

2006 SCHEDULE (45-15-1)**FEBRUARY**

* – BIG EAST game

Thur. 23	vs. Indiana St. (Mill., TN)	W, 3-0
<i>Service Academies Classic (Millington, TN)</i>		
Fri. 24	vs. Air Force	W, 8-2
Sat. 25	vs. Memphis	L, 6-7 (10)
Sun. 26	vs. Oklahoma	L, 3-4

MARCH*Minnesota Dairy Queen Classic (Metrodome)*

Fri. 3	vs. #4 Nebraska	L, 1-11
Sat. 4	vs. Minnesota	L, 0-8
Sun. 5	vs. Arizona	L, 0-2 (10)

UTSA Express Classic (Wolff Stadium; San Antonio)

Fri. 10	vs. #15 Texas A&M	W, 5-4
Sat. 11	vs. Iowa	W, 16-2
Sun. 12	vs. Illinois	W, 4-2
Mon. 13	vs. Iowa	W, 6-2

Irish Baseball Classic (Wolff Stadium; San Antonio)

Thur. 16	vs. Iowa	W, 7-5
Fri. 17	vs. Southern Illinois	W, 12-2
Fri. 17	vs. Iowa	L, 8-10
Sat. 18	vs. Southern Illinois	W, 4-0
Tues. 21	Wright State	L, 2-4
Wed. 22	Central Michigan	W, 11-9

at Povich Field (Bethesda, MD)

Sat. 25	vs. Georgetown*	L, 3-8; W, 12-2
Sun. 26	vs. Georgetown*	W, 6-3
Tues. 28	Valparaiso	W, 12-0
Wed. 29	Western Michigan	W, 2-0
Fri. 31	Pittsburgh*	W, 6-1

APRIL

Sat. 1	Pittsburgh*	W, 4-3
Sun. 2	Pittsburgh*	W, 9-8
Tues. 4	Chicago State	W, 6-4
Wed. 5	Ball State	W, 6-4
Fri. 7	at South Florida*	W, 9-5
Sat. 8	at South Florida*	W, 10-4
Sun. 9	at South Florida*	W, 10-1
Tues. 11	Oakland	W, 15-1
Wed. 12	Manchester	W, 8-2
Thur. 13	St. John's (DH)* (CSTV)	W, 9-2/13-7
Sat. 15	St. John's*	W, 7-5
Tues. 18	Toledo	W, 8-2
Wed. 19	IPFW (Comcast Local)	W, 4-3 (10)
Fri. 21	Rutgers*	W, 11-5
Sat. 22	Rutgers*	W, 15-3
Sun. 23	Rutgers*	W, 14-12
Tues. 25	Purdue (ESPN-U)	W, 2-1
Wed. 26	Bowling Green	L, 8-11
Sat. 29	at Connecticut (DH)*	W, 7-6, 7-3
Sun. 30	at Connecticut*	T, 1-1 (13)

MAY

Tues. 2	Cleveland State	W, 12-1
Fri. 5	Louisville*	W, 11-3
Sat. 6	Louisville*	L, 4-5
Sun. 7	Louisville*	L, 6-9
Sat. 13	at Seton Hall (DH)*	L, 6-7; W 14-12
Sun. 14	at Seton Hall*	L, 1-2
Tues. 16	vs. Michigan (Comcast Local)	L, 1-3
<i>(5th/3rd Park; Comstock Park, MI)</i>		

at Villanova Ballpark (Plymouth Meeting, PA)

Thur. 18	vs. Villanova*	W, 3-1
Fri. 19	vs. Villanova*	W, 6-2
Sat. 20	vs. Villanova*	W, 12-1

BIG EAST Tournament (Clearwater, FL)

Tues. 23	vs. South Florida	W, 3-1
Wed. 24	vs. West Virginia	W, 12-4
Fri. 26	vs. St. John's	L, 1-10
Fri. 26	vs. St. John's	W, 5-3
Sat. 27	vs. Louisville	W, 7-0

NCAAs: Regionals (June 2-4; campus sites) ...

Super Regionals (June 9-11; campus sites) ...

