

BIG EAST Baseball Doubleheader



**Pittsburgh
Panthers (26-11, 7-6)
vs.
#13 Notre Dame
Fighting Irish (26-7, 7-1)**



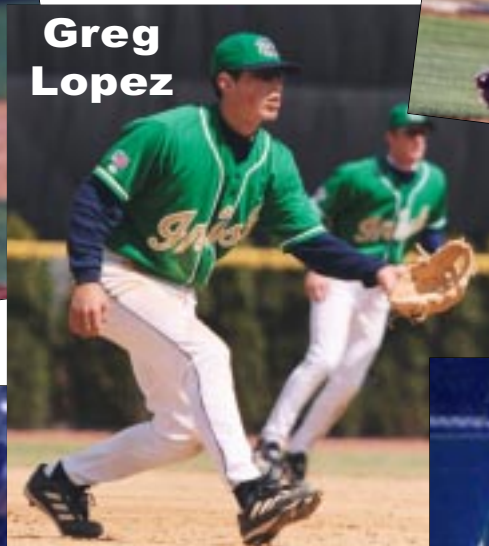
Thursday, April 17, 2003 ... Eck Stadium (Notre Dame, Indiana)



**Chris
Niesel**



**Tom
Thornton**



**Greg
Lopez**



**Brennan
Grogan**



**Steve
Sollmann**

BIG EAST LEADERS

Overall Batting Average

1. Lee Fritz, WVU .....	.460
8. Bryan Spamer, Pitt .....	.387
8. Steve Sollmann, ND .....	.387
10. Matt Edwards, ND .....	.374

Overall Home Runs

1. T. McCabe, C. Clinton, WVU ..	9
8. Matt Edwards, ND	6

Overall RBI

1. Matt Edwards, ND	41
6. Bryan Spamer, Pitt	30
Stuart Rykaceski, Pitt	30

Overall Slugging Percentage

1. Tim McCabe, WVU .....	.653
8. Bryan Spamer, Pitt .....	.571
9. Steve Sollmann, ND .....	.569

Overall On-Base Percentage

1. Bryan Spamer, Pitt .....	.500
5. Scott Folmar, Pitt .....	.471
8. Tom Cashman, Pitt .....	.461

Overall Stolen Bases

1. Steve Sollmann, ND	21
5. Ben Copeland, Pitt	12
12. Brennan Grogan, ND	9

Overall Triples

1. Brennan Grogan, ND	5
2. Steve Sollmann, ND	4
5. Stuart Rykaceski, Pitt	3

Overall Doubles

1. Michael Lombardi, GU	14
Stuart Rykaceski, Pitt	14
3. Tom Cashman, Pitt	13
5. Bryan Spamer, Pitt	12

Overall Walks

1. Bryan Spamer, Pitt	28
3. Stuart Rykaceski, Pitt	23
5. Cashman, Folmar, Pitt	22

Overall Runs Scored

1. Steve Sollmann, ND	41
3. Bryan Spamer, Pitt	34
5. Stuart Rykaceski, Pitt	32
9. Cody Rizzo, ND	30
Tom Cashman, Pitt	30

Overall Hits

1. Lee Fritz, WVU	57
2. Steve Sollmann, ND	53
4. Tom Cashman, Pitt	50
5. Ben Copeland, Pitt	48
7. Matt Edwards, ND	46
Bryan Spamer, Pitt	46

Overall Total Bases

1. Steve Sollmann, ND	78
2. Tom Cashman, Pitt	77
4. Matt Edwards, ND	76

Overall ERA

2. John Axford, ND	2.20
5. Nick Evangelista, Pitt ..	2.76
7. Chris Niesel, ND	2.92

Overall Opp. Batting Average

1. Mark Irwin, SHU .....	.177
3. Dan Rhoten, Pitt .....	.211
4. John Axford, ND .....	.220
5. Chris Niesel, ND .....	.222
9. Nick Evangelista, Pitt ..	.249

Overall Wins

1. John Axford, ND	7-0
2. Nick Evangelista, Pitt	6-2

Overall Strikeouts

1. Nick Evangelista, Pitt	52
2. Niesel, Axford, ND	51

Overall Saves

1. Matt Dalton, VT	9
2. J.P. Gagne, ND	7

Overall Appearances

1. Chris Noonan, SHU	22
3. J.P. Gagne, ND	16
4. Jeff Barnyak, Pitt	15
7. J. Blue, B. Jacobsen, Pitt ..	14

Overall Innings

1. Zac Cline, WVU	62.2
2. Nick Evangelista, Pitt ..	58.2
3. Chris Niesel, ND	52.1
4. John Axford, ND	49.0

Overall Complete Games

1. Nick Evangelista, Pitt	4
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Updated BIG EAST Conference Baseball Standings

