

# BIG EAST Baseball Doubleheader



**Rutgers Scarlet Knights (27-17, 13-5)**



**VS.**

**#8 Notre Dame Fighting Irish (39-9, 13-5)**

**Saturday, May 15, 2004 ... Eck Stadium (Notre Dame, Indiana)**



**Grant Johnson**



**Matt Bransfield**



**Chris Niesel**



*Matt Edwards, Steve Sollmann and Javi Sanchez*



**Graig Badger**



## THE TALE OF THE TAPE

|   | <b>RUTGERS</b>       |              | <b>NOTRE DAME</b>     |                |
|---|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 2003 Records  | 37-22, 19-6 BE (1st) |              | 45-18, 16-7 BE (3rd)  |                |
| Lettermen Ret./Lost                                 | 21/5                 |              | 21/7                  |                |
| <b>CURRENT STATS (BIG EAST rank in parentheses)</b> |                      |              |                       |                |
| Overall Batting Average                             | (2)                  | <b>.322</b>  | (3)                   | .315           |
| BIG EAST Batting Avg.                               | (5)                  | .296         | (2)                   | <b>.310</b>    |
| Runs Per 9 Innings                                  | (3)                  | 8.1          | (1)                   | <b>9.1</b>     |
| Home Runs   | (3)                  | 44           | (1)                   | <b>50</b>      |
| Slugging Percentage                                 | (3)                  | .479         | (2)                   | <b>.480</b>    |
| Batters' BB+HBP-K Ratio                             | -31 (194+49/275)     |              | +15 (216+90/281)      |                |
| On-Base Percentage                                  | (2)                  | .408         | (1)                   | <b>.415</b>    |
| Stolen Bases  | (4)                  | <b>55-73</b> | (10)                  | 49-71          |
| Stolen Base Percentage                              | <b>.753</b>          |              | .690                  |                |
| Overall Team ERA                                    | (4)                  | 4.42         | (1)                   | <b>3.68</b>    |
| BIG EAST ERA  | (4)                  | 3.94         | (3)                   | <b>3.86</b>    |
| Pitchers' K-to-BB Ratio                             | 1.56 (276/177)       |              | <b>2.56 (330/129)</b> |                |
| Pitchers' Ks Per 9 Inn.                             | (10)                 | 6.4          | (4)                   | 7.0            |
| Pitchers' Walks Per 9 Inn.                          | (5)                  | 4.1          | (1)                   | <b>2.8</b>     |
| Opponent Batting Average                            | (4)                  | .266         | (2)                   | <b>.251</b>    |
| Fielding Pct./Errors                                | (8)                  | .960/69      | (3)                   | <b>.965/65</b> |
| BIG EAST Fielding Pct.                              | (7)                  | .961/25      | (6)                   | <b>.962/28</b> |
| Double Plays Turned                                 | (3)                  | 41           | (1)                   | <b>45</b>      |
| Home Record   | <b>16-1</b>          |              | 15-4                  |                |
| Road Record (incl. neutral)                         | 13-15-1              |              | <b>25-5</b>           |                |
| Record In One-Run Games                             | 3-3                  |              | <b>5-2</b>            |                |
| Extra-Inning Record                                 | 1-3                  |              | <b>4-0</b>            |                |



**Jack Egbert**



**Aaron Kalb**

### Probable Pitching Rotations

#### Saturday (Game 1)

**RU – Jack Egbert (Jr., RHP)**  
(4.44, 7-3, 75.0 IP, 58 K/20 BB, .270)

...  
**ND – Chris Niesel (Jr., RHP)**  
(3.94, 6-2, 75.1 IP, 67 K/15 BB, .301)

#### Saturday (Game 2)

**RU – Aaron Kalb (Jr., RHP)**  
(3.12, 5-2, 49.0 IP, 34 K/20 BB, .266)

...  
**ND – Grant Johnson (Jr., RHP)**  
(2.27, 3-0, 31.2 IP, 29 K/17 BB, .186)

#### Sunday

**RU – Jim Jansen (So., RHP)**  
(3.59, 5-0, 42.2 IP, 27 K/20 BB, .296)

...  
**ND – TBA** (possibilities include so. LHP Tom Thornton, fr. RHP Jeff Samardzija, sr. LHP Joe Thaman)

## BIG EAST LEADERS

### Overall Batting Average

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| 1. Jeff Frazier, RU  | .385 |
| 5. Rich Canuso, RU   | .367 |
| 6. Graig Badger, RU  | .365 |
| 7. Jeff Grose, RU    | .364 |
| 11. Craig Cooper, ND | .357 |
| 12. Greg Lopez, ND   | .355 |
| 14. Colin Gaynor, RU | .350 |
| 15. Nick Cerulo, RU  | .348 |
| 15. Matt Macri, ND   | .347 |

### BIG EAST Batting Average

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| 1. Jeff Frazier, RU | .403 |
| 3. Colin Gaynor, RU | .396 |
| 9. Greg Lopez, ND   | .368 |

### Overall Home Runs (PJ Hiser, PITT-17)

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| 2. Bransfield, ND/Frazier, RU | 11 |
| 4. Matt Macri, ND             | 9  |
| 6. Matt Edwards, ND           | 8  |

### BIG EAST Home Runs

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Matt Bransfield, ND | 6 |
| 3. Matt Macri, ND      | 4 |

### Overall RBI

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| 1. Jeff Frazier, RU       | 52 |
| 3. Bransfield/Edwards, ND | 47 |
| 5. Macri, ND/Canuso, RU   | 45 |

### BIG EAST RBI

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| 1. Matt Bransfield, ND | 29 |
| 8. Colin Gaynor, RU    | 17 |

### Overall Slugging Pct. (Hiser, PITT-788)

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| 2. Jeff Frazier, RU    | .659 |
| 3. Matt Bransfield, ND | .642 |
| 4. Matt Macri, ND      | .640 |
| 6. Craig Cooper, ND    | .581 |
| 7. Rich Canuso, RU     | .580 |

### Overall On-Base Percentage

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| 1. Graig Badger, RU | .511 |
| 4. Steve Andres, ND | .476 |
| 6. Matt Macri, ND   | .465 |
| 8. Jeff Frazier, RU | .462 |
| 9. Jeff Grose, RU   | .461 |

### Overall Stolen Bases (Chris Stanton, VT-29)

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| 3. Graig Badger, RU | 23 |
|---------------------|----|

### Overall Doubles (Jim Negrych, PITT-16)

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| 4. Jeff Frazier, RU | 14 |
| 8. Greg Lopez, ND   | 13 |

### Overall Walks

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| 1. Craig Badger, RU | 41 |
| 2. Steve Andres, ND | 36 |
| 4. Matt Macri, ND   | 34 |
| 7. Jeff Grose, RU   | 28 |

### Overall Runs Scored

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| 1. Matt Macri, ND    | 61 |
| 3. Jeff Frazier, RU  | 54 |
| 4. Graig Badger, RU  | 53 |
| 10. Matt Edwards, ND | 39 |

### Overall Hits

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| 1. Jeff Frazier, RU | 69 |
| 4. Graig Badger, RU | 62 |
| 8. Matt Macri, ND   | 61 |

### Overall Total Bases (Hiser, PITT-126)

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| 2. Jeff Frazier, RU | 118 |
| 3. Matt Macri, ND   | 112 |

### Overall ERA (min. 1 IP per team game)

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| 1. Jeff Samardzija, ND | 2.14 |
| 4. Aaron Kalb, RU      | 3.12 |
| 11. Chris Niesel, ND   | 3.94 |

### BIG EAST ERA

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| 1. Jeff Samardzija, ND | 2.14 |
| 4. Aaron Kalb, RU      | 3.12 |
| 11. Chris Niesel, ND   | 3.94 |

### Overall Opponent Batting Average

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| 1. Jeff Samardzija, ND | .201 |
| 4. Shaun Parker, RU    | .235 |

### Overall Wins

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Jack Egbert, RU         | 7-3 |
| 4. Tom Thornton/Niesel, ND | 6-2 |

### Overall Strikeouts (Chris Lambert, BC-82)

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| 2. Chris Niesel, ND | 67 |
|---------------------|----|

### Overall Saves

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Ryan Doherty, ND   | 8 |
| 5. Tom Malafronte, RU | 5 |

### Overall Appearances (Craig Hansen, SJU-24)

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| 2. Ryan Doherty, ND          | 23 |
| 5. Joe Thaman/Dan Kapala, ND | 21 |
| Matt Putsay, RU              | 21 |