College World Series (June 16-26; Omaha, NE)

2006 NOTRE DAME BASEBALL*NCAA Lexington Regional Pre-Tournament Notes**(Cliff Hagan Stadium ... Lexington, Ky. ... June 2-5)*

IRISH MAKE EIGHTH STRAIGHT TRIP TO NCAAs – The Notre Dame baseball team (45-14-1, 21-5-1 BIG EAST), ranked as high as 15th (per *Baseball America*) – is back on the road for the fourth straight week, as a participant in the NCAA Lexington Regional at the University of Kentucky ... ND is the 3rd seed in the 4-team, double-elimination regional and will face #2 seed College of Charleston (43-15; #24 in BA poll) in the early game (2:00 p.m. EDT) on Friday, June 2 at Hagan Stadium (top seed/#13 UK and Ball State play at 7:00) ... the losers then will play on Saturday at 2:00 and the winners at 7:00 (the Sat. schedule includes a 2:00 elimination game and the first title game at 7:00 – with the “if necessary” game to be played Monday at 7:00) ... ND is one of just 10 teams to appear in the NCAAs every year since 1999 (the Irish reached the regional final every year from 2000-04) ... ND has reached 40 wins in 17 of the past 18 seasons and owns the nation's 4th-best win pct. of the decade (.733) ... the Irish just extended their unprecedented run of BIG EAST Tournament titles to five (in Clearwater, Fla.), the nation's 2nd-longest active streak of conference tournament titles ... junior RHP Jeff Samardzija is slated to start game-1 in Lexington (rest of rotation TBA) ... the Irish are in the midst of playing in five cities over 20 days and would be on the road for 23 of 26 days if ND plays through Monday ... note: an updated version of these notes will be available Thursday night, as will the customary gameday notes (with player bio. capsules) throughout the regional.

AROUND THE HORN

• **COMPETITIVE CREW** – ND has been competitive into the late innings of every game but three this season (11 losses by 1-3 runs) and has held a lead in eight of its losses (plus the tie at UConn), including late-game leads in five of the losses.

• **RBI BY COMMITTEE** – Jeremy Barnes has surged to the team RBI lead (could be ND's first freshman RBI leader since '87) but eight others have 30-43 RBI.

• **FANS FLOCK TO THE ECK** – ND has set an Eck Stadium record for avg. home attendance (2,514), 11th among teams in the May 7 *Baseball America* top-25.

• **SILVER STREAK** – The recent 23-game win streak bested the '91 team (18) for longest (single-season) and topped the 1906-07 teams (21) for the best at any time in ND history (also longest in D-I this season) ... ND owned a .353-.227 batting edge in the streak (2.81 ERA, .972 fielding/24 Es).

• **THREE-PRONGED ATTACK** – ND enters the NCAAs ranked 30th nationally in batting avg. (.316), 19th in ERA (3.48) and 20th in fielding (.973).

• **WILY VETERANS** – ND's 11 regular position players include 6 seniors, 2 juniors, 2 sophomore and freshman Jeremy Barnes (1,475 combined career starts).

• **HOME BOYS** – The Irish lost their home opener on March 21 but have lost just three other games at Eck Stadium this season (21-4).

• **LOTS-O-LINEUPS** – ND's first 61 games have featured 47 different batting orders, including 32 different orders in the first 32 games.

• **IN THE CLUTCH** – The Irish are batting .334 with runners in scoring pos. (.309 in '05), led by Cooper (.382), Lopez (.371), Barnes (.366) and Dressman (.365).

• **QUICK STARTERS** – ND owns a +29 scoring margin in the 1st inning this season (64-35), outhitting the opponents .350-.295 in the opening frame.

• **BIG INNINGS** – Notre Dame totaled just four “big innings” (5-plus runs) in the first half of the season but has scored 5-plus in 11 games during the second half of '06.

• **HBP ... PDQ** – The Irish lead the BIG EAST with 99 times hit-by-pitch (329 over the past three seasons) and feature five players among the top-10 on the ND career HBP charts: Cody Rizzo (1st, 83; 2nd NCAA history), Brett Lilley (2nd, 41), Alex Net-ter (3rd, 42), Greg Lopez (7th, 34) and Craig Cooper (10th, 30).

• **NO-FLY ZONE** – The ND pitchers have allowed just 17 home runs all season (6 at Eck) and had a 25-game stretch without an opp. HR (943 BF).