1. Notre Dame	7-1	26-7
2. Virginia Tech	8-2	23-9
3. West Virginia	6-2	22-11
4. St. John's	7-3	18-15
5. Rutgers	6-3	12-13
6. Pittsburgh	7-6	26-11
7. Boston College	4-4	17-13
8. Connecticut	6-6	17-14
9. Seton Hall	5-7	12-16
10. Villanova	2-10	7-21
11. Georgetown	1-15	9-23

Easter Week BIG EAST Schedule

Today: BC at UConn, SJU at Rutgers, SHU at VU, VT at WVU
 Sat.: BC at RU, SJU at GU, SHU at ND, VT at UConn
 Sun.: Georgetown at West Virginia

Last Week's BIG EAST Results

West Virginia swept at home vs. UConn (18-14, 9-3, 10-5)
 Virginia Tech took 2 of 3 at home vs. BC (1-3, 12-3, 8-7 in 12)
 St. John's swept at Georgetown (9-5 in 8, 5-1, 8-0)
 Pittsburgh swept at home vs. Villanova (9-2, 7-1, 10-5)
 Rutgers took 2 of 3 at home vs. Seton Hall (5-1, 1-2, 10-4)

THE SERIES - ND leads the Pittsburgh series 19-3 (14-3 since joining the BIG EAST), including 10-2 in games at ND (8-2 at Eck Stadium) ... in last year's Holy Thursday doubleheader, Paul O'Toole and Steve Stanley flirted with the cycle as ND bounced back from a 7-5 loss to run away with the nightcap, 12-2 ... ND broke open a 2-2 second game with a 7-run to make a winner of J.P. Gagne, after John Axford's five solid innings (2 R/1 ER, 4 H, 2 BB, 6 Ks) ... Scott Schultz (5.1 IP, 6 R, 7 H, 3 BB) took the loss ... Pittsburgh faced a 4-0 deficit in the opener before erupting for six in the 6th, with Eric Ackeman picking up the win (5.2 IP, 5 R, 12 H, 2 BB, 3 Ks) ... ND stranded 11 in the opener, with Grant Johnson (5.2 IP, 5 R, 7 H, 5 BB, 7 Ks) taking the loss ... Stanley (3-run HR, 2B, 1B, BB in game 2) and O'Toole (HR, 3B, 2 2B, RBI in nightcap) both hit 5-for-8 in the doubleheader ... ND posted a pair of 3-0 shutouts (by Danny Tamayo and Aaron Heilman) at Pittsburgh in 2001 ... the teams played a wild 22-18 game at ND in 2000 - with Pittsburgh answering ND's 13 straight runs from the 6th-8th by scoring 10 in the 9th for the win ... the teams combined for 49 hits, 65 baserunners, 85 total bases (BIG EAST record), 8 HRs, 38 players, just one error and 4:06 of game time, while the 40 combined runs were the most in an ND game since 1900 (first time in an ND game that both teams scored 17-plus) ... ND's Alec Porzel hit for the cycle in that game, with traditional and inside-the-park HRs (he became the first ND player with six hits in a game, going 6-for-6) ... current Panthers player Stuart Rykaceski was 4-for-8 in that game.

PANTHERS NOTES - The Panthers are slated to start RHPs **Joe Engel** (4.32, 3-3) and **Dan Rhoten** (3.51, 2-2) ... Pittsburgh's earlier BIG EAST results include going 1-2 vs. St. John's and splitting doubleheaders with Rutgers and WVU ... the Panthers narrowly missed the 4-team BE Tournament in '02 ... top returning players include RHP **P.J. Hiser** (2nd team all-BE), SS **Bryan Spamer** (3rd tm) and 5th-year player **Stuart Rykaceski**.

IRISH NOTES - ND's probable rotation includes RHP **Chris Niesel** (2.92, 4-1) and LHP **Tom Thornton** (1.33, 2-0) vs. Pittsburgh, with RHPs **John Axford** (2.20, 7-00) and **Ryan Kalita** (3.89, 4-0) then throwing vs. Seton Hall ... ND has posted a 49-5 combined record in April during the past three seasons and is 31-2 in its last 33 home games ... the Irish faced a daunting early schedule but have won 24 of the last 17, including a 17-game win streak (2nd-longest in ND history) that ended Wed. vs. Eastern Michigan (3-5) ... Niesel is 26-2 in his last 28 decisions (since HS senior) ... Niesel (8-1), Axford (12-2) and Kalita (11-0) have combined for a 31-3 career record with the Irish ... **Steve Sollmann** has 19 multi-hit games in '03 ... SS **Matt Macri** (elbow) and 3B/1B **Matt Edwards** (broken leg) missed most of '02 due to injury (first-year catcher **Javi Sanchez** served as the Irish SS in '02) ... **J.P. Gagne** (24-13, 13 SV) has joined Chris Michalak and Aaron Heilman as the only ND pitchers ever to post 20-plus wins and 10-plus saves ... head coach Paul Mainieri picked up his 700th career victory earlier this season vs. Georgetown ... the Irish own an overall record of 125-38-1 over the course of the 2001-03 seasons ... ND has scored 5-plus runs in an inning 10 times during the last 13 games ... four freshmen - and now senior **Kris Billmaier** - have started in center field this season for the Irish (Steve Stanley started at CF in all 256 games from '99-'02).