### Overall Innings

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| 1. Chris Niesel, ND | 75.1 |
| 2. Jack Egbert, RU  | 75.0 |
| 6. Tom Thornton, ND | 71.1 |

## Updated BIG EAST Conference Baseball Standings

|                   |              |         |
|-------------------|--------------|---------|
| 1. Notre Dame     | 15-5 (.750)  | 39-9    |
| Pittsburgh        | 15-5 (.750)  | 35-12   |
| 3. Rutgers        | 13-5 (.722)  | 29-17   |
| 4. St. John's     | 13-7 (.650)  | 31-17   |
| 5. Boston College | 11-7 (.611)  | 25-22   |
| 6. Virginia Tech  | 10-10 (.500) | 27-21-1 |
| 7. Villanova      | 7-13 (.350)  | 27-19-1 |
| 8. West Virginia  | 8-15 (.348)  | 18-28   |
| 9. Georgetown     | 7-16 (.304)  | 24-29   |
| 10. Connecticut   | 6-14 (.300)  | 22-25-1 |
| Seton Hall        | 6-14 (.300)  | 14-30-1 |

**This Weekend's Other Series** (bye for WVU)  
 Connecticut at Pittsburgh ... Seton Hall at St. John's ...  
 Virginia Tech at Boston College ... Villanova at Georgetown  
 Next Week: VT@ND, VU#RU, SJU@Pitt, BC@SHU, WVU@UConn

### Last Weekend's Results

ND swept @UConn, Pitt swept @Pitt BC swept @WVU

### Key Head-to-Head Tiebreakers

ND split vs. BC, SJU ... Pitt over ND, BC, VT ...  
 RU over Pitt, VT ... SJU over RU, BC, VT ... RU-BC rainout  
 TBD: ND-RU, VT-BC, ND-VT, Pitt-SJU

**SERIES NOTES** – ND holds a 17-12 series edge vs. Rutgers (5-4 at Eck Stadium) and has won 13 of the last 18 meetings ... the teams met six times in 2002 (ND won 4) and '03 (3-3 split) ... ND holds a 5-4 edge in the BIG EAST Tournament, including title games won by RU in '98 and ND in '02 and '03 ... RU's last visit to ND saw the Irish win the doubleheader (6-5, 7-2), with the Irish rallying for 4 runs vs. ace **Bobby Brownlie** in the 7th and final inning of the opener ... on the final play of that game, **Steve Sollmann** hit a 2-RBI, bases-loaded single into shallow center field (tying the game) but the centerfielder walked away from the ball thinking the game was over and the winning run scored as well ... Brownlie was one strike from a win before singles by **Joe Thaman**, **Steve Stanley** and Sollmann ... RU's 11-0 win in '02 ended ND's team-record scoring streak at 231 (that remains ND's only shutout loss in the last 336 games and is one of just 6 in the 10-year Paul Mainieri era ... the Knights won the '03 series at RU (2-0, 2-10, 3-5 in 19) ... the 19-inning loss at RU is believed to be the longest game in ND history (also BIG EAST game and tied for 10th in NCAA record book) ... that game featured 511 pitches, 144 batters, 44 baserunners (24 left on, 6 thrown out, 7 doubled up) ... Sollmann's 2-run shot broke up Aaron Kalb's no-hitter in that game but RU tied the game in the 9th (2-2) on a close play at 1st that led to the tying run scoring during the argument (both teams then scored in the 15th) ... RU's Graig Badger had an unusual 0-for-9 game but had the tapper that led to the E-1 and the tying run in the 9th ... the game ended on a Steve Normane HR ... **Chris Niesel** (6 IP, 6 H, BB, 2 Ks) posted the shutout in the '03 opener, **Steve Andres** was the offensive hero (HR, RBI single), Matt Macri made a 360-play at SS to save 2 runs and Jack Egbert took the loss (7 IP, 7 H, BB, 4 Ks) ... **Shaun Parker** won the '03 nightcap (5.2 IP, R, 5 H, 4 BB, 3 Ks), John Axford took the loss (3.2 IP, 6 R, 3 H, 6 BB, 2 HB, 2 WP, 4 Ks) ... ND beat RU in the winners-bracker game of the '03 BIG EAST Tournament, 9-3, led by Ryan Kalita (7 IP, R, 7 H, BB, 6 Ks) and **Cody Rizzo** (3-for-3, 2-run 2B, 2 R, 2 sliding catches) ... RU later stayed alive at the '03 BET in a wild game (ND rallied from down 9-1 to up 11-9 but lost 15-11) ... **Matt Laird**'s first start since 2000 then delivered the first repeat BIG EAST champs since 1986, with an 11-3 win over RU (Laird's stats: 9 IP, 2 ER, 9 H, BB, 6 Ks, hard-luck loser in 19-IP gm) ... **Matt Edwards** had a 3-run double in the 1st and **Javi Sanchez** completed a tournament MVP performance ... the series has featured its share of blowouts (8 of last 25 decided by 8-plus runs) and tense finishes (14 total decided by 1-2 runs, with 8 won by ND).

**SERIES STATS** – **Grant Johnson** (injured in '03) posted a pair of wins over RU: 7-2 in reg. season (6 Ip, 5 H, UER, 4 BB, 5 Ks) and 8-3 at the BET (7 IP, 2 R/1 ER, 9 H, 2 BB, 7 Ks) to open the '02 BET with an 8-3 win over Rutgers ... **Chris Niesel** posted the 2-0 sutout at RU last season (see above) but dnp vs. RU in '02 (mono) or at the '03 BET (finger injury) ... **Steve Sollmann** started all 16 games vs. RU in the '01-'03 seasons, batting .246 with 11 RBI and 2 HR in those games (he scored on a Brian Stavisky single to win the '02 BET, 3-2 over RU in 10) ... **Matt Edwards** his .389 in 6 games vs. RU in '03 (RBI, 2B, 4 BB).

**IRISH TEAM NOTES** – ND scored just 39 first-inning runs in its first 47 games of the season before scoring 10 first-inning runs earlier this week vs. UConn in the series finale and then 3 vs. Michigan ... the Irish are on the verge of their 16th straight 40-win season and entered '04 with the 3rd-longest active streak behind Florida State (26; currently 32-19) and Wichita State (26; 35-13) ... ND is one of 7 teams out of 287 in Division I with single-digit losses, as are East Carolina (44-7), Texas (46-8), Stanford (38-8), Oral Roberts (38-8) in Rice (36-9) and Albany (33-9) ... ND logged nearly 16,000 travel miles in the first 12 weeks of the season (36 days on the road), posting a 25-5 record outside of Eck Stadium that ranks 2nd-best in the Mainieri era (the '01 team was 24-3-1 in regular-season road games) ... the Iris hare 30 games over .500 for the 6th season in the program's history (best ever was +36, in 2001) ... ND is riding a 135-game scoring streak ... ND's team-record 90 hit-by-pitch rank 11th in NCAA history (Nevada's 1997 team holds the record, with 125) ... ND's 2001-04 teams have combined for a 177-63-1 record ... the Irish have posted 19 error-free games in '04 ... ND has blasted 50 HRs after hitting just 31 in '03 .. the Irish have hit 3 HRs six times in '04, plus a 4-HR game at UConn ... ND has dominated 2nd-inning scoring (49-7) and owns a 155-53 combined edge in the 6th (71-27), 7th (51-15) and 8th (33-11) ... the Irish have posted three 3-0 BIG EAST road sweeps for the first time ever in one season (the previous eight ND teams combined for just five 3-0 BIG EAST road sweeps) ... ND is 58-10 in its last 68 at Eck Stadium (since mid-'02) ... Mainieri's 22-year career record is 769-448-2 (438-169-1/.721 at ND) ... the Irish own a 161-53 (.752) record in 8-plus seasons of BIG EAST play, with Mainieri owning the best BIG EAST winning pct. in the league's history ... ND's 81 all-time BIG EAST series include 59 series wins, 12 even series and just 10 series wins by the opponent ... the Irish have lost just 3 of 41 all-time BIG EAST home series (32 series wins, 5 even) while the last 26 BE series at Eck have seen ND win 22 (split 4) ... the team's .415 on-base pct. would rank 4th in ND history (best since '94) while the .251 opp. batting avg. is 6th-best by an ND staff since 1971 ... the Irish have won 22 times by 5-plus runs.

