

BIG EAST Baseball at The Eck

Connecticut Huskies (28-24, 8-13)

vs.

Notre Dame Fighting Irish (27-24, 10-13)

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, May 17-19, 2007
 Frank Eck Stadium (Notre Dame, Indiana)



* all records and statistics on this page prior to May 17 *



David Phelps



Dan Kapala

Thank You Seniors!



A.J. Pollock



Jess Stewart

Tale of the Tape

	ND	UConn
2006 Final Record	45-17-1	39-18-1
2006 BIG EAST Record	21-5-1 (1)	18-6-1 (2)
Lettermen Ret./Lost	18/11	16/10

CURRENT STATS (BIG EAST rank in parentheses)

Batting Average	(8) .278	(10) .273
BIG EAST Batting Average	.266	.256
Runs Per 9 Innings	(8) 6.0	(10) 5.5
Home Runs	(11) 23	(8) 30
Slugging Percentage	(8) .378	(11) .370
Batters' BB+HBP-K Margin	-34	-63
On-Base Percentage	(8) .370	(9) .351
Stolen Bases-Attempts	(8) 54-71	(12) 41-64
Stolen Base Percentage	.761	.641
Team ERA	(3) 3.77	(10) 4.90
BIG EAST ERA	4.52	5.42
Opponent Batting Average	(4) .261	(10) .285
Pitchers' K-BB Ratio	1.96	1.7
Pitchers' Ks Per 9 Innings	(4) 7.4	(12) 5.97
Pitchers' BB Per 9 Innings	(4) 3.5	(6) 3.5
Fielding Pct. (Errors)	(8) .960 (78)	(6) .963 (77)
Double Plays Turned	(9) 31	(1) 59
Record at Home	16-7	14-9
Record on Road (incl. neutral)	11-17	14-15
Record in One-Run Games	5-6	2-2
Record in Extra Innings	2-0	1-0



Probable Pitching Matchups

Thursday – 6:05 p.m. (und.com video)

UConn – Mike Tarsi (LHP, Jr.)

4.29, 4-4, 71.1 IP, 11 GS, 50 Ks, 22 BB, 68 H (.259 opp. avg.)

ND – Joey Williamson (RHP, Jr.)

2.53, 4-2, 46.1 IP, 16 GP/1 GS, 48 Ks, 15 BB, 35 H (.210 opp. avg.)

Friday – 6:05 p.m. (CSTV)

UConn – Dusty Odenbach (RHP, Fr.)

4.65, 2-5, 50.1 IP, 10 GP/8 GS, 31 Ks, 29 BB, 48 H (.258 opp. avg.)

ND – David Phelps (RHP, So.)

1.74, 8-4, 93.1 IP, 13 GS, 89 Ks, 23 BB, 79 H (.230 opp. avg.)

Saturday – 1:05 p.m. (CSTV)

UConn – Greg Nappo (LHP, Fr.)

3.98, 3-3, 54.1 IP, 10 GP/9 GS, 32 Ks, 26 BB, 49 H (.246 opp. avg.)

ND – TBA, likely Wade Korpi (LHP, Jr.) -or- Kyle Weiland (RHP, So.)



Mike Tarsi



Dusty Odenbach



Greg Nappo

NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

* – lefthanded hitter; # – switch hitter

NO	NAME	CL	POS	HT/WT	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOLS)
1	*Michael Wright	Fr.	OF	57/160	Lockhart, TX (Lockhart HS)
2	*Brett Lilley	Jr.	SS	5-8/170	North Canton, OH (Hoover HS)
4	A.J. Pollock	Fr.	3B	6-1/190	Hebron, CT (RHAM)
5	*David Mills	Fr.	LHP/OF	5-9/190	Battle Creek, MI (Lakeview HS)
6	*Danny Dressman	Sr.	OF	5-8/180	San Jose, CA (Archbishop Mitty HS)
7	*Ross Brezovsky	Jr.	LF	5-9/170	Naples, FL (Collier HS)
8	*Evan Sharpley	So.	1B	6-2/210	Marshall, MI (Marshall HS)
10	Ryan Connolly	So.	OF	6-0/180	Binghamton, NY (Binghamton HS)
11	*Sean Gaston	Sr.	C	6-0/190	Brownsburg, IN (Brownsburg HS)
12	Brayden Ashdown	Fr.	OF	6-1/175	Tucson, AZ (Catalina Foothills HS)
13	Wade Korpi	Jr.	LHP	5-10/180	Lake Worth, FL (Santaluces HS)
14	Eddy Mendiola	So.	3B/1B	6-0/210	Miami, FL (Palmer Trinity HS)
15	Matt Weglarz	Gr.	C	6-3/220	Kansas City, MO (Missouri State/Rochurst HS)
16	Eric Maust	Fr.	RHP	6-1/185	Alpharetta, GA (Blessed Trinity HS)
17	Billy Boockford	Fr.	OF	6-2/195	Glen Ellyn, IL (Glenbard West HS)
18	Steven Mazur	Fr.	RHP	6-0/180	Round Rock, TX (Stony Point HS)
19	John Seabaugh	Sr.	RHP	6-0/205	Granger, IN (Penn HS)
20	Jeremy Barnes	So.	2B	5-11/200	Garland, TX (South Garland HS)
21	Brett Graffy	So.	RHP	6-2/195	Homer Glen, IL (Joliet Catholic Academy)
22	Dan Kapala	Sr.	RHP	6-4/215	Royal Oak, MI (Shrine Catholic HS)
23	Tony Langford	Jr.	OF/RHP	6-0/185	Fort Worth, TX (Fort Worth Country Day HS)
24	*Sam Elam	So.	LHP	6-4/210	Mesquite, TX (Poteet HS)
25	#Austin Pearce	Fr.	OF	6-2/210	Lake Oswego, OR (Jesuit HS)
26	Joey Williamson	Jr.	RHP	6-1/195	Lantana, FL (Santaluces HS)
27	Chris Soriano	Jr.	C	6-1/195	Randolph, NJ (Delbarton HS)
29	Ryne Intlekofer	Fr.	IF (2B)	5-9/155	Moorpark, CA (Moorpark HS)
30	Will Harford	Fr.	IF/C	6-0/170	Chicago, IL (Notre Dame HS (Niles, MI)/Kent (CT) School)
31	Andrew Scheid	Fr.	RHP	6-6/200	Highlands Ranch, CO (Regis Jesuit HS)
32	Jess Stewart	Sr.	RHP	6-3/215	Manassas, VA (Osborn City HS)
33	Kyle Weiland	So.	RHP	6-3/190	Albuquerque, NM (Eldorado HS)
34	Dylan Blake	Fr.	IF	6-4/200	Coon Rapids, MN (Coon Rapids HS)
35	David Phelps	So.	RHP	6-3/185	Hazelwood, MO (Hazelwood HS)
36	Herman Petzold	Fr.	IF	5-9/160	Saint Clair Shores, MI (De LaSalle HS)
44	#Mike Dury	Sr.	1B/LHP	6-5/240	Indianapolis, IN (Bishop Chatard HS)
45	Ryan Smith	Fr.	C	6-1/210	Waldorf, MD (Westlake HS)

Head Coach: #3 Dave Schrage (Creighton '83; 1st season at Notre Dame)

Assistant Coaches: #9 Scott Lawler (Simpson '00), #39 Sherard Clinkscales (Purdue '94)

Volunteer Assistant: #28 John Fitzgerald (Chicago '98)