• **POWER SURGE** – The Irish managed just 10 home runs in the first 30 games of '06 but awoke for 15 HRs in the recent 12-game homestand.

• **LEADOFF LEADER** – Craig Cooper has reached 35-of-52 times (67%) when leading off for ND (4 HR, 8 2B), had a 21-game hit streak, has reached base in all but two of his 56 games played in '06 and is the top hitter (.427) from a top-25 team.

• **KILLER B's** – The pattern of rotating heroes has included the likes of (Matt) Bransfield, (Ross) Brezovsky, (Jeremy) Barnes and Brett (Lilley).

• **SUPER AT SHORT** – Greg Lopez owns nearly a 4-to-1 ratio of RBI (37) to Es (10).

NOTRE DAME MAKES EIGHTH STRAIGHT NCAA TRIP

– Notre Dame, which bounced back from a 14-14 start to the 2005 season by going 22-8-1 in the second half, made its seventh straight appearance in the NCAAs and eighth of the Paul Mainieri era (since '95) during that 2005 season ... the Irish now are part of an elite group of 10 teams that have appeared in the NCAAs every year since 1999 (8), with others including: recent NCAA champions Miami, Texas, Rice and Cal State Fullerton, plus Florida State, Stanford, Clemson, Tulane and Oral Roberts ... ND is part of an even smaller list of seven teams that have advanced to at least the NCAA Regional final every year from 2000-05 (six straight), with the other six teams including LSU, Miami, Rice, South Carolina, Stanford and Texas.

SCORING STREAK ENDS AT 215 – The second-longest scoring streak in ND baseball history (215 games, dating back to 2002) ended in the early-season loss to the host team Minnesota at the DQ Classic (8-0; followed by a 2-0 loss to Arizona) ... a 2002 shutout loss to Rutgers ended ND's record scoring streak (231) but the Irish then scored in 215 straight before the loss to the Gophers ... ND now has been shut out just eight times in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era (never more than twice in the same season), scoring in 98.92% of the Mainieri-era games (739 of 747).

IRISH POST 500th WIN OF MAINIERI ERA – The 6-3 win over Georgetown on March 26 was Paul Mainieri's 500th victory in 11-plus seasons at ND (now 533-211-3/.716; 867-490-4/.639 in 24 overall seasons) ... the Mainieri era has included 44-plus wins per season, nine trips to the NCAAs, nine conference titles, 43 players been drafted or signed as free-agents, 12 All-America seasons and nine Academic All-America honors (all 71 of his four-year players have graduated and 11 who signed professionally as juniors have returned to complete or near completion of their undergraduate requirements).

OPPONENT #286 ON DECK – The College of Charleston is set to become the 286th different opponent faced by Notre Dame in 114 seasons of varsity baseball ... that group includes 178 of the 283 teams (63%) that played on the Div. I level in 2005 (many of the teams ND has not faced are from the smaller conferences) ... Notre Dame faced three Big 12 Conference teams earlier this season (Oklahoma, Nebraska and Texas A&M), continuing a long trend that has seen the Irish face teams from all over the nation ... Big 12 team Oklahoma State is one of just a handful of teams from the nation's top conferences that ND never has faced (as are Kansas, also of the Big 12, and ACC team Maryland) ... other teams of note that ND has yet to face include emerging programs such as Virginia Commonwealth, Coastal Carolina, Louisiana-Lafayette, East Carolina and Southern Miss.– plus west-coast teams such as Cal Poly, San Jose State, UNLV and Utah.

FIVE-PEAT A VERY RARE FEAT – Oral Roberts (9, Mid-Continent Conference) is the only team in the nation with a longer active streak of conference tournament titles than Notre Dame's five straight BIG EAST Tournament titles ... Rice won nine straight Western Athletic Conference automatic bids from 1997-2005 and just won the the Conference USA Tournament (the WAC does not sponsor a tournament and awards its bid to the regular-season champ) ... ORU and Rice are the only teams – among 30 Division I conferences – that are riding a streak of more than four consecutive conference automatic bids ... Notre Dame also set the record for consecutive wins in BIG EAST tournament play (9).