**IRISH PLAYER NOTES** – **Steve Sollmann** is set to make his Eck Stadium return after missing 21 games due to an April 3 in-game collision (he has hit 6-for-14 since returning from the fractured jaw) ... Sollmann ranks 4th in ND history with 286 hits, 5th with 76 stolen bases, 6th with 200 runs and 8th with a .364 career batting avg. ... **Chris Niesel** is riding a 16-1-inning shutout streak (.211 opp. batting/12-for-57, 19 Ks, 2 BB) that includes 8.1 relief innings (career-best 12 Ks, 4 H) to set up the 15-inning win over Ball State and the 4-0 shutout at UConn (6 Ks, 6 H, BB) ... Niese'sl .864 career win pct. (19-3) ranks 2nd in ND baseball history (best since Herb Kelly went 22-2 from 1912-14) while his 4.12 career K-to-walk ratio is on pace to break the ND record ... football/baseball star **Jeff Samardzija** ranks 26th in the nation with a 2.15 ERA ... leftside infielders **Matt Macri** (41) and **Greg Lopez** (31) have combined for 72 error-free games while Sollmann has yet to make an error this season (1B **Matt Edwards** has 3 Es and 43 error-free games) ... **Craig Cooper** has hits in 13 of his last 14 games ... Edwards is riding a career-best, 10-game hitting streak ... Brian Stavisky (14, in 2000) is the last ND player to hit more HR in a season than **Matt Bransfield**'s current 11 ... **Cody Rizzo**'s 46 times hit-by-pitch are an ND career record (he owns the top season totals, with 28 in '03 and 18 in '04) ... **Tom Thornton**'s 6-hit gem at WVU is just ND's third 9-inning solo shutout in a BIG EAST game during the last six seasons (Danny Tamayo had two in '01).

# NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH \* – lefthanded hitter; # – switch hitter

| NO | NAME               | CL  | POS      | HT/WT    | HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL                      |
|----|--------------------|-----|----------|----------|---|
| 2  | Tim Murray         | Sr. | IF       | 6-2/190  | Shrub Oak, NY (Lakeland) HS                   |
| 3  | Steve Sollmann (C) | Sr. | 2B       | 5-11/195 | Cincinnati, OH (St. Xavier HS)                |
| 4  | Greg Lopez         | So. | SS       | 6-0/185  | Upper Arlington, OH (Upper Arlington HS)      |
| 5  | Matt Macri         | Jr. | 3B/SS    | 6-2/190  | Clive, IA (Dowling HS)                        |
| 6  | *Danny Dressman    | Fr. | OF       | 5-9/175  | San Jose, CA (Archbishop Mitty HS)            |
| 7  | *Zach Sisko        | Sr. | IF       | 6-2/205  | Belleville, IL (St. Louis University HS)      |
| 8  | Chris Fournier     | Fr. | OF/2B    | 5-11/200 | Fairfield, CT (Fairfield HS)                  |
| 9  | Craig Cooper       | So. | OF       | 6-2/205  | Plainview, NY (Chaminade HS)                  |
| 10 | Chris Niesel (C)   | Jr. | RHP      | 6-0/205  | Plantation, FL (St. Thomas Aquinas HS)        |
| 11 | *Sean Gaston       | Fr. | C        | 6-0/170  | Brownsburg, IN (Brownsburg HS)                |
| 12 | Matt Bransfield    | So. | DH/LF/1B | 6-1/200  | Englewood, CO (Cherry Creek HS)               |
| 14 | Matt Edwards       | Jr. | 1B/3B    | 6-2/195  | Mechanicsville, VA (Lee-Davis HS)             |
| 15 | Javi Sanchez (C)   | Sr. | C/IF     | 6-3/205  | Miami, FL (Christopher Columbus HS)           |
| 16 | Alex Nettey        | So. | OF       | 6-1/195  | Dolton, IL (Thornridge HS)                    |
| 17 | Cody Rizzo         | So. | OF       | 6-1/200  | Temecula, CA (Chapparral HS)                  |
| 18 | Brent Weiss        | Jr. | DH       | 6-1/195  | Cockeysville, MD (St. Paul's HS)              |
| 20 | Derik Olvey        | Fr. | RHP      | 6-2/205  | Pelham, AL (Pelham HS)                        |
| 21 | *Joe Thaman        | Sr. | LHP/1B   | 6-4/210  | St. Louis, MO (St. Louis University HS)       |
| 22 | Grant Johnson      | Jr. | RHP      | 6-5/215  | Burr Ridge, IL (Lyons Township HS)            |
| 24 | Rico Bertucci      | Fr. | RHP      | 6-0/170  | Belleville, IL (Belleville HS)                |
| 25 | Nick Mainieri      | So. | C        | 5-11/160 | South Bend, IN (St. Joseph's HS)              |
| 29 | Cody Wilkins       | Sr. | LHP      | 6-1/225  | Hudson, NC (South Caldwell HS)                |
| 30 | Tom Thornton       | So. | LHP      | 6-6/215  | Middleboro, MA (Middleboro HS)                |
| 32 | Jess Stewart       | Fr. | RHP      | 6-3/215  | Manassas, VA (Manassas HS)                    |
| 33 | Scott Bickford     | Jr. | LHP      | 6-4/170  | Owings, MD (Northern HS)                      |
| 34 | Jeff Manship       | Fr. | RHP      | 6-1/175  | San Antonio, TX (Reagas HS)                   |
| 35 | Chris Vasami       | Fr. | RHP/1B   | 6-3/250  | Mamaroneck, NY (Mamaroneck HS)                |
| 36 | *Steve Andres      | So. | DH/LF/C  | 5-10/190 | Napa, CA (Justin Siena HS)                    |
| 37 | Dan Kapala         | Fr. | RHP      | 6-5/210  | Royal Oak, MI (Shrine Catholic HS)            |
| 38 | Tyler Jones        | Jr. | RHP      | 6-4/205  | Arlington, TX (James Martin HS)               |
| 44 | #Mike Dury         | Fr. | LHP/1B   | 6-5/225  | Indianapolis, IN (Bishop Chatard H)           |
| 45 | Jeff Samardzija    | Fr. | RHP      | 6-5/205  | Valparaiso, IN (Valparaiso HS)                |
| 46 | Matt Whittington   | Fr. | LHP      | 6-1/185  | Melbourne, FL (Melbourne Central Catholic HS) |
| 47 | Ryan Doherty       | So. | RHP      | 7-1/220  | Toms River, NJ (Toms River East HS)           |
| 49 | John Axford        | Jr. | RHP      | 6-5/180  | Port Dover, Ontario (Assumption College HS)   |