CONNECTICUT HUSKIES

* – lefthanded hitter; # – switch hitter

NO	NAME	CL	POS	HT/WT	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOLS)
1	*Gordon Stevens	Jr.	OF	5-10/175	Vista, CA (Palomar JC/Vista HS)
2	Pat Mahoney	Jr.	IF	6-0/195	Des Moines, IA (Lincoln HS)
3	Dale Brannon	So.	IF	6-0/150	St. Petersburg, FL (St. Petersburg HS)
4	Josh Farkes	Sr.	OF	6-2/202	Boston, MA (Univ. of Richmond/Buckingham Browne & Nichols)
6	Erik Turgeon	So.	IF/RHP	6-0/165	Palm Harbor, FL (Dunedin HS)
7	*Ted O'Reilly	So.	OF	5-9/170	Arlington, Mass. (Arlington HS)
8	Doug Elliot	Fr.	C	6-2/200	Rocky Hill, CT (Rocky Hill HS)
9	Dennis Donovan	Sr.	IF	6-2/180	Center Moriches, NY (Center Moriches HS)
10	*Peter Fatse	Fr.	IF	5-10/160	Hampden, MA (Minnechaug HS)
11	*Brendan McGinn	Sr.	LHP	6-1/205	Tolland, CN (Tolland HS)
12	Robert Van Woert	Fr.	RHP	6-5/190	Johnson City, NY (Maine-Endwell HS)
13	*Matt Untiet	Sr.	IF	6-1/191	Berlin, CT (Berlin HS)
18	Mike Dwyer	So.	C	6-1/195	Yorktown Heights, NY (SUNY Brockport/Lakeland HS)
19	Jason Kitchen	Fr.	RHP/IF	5-11/180	Burtonsville, MD (Paint Branch HS)
20	Will Musson	Fr.	RHP/IF	6-0/190	Wethersfield, CT (Wethersfield HS)
21	*Rich Sirois	Jr.	LHP	6-1/210	Ipswich, MA (St. John's Prep)
22	Mike Tarsi	Jr.	LHP	6-7/181	Danbury, CT (Danbury HS)
23	Brad Olt	Jr.	IF	6-0/185	Branford, CT (UConn Avery Point/Branford HS)
24	*Matt Burnett	So.	OF	6-2/170	Endicott, NY (Union Endicott HS)
25	*Matt Karl	Jr.	LHP/IF	6-1/210	Wallingford, CT (Sheehan HS)
26	Stephen Blumetti	Fr.	RHP	6-1/170	Union, NJ (Union HS)
27	Larry Day	Sr.	C	6-0/207	Amesbury, MA (St. John's Prep)
29	*Harold Brantley	Fr.	OF	5-10/175	Silver Springs, MD (Springbrook HS)
30	David Bodge	So.	RHP	6-3/200	Taunton, MA (Coyle-Cassidy HS)
31	*Ted Garry	Sr.	LHP	6-0/170	Rochester, MN (Rochester Lourdes HS)
32	David Ploof	Fr.	RHP	6-2/170	Fairport, NY (Pittsford Sutherland HS)
33	Dusty Odenbach	Fr.	RHP/IF	6-2/208	Rochester, NY (McQuaid Jesuit HS)
36	Andrew Tarca	Fr.	OF	5-10/165	Hopkinton, MA (Hopkinton HS)
39	*John Folino	So.	RHP	6-4/180	Quincy, MA (Quincy HS)
40	David Erickson	So.	RHP	6-0/171	Stratford, CT (Fairfield Prep)
41	*Greg Nappo	Fr.	LHP	5-10/185	Madison, CT (Daniel Hand HS)
43	Doug Jennings	Fr.	RHP	6-2/175	Pompton Plains, NJ (Peguannock HS)
44	*Dennis Accomando	Fr.	LHP	6-0/175	Monroe, CT (Western Connecticut State/Masuk HS)
45	Trent DeLazzer	Fr.	RHP	6-7/215	Cypress, CA (Los Alamitos HS)

Head Coach: #16 Jim Penders (Connecticut '94; 4th season at UConn)

Assistant Coaches: #14 Chris Podeszwa, #42 Bruce Elliott

Volunteer Assistant: #15 Justin Blood

BIG EAST CONFERENCE STANDINGS (as of May 16)

St. John's	18-6	36-14
Rutgers	18-6	33-17
Louisville	17-7	36-16
Pittsburgh	14-9	25-23
South Florida	12-12	30-22
Villanova	11-13	26-21
Notre Dame	10-13	27-24
Cincinnati	9-14	27-25
Connecticut	8-13	27-24
West Virginia	8-15	27-21
Seton Hall	7-14	22-24
Georgetown	7-17	19-32

THIS WEEK IN THE BIG EAST

Rutgers at Villanova ... St. John's at USF ... Seton Hall at Pitt
Louisville at Cincinnati ... West Virginia at Georgetown

LAST WEEK IN THE BIG EAST

Notre Dame was swept at Louisville (1-3, 3-4, 3-7)
UConn won 2-of-3 vs. West Virginia (5-0, 0-14, 2-0)
Rutgers won 2-of-3 at Pittsburgh (10-9, 5-2, 9-10)
South Florida won 2-of-3 at Seton Hall (4-2, 8-2, 1-4)
St. John's won 2-of-3 vs. Cincinnati (10-0, 4-5, 15-0)
Villanova won 2-of-3 at Georgetown (11-6, 5-2, 3-8)

THE BET RACE – The top-8 teams will advance to next week's BIG EAST Tournament ... ND likely would clinch a spot with at least one win in the UConn series (the Irish hold a key head-to-head tiebreaker with WVU) ... UConn and SHU had their early series wiped out due to weather while other rainouts have included a ND-Pitt game and a WVU-CIN game (all these games will not be made up) ... final standings are based on win pct.

SERIES NOTES – ND leads the UConn series 19-6-1, including 11-2 at Eck Stadium (8-4-1 at UConn) ... the Irish won 11 straight vs. UConn from 2003-06 and still are riding a 12-game unbeaten streak vs. the Huskies (11-0-1), matching ND's 2nd-longest unbeaten streak ever vs. a BIG EAST team (the Irish won 12 straight vs. West Virginia from '03-'06 and beat Georgetown 23 straight times from '96-'05) ... ND won seven of the previous nine season series vs. UConn (the Huskies have one series win, plus a split of a 2-game series) ... the 2006 showdown series at UConn saw ND sweep the doubleheader (7-6, 7-3) before the final ended 1-1, in 13 innings (ND and UConn went on to finish a close 1-2 in the standings) ... **Jeff Samardzija** (7.2 IP, 6 R/5 ER, 9 H, 3 BB, 3 Ks) won the 2006 opener while **Tim Norton** had no-decision (8.1 IP, 6 R/5 ER, 7 H, 3 BB, 7 Ks) ... **Danny Dressman's** three doubles in that game included the game-tying hit (vs. Ted Garry), as the Irish scored twice in the 9th (**Mike Dury** had the win and **Kyle Weiland** the save, each pitching 0.2 IP) ... **Craig Cooper** (5-for-6, RBI, 3 R) paced ND in game-2, with **Jeff Manship** collecting the win (7 IP, R, 6 H, BB, 8 Ks) and Dury the save (0.2 IP) while **Rich Sirois** took the loss (6.2 IP, 6 R, 12 H, BB, 3 Ks) ... the 2006 series finale saw **Wade Korpi** (7 IP, R, 6 H, 2 BB, 5 Ks) start for an injured **Tom Thornton** while Weiland logged the final 5.0 innings with extended relief (5 IP, 2 H, 2 BB, 7 Ks) ... ND scored its lone run in the 5th (**Cody Rizzo** and Cooper both were hit-by-pitch, **Brett Lilley** singled to load the bases and the run scored on a groundball fielding error) ... UConn also scored in the 5th, after a single by **Dennis Donovan**, a **Josh Farkes** HBP and **Austin Wasserman's** 2-out, RBI single ... **Nick Tucci** suffered the game-3 loss (7.2 IP, R, 5 H, 2 BB, 3 Ks) ... Lilley is a .550 career hitter vs. UConn (11-for-20, 6 R, 4 BB, 2 Ks) while Dressman has gone .333 vs. the Huskies (5-for-15, 3 RBI, 2 R, 3 2B, BB, 2 Ks, SB) ... the 2005 ND-UConn series saw **Dan Kapala** (8 IP, 2 R, 6 H, BB, 2 Ks) and Thornton (9 IP, R, 6 H, 0 BB, 4 Ks) become the first ND pitchers since '01 (Aaron Heilman and Danny Tamayo) to throw complete-game wins in both ends of a BIG EAST doubleheader ... Donovan is hitting at a .379 clip in his career vs. the Irish (11-for-29, 3 RBI, 6 R, 2B, BB, 6 Ks) ... ND has outscored UConn 85-41 during the current head-to-head unbeaten streak, which came on the heels of a four-game losing streak to the Huskies (one of ND's longest head-to-head loss streaks ever in BIG EAST play) ... ND's 2002 College World Series season included opening BIG EAST play with three losses at UConn (3-4, 8-9, 6-13), now one of just five times ND ever has been swept in a 3-game BIG EAST series ... that '02 team ultimately started its season 9-10 and 0-4 in the BIG EAST but tallied to win the BIG EAST regular-season (18-8) and tournament titles ... ND's 2004 trip to UConn's Christian Field included a 10-hit, 10-run explosion by the Irish in the 1st innng of game-3, as **Matt Bransfield**, Cooper and **Matt Edwards** all homered (in a span of 4 ABs), with the **Steve Sollman** and Cooper each adding 2-run singles ... that win allowed the 2004 ND team to become the first BIG EAST team ever to sweep three 3-game BIG EAST road series in the same season.