THE TALE OF THE TAPE

	PITTSBURGH		NOTRE DAME	
2002 Records	36-16-1, 14-11 BE		50-18, 18-8 BE	
Lettermen Returning/Lost	11/6		17/9	
CURRENT STATS	BIG EAST Rank		BIG EAST Rank	
Overall Batting Average	(3)	.317	(6)	.312
Runs Per 9 Innings		7.6		8.1
Home Runs		14		20
Slugging Percentage		.438		.456
Batters BB/K Ratio (Ks)		0.68 (235)		0.60 (179)
On-Base Percentage		.404		.387
Stolen Bases		64		45
Stolen Base Percentage		.781		.738
Overall Team ERA	(10)	4.17	(3)	3.56
Pitchers' K-to-BB Ratio		1.61		2.28
Pitchers' Ks Per 9 Innings (Ks)		7.1 (243)		8.1 (262)
Opponent Batting Average		.258		.238
Fielding Pct./Errors	(9)	.962/53	(1)	.970/38
Double Plays Turned		36		24
Record In One-Run Games		7-2		6-1
Extra-Inning Record		0-0		2-2

PITTSBURGH PANTHERS

* – lefthanded hitter; # – switch hitter

NO	NAME	CL	POS	HT/WT	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
2	Alex Rybczak	Jr.	C	6-2/165	Chili, NY/Gates-Chili/Monroe CC
3	Mike Scanzano	Jr.	IF	5-11/200	Marlton, NJ/Cherokee/Louisburg JC
5	Bryan Spamer	Jr.	IF	6-1/180	Harrisburg, PA/Redlands HS
6	Scott Folmar	Sr.	IF	5-9/165	Chambersburg, PA/Chambersburg HS
7	*Brian Bircher	Jr.	LHP	6-2/170	Harrisburg, PA/Steelton-Highspire HS/Louisburg CC
8	Chris Wilmoth	Jr.	IF	6-3/230	Miami, FL/Homestead/Rochester HS
9	Brian Ruscello	So.	IF	5-9/170	Bethel Park, PA/University of Richmond
11	Mike Muzeka	Fr.	IF	6-0/185	Lake Mary, FL/Lake Mary HS
12	*Michael Bell	Sr.	OF/P	5-10/170	Baldwin, PA/Baldwin/University of Akron
13	*Ben Copeland	Fr.	OF	6-1/185	Bradford, PA/Bradford HS
14	Don Rhoten	Jr.	RHP	6-6/230	Pittsburgh, PA/Central Catholic HS
15	Joe Engel	Sr.	RHP	5-11/185	S. Williamsport, PA/S. Williamsport HS/Gulf Coast CC
16	T.J. Gornati	Sr.	RHP	6-1/210	Kersey, PA/St. Mary's HS
17	Jeff Barnyak	Jr.	RHP	6-1/215	Philipsburg, PA/Philipsburg-Osceola HS
18	Mike Zambriczki	Jr.	C	6-0/190	Newton, PA/Council Rock HS
19	*Tom Cashman	Jr.	IF	6-2/210	East Amherst, NY/Williamsville HS/Erie CC
20	Jimmy Blue	So.	RHP	6-3/200	Washington, PA/Trinity HS
21	P.J. Hiser	Sr.	P/OF	6-0/195	Hagerstown, MD/Hagerstown HS
22	Brian Jacobsen	Jr.	RHP	6-0/195	Agoura Hills, CA/Agoura HS/Pierce JC
23	*Stuart Rykaceski	Sr.	OF	6-2/190	Pittsburgh, PA/Woodland Hills HS
24	Chris Papst	Sr.	OF	6-1/215	Downington, PA/Downington HS
26	Casey Long	So.	IF	6-2/210	Johnstown, PA/Johnstown HS/Pittsburgh-Johnstown
27	David Cline	Fr.	OF	6-3/190	Mercersburg, PA/Mercersburg Academy
28	Todd Schultz	So.	RHP	6-4/200	Pittsburgh, PA/Carrick HS
29	Andre Williams	Sr.	OF	6-3/215	Johnstown, PA/Johnstown HS
31	Jimmy Mayer	Fr.	IF	5-10/160	Somerset, PA/Somerset HS
32	Nick Evangelista	Jr.	RHP	6-4/215	Shoemakersville, PA/Hamburg/Louisburg CC
33	Mike Rhoten	FR	RHP	6-4/185	Pittsburgh, PA/Woodland Hills HS
35	Mark Rager	SO	RHP	6-1/175	Johnstown, PA/Johnstown HS
36	Brad Webb	SO	RHP	6-4/210	Hermitage, PA/Hickory HS
38	*Michael Oehlberg	SR	LHP	6-4/220	Rockford, IL/Rockford Guilford HS
41	*Joe Burger	SR	OF	6-0 /185	Syracuse, NY/Solvay HS