**Head Coach:** # 1 Paul Mainieri (St. Thomas '82, 10th season at Notre Dame)

**Assistants:** #19 David Grewe (Dayton '98), #26 Terry Rooney (Radford '96), John Gumpf (CS San Bernadino '97)

# RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS \* – lefthanded hitter; # – switch hitter

| NO | NAME             | CL  | POS   | HT/WT    | HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL                   |
|----|------------------|-----|-------|----------|--|
| 1  | Mike Bionde      | So. | SS    | 5-8/165  | Pompton Plains, NJ/Pequannock              |
| 2  | Vic Cegles       | Fr. | IF    | 5-11/175 | Phoenix, AZ/Mountain Pointe                |
| 3  | David Williams   | Fr. | OF    | 6-3/208  | Franklin, NJ/Pope John XXIII               |
| 4  | Tom Preziosi     | So. | RHP   | 6-1/195  | Morristown, NJ/Morristown                  |
| 5  | Jason Grover     | Jr. | SS    | 5-9/175  | Montgomery, NJ/Montgomery                  |
| 6  | *Donny Callahan  | Fr. | OF    | 5-10/160 | Sparta, NJ/Sparta                          |
| 7  | Cory Rodriguez   | Jr. | IF    | 5-10/180 | Bridgewater, NJ/Bridgewater-Raritan        |
| 8  | Jim Jansen       | So. | RHP   | 6-3/195  | Hillsdale, NJ/Pascack Valley               |
| 9  | Jack Egbert      | Jr. | RHP   | 6-3/205  | Rutherford, NJ/Rutherford                  |
| 11 | *Ryan Hill       | Fr. | 1B/OF | 6-0/185  | Hillsdale, NJ/Pascack Valley               |
| 12 | Nick Cerulo      | Sr. | 3B    | 6-1/205  | Woodbridge, NJ/St. Joseph's                |
| 13 | Chris Lillis     | So. | RHP   | 6-1/180  | Fair Haven, NJ/Christian Bros. Acad.       |
| 14 | *Matt Pustay     | So. | LHP   | 5-10/185 | Hamilton, NJ/The Peddie School             |
| 15 | Colin Gaynor     | Jr. | C     | 6-2/200  | Toms River, NJ/Northeastern Univ.          |
| 16 | *Tim Querns      | Fr. | 3B    | 6-0/200  | Cherry Hill, NJ/Cherry Hill West           |
| 17 | Tom Malafronte   | Jr. | RHP   | 6-5/220  | Somerville, NJ/Somerville                  |
| 19 | Dave Caffrey     | Jr. | RHP   | 6-4/190  | Basking Ridge, NJ/Delbarton                |
| 20 | *Steve Holt      | Fr. | RHP   | 6-1/180  | Toms River, NJ/Toms River South            |
| 21 | OJ DeChristofano | So. | RHP   | 6-2/230  | Pequannock, NJ/Pequannock                  |
| 22 | *Shaun Parker    | Sr. | LHP   | 6-3/200  | Westampton, NJ/Mercer County JC            |
| 23 | *Johnny Defendis | So. | OF    | 6-1/200  | Staten Island, NY/Xaverian Brothers        |
| 25 | Jeffrey Miller   | Fr. | C     | 6-0/210  | Wyckoff, NJ/Ramapo                         |
| 26 | Tim Woodhull     | Fr. | C     | 6-1/210  | Princeton Jct., NJ/West-Windsor-Plainsboro |
| 27 | Chris Rini       | Fr. | P     | 6-3/215  | Flemington, NJ/Immaculata                  |
| 32 | Steve Healing    | Fr. | P     | 6-2/190  | Brick, NJ/Brick Memorial                   |
| 33 | *Jeff Grose      | So. | OF    | 5-11/180 | Iselin, NJ/John F. Kennedy                 |
| 34 | Rich Canuso      | Jr. | 1B    | 6-3/215  | Monroe, NJ/Notre Dame                      |
| 35 | Jeff Frazier     | Jr. | OF    | 6-3/205  | Toms River, NJ/Toms River South            |
| 38 | Graig Badger     | Sr. | 2B    | 5-9/180  | Union, NJ/Union                            |
| 42 | *Steve Hook      | So. | 1B    | 6-2/200  | Langhorne, PA/Neshaminy HS                 |
| 43 | *Matt Patterson  | Fr. | LHP   | 5-10/175 | Passaic, NJ/DePaul Catholic                |
| 44 | Eric Dial        | Sr. | RHP   | 6-2/200  | Basking Ridge, NJ/Ridge                    |
| 45 | Bobby Acampora   | So. | RHP   | 6-3/195  | Ocean Twp, NJ/Christian Bros. Acad.        |
| 47 | *Aaron Kalb      | Jr. | RHP   | 6-1/195  | Middletown, NJ/Middletown North            |

**Head Coach:** 324 Fred Hill (#24)

**Assistant Coaches:** #29 Glen Gardner, #28 Tom Baxter, #51 Jay Blackwell

# 2004 NOTRE DAME BASEBALL STATS (AS OF MAY 14)

Record: 39-9 Home: 15-4 Away: 14-5 Neutral: 10-0 BIG EAST: 15-5

| Player                | AVG         | GP-GS        | AB          | R          | H          | 2B        | 3B        | HR        | RBI        | TB         | SLG%        | BB         | HBP       | SO         | GDP       | OB%         | SF        | SH        | SB-ATT       | PO          | A          | E         | FLD%        |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 9 Craig Cooper.....   | .357        | 43-31        | 129         | 29         | 46         | 8         | 1         | 6         | 33         | 74         | .574        | 14         | 1         | 17         | 2         | .421        | 1         | 2         | 8-11         | 58          | 1          | 2         | .967        |
| 4 Greg Lopez.....     | .355        | 44-42        | 152         | 35         | 54         | 13        | 0         | 2         | 32         | 73         | .480        | 12         | 7         | 23         | 4         | .420        | 3         | 6         | 3-4          | 67          | 135        | 14        | .935        |
| 5 Matt Macri.....     | .347        | 46-45        | 176         | 61         | 61         | 12        | 6         | 9         | 46         | 112        | .636        | 34         | 6         | 34         | 0         | .465        | 1         | 1         | 8-9          | 31          | 111        | 7         | .953        |
| 14 Matt Edwards.....  | .331        | 46-44        | 169         | 39         | 56         | 12        | 1         | 8         | 47         | 94         | .556        | 26         | 7         | 33         | 5         | .432        | 4         | 0         | 4-4          | 371         | 38         | 3         | .993        |
| 11 Sean Gaston.....   | .327        | 20-12        | 55          | 11         | 18         | 3         | 0         | 0         | 11         | 21         | .382        | 4          | 2         | 8          | 1         | .387        | 1         | 0         | 4-4          | 77          | 9          | 1         | .989        |
| 12 Matt Bransfield..  | .327        | 44-39        | 153         | 37         | 50         | 10        | 2         | 11        | 47         | 97         | .634        | 16         | 8         | 22         | 5         | .413        | 2         | 0         | 0-1          | 34          | 3          | 0         | 1.000       |
| 3 Steve Sollmann...   | .313        | 25-25        | 99          | 28         | 31         | 3         | 1         | 2         | 18         | 42         | .424        | 16         | 8         | 11         | 4         | .444        | 1         | 1         | 10-14        | 58          | 74         | 0         | 1.000       |
| 36 Steve Andres.....  | .306        | 42-36        | 124         | 30         | 38         | 7         | 2         | 6         | 31         | 67         | .540        | 36         | 6         | 33         | 0         | .476        | 2         | 1         | 4-9          | 44          | 4          | 3         | .941        |
| 7 Zach Sisko.....     | .300        | 22-19        | 70          | 13         | 21         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 10         | 25         | .357        | 5          | 3         | 13         | 0         | .367        | 1         | 4         | 0-1          | 36          | 45         | 6         | .931        |
| 15 Javi Sanchez.....  | .299        | 44-44        | 164         | 35         | 49         | 11        | 0         | 1         | 32         | 63         | .384        | 15         | 12        | 22         | 2         | .388        | 5         | 2         | 1-4          | 255         | 35         | 9         | .970        |
| 17 Cody Rizzo.....    | .292        | 38-37        | 130         | 32         | 38         | 4         | 1         | 2         | 19         | 50         | .385        | 2          | 18        | 17         | 2         | .379        | 3         | 1         | 4-5          | 67          | 6          | 5         | .936        |
| 6 Danny Dressman...   | .259        | 36-28        | 116         | 25         | 30         | 7         | 0         | 0         | 17         | 37         | .319        | 17         | 0         | 25         | 0         | .346        | 3         | 5         | 2-4          | 59          | 0          | 0         | 1.000       |
| 2 Tim Murray.....     | .500        | 15-4         | 12          | 0          | 6          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 3          | 6          | .500        | 2          | 1         | 2          | 0         | .600        | 0         | 0         | 0-0          | 2           | 15         | 4         | .810        |
| 16 Alex Nettey.....   | .259        | 15-6         | 27          | 7          | 7          | 3         | 0         | 0         | 4          | 10         | .370        | 3          | 2         | 3          | 0         | .375        | 0         | 0         | 0-0          | 21          | 0          | 0         | 1.000       |
| 44 Mike Dury.....     | .250        | 9-4          | 16          | 4          | 4          | 0         | 0         | 1         | 2          | 7          | .438        | 3          | 2         | 4          | 0         | .429        | 0         | 0         | 0-0          | 32          | 6          | 3         | .927        |
| 8 Chris Fournier...   | .190        | 26-8         | 42          | 9          | 8          | 1         | 0         | 0         | 4          | 9          | .214        | 4          | 5         | 10         | 2         | .327        | 1         | 0         | 0-0          | 14          | 5          | 1         | .950        |
| 25 Nick Mainieri....  | .000        | 6-0          | 3           | 3          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0          | .000        | 2          | 1         | 1          | 0         | .500        | 0         | 0         | 0-0          | 4           | 0          | 0         | 1.000       |
| 38 Tyler Jones.....   | .000        | 4-0          | 1           | 1          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0          | .000        | 0          | 0         | 1          | 0         | .000        | 0         | 0         | 0-0          | 1           | 2          | 0         | 1.000       |
| 18 x-Brent Weiss....  | .333        | 4-2          | 6           | 2          | 2          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 2          | .333        | 2          | 1         | 0          | 0         | .556        | 0         | 0         | 0-0          | 0           | 0          | 0         | 1.000       |
| 13 x-Brennan Grogan.. | .290        | 11-6         | 31          | 5          | 9          | 1         | 1         | 1         | 7          | 15         | .484        | 3          | 0         | 2          | 1         | .353        | 0         | 2         | 1-1          | 9           | 0          | 1         | .900        |
| 35 x-Chris Vasami.... | .000        | 2-0          | 1           | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0          | .000        | 0          | 0         | 0          | 0         | .000        | 0         | 0         | 0-0          | 4           | 3          | 0         | 1.000       |
| 45 Jeff Samardzija..  | .000        | 1-0          | 0           | 1          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0          | .000        | 0          | 0         | 0          | 0         | .000        | 0         | 0         | 0-0          | 3           | 5          | 0         | 1.000       |
| <b>Totals.....</b>    | <b>.315</b> | <b>48-48</b> | <b>1676</b> | <b>407</b> | <b>528</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>50</b> | <b>364</b> | <b>804</b> | <b>.480</b> | <b>216</b> | <b>90</b> | <b>281</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>.415</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>49-71</b> | <b>1268</b> | <b>539</b> | <b>65</b> | <b>.965</b> |
| <b>Opponents.....</b> | <b>.251</b> | <b>48-48</b> | <b>1611</b> | <b>211</b> | <b>405</b> | <b>67</b> | <b>6</b>  | <b>29</b> | <b>189</b> | <b>571</b> | <b>.354</b> | <b>129</b> | <b>49</b> | <b>330</b> | <b>35</b> | <b>.324</b> | <b>9</b>  | <b>20</b> | <b>50-73</b> | <b>1210</b> | <b>465</b> | <b>99</b> | <b>.944</b> |

