapped an 0-for-15 2002 postseason slump (BIG EAST Tournament and NCAA Regionals) going 3-for-5 with a double, a home run and three rbis.
- Senior catcher **Paul O'Toole** snapped a 2-for-14 postseason slump in 2002 (BIG EAST Tournament and NCAA Regionals) with his first-inning single. He was 5-for-5 with two doubles, a home run and three rbis.
- Senior catcher **Paul O'Toole** has homered in all four Regionals he's played in during his career and now has six home runs in NCAA Regional play.
- Freshman pitcher **Grant Johnson's** fifth inning strikeout of Brett Parker establishes a new Notre Dame freshman record for strikeouts with 82. The previous record was held by Aaron Heilman who had 78 during the 1998 season. Johnson finished the game with eight strikeouts.

- Sophomore SS **Javier Sanchez** extended his hitting streak to 12 games. He is hitting .427 (18-42) in that span.
- Junior RF **Kris Billmaier** is hitting .476 (20-42) with 10 RBI in 12 career NCAA games.
- Junior LF **Brian Stavisky** is hitting .392 (20-51) with 4 HR, 5 2B, 20 RBI and 15 R in 12 career NCAA games.
- Notre Dame is 46-15 this season and has won 37 of its last 42 games. This is the third season in a row and the ninth time overall the Irish have won 45 or more games in a season, with all of those occurring since 1989. The Irish are 31-33 all-time in the NCAA tournament.
- This marks the fifth time Notre Dame has played host to NCAA Championship action and the third time in the last four years that Frank Eck Stadium has filled the role. The Irish are 8-8 in home NCAA games, including 6-4 at Eck Stadium, and have never won their own regional. Last season, Notre Dame was the top seed in the South Bend Regional and lost 5-4 to Florida International in the championship game. The Irish finished third in the 1999 South Bend Regional.
- Notre Dame is 25-3 (.893) at Frank Eck Stadium this season, which is the third-highest home winning percentage in a season in school history.