CAREER BIG EAST TOURNAMENT STATS

Player	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B/3B/HR	RBI	BB	HBP	K	SAC	SB	AVG
Barnes	5/5	19	4	8	0/2/0	6	1	1	4	0	1-1	.421
Gaston	8/6	25	5	10	1/1/0	4	1	1	3	0	0-0	.400
Andres	12/10	37	10	13	5/1/1	10	8	2	8	0	0-0	.351
Cooper	14/13	49	15	17	4/0/2	11	7	5	4	1	1-2	.347
Bransfield	9/8	32	4	10	2/1/2	7	2	0	4	1	0-0	.313
Lopez	14/12	42	4	13	1/0/0	2	1	2	7	2	0-0	.310
Rizzo	15/14	50	14	15	1/0/1	7	5	6	10	0	2-4	.300
Nettey	12/8	31	5	7	2/0/0	3	2	3	3	0	0-2	.226
Lilley	8/8	30	3	6	1/0/0	2	3	3	8	1	0-0	.200
Brezovsky	8/8	31	5	6	1/0/2	6	0	0	5	0	0-0	.194
Dressman	6/2	9	0	1	0/0/0	0	0	0	1	0	0-0	.111

Pitcher	G/GS	W-L (SV)	IP	H	R	ER	K/BB	WP/HB	ERA
Dury	4/0	0-0 (1)	6.0	6	0	0	4/3	0/1	0.00
Korpi	2/2	2-0	11.0	7	1	1	13/5	0/0	0.82
Thornton	4/3	2-0	22.0	21	10	8	11/3	1/3	3.27
Samardzija	3/2	2-0	15.2	16	6	5	13/4	1/2	2.87
Manship	2/1	1-1	5.0	13	8	8	4/4	4/1	14.40

(min. 6 IP)

Here's a look at Notre Dame's record in various situations:

ND scores in 1st inning	23-7
Opponent scores in 1st inning	13-5
ND scores first	31-8-1
ND leads after 7th inning	41-2
ND hits a home run	23-1
Opponent hits a home run	7-4
ND does not make an error	14-4-1
ND outhits the opponent	37-5
ND is outhit by the opponent	4-10-1
When collecting double-digit hits	32-5
When allowing 0-5 runs	38-6-1
One-run games	6-5
Extra-inning games	1-2-1

WINNINGEST DIV.-I TEAMS OF THE DECADE

Team	2000-05			2006			Decade ('00-'06)			
	W	L	T	W	L	T	W	L	T	Pct.
Rice	291	102	0	50	10	0	341	112	0	.752
Florida State	312	108	1	42	19	0	354	127	1	.736
Oral Roberts	278	98	0	38	14	0	316	112	0	.738
Notre Dame	279	103	1	45	15	1	324	118	2	.733
Nebraska	288	110	0	42	15	0	330	125	0	.725
Texas	303	113	0	40	19	0	343	132	0	.722
Georgia Tech	276	110	0	45	16	0	321	126	0	.718
South Carolina	301	110	0	37	22	0	338	134	0	.716

FREQUENT FLYERS – Notre Dame's current stretch of potentially spending 23 of 26 days on the road will produce more than 18,000 miles of total team travel this season (listings indicate roundtrip miles) – the equivalent of traversing three-quarters of the way around planet Earth:

Millington, Tenn. (Service Academies Classic).....	1,300
Minneapolis, Minn. (DQ Classic).....	1,008
San Antonio, Texas (UTSA Classic and Irish Classic).....	2,680
Bethesda, Md. (vs. Georgetown).....	1,614
Tampa, Fla. (at USF).....	2,592
Storrs, Conn. (at UConn).....	2,024
South Orange, N.J. (at Seton Hall).....	1,768
Grand Rapids, Mich. (bus).....	236
Plymouth Meeting, Pa. (vs. Villanova).....	1,714
Clearwater, Fla. (originating in South Bend).....	2,422
Lexington, Ky. (bus).....	652

TOTAL ROUNDTRIP MILES **18,020**

Note: All mileage numbers include bus trips from South Bend to Chicago O'Hare (except final trip to the BIG EAST Tournament).