IRISH NOTES – ND's rollercoaster season has included a long win streak of just five games and its current four-game losing streak (longest of the season), plus high-end wins over then-#7 Nebraska, then-#12 TCU (now one of the nation's hottest teams) and taking 2-of-3 at then-league-leading Rutgers, countered by several frustrating losses to lesser teams ... unearned runs have provided ND's margin of defeat in eight losses (ND held midgame leads in seven of those tough games) ... Dave Schrage picked up his 500th career win in memorable fashion during the series finale at RU (6-4), with the Irish rallying in both the 8th and 9th (thanks to triples by **Ross Brezovsky** and **Jeremy Barnes**) ... ND was 1-4 in its first five 1-run games of the season but now is 5-6 in those tight games ... ND had a 14-game midseason home run drought and then homered in six of seven games before managing just one long ball over the past seven games ... the Irish are 15-8 since dropping a pair of tough 4-3 games at Cincinnati in early April (ND started 1-6 in the BIG EAST but is 9-7 in its past 16 league games) ... ND recently faced an early 5-0 deficit vs. Toledo before staging its biggest comeback win since 2004 (8-6) ... one night later, **Sam Elam** and Purdue's Matt Bischoff both took no-hitters into the 8th (Purdue's first hit came with 2-outs in the 8th while Barnes hit a leadoff single in the 9th, breaking up Bischoff's perfect game) ... **Matt Weglarz** hit a 2-out double in the 10th and scored on a Dressman single to end the Purdue game ... Weglarz is batting 78 points higher at home (.275) than in all road games this season (.197) ... ND's top hitters at home in 2007 include Lilley (.438) and **A.J. Pollock** (.420) ... Pollock has emerged as a top candidate for BIG EAST rookie of the year while **David Phelps** is a making a strong bid for conference and national honors (his 1.74 ERA s 9th-best in the nation, among pitchers with 60-plus innings) ... Phelps easily could be 12-1, if not for low run support in his five non-winning starts (ND totaled just seven runs in those five games) ... Phelps is one of six pitchers in the nation with an ERA under 2.00, 8-plus wins and 80-plus Ks ... Lilley (3.78 GPA; accounting major) and Phelps (3.38; political science/computer applications) currently are among 90 baseball players nationwide under consideration for Academic All-America honors (which will include 12 infielders and six pitchers) ... **Joey Williamson** will become the seventh different ND pitcher to start a BIG EAST game this season (his past four appearances, all in relief, have included 13 Ks, 1 BB, 5 H and 1 R in 12.1 IP) ... Lilley recently had a 21-game errorless streak (at SS) and ranks 2nd in ND history with a .486 career on-base pct. (his 76 career HBP are 4th in NCAA history) ... ND's many challenges have included replacing the 3-man weekend rotation and losing six of the nine everyday position starters from '06 (both unprecedented in a check of the past 19 seasons) ... ND is 22-7 when scoring the game's first run and 21-2 when scoring 5-plus runs ... in ND's games this season, the team leading at the end of the 6th is 39-5 (ND 20-1), the team ahead at the end of the 7th is 41-4 (ND 20-0) and the team with the lead entering the 9th is 45-1 (ND 22-0).

BIG EAST Stat Leaders

Overall Batting Average

1. Dave Williams (RU)409
8. A.J. Pollock (ND)376
11. Brett Lilley (ND)372
23. Dennis Donovan (UConn) ..	.343

BIG EAST Batting Average

1. Jon Gossard (RU).....	.413
4. Brett Lilley (ND)392
6. A.J. Pollock (ND)375

Slugging Percentage

1. Todd Frazier (RU).....	.761
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On-Base Percentage

1. Brett Lilley (ND)515
6. A.J. Pollock (ND)469

Runs Scored

1. Todd Frazier (RUT).....	68
7. Brett Lilley (ND)	51

RBI

1. Neall French (CIN).....	64
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Home Runs

1. Todd Frazier (RU)	19
9. Mike Dury (ND).....	9

Triples

1. Dan Terpak (VU).....	6
4. Brett Lilley (ND)	3

Doubles

1. Logan Johnson (LOU)	24
8. Mike Dury (ND).....	15

Hits

1. Isaiah Howes (LOU)	81
9. Dennis Donovan (UConn)	73

Walks

1. Todd Frazier (RU)	50
7. A.J. Pollock (ND)	30
8. Brett Lilley (ND)	29

Stolen Bases

1. Boomer Whiting (LOU)	62
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Hit-By-Pitch

1. Brett Lilley (ND)	25
4. Peter Fatse (UConn)	15
6. Larry Day (UConn)	12
8. Mike Dury (ND).....	11

Sacrifice Bunts

1. Jason Pape (WVU).....	16
7. Danny Dressman (ND)	10
9. A.J. Pollock (ND)	9

Earned-Run Avg. (min 1 IP/tm gm)

1. Jon McCue (RU).....	1.70
3. David Phelps (ND).....	1.74
15. Brendan McGinn (UConn) ..	3.61
19. Robert Van Woert (UConn) ..	3.96
20. Greg Nappo (UConn)	3.98

BIG EAST ERA (min 1 IP/tm gm)

1. Justin Marks (LOU).....	1.68
4. David Phelps (ND).....	1.99

Opponent Batting Average

1. Justin Marks (LOU).....	.187
7. David Phelps (ND).....	.230
10. Greg Nappo (UConn)246

Strikeouts

1. David Phelps (ND).....	89
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Wins

1. Dan Osterbrock (CIN).....	9-1
2. David Phelps (ND).....	8-4
6. Brendan McGinn (UConn)	7-1
Robert Van Woert (UConn)	7-1

Saves

1. Shawn Sanford (USF)	10
Matt Karl (UConn).....	10

2007 NOTRE DAME BASEBALL STATS (as of May 16)

Player	Record: 27-24 Home: 16-7 Away: 4-11 Neutral: 7-6 BIG EAST: 10-13										SB	ATT	PO	A	E	FLD%							
	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB							SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF
4 A.J. Pollock.....	.376	49-47	178	36	67	5	1	3	26	83	.466	30	3	17	5	.469	2	9	11-13	74	94	19	.898
2 Brett Lilley.....	.372	51-51	180	51	67	5	3	1	13	81	.450	29	25	25	1	.515	1	4	4-5	73	142	12	.947
6 Danny Dressman...	.306	51-50	186	32	57	3	1	0	25	62	.333	18	3	15	2	.368	5	10	9-13	99	2	1	.990
20 Jeremy Barnes.....	.264	51-49	178	27	47	7	2	1	25	61	.343	18	1	19	7	.333	1	3	8-8	110	118	14	.942
7 Ross Brezovsky...	.262	51-51	183	28	48	8	3	1	33	65	.355	24	0	23	9	.341	4	4	7-8	68	29	3	.970
45 Ryan Smith.....	.261	37-32	119	12	31	5	0	2	22	42	.353	5	0	22	3	.283	3	3	1-5	149	12	3	.982
44 Mike Dury.....	.257	51-49	167	32	43	15	1	9	34	87	.521	23	11	45	3	.372	6	0	4-5	329	25	4	.989
15 Matt Weglarz.....	.237	40-38	135	22	32	8	0	4	25	52	.385	15	4	23	6	.325	3	0	2-2	203	20	5	.978
10 Ryan Connolly....	.185	33-24	81	14	15	7	1	0	9	24	.296	13	0	29	1	.298	0	1	2-5	26	0	1	.963
12 Brayden Ashdown..	.183	32-21	60	5	11	2	0	0	4	13	.217	11	1	15	0	.319	0	5	2-3	41	1	2	.955
33 Kyle Weiland.....	1.000	1-0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1.000	0	0	0	1.000	0	0	0-0	5	5	2	.833	
27 Chris Soriano.....	.500	6-0	4	0	2	0	0	0	3	2	.500	0	1	2	0	.600	0	0	0-0	10	0	1	1.000
36 Herman Petzold...	.500	4-0	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	3	.750	1	0	1	0	.600	0	0	0-0	1	2	0	1.000
14 Eddy Mendiola....	.321	21-3	28	4	9	3	0	0	6	12	.429	2	0	6	0	.367	0	0	0-0	4	0	1	.800
17 Billy Boockford..	.292	10-7	24	5	7	1	1	1	7	13	.542	2	0	4	0	.346	0	4	0-0	13	1	1	.933
25 Austin Pearce....	.222	9-2	9	3	2	0	0	0	1	2	.222	2	1	3	0	.417	0	0	0-0	7	1	0	1.000
29 Ryne Intlekofer..	.219	19-7	32	4	7	1	0	0	6	8	.250	1	1	10	0	.265	0	2	1-1	14	19	1	.971
23 Tony Langford....	.206	13-9	34	4	7	0	0	0	5	7	.206	3	1	9	0	.289	0	1	0-0	0	0	1	.000
1 Michael Wright...	.200	26-14	45	9	9	0	0	1	6	12	.267	7	0	11	0	.308	0	2	3-3	29	0	0	1.000
8 Evan Sharpley....	.045	13-5	22	1	1	1	0	0	2	2	.091	1	1	12	1	.125	0	0	0-0	53	4	1	.983
5 David Mills.....	.000	3-0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1	0	1	0	.333	0	0	0-0	1	0	0	1.000
30 Will Harford.....	.000	1-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	.000
34 Dylan Blake.....	.000	1-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	.000
Totals.....	.278	51-51	1674	292	465	72	13	23	252	632	.378	206	53	293	38	.370	25	48	54-71	1332	558	78	.960
Opponents.....	.261	51-51	1702	249	444	90	6	18	210	600	.353	171	58	365	26	.345	19	41	70-90	1314	534	88	.955

LOB - Team (402), Opp (411). **Dps Turned** - Team (31), Opp (46). **Tps turned** - Team (0), Opp (1).