LOB - Team (415), Opp (341). **DPS Turned** - Team (45), Opp (38). **CI** - Team (2), Sanchez 2, Opp (1). **IBB** - Team (7), Andres 2, Macri 2, Gaston 1, Bransfield 1, Lopez 1, Opp (4). **Picked Off** - Bransfield 2, Rizzo 1, Edwards 1, Cooper 1, Sisko 1, Dury 1, Sollmann 1.

| Pitcher               | ERA         | W-L         | APP       | GS        | CG       | SHO/CBO    | SV        | IP           | H          | R          | ER         | BB         | SO         | 2B        | 3B        | HR        | AB          | B/Avg       | WP        | HBP       | BK       | SFA       | SHA       |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 47 Ryan Doherty.....  | 2.00        | 5-1         | 23        | 0         | 0        | 0/0        | 8         | 27.0         | 12         | 7          | 6          | 10         | 37         | 5         | 0         | 0         | 92          | .130        | 1         | 5         | 0        | 0         | 1         |
| 45 Jeff Samardzija..  | 2.15        | 4-2         | 16        | 4         | 0        | 0/1        | 1         | 50.1         | 37         | 15         | 12         | 14         | 31         | 2         | 0         | 1         | 184         | .201        | 2         | 2         | 0        | 0         | 3         |
| 22 Grant Johnson....  | 2.27        | 3-0         | 10        | 9         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 31.2         | 22         | 11         | 8          | 17         | 29         | 5         | 0         | 2         | 118         | .186        | 1         | 3         | 0        | 1         | 0         |
| 37 Dan Kapala.....    | 3.34        | 1-0         | 21        | 0         | 0        | 0/0        | 1         | 29.2         | 31         | 13         | 11         | 10         | 32         | 4         | 1         | 4         | 115         | .270        | 4         | 3         | 0        | 0         | 2         |
| 21 Joe Thaman.....    | 3.72        | 4-1         | 21        | 1         | 0        | 0/0        | 1         | 38.2         | 30         | 18         | 16         | 16         | 27         | 6         | 2         | 5         | 143         | .210        | 5         | 3         | 0        | 0         | 1         |
| 10 Chris Niesel.....  | 3.94        | 6-2         | 14        | 11        | 1        | 1/0        | 0         | 75.1         | 87         | 36         | 33         | 15         | 67         | 14        | 0         | 3         | 289         | .301        | 2         | 8         | 0        | 2         | 5         |
| 32 Jess Stewart.....  | 3.97        | 5-1         | 10        | 8         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 34.0         | 37         | 25         | 15         | 7          | 17         | 6         | 1         | 3         | 135         | .274        | 1         | 11        | 1        | 3         | 0         |
| 30 Tom Thornton....   | 4.54        | 6-2         | 12        | 11        | 1        | 1/0        | 0         | 71.1         | 73         | 44         | 36         | 20         | 52         | 15        | 0         | 6         | 274         | .266        | 4         | 7         | 0        | 1         | 7         |
| 33 Scott Bickford...  | 0.00        | 0-0         | 2         | 0         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 2.0          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 3          | 1          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 7           | .143        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         |
| 44 Mike Dury.....     | 2.13        | 2-0         | 10        | 0         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 12.2         | 14         | 4          | 3          | 4          | 8          | 1         | 0         | 2         | 50          | .280        | 3         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         |
| 24 Rico Bertucci....  | 2.31        | 1-0         | 10        | 0         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 11.2         | 8          | 4          | 3          | 0          | 9          | 0         | 1         | 1         | 40          | .200        | 1         | 2         | 0        | 1         | 0         |
| 38 Tyler Jones.....   | 21.94       | 0-0         | 9         | 0         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 5.1          | 17         | 14         | 13         | 4          | 3          | 2         | 1         | 0         | 32          | .531        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 1         |
| 29 Cody Wilkins....   | 45.00       | 0-0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 1.0          | 3          | 5          | 5          | 2          | 1          | 1         | 0         | 1         | 6           | .500        | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         |
| 46 x-Matt Whittingo   | 0.00        | 0-0         | 3         | 0         | 0        | 0/1        | 0         | 5.0          | 6          | 0          | 0          | 3          | 2          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 22          | .273        | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         |
| 20 x-Derik Olvey....  | 3.52        | 1-0         | 4         | 2         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 15.1         | 14         | 7          | 6          | 3          | 7          | 3         | 0         | 0         | 58          | .241        | 1         | 2         | 0        | 0         | 0         |
| 35 x-Chris Vasami.... | 4.63        | 1-0         | 5         | 2         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 11.2         | 13         | 8          | 6          | 1          | 7          | 3         | 0         | 1         | 46          | .283        | 0         | 3         | 1        | 0         | 1         |
| <b>Totals.....</b>    | <b>3.68</b> | <b>39-9</b> | <b>48</b> | <b>48</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3/1</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>422.2</b> | <b>405</b> | <b>211</b> | <b>173</b> | <b>129</b> | <b>330</b> | <b>67</b> | <b>6</b>  | <b>29</b> | <b>1611</b> | <b>.251</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>49</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>9</b>  | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Opponents.....</b> | <b>6.87</b> | <b>9-39</b> | <b>48</b> | <b>48</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>0/0</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>404.2</b> | <b>528</b> | <b>407</b> | <b>309</b> | <b>216</b> | <b>281</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>50</b> | <b>1676</b> | <b>.315</b> | <b>64</b> | <b>90</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>25</b> |

**PB** - Team (11), Sanchez 6, Gaston 2, Andres 2, Mainieri 1, Opp (17). **Pickoffs** - Team (7), Thornton 2, Whittington 1, Sanchez 1, Gaston 1, Bertucci 1, Jess Stewart 1, Opp (8). **SBA/ATT** - Sanchez (35-50), Gaston (14-17), Thornton (10-15), Johnson (10-12), Niesel (5-11), Samardzija (9-10), Stewart (4-6), Olvey (3-5), Kapala (3-3), Dury (0-3), Jones (3-3), Thaman (2-2), Vasami (0-1), Andres (0-1), Bransfield (1-1), Doherty (1-1), Whittington (0-1). X - out for the season due to injury or not on the post-finals active roster.