MILESTONE MARKERS – The following individuals are approaching (or recently reached) statistical milestones in their Notre Dame careers:

Craig Cooper.....	48 doubles, 45 stolen bases, 107 walks
Steve Andres.....	98 walks, 92 RBI, 100 runs
Brett Lilley.....	94 runs scored, 54 hit-by-pitch
Craig Cooper.....	45 stolen bases, 189 runs, 52 doubles, 109 walks
Cody Rizzo.....	189 hits, 201 starts
Tom Thornton.....	52 starts, 203 strikeouts
Cody Rizzo.....	205 starts
Matt Bransfield.....	105 runs
Ross Brezovsky.....	108 hits
Sean Gaston.....	98 starts
Alex Nettey.....	108 runs
Paul Mainieri.....	533 wins (at ND)

RADIO, LIVE-STATS, TEXT-MESSAGING UPDATES & HOTLINE – All of Notre Dame's 2006 regular-season and postseason games again will be broadcast by South Bend's ESPN Radio (now on 1490 AM) ... the broadcasts are available online at www.und.com (All-Access subscription) ... und.com provides links to livestats on the website's main page, for all home games and select road games (including all postseason games) ... a free text-message service, Irish Alert, now is available (see und.com for details) ... call the ND Sports Hotline at 574-631-3000 for schedule and results of all varsity sports (from main menu, select "4" and then select "1" for baseball information) ... also stay tuned to und.com for potential TV broadcasts of games from the Lexington Regional.

MAINIERI'S MILESTONES – ND 12th-year head coach Paul Mainieri posted his 500th victory with the Irish in the 6-3 win over Georgetown on March 26 ... his 700th overall coaching win also came vs. Georgetown, on March 29, 2003, at Eck Stadium (13-3).

VETERAN UNIT – Notre Dame's opening-day lineup included six seniors, a junior and two sophomores ... it marked the third time in the 12-year Mainieri era (and only second time since his first season at ND, in '95) that the Irish have not featured at least one freshman position starter from the start (although freshman Jeremy Barnes has emerged as a starter at multiple positions in '06):

Notre Dame Freshman Starters in the Paul Mainieri Era

- '95 – no freshman starters
- '96 – Jeff Wagner (C) and Paul Turco (SS)
- '97 – Brant Ust (2B) and Jeff Felker (1B), Jeff Perconte (RF platoon)
- '98 – Alec Porzel (LF)
- '99 – Steve Stanley (CF), Paul O'Toole (C) and Andrew Bushey (3B)
- '00 – Brian Stavisky (RF)
- '01 – Steve Sollmann (2B)
- '02 – Matt Macri (SS, injured)
- '03 – Craig Cooper (LF), Cody Rizzo (RF), Greg Lopez (3B), Steve Andres (DH)
- '04 – none
- '05 – Brett Lilley (2B/3B), Ross Brezovsky (3B/2B)
- '06 – none (Jeremy Barnes now 52 GS)

LOPEZ JOINS WEEKLY DIARY STAFF FOR COLLEGE BASEBALL INSIDER

Notre Dame senior shortstop and second-year captain Greg Lopez is one of four players in all of Division I baseball who are being featured this season during a weekly diary feature on www.collegebaseballinsider.com ... check the CBI website and look for more on this series at und.com.

BIG EAST AWARDS WRAPUP

NINE IRISH PLAYERS HONORED BY BIG EAST – Notre Dame senior 1B **Craig Cooper** and junior RHP **Jeff Manship** received the top BIG EAST Conference baseball awards for the 2006 season, leading the way as two of nine Notre Dame players who accounted for nearly one-fourth of the 42 total all-BIG EAST honors ... Manship was joined on the first team all-BIG EAST squad by fellow junior RHP **Jeff Samardzija** (plus Cooper) while five Irish players were second-team selections: senior SS **Greg Lopez**, junior OF **Danny Dressman**, sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley**, freshman closer **Kyle Weiland** and freshman DH **Jeremy Barnes** ... senior LF **Matt Bransfield** rounded out the team's all-conference selections, as a member of the third team.

BIG HAUL – Notre Dame's nine all-BIG EAST selections are one shy of the conference's all-time high-water mark set by Notre Dame's record-setting 2001 team that featured 10 all-BIG EAST performers ... those 2001 honorees included five 1st-teamers (3B Andrew Bushey, RHPs Aaron Heilman and Danny Tamayo, CF Steve Stanley and 2B Steve Sollmann), plus three 2nd-teamers (C Paul O'Toole, SS Alec Porzel, RF Brian Stavisky) and the 3rd-team pair of DH Matt Bok and RHP J.P. Gagne.