CI - Team (1), Matt Weglarz 1, Opp (2).

IBB - Team (6), R. Brezovsky 2, Mike Dury 1, J. Barnes 1, Brett Lilley 1, Matt Weglarz 1, Opp (5).

Picked off - Lilley 3, Dressman 3, Pollock 2, Brezovsky 2, Connolly 1, Dury 1, Barnes 1, Ashdown 1, Boockford 1.

Player	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
35 David Phelps.....	1.74	8-4	13	13	4	1/1	0	93.1	79	28	18	23	89	12	1	5	344	.230	3	8	0	1	7
26 Joey Williamson..	2.53	4-2	16	1	0	0/0	2	46.1	35	19	13	15	48	7	1	2	167	.210	2	6	0	3	4
16 Eric Maust.....	3.00	2-0	13	3	0	0/0	1	39.0	46	19	13	6	29	11	0	0	161	.286	2	5	1	2	0
22 Dan Kapala.....	3.73	0-5	11	7	0	0/0	0	41.0	42	25	17	10	23	11	1	1	155	.271	3	9	1	4	5
13 Wade Korpi.....	4.34	1-5	12	9	0	0/0	0	47.2	49	37	23	26	38	11	1	4	180	.272	2	6	0	4	7
24 Sam Elam.....	4.45	0-2	12	7	0	0/1	1	30.1	14	16	15	24	24	0	0	0	99	.141	5	7	0	0	3
33 Kyle Weiland.....	4.93	4-2	11	5	0	0/0	2	34.2	40	22	19	20	33	16	0	0	135	.296	10	9	0	3	4
21 Brett Graffy.....	5.26	3-2	14	4	0	0/0	0	37.2	40	24	22	16	24	4	1	1	147	.272	3	3	2	0	5
32 Jess Stewart.....	5.70	2-1	22	1	0	0/1	1	30.0	42	23	19	12	21	9	0	0	125	.336	7	3	0	0	3
23 Tony Langford....	2.38	3-0	9	0	0	0/1	1	11.1	7	3	3	12	1	0	0	0	41	.171	4	1	1	1	0
44 Mike Dury.....	4.38	0-0	10	0	0	0/1	0	12.1	15	9	6	5	9	1	0	2	53	.283	0	0	0	0	2
31 Andrew Scheid....	5.40	0-1	7	1	0	0/0	0	10.0	15	10	6	5	9	3	0	0	43	.349	1	1	0	1	1
5 David Mills.....	8.53	0-0	7	0	0	0/0	0	6.1	10	6	6	4	2	1	1	2	29	.345	0	0	0	0	0
19 John Seabaugh....	9.00	0-0	2	0	0	0/0	0	2.0	5	2	2	0	3	0	0	11	.455	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Steven Mazur.....	18.00	0-0	3	0	0	0/0	0	2.0	5	6	4	2	1	3	0	1	12	.417	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.....	3.77	27-24	51	51	4	3/2	8	444.0	444	249	186	171	365	90	6	18	1702	.261	42	58	5	19	41
Opponents.....	4.81	24-27	51	51	6	6/2	11	438.0	465	292	234	206	293	72	13	23	1674	.278	46	53	5	25	48

PB - Team (25), Matt Weglarz 11, Ryan Smith 11, C. Soriano 2, R. Brezovsky 1, Opp (11).

Pickoffs - Team (14), David Phelps 6, Wade Korpi 2, A. Scheid 1, Sam Elam 1, Mike Dury 1, Jess Stewart 1, Matt Weglarz 1, Dan Kapala 1, Opp (16). **SPA/ATT** - Smith (33-40), Weglarz (32-39), Phelps (11-15), Korpi (10-14), Williamson (7-9), Graffy (6-8), Weiland (7-8), Maust (5-7), Dury (6-6), Elam (4-6), Kapala (6-6), Scheid (4-5), Brezovsky (3-4), Stewart (1-3), Mazur (2-2), Langford (1-1).

2007 CONNECTICUT BASEBALL STATS (as of May 16)

Record: 28-24 Home: 14-9 Away: 10-13 Neutral: 4-2 BIG EAST: 8-13

Player	AVG	GP-CS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	PO	A	E	FLD%
9 DONOVAN, Dennis..	.343	52-52	213	30	73	10	0	7	42	104	.488	6	6	26	4	.373	3	0	1-1	103	166	14	.951
25 KARL, Matt.....	.298	34-30	114	15	34	3	0	4	19	49	.430	15	1	23	5	.385	0	0	0-2	17	7	0	1.000
3 BRANNON, Dale....	.287	50-50	188	31	54	2	0	1	20	59	.314	27	7	35	3	.393	2	6	5-9	102	139	7	.972
10 FATSE, Peter.....	.283	46-45	173	36	49	11	1	3	28	71	.410	19	15	33	5	.392	5	1	6-15	65	16	1	.988
13 UNTIET, Matt.....	.280	51-50	189	31	53	12	0	2	23	71	.376	26	1	22	8	.369	1	2	2-2	505	28	9	.983
27 DAY, Larry.....	.278	48-48	180	24	50	10	0	3	21	69	.383	14	12	16	8	.365	2	1	2-2	253	32	5	.983
29 BRANTLEY, Harold.	.274	38-30	113	13	31	6	0	3	14	46	.407	9	1	26	3	.333	0	1	7-10	72	0	3	.960
2 MAHONEY, Pat.....	.271	52-52	188	28	51	10	0	2	18	67	.356	12	9	27	4	.343	1	6	3-5	51	70	15	.890
23 OLT, Brad.....	.256	15-12	43	5	11	4	0	0	8	15	.349	2	2	7	4	.306	2	0	1-1	46	5	0	1.000
24 BURNETT, Matt....	.227	26-19	66	9	15	2	0	0	4	17	.258	8	5	9	1	.346	2	2	0-0	27	1	0	1.000
6 TURGEON, Erik....	.210	24-23	81	10	17	3	0	0	6	20	.247	10	0	23	3	.297	0	2	0-0	21	75	12	.889
1 STEVENS, Gordon..	.209	22-20	67	11	14	0	1	1	13	19	.284	6	2	12	0	.282	3	2	5-8	31	3	2	.944
4 FARKES, Josh.....	.195	41-34	118	19	23	3	0	4	21	38	.322	5	5	25	5	.252	3	1	6-6	68	2	0	1.000
7 O'REILLY, Ted....	.167	8-2	12	4	2	0	0	0	0	2	.167	0	0	2	0	.167	0	0	3-3	7	0	1	.875
20 MUSSON, Will.....	.000	2-1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	1	.000	0	0	0-0	0	6	1	.857
36 TARCA, Andrew....	.000	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	.000
Totals.....	.273	52-52	1750	266	477	76	2	30	237	647	.370	159	66	288	54	.351	24	24	41-64	1378	634	77	.963
Opponents.....	.285	52-52	1767	300	504	76	5	38	270	704	.398	180	53	305	51	.364	23	38	54-76	1368	597	76	.963

LOB - Team (393), Opp (383). DPs turned - Team (59), Opp (61). CI - Team (0), Opp (4).

IBB - Team (4), MAHONEY 1, FARKES 1, DONOVAN 1, FATSE 1, Opp (10). Picked off - BRANTLEY 2, FATSE 1, BRANNON 1, KARL 1.