# 2004 RUTGERS BASEBALL STATS (AS OF MAY 14)

| Record: 29-17         |             | Home: 16-1   |    | Away: 13-15 |            | Neutral: 0-1 |           | BIG EAST: 13-5 |           |            |            |             |            |           |            |           |             |           |           |           |           |             |            |           |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|----|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Player                | Avg         | GP           | GS | AB          | R          | H            | 2B        | 3B             | HR        | RBI        | TB         | SLG%        | BB         | HBP       | SO         | GDP       | OB%         | SF        | SH        | SB        | ATT       | PO          | A          | E         | FLD%        |
| 35 FRAZIER, Jeff..... | .385        | 46           | 46 | 179         | 54         | 69           | 14        | 1              | 11        | 53         | 118        | .659        | 25         | 4         | 21         | 3         | .462        | 4         | 0         | 4         | 6         | 81          | 2          | 5         | .943        |
| 34 CANUSO, Rich.....  | .367        | 46           | 45 | 169         | 34         | 62           | 12        | 0              | 8         | 45         | 98         | .580        | 17         | 7         | 25         | 3         | .439        | 3         | 2         | 3         | 5         | 361         | 32         | 4         | .990        |
| 38 BADGER, Graig..... | .365        | 46           | 46 | 170         | 53         | 62           | 10        | 2              | 3         | 29         | 85         | .500        | 41         | 11        | 26         | 3         | .511        | 1         | 1         | 23        | 28        | 94          | 125        | 9         | .961        |
| 33 GROSE, Jeff.....   | .364        | 43           | 42 | 162         | 34         | 59           | 8         | 1              | 2         | 29         | 75         | .463        | 28         | 2         | 21         | 3         | .461        | 1         | 6         | 7         | 12        | 56          | 4          | 0         | 1.000       |
| 15 GAYNOR, Colin..... | .350        | 40           | 40 | 140         | 26         | 49           | 10        | 1              | 3         | 33         | 70         | .500        | 12         | 10        | 17         | 3         | .436        | 1         | 6         | 2         | 2         | 214         | 15         | 4         | .983        |
| 12 CERULO, Nick.....  | .348        | 37           | 36 | 115         | 26         | 40           | 7         | 4              | 5         | 25         | 70         | .609        | 15         | 1         | 21         | 1         | .418        | 3         | 5         | 10        | 11        | 67          | 1          | 2         | .971        |
| 16 QUERNS, Tim.....   | .301        | 27           | 20 | 73          | 12         | 22           | 2         | 0              | 1         | 11         | 27         | .370        | 5          | 2         | 13         | 1         | .358        | 1         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 15          | 37         | 4         | .929        |
| 23 DEFENDIS, Johnny.. | .297        | 40           | 40 | 158         | 29         | 47           | 12        | 2              | 4         | 37         | 75         | .475        | 6          | 8         | 29         | 3         | .349        | 3         | 1         | 3         | 4         | 52          | 1          | 2         | .964        |
| 25 MILLER, Jeff.....  | .283        | 22           | 12 | 53          | 14         | 15           | 3         | 0              | 1         | 9          | 21         | .396        | 10         | 0         | 14         | 0         | .391        | 1         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 76          | 8          | 2         | .977        |
| 5 GROVER, Jason.....  | .247        | 46           | 44 | 166         | 29         | 41           | 7         | 2              | 3         | 23         | 61         | .367        | 14         | 1         | 37         | 2         | .309        | 0         | 7         | 0         | 0         | 63          | 140        | 7         | .967        |
| 7 RODRIGUEZ, Cory..   | .216        | 36           | 27 | 116         | 18         | 25           | 3         | 1              | 1         | 9          | 33         | .284        | 13         | 1         | 22         | 2         | .300        | 0         | 0         | 2         | 3         | 18          | 32         | 15        | .769        |
| 3 WILLIAMS, David..   | .222        | 22           | 5  | 45          | 10         | 10           | 1         | 0              | 1         | 9          | 14         | .311        | 3          | 0         | 14         | 1         | .271        | 0         | 2         | 1         | 1         | 14          | 0          | 1         | .933        |
| 42 HOOK, Steve.....   | .195        | 20           | 9  | 41          | 7          | 8            | 0         | 0              | 1         | 6          | 11         | .268        | 4          | 2         | 15         | 0         | .298        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 23          | 2          | 0         | 1.000       |
| 1 BIONDE, Mike.....   | .800        | 2            | 2  | 5           | 1          | 4            | 0         | 0              | 0         | 3          | 4          | .800        | 1          | 0         | 0          | 0         | .833        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1           | 8          | 2         | .818        |
| <b>Totals.....</b>    | <b>.322</b> | <b>46-46</b> |    | <b>1592</b> | <b>347</b> | <b>513</b>   | <b>89</b> | <b>14</b>      | <b>44</b> | <b>321</b> | <b>762</b> | <b>.479</b> | <b>194</b> | <b>49</b> | <b>275</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>.408</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>55</b> | <b>73</b> | <b>1172</b> | <b>477</b> | <b>69</b> | <b>.960</b> |
| <b>Opponents.....</b> | <b>.266</b> | <b>46-46</b> |    | <b>1502</b> | <b>239</b> | <b>399</b>   | <b>58</b> | <b>13</b>      | <b>26</b> | <b>202</b> | <b>561</b> | <b>.374</b> | <b>177</b> | <b>41</b> | <b>276</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>.355</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>71</b> | <b>87</b> | <b>1164</b> | <b>508</b> | <b>74</b> | <b>.958</b> |

LOB - Team (374), Opp (351). **DPS Turned** - Team (41), Opp (39). **CI** - Team (1), Miller 1.

**IBB** - Team (8), Frazier 4, Cerulo 1, Defendis 1, Badger 1, Gaynor 1, Opp (2).

**Picked Off** - Badger 4, Cerulo 2, Frazier 2, Grose 2, Hook 1, Rodriguez 1, Canuso 1, Defendis 1.

| Pitcher               | ERA         | W-L          | APP       | GS        | CG       | SHO/CBO    | SV        | IP           | H          | R          | ER         | BB         | SO         | 2B        | 3B        | HR          | AB          | B/AVG       | WP        | HBP       | BK        | SFA       | SHA       |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 21 DECHRISTOFANO, OJ  | 2.79        | 0-1          | 12        | 0         | 0        | 0/2        | 2         | 19.1         | 12         | 7          | 6          | 9          | 16         | 2         | 1         | 2           | 67          | .179        | 2         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 1         |
| 17 MALAFRONTA, Tom..  | 3.07        | 0-1          | 19        | 1         | 0        | 0/1        | 5         | 29.1         | 32         | 14         | 10         | 10         | 17         | 7         | 1         | 2           | 111         | .288        | 1         | 8         | 0         | 1         | 1         |
| 47 KALB, Aaron.....   | 3.12        | 5-2          | 11        | 7         | 0        | 0/2        | 0         | 49.0         | 50         | 21         | 17         | 20         | 34         | 3         | 3         | 3           | 188         | .266        | 6         | 2         | 0         | 3         | 2         |
| 8 JANSSEN, Jim.....   | 3.59        | 5-0          | 10        | 6         | 1        | 1/2        | 0         | 42.2         | 50         | 19         | 17         | 20         | 27         | 4         | 2         | 2           | 169         | .296        | 5         | 2         | 2         | 2         | 1         |
| 27 RINI, Chris.....   | 4.08        | 1-0          | 6         | 2         | 0        | 0/2        | 0         | 17.2         | 13         | 8          | 8          | 9          | 13         | 3         | 0         | 1           | 64          | .203        | 3         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         |
| 32 HEALING, Steve..   | 4.33        | 4-1          | 10        | 4         | 0        | 0/1        | 1         | 27.0         | 21         | 15         | 13         | 8          | 17         | 6         | 2         | 3           | 99          | .212        | 3         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 3         |
| 9 EGBERT, Jack.....   | 4.44        | 7-3          | 12        | 12        | 4        | 2/0        | 1         | 75.0         | 78         | 41         | 37         | 20         | 58         | 11        | 0         | 2           | 289         | .270        | 0         | 8         | 1         | 2         | 5         |
| 14 PUSTAY, Matt.....  | 4.91        | 0-1          | 21        | 0         | 0        | 0/2        | 2         | 22.0         | 22         | 14         | 12         | 3          | 17         | 3         | 0         | 2           | 82          | .268        | 1         | 2         | 1         | 3         | 3         |
| 44 DIAL, Erik.....    | 4.93        | 4-4          | 14        | 5         | 0        | 0/2        | 1         | 38.1         | 44         | 32         | 21         | 21         | 21         | 7         | 3         | 1           | 150         | .293        | 3         | 7         | 2         | 1         | 5         |
| 22 PARKER, Shaun....  | 5.26        | 3-2          | 9         | 9         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 53.0         | 48         | 39         | 31         | 36         | 46         | 6         | 1         | 5           | 204         | .235        | 1         | 3         | 2         | 1         | 1         |
| 33 GROSE, Jeff.....   | 3.86        | 0-1          | 3         | 0         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 4.2          | 3          | 6          | 2          | 5          | 3          | 0         | 0         | 1           | 17          | .176        | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| 39 PREZIOSI, Tom....  | 9.00        | 0-0          | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 1.0          | 2          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 1         | 0         | 0           | 5           | .400        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| 19 CAFFREY, Dave....  | 9.00        | 0-0          | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 1.0          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0           | 4           | .250        | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| 45 ACAMPORA, Bobby..  | 10.57       | 0-1          | 10        | 0         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 7.2          | 13         | 12         | 9          | 7          | 3          | 3         | 0         | 0           | 33          | .394        | 2         | 3         | 0         | 3         | 0         |
| 20 HOLT, Steve.....   | 21.00       | 0-0          | 6         | 0         | 0        | 0/0        | 0         | 3.0          | 10         | 9          | 7          | 7          | 3          | 2         | 0         | 2           | 20          | .500        | 1         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| <b>Totals.....</b>    | <b>4.42</b> | <b>29-17</b> | <b>46</b> | <b>46</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>8/5</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>390.2</b> | <b>399</b> | <b>192</b> | <b>177</b> | <b>276</b> | <b>58</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>1502</b> | <b>.266</b> | <b>28</b>   | <b>41</b> | <b>8</b>  | <b>19</b> | <b>22</b> |           |
| <b>Opponents.....</b> | <b>6.73</b> | <b>17-29</b> | <b>46</b> | <b>46</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>1/0</b> | <b>4</b>  | <b>388.0</b> | <b>513</b> | <b>347</b> | <b>290</b> | <b>194</b> | <b>275</b> | <b>89</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>44</b>   | <b>1592</b> | <b>.322</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>49</b> | <b>6</b>  | <b>18</b> | <b>32</b> |