Head Coach: Joe Jordano

Assistants: Joel Dombkowski, Dan Ninemire

NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

* – lefthanded hitter; # – switch hitter

NO	NAME	CL	POS	HT/WT	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
2	Tim Muray	Jr.	IF	6-2/180	Shrub Oak, NY (Lakeland) HS
3	Steve Sollmann (C)	Jr.	2B	5-10/190	Cincinnati, OH (St. Xavier HS)
4	Greg Lopez	Fr.	IF	6-0/175	Upper Arlington, OH (Upper Arlington HS)
5	Matt Macri	So.	SS	6-2/195	Clive, IA (Dowling HS)
7	*Zach Sisko	Jr.	IF	6-1/195	Belleville, IL (St. Louis University HS)
8	Kris Billmaier (C)	Sr.	RF	5-10/205	Woodinville, WA (Woodinville HS)
9	Craig Cooper	Fr.	OF	6-2/195	Plainview, NY (Chaminade HS)
10	Chris Niesel	So.	RHP	5-11/195	Plantation, FL (St. Thomas Aquinas HS)
12	Matt Bransfield	Fr.	IF	6-1/195	Englewood, CO (Cherry Creek HS)
13	*Brennan Grogan	Fr.	OF	6-2/170	Tequesta, FL (Benjamin HS)
14	Matt Edwards	So.	IF	6-2/195	Mechanicsville, VA (Lee-Davis HS)
15	Javi Sanchez	Jr.	C/IF	6-2/200	Miami, FL (Christopher Columbus HS)
16	Alex Netzey	Fr.	OF	6-1/180	Dolton, IL (Thornridge, IL)
17	Cody Rizzo	Fr.	OF	6-1/180	Temecula, CA (Chapparral HS)
18	Brent Weiss	Fr.	OF/C	6-1/200	Cockeysville, MD (St. Paul's HS)
20	Peter Ogilvie	Sr.	RHP	6-3/220	Buffalo Grove, IL (Stevenson HS)
21	*Joe Thaman	Jr.	1B	6-4/215	St. Louis, MO (St. Louis University HS)
22	Grant Johnson	So.	RHP	6-6/220	Burr Ridge, IL (Lyons Township HS)
23	Martin Vergara	So.	RHP	6-0/185	Paterson, NJ (DePaul Catholic HS)
24	Matt Arminio	Fr.	LHP	6-0/195	Brentwood, TN (Father Ryan HS)
25	Mike Holba	Sr.	1B	6-8/240	Lansing, IL (Thornton Fractional South HS)
27	Sam Richey	Fr.	C	6-0/170	Minneapolis, MN (De LaSalle HS)
29	Cody Wilkins	Jr.	LHP	6-1/205	Hudson, NC (South Caldwell HS)
30	Tom Thornton	Fr.	LHP	6-6/205	Middleboro, MA (Middleboro HS)
32	Ryan Kalita	Sr.	RHP	6-2/210	Oak Park, IL (Oak Park River Forest HS)
33	Scott Bickford	So.	LHP	6-4/160	Owings, MD (Northern HS)
36	*Steve Andres	Fr.	C/DH	5-11/205	Napa, CA (Justin Siena HS)
37	Matt Laird	Sr.	RHP	6-0/185	Bellaire, TX (Bellaire HS)
38	Tyler Jones	So.	RHP	6-4/210	Arlington, TX (James Martin HS)
45	Brandon Vilorio	Sr.	RHP	5-11/210	Wailuku, HI (Maui HS)
46	J.P. Gagne (C)	Sr.	RHP	6-0/205	Bloomington, MN (Cretin-Derham Hall HS)
47	Ryan Doherty	Fr.	RHP	7-1/230	Toms River, NJ (Toms River East HS)
49	John Axford	So.	RHP	6-5/175	Port Dover, Ontario (Assumption College HS)

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

Assistant Coaches: # 26 Brian O'Connor (Creighton '93), #19 David Grewe (Dayton '98), #28 Wally Widelski (ND '97)