Player	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
25 KARL, Matt.....	3.47	0-2	18	0	0	0/1	10	23.1	14	12	9	15	23	2	0	0	80	.175	3	1	3	0	2
11 MCGINN, Brendan..	3.61	7-1	11	10	0	0/2	0	62.1	68	28	25	12	41	11	0	5	236	.288	1	4	0	5	3
12 VAN WOERT, Robert	3.96	7-1	12	8	0	0/0	0	61.1	59	34	27	13	40	7	1	1	234	.252	6	10	1	1	3
41 NAPPO, Greg.....	3.98	3-3	10	9	0	0/1	0	54.1	49	27	24	26	32	10	1	1	199	.246	2	11	1	3	3
22 Tarsi, Mike.....	4.29	4-4	11	11	2	1/0	0	71.1	68	39	34	22	50	6	0	8	263	.259	2	8	4	2	9
40 ERICKSON, David..	4.50	1-0	12	0	0	0/1	1	14.0	14	9	7	5	11	2	0	0	55	.255	1	1	0	0	0
33 ODENBACH, Dusty..	4.65	2-5	10	8	0	0/0	0	50.1	48	32	26	29	31	10	1	5	186	.258	3	4	0	3	5
45 DeLAZZER, Trent..	5.06	0-0	7	0	0	0/0	0	10.2	12	6	6	3	7	2	1	2	44	.273	0	0	0	0	1
31 GARRY, Ted.....	5.33	2-4	17	0	0	0/0	2	27.0	38	23	16	6	18	5	0	4	113	.336	0	1	0	2	3
6 TURGEON, Erik....	5.93	1-0	9	4	0	0/0	0	27.1	39	19	18	10	16	7	0	3	112	.348	2	1	1	0	2
20 MUSSON, Will.....	6.17	0-1	10	0	0	0/1	1	11.2	17	11	8	6	4	4	0	1	44	.386	1	3	0	1	4
43 JENNINGS, Doug...	6.59	1-1	10	0	0	0/2	0	13.2	20	10	10	3	10	2	1	2	57	.351	1	0	0	2	0
44 ACCOMANDO, Dennis	9.90	0-0	8	0	0	0/0	0	10.0	13	11	11	10	12	4	0	1	43	.302	1	1	0	0	0
26 BLUMETTI, Stephen	8.31	0-0	4	0	0	0/0	0	4.1	8	5	4	4	1	0	0	1	18	.444	0	2	0	0	1
39 FOLINO, John.....	9.00	0-1	3	1	0	0/0	0	5.0	10	9	5	4	4	1	0	0	24	.417	0	1	0	1	1
19 KITCHEN, Jason...	12.00	0-0	2	0	0	0/0	0	3.0	6	5	4	4	1	0	1	1	12	.500	2	0	0	2	0
30 BODGE, David.....	12.15	0-0	5	0	0	0/0	0	6.2	14	13	9	5	4	2	0	0	33	.424	0	3	2	1	1
21 SIROIS, Rich.....	21.00	0-1	1	1	0	0/0	0	3.0	7	7	7	3	1	0	0	3	14	.500	0	2	0	0	0
Totals.....	4.90	28-24	52	52	2	4/3	14	459.1	504	300	250	180	305	76	5	38	1767	.285	25	53	12	23	38
Opponents.....	4.42	24-28	52	52	7	4/3	7	456.0	477	266	224	159	288	76	2	30	1750	.273	32	66	3	24	24

PB - Team (5), DAY 5, Opp (6).

Pickoffs - Team (12), Tarsi 3, MCGINN 2, KARL 2, MUSSON 2, DAY 1, VAN WOERT 1, NAPPO 1, Opp (5).

SBA/ATT - DAY (44-56), NAPPO (10-14), ODENBACH (10-12), VAN WOERT (10-12), Tarsi (7-11), MCGINN (5-8), OLT (8-8), TURGEON (1-4), KARL (3-3), BODGE (2-2), GARRY (1-2), JENNINGS (2-2), ERICKSON (1-2), MAHONEY (2-2), FOLINO (1-1), SIROIS (0-1), DeLAZZER (0-1),

Captains Hope To Ride Rollercoaster On Final Upswing

By Pete LaFleur

Last weekend's drive from the Notre Dame baseball team's hotel to Louisville's Patterson Field included passing by a local amusement park, situated right next to the freeway. A rollercoaster is tucked into the corner of that Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom facility, providing a quick visual parallel to Notre Dame's up-and-down 2007 season. The metaphor cuts even deeper for members of the senior class, who readily toss out the word "rollercoaster" when describing their four-year careers as members of the Irish baseball program.

Senior co-captains Danny Dressman and Mike Dury, in particular, have navigated through plenty of high points and low points over the course of their Notre Dame careers. Both players drew inspiration and soaked up words of encouragement from former and current teammates – and they now serve as examples for the younger members of the team, providing proof that hard work and determination can overcome the most trying of times.

"As a senior, I know what these freshmen are going through," says Dressman. "It's another big class – just like when we came in four years ago – and I just try to be a leader, telling them that you can only live up to expectations so much. You have to be self-motivated and be your own player. That's what I've tried to do ever since my freshman year, and I'm having fun with it."

"Maybe younger guys who aren't really getting a chance can look to Mike and me and say, 'If I continue to work hard and stick it out, then I can be a key contributor later in my career.' In these last two years, I couldn't have asked for a better situation – and this season has been my most memorable."

The aforementioned rollercoaster on the edge of Kentucky Kingdom is not one of the monstrous contraptions, with huge hills and plunging descents. Rather, the ride has a smaller collection of hills but there are more of them – steadily up and down, up and down. Such has been the season for the Irish baseball team, which had yet to lose more than three in a row (prior to Sunday's finale vs. the Cardinals) but does not have a winning streak of longer than five games. The Irish have struggled through 15 different games in which the offense has generated only 0-2 runs – but those low moments have been offset by 13 games with double-digit runs, plus 14 different offensive explosions in which Notre Dame has scored five-plus runs in an inning (nearly matching the 15 "big innings" totaled by the 2006 offense).

The current Irish co-captains are at opposite extremes in body type, with the switch-hitting

Dury checking in at 6-foot-5 and 240 pounds while Dressman (5-8, 180) is one of several pesky lefthanders on the roster. Despite their physical differences, the pair have developed a strong bond of friendship over the past four years and have several notable similarities in their family background – as both have grandfathers who graduated from Notre Dame while both of their mothers were college athletes.

And then there is their competitive streak. Dury and Dressman are two of the many Notre Dame players over the years who love to do battle in a number of sports, card games and the like. They were teammates on the Madison (Wis.) Mallards during the summer of 2005, with Dressman playing a lead role during that Northwoods League season. But one of his fondest memories from that summer was defeating his roommate Dury on the basketball courts, in a game of "HORSE" – with a look of depressed amazement flowing across the face of the multi-sport talent Dury after he missed the final shot.

Dury and Dressman have remained roommates in their senior year, while residing in a house that includes the other three fourth-year seniors (catcher Sean Gaston and pitchers Dan Kapala and Jess Stewart). Former Irish pitcher Jeff Manship – who began his pro career in the summer of 2006 – also lived in the house with his classmates during the 2006 fall semester, while working towards completion of his degree requirements.

"It's been a great experience with all of the seniors living together this year," says Dury, a long-time friend and teammate of Gaston's, stretching back to their days with the Indiana Bulls club team that won the 2001 national title. "Most of us knew each other pretty well except for Jess, who had been more of a quiet guy. But he's really come out of his shell and has become just as close to us as everyone else in the house – we've really enjoyed having 'Stew' live with us this year."

The star-crossed careers of the senior class have included injuries to both Kapala ('06) and Gaston ('07) that have held each out for an entire season. But now, with the 2007 regular season nearing an end, the team's veterans are hoping to "ride the rollercoaster" on the upswing for as long as possible – as they look to claim the program's sixth straight BIG EAST Tournament title while helping lead the Irish to the NCAAs for the ninth straight season.

In a season when many have written the team off, the Notre Dame seniors will be hoping to write a great ending to their Notre Dame experience.

"We've got to win that BIG EAST Tournament and we're not going to sit and mope



about it," says Dury. "We've still got some work to do just to qualify for the tournament, but I like what this team is capable of doing."

"We talk about how tradition never graduates. You always want to leave a place better than it was when you came. If we keep playing well, and are playing our best baseball by the time we reach the tournament, I really like our chances."

Adds Dressman, "When you struggle, you have to come together as a team. Any time you see a big play, you're going to see guys get fired up. As an offense, we have to set the tone and take the pressure off the pitchers. Our character has to come out – when we have a good approach at the plate, we can put up 10 or 11 runs. It's just a matter of finishing strong and I think we can make a run at this."

The current seniors signed on with the Notre Dame baseball program in the fall of 2002, just months removed from the completion of an historic '02 season that saw the Irish advance to the College World Series. The signees in that class ultimately would include 10 highly-regarded players (nine signed in the fall and one the following spring), plus two-sport star Jeff Samardzija and a walk-on pitcher. That all added up to 12 new players who came to Notre Dame in the fall of 2003 and began their college careers the following spring, in the 2004 season.