**PB** - Team (11), Gaynor 8, Miller 3, Opp (12). **Pickoffs** - Team (14), Dial 4, Kalb 3, Parker 3, Egbert 2, Healing 1, Malafronte 1, Opp (14). **SBA/ATT** - Gaynor (54-62), Egbert (21-21), Parker (15-19), Miller (16-19), Jansen (7-11), Dial (9-11), Kalb (5-7), Malafronte (4-6), Pustay (2-3), Healing (2-3), DeChristofano (2-2), Holt (1-1), Acampora (1-1), Rini (1-1).

# Infield Shifts Lead To Great Results In 2004

By Pete LaFleur  
(Feb. 6, updated May 15)

It's rare that an intact-returning infield – from a successful program, no less – features new starters at three positions. But such was the case with Notre Dame's 2004 squad, with senior All-America second baseman **Steve Sollmann** representing the only infielder who opened at the same spot in '03 and '04.

Notre Dame's 2002 College World Series team featured Paul O'Toole at catcher, **Joe Thaman** at first base, Sollmann at second base, **Javi Sanchez** at shortstop and Andrew Bushey at third base. Two years later, ND opened '04 with only Sollmann at the same position (despite Thaman and Sanchez still being on the roster). Even more noteworthy is the fact that Sollmann and Sanchez (at catcher) are the only infield-area starters from the '03 squad who entered '04 as the starter at the same position.

The position changes involved the shifting of four players, as sparked by the emergence of sophomore **Greg Lopez** (Upper Arlington, Ohio) at shortstop. Lopez – a regular shortstop dating back to his tee-ball days – was a part-time starter at third base for the Irish in 2003 but earned the chance to compete for his familiar shortstop role during the 2003 fall season.

The returning starter at shortstop, junior **Matt Macri** (Clive, Iowa), missed the first couple weeks of fall ball with a thumb injury suffered late in the 2003 summer season. As luck would have it, Macri had spent the summer playing third base for the Brewster Whitecaps of the Cape Cod League, emerging as a top pro prospect at the hot corner.

Thus the combination of Macri's prospects at third and Lopez's strong play at shortstop (plus the bonus of his offensive boost) resulted in a shuffling on the left side. Junior **Matt Edwards** (Mechanicsville, Va.) – who split time at third and first base in 2003 – then headed across the diamond to focus on first base.

The most intriguing change has involved the senior Thaman (St. Louis, Mo.), who made a name for himself as one of college baseball's top defensive first basemen during the 2001-03 seasons. Inconsistency on the offensive end prompted Thaman to follow through on an idea that he'd floated earlier in his career: a move to

the mound. Now, the 6-4 lefthander finds himself as a key member of the pitching staff after an impressive transition back to a position that he had not played since high school.

The new-look infield combination includes three prep shortstops (Lopez, Macri and Edwards) and one of the top defensive second basemen in all of college baseball (Sollmann).

"When we played in the 2002 College World Series, Stanford beat us in two very tight games," says 10th-year Notre Dame head coach Paul Mainieri.

"Stanford made several big-time plays in the infield during those games and they had a unique situation in which all of their infielders were former shortstops. We don't have quite that combination but Steve Sollmann is considered one of the best second basemen around and the other three are tremendous athletes, as is our catcher Javi Sanchez. So we obviously were excited to see this infield work as a unit."

Sanchez is the wildcard in the whole equation, holding a unique dual role as starting catcher and top utility infielder. The prep second baseman spent most of the 2002 College World Series season as the starting shortstop, following injuries to Macri and Edwards – even could fill in at first base in a pinch.

Lopez's emergence as a viable everyday shortstop set the dominoes in motion around the Irish infield. The six-foot, 185 pounder clearly had benefited from a productive 2003 summer and fall season, after seeing his play limited in the fall of '02 due to a back injury.

"When I hurt my back in the fall of my freshman year, I lost 10 pounds and did not have the strength you need for college baseball," says Lopez, who went on to hit just .250 in the 2003 season while experiencing the inconsistency that is typical of a freshman season.

"After last season, I hit the weight room, my strength started to improve and that really helped with my swing."

Lopez saw his batting average improve to .268 in the summer of '03, all the more noteworthy because it came with wooden bats while playing for the Delaware (Ohio) Cows of the Great Lakes League. He split time with the Cows at second, shortstop and third while playing alongside fellow college shortstops Chris Gutierrez (Oklahoma State) and Angel Lopez (Ohio Dominican) to help form one of the league's top defensive infields.

The high-energy Lopez then sparkled during fall ball, playing error-free through the first 15 days of practice (plus 31 error-free games thus far in '04). His bat also has reawakened (.355, 32 RBI, team-best 13 doubles), providing an added bonus to a defensive-oriented position.

"Shortstop always is the position where I felt most comfortable and I just was glad to get the chance to compete," says the Academic All-America nominee (3.36 cumulative GPA).

"After struggling at times last season, I have learned what type of offensive player I need to be to help this team," adds Lopez, who was an accomplished linedrive hitter as a prep. "My focus needs to be on moving baserunners, get-

ting on base, working walks, lowering my strikeouts – things I feel I can do on a regular basis, in addition to getting some key hits."

Macri counts himself among those who have been impressed with Lopez at shortstop.

"You saw a lot of this with Greg last season as well. He is really aggressive to the ball and usually fields and throws on the run. It's a style that works great for him," says Macri, who admits to a style that involves sitting back more on the ball and then showcasing his tremendous arm strength.

"Greg also has become much more consistent at the plate and has shown that he can be a tough out and good linedrive hitter. It was really exciting last fall to see the infield take shape and Greg obviously was a big part of that."

Lopez's slick-fielding play can be traced back to his days as a youth growing up in Arizona.

"One of our neighbors, Nick Mallis, was an older kid who was a great player and he really helped show me how to play shortstop, things like how to pick balls and move your feet," says Lopez. "Nick ended up signing a contract with the Atlanta Braves but they discovered a medical condition that set back his career. He had a big influence on me early on, as did my dad after we moved to Ohio when I was 11. He always was willing to drop whatever he was doing and help me with my baseball skills."

Lopez bought into his aggressive fielding approach after attending a Chicago Cubs game when he was 14. "I watched the shortstop and the way he charged the ball and it reinforced the way I wanted to play," he says. "I used to just stand there and let the ball come to me but I learned to be more aggressive and attack the ball, instead of letting the ball play me."

Mainieri likes what he has seen in Lopez's all-around game. "Greg was an outstanding linedrive hitter in high school but struggled at times last year, as many freshmen do," he says. "Now he's stronger, more experienced and swings the bat well. He simply needs to have productive at-bats by hitting in the clutch, moving runners up and drawing walks."

Macri – the highest-rated recruit in the program's history – has combined with Lopez for an airtight left side (with 41 error-free games of his own in '04).

"It's very exciting playing alongside Matt and he's a great player," says Lopez. "I think we are a very tough left side of the infield and when you combine that with Edwards and Sollmann, that's a great infield."

Despite his freshman-year elbow injury and an inconsistent sophomore season (.294, 35 RBI, 4 HR, 19 Es), Macri remains highly-re-



Javi Sanchez



Greg Lopez



**Matt Macri**

garded and was slotted 33rd on the *P G / Base Ball America* list (Oct. '03) of top college prospects for the 2004 draft (he was the fourth infielder on that list). *BA* also dubbed Macri as the BIG EAST's "best defensive third baseman" and "infielder with the strongest arm" – and he enters mid-

May as one of the leading candidates for BIG EAST player of the year (.347, 46 RBI, 9 HR, only 7 Es).