Baseball America – which two seasons earlier had rated Notre Dame's 2002 freshmen as the nation's top incoming class – heaped similar praise on the 2004 freshmen, rating that group of Irish newcomers as the nation's 6th-best recruiting class. Notre Dame's 2004 lineup was stacked with veteran talent that helped produce a record-setting win total (51-12) and earned an NCAA Regional at Eck Stadium (the fourth time since '99 that ND was picked as a host team). The 2004 position players were headlined by a pair of All-America infielders – third baseman Matt Macri and second baseman Steve Sollmann – while future All-American Craig Cooper served mostly as the right-fielder on that team. Cooper launched 10 home runs in that sophomore season, joining Macri (14), Matt Edwards (12) and Matt Bransfield (12) in making the 2004 team the first in Notre Dame history with four double-digit home run players.

Seven of the nine starting position players in 2004 – Macri, Sollmann, Cooper, Edwards, Bransfield, shortstop Greg Lopez and catcher Javi Sanchez – received at least all-BIG EAST



honors in their careers, with leftfielder Steve Andres and centerfielder Cody Rizzo rounding out a solid 1-through-9 lineup. The pitching staff was equally impressive, with Grant Johnson (a 2nd-round pick in the '04 MLB draft) and All-American Chris Niesel fronting a strong starting group that also included lefty Tom Thornton and the rookie Samardzija. Lefthander Joe Thaman (a converted first baseman) and the righthanded Kapala shared setup duties while 7-foot-2 Ryan Doherty saved 12 games and struck out 46 batters in 34 innings. All four of the starters mentioned above went on to be drafted by Major League clubs, while Doherty was a rare junior free-agent signee.

Such was the talent pool that the 2004 freshmen dipped into, treading lightly as they searched for playing time and tried to remain upbeat about their future contributions to the Irish program. Several would go on to leave the team (all well before the arrival of the current Irish coaching staff) while Samardzija and Manship later signed pro contracts following their junior seasons in 2006 – leaving just five members of the “dirty dozen” class that held such promise when they arrived on campus back in the fall of 2003.

Despite many chances to become bitter or resentful about their personal situations – or the fate of their class as a whole ≠ Dury and Dressman have remained refreshingly candid about their careers, with the maturity to take a step back and see the big picture of their all-around experience.

“We came in a highly-touted class that accomplished plenty in high school,” says Dury. “We had several noteworthy prospects and with that comes a lot of unhappiness with playing time. We came into a team loaded with players, so a lot of us didn’t get playing time right away. Some couldn’t handle it and they chose to leave. There was a lot of talent and competition. Even the fall scrimmages were really intense.

“It was a tough situation for me but – based on what I was showing to the coaching staff – the fact was that I didn’t deserve to be in the lineup. We had Edwards, Cooper and Andres swinging well and, when I got out there, I didn’t do as well as they did. As a coach, you have to play your best guys. I knew I had to stay positive and knew that this is where I wanted to be. I was going to get my chance and needed to be ready when it came.”

Contrary to the experience of his future co-captain, Dressman immediately was given the chance to win a starting position. The Irish coaches were eager to regain stability at the key position of center field, after a patchwork combination of five players had started in that spot during 2003 (when corner outfielder Kris Billmaier ultimately made the most starts, 31, in the miscast role of center field). Notre Dame never had to worry about who would be playing center field during the four seasons prior to 2003, as two-time All-American Steve Stanley brought his fielding mastery to that position throughout the 1999-2002 seasons.

Stanley – whose career hit total (385) remains among the highest in college baseball history – had started all 256 games of his ca-

reer and logged nearly 99% of the innings in center field during that span (he patrolled center for all but 25 innings in his career, including one stretch of 764.2 consecutive innings). Just months after the College World Series had signaled the end of Stanley’s stellar career, comments by the Irish coaching staff comparing the new signee Dressman to Stanley may have been premature, and possibly became detrimental to that year of transition in center field.

“Any time you get compared to someone who will go down as one of the top players in Notre Dame history, it’s a lot of pressure,” says Dressman. “One of the things I struggled with was finding my identity as a player, and living up to someone who is so respected on and off the field. It took a couple years to find out what kind of player I was. I got the opportunity last year to step in and I wanted to take advantage of it. I haven’t looked back since.”

Dressman was the primary starter in center field for the first half of the 2004 season, but Rizzo later proved to be the team’s top option at the position and made 26 starts in center (essentially matching Dressman’s 28 starts, most of which came in the first month). With Dressman’s first college season not even completed, the rollercoaster was in full swing for him and the entire freshman class. Dressman finished the 2004 season with a batting average of just .264, plus 25 runs scored and only two stolen bases. He struck out seven more times than he walked (25/18) and had a modest on-base percentage of .350.

Despite watching some of their classmates leave the program in the early years, Dressman and Dury stayed the course and were eager to make contributions on a 2005 squad that would be looking to replace the offensive production of Macri, Sollmann and Sanchez. Dury continued to be a top relief pitcher but his effectiveness at the plate in 2005 (.209 batting/9-for-43, 8 RBI, HR, 2 2B, 2 BB, 11 Ks in 16 GP/10 GS) was similar to the disappointing previous season (.250/4-for-16, 2 RBI, HR, 3 BB, 4 Ks, 9 GP/4 GS) – with hope still remaining for later in his career, due to the limited sampling of at-bats (59, scattered over 126 games) during the first two seasons.

Dressman’s second season led to his own soul-searching, as he made only eight starts and totaled just 55 ABs in 2005 (he hit .273, with 9 R, 5 BB, 12 Ks and a stolen base). Junior Alex Nettey – formerly an invited walk-on who steadily had worked his way into the lineup – ended up being the regular centerfielder in 2005, a position he also held in '06 before his graduation opened the spot once again for Dressman.

“The fact of the matter was that my sophomore year I lost the job in center field,” says Dressman. “Nettey played unbelievably and deserved to be there. I’m just glad I ended up with another chance to play at my natural position, where I can make the biggest impact on the team’s success.”

Dressman bounced back to be a key contributor and second team all-BIG EAST selection in 2006, when he joined Rizzo, Bransfield and Andres in the corner-outfield rotation. The

San Jose native had an early nine-game hit streak (yielding a .479 season average) and opened the annual Spring Break trip by batting 7-for-12 with 8 RBI – earning BIG EAST player-of-the-week honors – before going 5-for-10 to help sweep Pittsburgh in an early BIG EAST series. His 11-game hitting streak in late March and early April ended up being the second-longest by an Irish player in '06 and Dressman also played a key role in the showdown series at Connecticut, finishing the 7-6 opener with the rare stat line of three doubles in one game (one of those hits tied the game, in ND’s 9th-inning rally).

In addition to finishing as the 2006 team’s third-leading hitter (.321), Dressman ranked second in walks (30) and sacrifice bunts (12), third in on-base pct. (.428) and fifth in stolen bases (6). His walk-to-strikeout ratio did a 180 from the previous two seasons, as he ended '06 with one of the team’s top plate-discipline ratios (+19; 30 walks plus 5 hit-by-pitch, minus 16 Ks) – compared to his -13 PDR over the course of the '04 and '05 seasons (23 BB, 1 HBP, 37 Ks). Dressman hit mostly in the 2-hole or #3 spot while ranking as the '06 team’s second-best hitter with runners on (.365) and with 2-outs (.328). He also hit above .300 in lefty-lefty matchups (.310 vs. LHPs) and made just one error all season, playing primarily in right field.

Dressman is quick to credit two of his classmates with keeping his spirits up following the frustrating 2005 season, setting the stage for his reemergence in 2006.

“It was really rough for me during my sophomore year and I owe a lot to guys like Mike Dury and Dan Kapala,” says Dressman. “It wasn’t memorable as a whole for the program – we won ‘only’ 38 games and ended the 40-win streak – and it wasn’t a time of great memories for me either. But I couldn’t be happier that I stuck it out. I enjoyed playing last year with Manship, Samardzija and those guys, and we made it fun.

“But I really owe it to my friends for helping me hang in there through the rough times.”

Dressman also includes various former Irish players among those who urged him on with words and encouragement. “I look at guys who have had to deal with things like me, the ups and downs,” he says. “Matt Bransfield and Craig Cooper came out on top with great seasons later in their careers. A guy like Steve Sollmann always has given me great advice and is someone I really respect. Recently, I saw so many of the guys at Greg Lopez’s wedding and talked with a lot of them. Those who had to deal with adversity are the ones I can relate to the most, and I hope they realize how much they’ve helped me during my career at Notre Dame.”

The 2006 season again saw Dury log key pitching appearances but he made only five starts as a position player, batting 6-for-26 (.231) with a pair of home runs and 7 RBI (2 2B, 22 BB, 9 Ks). That left him with three-year offensive totals of just 85 at-bats and 17 RBI (spread out over 129 games), plus 4 home runs, 4 doubles and 17 more strikeouts (24 than walks (7). **(continued ...)**

As Dury was preparing for the start of the 2007 season, he knew plenty of spots in the lineup would be up for grabs, due to the graduation losses of Cooper, Rizzo, Bransfield, Lopez, Nettey and Andres (plus Gaston's pre-season surgery). He was determined to make the most of this final chance and had one former Irish player firmly in his corner.

"Javi Sanchez is a guy I really look up to. I try to mold the way I go about my business after him and he's a great mentor," says Dury, in reference to the former Irish infielder/catcher. "Javi is always sending me text messages or leaves a voicemail, passing on little motivational quotes that mean a lot to me."

Sanchez should know a little something about bouncing back from a subpar season to become a key contributor later in his career. As a freshman in 2001, he went hitless in a meager 13 at-bats and made just two starts that entire season. There were discussions with the coaching staff that he might have a better chance at playing time by moving on to another school for the remainder of his career. But Sanchez stuck it out and worked harder than ever, leading to a classic success story that saw him become one of the most beloved Irish players in recent years.

After major injuries had sidelined then-freshmen Macri and Edwards, the 2002 team was faced with a dilemma regarding who to start at the pivotal position of shortstop. Sanchez – whose primary playing background was at second or third base – eventually was given his shot and refused to let his teammates down, ultimately batting .281 with 50 runs scored, 24 walks, 5 home runs and 8 sacrifice bunts. His stellar postseason included being named MVP of the BIG EAST Tournament, earning a spot on the NCAA South Bend Regional all-tournament team and making several memorable defensive plays in the Super Regional series at top-ranked Florida State (to top it off, he added a home run in the College World Series opener versus Stanford).

That 2002 season would have been enough to fill most player's career highlight reel but Sanchez had more in store during his final two years. The 2003 team suddenly was chock full of leftside infielders (namely Macri, Edwards and Lopez) but the catching depth was suspect, following the graduation of the hard-nosed duo of Paul O'Toole and Andrew Bushey. Sanchez answered the call and quickly learned yet another new position, going on to make 56 starts behind the plate in 2003 while batting .303 with 42 runs scored. One year later – with Gaston settling into his first college season – Sanchez earned all-BIG EAST honors as co-captain of the record-setting 2005 team (he often served as the cleanup batter on that team and totaled a career-best 41 RBI).

"Before this season started, Javi was telling me that he knew I wanted to produce and help the team. But he also told me to throw away my old numbers and to focus on having fun in my final year while playing for one of the nation's best programs, at a great school," says Dury.

"With help from guys like Javi, I came into this season with more confidence in my swing. Javi was a great player for this program and is

a very positive influence for me."

Dury failed to reach even 50 at-bats in any of his first three seasons but was hopeful that more consistent playing time in 2007 would boost his effectiveness. That certainly has proven to be the case, as the switch hitter enters the UConn series leading the team in slugging pct. (.521; a boost of 109 points from his .412 combined slugging in '04-'06), home runs (9; more than doubling his previous three-year total of 8 HRs), RBI (34), doubles (15) and total bases (87) while ranking second in times hit-by-pitch (11), third in on-base pct. (.372) and runs scored (32), and fourth in games started (49). He is one of five Irish players to appear in each of the first 51 games this season, with his top situational stats including a .417 leadoff on-base pct. (3rd-best on the team) and .273 batting with runners on base (4th-best on the team). Dury's 43 total hits this season include seven more that have gone for extra bases (25) than singles (18).

The season opener versus Prairie View saw Dury get off to a quick home run start and he added a grand slam versus Duquesne on the Spring Break swing through Florida. Later that week, he came off the bench to hit a pair of bombs in the 11-4 win over Dayton. Notre Dame's first BIG EAST game of the season featured Dury's biggest home run to date, as he drove a pitch from South Florida ace Danny Otero over the rightfield fence for a solo blast that held up as the game's only scoring.

A piece of history awaited Dury in game-2 of the midseason West Virginia series, when he connected on his first righthanded home run of the season. In the process, he joined current athletics department compliance staffer Allen Greene as the most recent Notre Dame players to homer from both sides of the plate in the same season (Greene did so back in 1998). Dury – whose season highlights include a seven-game hitting streak – also went on to launch a key three-run blast in the 7-3 win over Ball State.

Dressman likewise had appeared in each of the first 51 games this season while entering the UConn series as the team led in sacrifice bunts (10), also ranking second in stolen bases (9), plus third in batting average (.306; above .300 since mid-March), runs scored (32), hits (57), and starts (50), and fourth in on-base pct. (.375) and RBI (25). He has made at least six starts in five different lineup spots this season (2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th) and has proven to be an effective offensive producer in all situational categories – ranking second on the team in leadoff on-base pct. (.480), third in batting with runners in scoring position (.291) and pct. of runners advanced (56%), and fifth in 2-out batting (.246; his 8 RBI with 2-outs are 4th-most on the team).



The lefthanded-hitting Dressman actually owns the team's third-best batting average versus LHPs (.373), also ranking as the team's fourth-best hitter against righthanders (.281), and he has struck out just 15 times all season (in 186 at-bats, for a rate of 12.4 ABs per K). Extensive work with the baseball program's strength coach Mike Joseph also has improved Dressman's already above-average ability in hitting to all fields, to the point where now "it's almost my strength to hit the ball the other way," he says.

In addition to compiling a 10-game hitting streak this season (the second double-digit streak of his career),

Dressman also was named to the BIG EAST weekly honor roll after batting 11-for-20 over the final five Spring Break games (6 RBI, 5 R, 3B, 2B, SB). He earlier helped post the 16-6 win over then-#7 Nebraska (2-for-2, RBI, 2 R, BB, SF) and recently went 4-for-13 (3 R) to help win the series at league leader Rutgers.

Dressman and Dury's strong defensive play this season has been an added bonus and has "exceeded expectations," according to Schrage. Dury split time as a DH and first baseman earlier in the season but has emerged as the regular at first, with just four errors all season.

Dressman has made just one error all season and will be looking to push his errorless streak to 43 games in the opener vs. UConn. He has played nearly 95% of the innings this season in center field (411 of 435) while suddenly becoming the elder statesman – or "Gramps," as he's often called – of an outfield teaming with newcomers and others who have converted to the position. The current alignment includes junior Ross Brezovsky (who previously had started at second base) in left field while sophomore Ryan Connolly has emerged in right field, after missing all of the 2006 season due to a shoulder injury.

"Ross is starting to look like a natural in the outfield," says Dressman. "I try to let him know that the toughest thing is a hard ball hit right at you, knowing whether to come in or out. That's one thing I try to work on with these guys: getting the correct read right off the bat."

"Ryan Connolly is our most energetic player in the outfield and brings great speed on the basepaths. He also has shown some good offensive ability and could be a real key part of the lineup."

Dury averaged 23 innings pitched per season in his first three years but the two-way talent has logged just 12.1 innings this season, in large part due to his expanded role as a position player. The lefthander is closing in on breaking a Notre Dame record that has stood for more than 45 years, as his 2.20 career ERA is below the standing record of 2.36 set by Nick Palihnich from 1959-61 (the ND record for ca-

reer ERA includes a minimum of 60 innings pitched). Dury's other career stats as a pitcher include a 6-1 record, three saves, a 2.2 K-to-walk ratio (66/30) and 75 hits allowed in 81.2 innings (with a .245 opponent batting avg.).

His pitching highlights have featured closing out the 2005 and '06 BIG EAST championship victories, in addition to saving the 2005 NCAA elimination game versus Stetson (2 IP, H, 3 Ks; 7-4). His 2.17 ERA and .208 opponent batting average helped set up closer Kyle Weiland's record-setting 16 saves in '06, with his top moments that season including picking up the win in the opener of the big series at UConn and saving game-2 before tossing a shutout inning in the series finale (a 1-1, 13-inning tie).

The transition from being a lefthanded setup pitcher to an everyday player appears to have reinvigorated Dury. "Going into the season, coach Schrage told me they would be giving me a shot at first base and as a key RBI guy. That's been my main goal: to really lead this team.

"I love coming out of the bullpen in a big situation, but it's not the same as being in the game every day. Knowing a set position over the past month has made a big difference for our entire lineup. We were rotating guys in and out about struggling. One error would lead to a couple big innings and we would lose by one run. The infield group has become close and we are working well together.

"There were a couple of weeks where I know I struggled," adds Dury. "Coach told me to just enjoy the fact that I'm in the lineup, and that is what I'm trying to do. I love being able to help this team in pressure situations, at the plate or on the mound."