The 6-2, 190-pound Macri was one of four college shortstops who had been recruited by the Brewster general manager to fill out the 2003 Whitecaps roster (Miami's Ryan Braun ended up not coming to Brewster after the '03 CWS ended, with the uncertainty of being able to play shortstop). The roster also included Tulane's Tommy Manzella and Eastern Michigan's Brian Bixler, making for a talented – but uncertain – infield unit.

"I had played some third base in high school and with the Team USA program, so I ended up at third basically by default," says Macri. "It gave me the chance to play every day and the more I played it, the more I liked it.

"There obviously are different angles to the ball and positioning is huge. You have to cover the bunting, which is totally new, and there are different kind of plays. But I've really come to like playing at third."

Macri had talked to Mainieri during the summer about the potential position shift. "I was out with my thumb injury during the start of fall practice but it was obvious that Greg had become a strong option at shortstop," says Macri. "I wanted to get as much experience as possible playing at third, so when I came back I played there to make the full transition early on."

The fall season featured some "major-league plays" from Macri, according to Mainieri, who saw his top infield prospect flash his classic combination of glove skills, range, athleticism and arm strength (those highlight-reel plays also have become routine this spring).

Macri and Mainieri both know that the current Irish third baseman's professional baseball career is dependent on his offensive production.

"I've put in a lot of work to becoming a more consistent hitter but my offensive role has not changed because I'm playing third base. I felt really good hitting the ball all winter and was very eager for the season to start," says Macri.

The heavy-hitting Edwards – who claims that Macri "could play any position on the field, due to his tremendous reactions, hands and arm" – has shown noticeable improvement at first base in 2004. Notre Dame's 2003 RBI leader (69) endured an unusual summer with an injury-plagued Waynesboro (Va.) Generals squad, causing him to be used at all four infield positions (with just a handful of games at first).

"It was a tough summer for our team and we all filled in where we were needed. But the tran-

sition to playing first base went great this fall," says Edwards, whose inspiring return from a broken leg early in the 2002 season included earning first team all-BIG EAST and ABCA second team all-region honors in 2003, en route to batting .376 with a team-best 8 home runs, plus 16 doubles and 25 walks.

"After coming back from Christmas, I took 100 throws a day and worked most on my picks. Coach Mainieri has helped a lot with the transition, as has Joe (Thaman). I've got my footwork down and now am just trying to keep improving my all-around defensive play."

The 6-2, 195-pound Edwards took some key tips from Thaman in regards to his regular positioning.

"Joe showed me how he works around the bag and it's basically just a matter of repetition," says Edwards. "Joe has a style where he starts with his left foot up the line, making it easier to cross over to the front of the bag. With me being righthanded, I have taken a similar approach by starting with my right foot up the line. I picked that up from Joe and it's a very comfortable and effective style."

Thaman the teacher gives Edwards a passing grade at first base. "Everybody was excited with Matt's progress and he really has learned how to use the bag to his advantage," says Thaman, "He's getting better every day and I've had the chance to hit him some fungos to see how he looks. I have not seen a weakness but most of the credit goes to coach Mainieri. He's worked a lot with Matt on the transition."

Thaman's switch clearly has been the most challenging, but he has encountered few bumps in the road that leads from first base to the pitcher's mound.

"At first, I was a little tentative and didn't know what to expect. I was trying to prove to myself, really more than anybody else, that I could still pitch," says Thaman, a two-way player at St. Louis University High School who posted a 3.23 ERA and 7-1 record as a prep senior (with 57 strikeouts, 25 walks in 45 innings).

"I got confidence from my first outing and I maintained that confidence the entire fall. I'm very happy with the way I've progressed."

Thaman's unique position shift has come under the guidance of first-year pitching coach Terry Rooney, who has credited Thaman's quick adjustment to his "experience in pressure situations, great athleticism, ability to pound the strike zone with all three pitches and a hitter's perspective that gives him an inherent feel for the game and the ability to make pitch-by-pitch adjustments."

That admiration is mutual, with Thaman tossing plenty of credit to his new position coach.

"Coach Rooney has provided a fresh perspective and a lot of pitchers have been able to show what they can do," says Thaman, whose '04 stats include a 3.72 ERA, 4-1 record, 27 Ks, 16 walks and 30 hits allowed in 38.2 innings.

"The confidence he instilled in me really helped with the transition. He's a great pitching coach and can see little things that are minor adjustments but end up having a big impact on your effectiveness as a pitcher. I was not being consistent with my leg lift but we worked on it and that has helped me throw strikes more consistently.

"Coach Rooney's philosophy involves a lot of repetition of the same motion. It really has helped a lot of us get a better feel for the pitches."

Thaman has looked to help improve the Notre Dame staff's control of the running game. "A runner should not be able to steal on lefthanded pitchers and balance is the key," he says. "Coach Rooney has helped me with the balance and making the throw to first, so I feel pretty comfortable in that area."

One area that has taken some extra adjustment for Thaman is defensive positioning. Irish fans can vividly remember past seasons when the imposing 6-4, 210-pound Thaman would sprint from first base to the mound area, taking charge as a throw would come in from the outfield. Now, he's had to re-learn his defensive impulses.

"I've had to go back to what I learned in high school, hustling to certain spots when the ball is hit to different parts of the field," says Thaman, whose career offensive stats with the Irish included a .279 batting average, 9 home runs, 28 doubles and 81 RBI.

"I found myself getting caught on the mound a couple times last fall. It's just a matter of getting back to the habit of hustling to certain spots."

As the Irish headed into their 2004 season opener, Edwards best summed up the team's mindset concerning the numerous position switches.

"Everyone knows what he has to do to help the team, the things that give us the best chance to win," says Edwards. "None of us is worried with what position we play. We care about putting together a great team that can win a lot of games.

"All the players have a great attitude and like where the players have been positioned. I think you will see us develop into a great infield this season and hopefully we will help lead this team to more great accomplishments."



**Matt Edwards**



**Joe Thaman**



**#2 Tim Murray**  
Sr., IF • Shrub Oak, NY



**#3 Steve Sollmann**  
Sr., 2B • Cincinnati, OH



**#4 Greg Lopez**  
So., SS • Upper Arlington, OH



**#5 Matt Macri**  
Jr., 3B • Clive, IA



**#6 Danny Dressman**  
Fr., OF • San Jose, CA



**#7 Zach Sisko**  
Sr., IF • Belleville, IL



**#8 Chris Fournier**  
Fr., 2B/OF • Fairfield, CT



**#9 Craig Cooper**  
So., OF • Plainview, NY



**#10 Chris Niesel**  
Jr., RHP • Plantation, FL



**#11 Sean Gaston**  
Fr., C • Brownsburg, IN



**#12 Matt Bransfield**  
So., DH/LF • Englewood, CO



**#14 Matt Edwards**  
Jr., 1B/3B • Mechanicsville, VA



**#15 Javi Sanchez**  
Sr., C/IF • Miami, FL



**#16 Alex Nettey**  
So., OF • Dolton, IL



**#17 Cody Rizzo**  
So., OF • Temecula, CA



**#18 Brent Weiss**  
Jr., DH • Cockeysville, MD



**#20 Derik Olvey**  
Fr., RHP • Pelham, AL



**#21 Joe Thaman**  
Sr., LHP/1B • St. Louis, MO



**#22 Grant Johnson**  
Jr., RHP • Burr Ridge, IL



**#24 Rico Bertucci**  
Fr., RHP • Belleville, IL



**#25 Nick Mainieri**  
So., C • South Bend, IN



**#29 Cody Wilkins**  
Sr., LHP • Hudson, NC



**#30 Tom Thornton**  
So., LHP • Middleboro, MA



**#32 Jeff Stewart**  
Fr., RHP • Masassas, VA



**#33 Scott Bickford**  
Jr., LHP • Owings, MD



**#34 Jeff Manship**  
Fr., RHP • San Antonio, TX



**#35 Chris Vasami**  
Fr., RHP/1B • Mamaroneck, NY



**#36 Steve Andres**  
So., DH/LF/C • Napa, CA



**#37 Dan Kapala**  
Fr., RHP • Royal Oak, MI



**#38 Tyler Jones**  
Jr., RHP • Arlington, TX



**#44 Mike Dury**  
Fr., 1B/LHP • Indianapolis



**#45 Jeff Samardzija**  
Fr., RHP • Valparaiso, IN



**#46 Matt Whittington**  
Fr., LHP • Melbourne, FL



**#47 Ryan Doherty**  
So., RHP • Toms River, NJ



**#49 John Axford**  
Jr., RHP • Port Dover, ONT