Those who have watched Dury bat may be surprised to learn that he originally was a righthanded hitter and did not add the lefthanded swing until his freshman year of high school. The change came at the urging of his father John – who thought his son might want to avoid the "curse" of being a righthanded hitter and lefthanded pitcher.

"In high school, we saw so many righthanded pitchers that it was worth trying to switch-hit," says the younger Dury. "It was a struggle initially, because I didn't have any power. I didn't hit my first lefthanded home run until my junior year of high school. But now I don't think that I'm stronger on either side. I've become comfortable with it and my hitting coaches at Notre Dame have helped my swing develop, especially over the past two seasons."

Dury and Dressman both have extensive family ties to Notre Dame, including grandfathers (Len Dury '54 and Charles Dressman, Sr.) who both graduated from the University. Dressman's parents Chuck and the former Diane Shillinburg are 1979 Notre Dame graduates – with Diane and Danny representing the first mother-son monogram winners in the history of ND athletics (the current Mrs. Dressman was a member of the Irish women's tennis team in the late 1970s).

"My parents met during the final month of their senior year," says Dressman. "My dad was from Maryland and my mom from Denver. My dad went on to dental school and was

stationed for 18 months in the Navy, at Moffett Field. Our family has been in San Jose ever since.

"I grew up around plenty of Notre Dame fans and came to that great 1988 football game versus Miami. My dad is a pretty hardcore fan, yelling at the TV when he watches the games. After I came to the Notre Dame baseball camp in the summer of 2002, that pretty much sealed it and I knew this was the place for me."

Dury has plenty of other athletes in his family, as his father John played baseball at North Carolina State, his mother Nancy was a basketball player at Marian (Ind.) College, and his brother Tim played football at the University of Indianapolis. Dury's great uncle Walt Sahn served as co-captain of the 1964-65 Notre Dame basketball team and still holds the Irish record for career rebounding average (16.9), while a cousin Bill Sahn played on the 1976-77 Irish hoops team.

"My dad was a spot starter at N.C. State but he tore his labrum, and back then there was no surgery for that injury," says Dury. "My dad threw hard and was not much of an actual pitcher, so he always wanted me to be a pitcher and not just throw hard.

"My dad ended up coming to Purdue to coach under his good friend Dave Alexander, who had coached my dad at Chatard High School and now is a scout for the Marlins. My mom still was playing basketball in college at that time and soon after that they got married and settled in Indianapolis."

Dury's impressive three-sport career at Chatard brought him in contact with former Notre Dame pitcher Mike Harmon, who served as the team's coach. "He is a fun-loving coach who wanted the best for me," says Dury of Harmon. "He got into my head that I could hit and pitch in college, so I kept working hard at both aspects of my game. Coach Harmon helped solidify my decision on choosing Notre Dame, but it's always somewhere I wanted to go."

The numerous accomplishments in Dury's prep career include being named Indianapolis area athlete of the year for 2002-03, after leading his three teams to a 58-6 combined record and state titles in football (second straight) and basketball (he also received the prestigious Mental Attitude Award in both of those sports). An all-state performer as both a football quarterback and two-way star in baseball (.420, 10 HR; 1.08, 8-1, 77 Ks/5 BB), Dury joined Valparaiso native Samardzija among the finalists for the 2002 Indiana Mr. Football Award – following a season that included 2,000-plus passing yards, 25 touchdowns and only a pair of interceptions. He was named to the all-tournament team for the Indiana basketball state championship, after totaling 18 points and 10 rebounds in the title-game win over Fort Wayne Elmhurst.

"Growing up in Indiana, that's all we did was play basketball. It seemed like there

was always someone better than me in basketball and better than me in football. But I always felt baseball was my best sport," says Dury.

"Whatever was in season was the sport I loved. I was not a quarterback growing up because I was too heavy and they played me on the line. My first year of quarterback was not until my freshman year in high school. Every season, I was competing in front of a lot of people in pressure situations. It helped with each sport just getting out there, competing and having fun with your teammates.

"Baseball is my favorite sport," he adds. "I'm not as gifted athletically as Samardzija, but I knew I had to make a decision and always wanted to come to Notre Dame. It's been a dream of mine since I was growing up. The best chance I had of coming here was through baseball and I jumped at the opportunity. I love this school and don't regret it for one minute. Even when I was on the bench, I've always loved being at this place and I'm happy I finally got the opportunity to play every day."

Both co-captains have played key roles in completing the transition to Schrage's coaching system. Dury gained an early insight into his future coach, after serving on the player panel that helped interview the finalists for the position.

"When we talked to coach Schrage, you could tell he was the type of coach who would care about us as players," says Dury. "He had an interest in us as individuals and that has continued to be the case as we've gone through the season. He brought in some of his own things but also was open to keeping some old traditions and has looked to us as captains to help him through the first season.

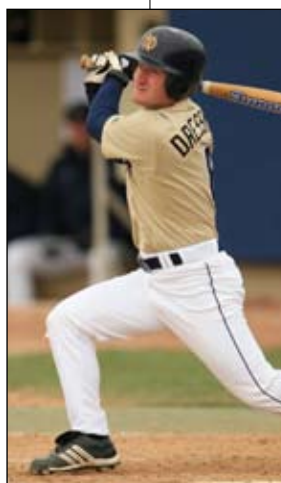
"To see what coach Schrage has gone through, after losing his wife to cancer, we've learned a lot from him. He has stayed strong and is such a good role model for us. He has tremendous faith and is a great leader for our program."

Dressman posted a 3.73 GPA in the 2006 fall semester, as a double major in history and computer applications, and is on pace to help maintain the program's spotless graduation rate over the past 13 seasons. Dury took a 3.12 cumulative GPA (including a 3.67 and 3.33, respectively, in the '06 spring and fall terms) into final exams and could look into law school at some point in his future.

Before they head off into the "real world," the Irish captains hope to lead their teammates on a lateseason push.

"My career as a whole has been a rollercoaster and that also is a great way to describe this season for our team," says Dressman. "As a senior, you want to come up with the big hits for your team at the end of the season. I have yet to finish a season strong during my career and that's something that eats at me.

"I would trade anything to be hot at the end of the year rather than at the beginning."



2007
NOTRE DAME
BASEBALL



#1 Michael Wright
Fr., OF • Lockhart, TX



#2 Brett Lilley
Jr., SS • N. Canton, OH



#4 A.J. Pollock
Fr., 3B • Hebron, CT



#5 David Mills
Fr., LHP/OF • Battle Creek, MI



#6 Danny Dressman
Sr., CF • San Jose, CA



#7 Ross Brezovsky
Jr., LF/2B • Naples, FL



#8 Evan Sharpley
So., 1B • Marshall, MI



#10 Ryan Connolly
So., OF • Binghamton, NY



#11 Sean Gaston
Sr., C • Brownsburg, IN



#12 Brayden Ashdown
Fr., OF • Tucson, AZ



#13 Wade Korpi
Jr., LHP • Lake Worth, FL



#14 Eddy Mendiola
So., 3B/1B • Miami, FL



#15 Matt Weglarz
Gr., C • Kansas City, MO



#16 Eric Maust
Fr., RHP • Alpharetta, GA



#17 Billy Boockford
Fr., OF • Glen Ellyn, IL



#18 Steven Mazur
Fr., RHP • Round Rock, TX



#19 John Seabaugh
Sr., RHP • Granger, IN



#20 Jeremy Barnes
So., IF/1B • Garland, TX



#21 Brett Graffy
So., RHP • Homer Glen, IL



#22 Dan Kapala
Sr., RHP • Royal Oak, MI



#23 Tony Langford
Jr., OF/RHP • Ft. Worth, TX



#24 Sam Elam
So., LHP • Naperville, IL



#25 Austin Pearce
Fr., OF • Lake Oswego, OR



#26 Joey Williamson
Jr., RHP • Lantana, FL



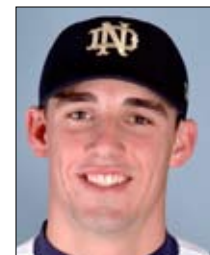
#27 Chris Soriano
Jr., C • Randolph, NJ



#29 Ryne Intlekofer
Fr., IF • Moorpark, CA



#30 Will Harford
Fr., IF • Chicago, IL



#31 Andrew Scheid
Fr., RHP • Highlands Ranch, CO



#32 Jess Stewart
Sr., RHP • Masassas, VA



#33 Kyle Weiland
So., RHP • Albuquerque, NM



#34 Dylan Blake
Fr., IF • Coon Rapids, MN



#35 David Phelps
So., RHP • Hazelwood, MO



#36 Herman Petzold
Fr., IF • St. Clair Shores, MI



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



#45 Ryan Smith
Fr., C • Waldorf, MD