IRISH COMPLETE RARE SWEEP OF TOP AWARDS – Cooper and Manship's honors mark just the fifth time in the 22-year history of BIG EAST baseball – and first time since 1999 – that the same team has produced the BIG EAST player- and pitcher-of-the-year recipients (for outright awards, excluding co-recipients) ... former ND standouts Brant Ust (3B) and Brad Lidge (RHP) were the third set of teammates ever to earn the BIG EAST top pitcher and top player awards, a feat matched by Providence OF Keith Reed and RHP Marc DeRoches in '99 ... in addition to the five seasons that have featured an outright player- and pitcher-of-the-year from the same team, there also have been three seasons in which players from the same team earned both awards but one was a co-recipient – including 2001, when ND's Aaron Heilman was the top pitcher and CF Steve Stanley shared the player-of-the-year award with UConn CF Mike Scott.

TOP PLAYER HISTORY – Notre Dame players now have combined to earn the BIG EAST player-of-the-year honor four times in the past nine seasons, with Cooper joining 3B Brant Ust (1998) and CF Steve Stanley ('01 and '02) in that distinction ... the Irish program also now has produced five BIG EAST pitchers of the year since 1998, with the earlier recipients including current major leaguers Brad Lidge ('98) and Aaron Heilman ('00, '01), plus Chris Niesel in 2003.

DYNAMIC MOUND DUO – Jeff Samardzija and Jeff Manship join an exclusive group of seven pairs of pitchers from the same team who have been first team all-BIG EAST selections in the same season ... since 1992, only two other pairs of starting pitchers from the same team – Notre Dame's 2001 senior duo Aaron Heilman and Danny Tamayo and the 2005 Boston College tandem of Joe Martinez and Mike Wlodarczyk —have been named first team all-BIG EAST.

THREE-TIME HONOREE – Craig Cooper earlier had received all-BIG EAST honors in 2004 (2nd team) and 2005 (3rd team), with his 2006 award making him the sixth ND position player to earn all-BIG EAST recognition in three or more seasons ... DH Jeff Wagner was a four-time all-BIG EAST performer in the late 1990s while Cooper joins infielder Brant Ust, CF Steve Stanley, OF Brian Stavisky and 2B Steve Sollmann as the program's three-time recipients.

POSITION SWITCH POSITIVES – Former 2B/CF Randall Brooks ('96-'97) and Craig Cooper (OF/1B) are the only Notre Dame baseball players ever to receive all-BIG EAST honors at distinctly different positions ... Brant Ust earned his all-BIG EAST honors at three different infield positions (2B, 3B, SS).

FRESHMAN FOCUS – Kyle Weiland and Jeremy Barnes are the eighth and ninth ND freshmen to be named all-BIG EAST, with Lilley being the program's only other freshman all-BIG EAST performer since 2001 ... this marks the first time that multiple ND freshmen have been named to the all-BIG EAST teams while Weiland joins RHP Aaron Heilman (2nd team in '98) as the program's only freshman pitchers to be named all-BIG EAST.

OTHER REPEATERS – In addition to Craig Cooper's repeat appearance on the all-BIG EAST team, Brett Lilley and Greg Lopez were named all-BIG EAST for the second times in their careers ... Lilley was a third team all-BIG EAST selection as a freshman in 2005, when he also was named the conference's rookie of the year ... Lopez also is a two-time all-BIG EAST recipient, after earning third-team honors in 2004.

A REGULAR SEASON TO REMEMBER – Notre Dame’s 2006 regular season featured the longest winning streak (23 games) in 114 seasons of ND baseball, ultimately leading to 41 wins ... the only Irish teams to win more regular-season games: 2004 (46-10), 2001 (45-9-1) and 1990 (44-10).

BIG EAST ELITE – Despite some late-season losses, ND totaled 21 wins in the 2006 BIG EAST season ... that win total has been bested just once in the conference’s history, by ND’s 2001 team that went 22-4 in league play ... the only four teams ever to win 20-plus BIG EAST games all have been ND squads (also 20-5 in 1999 and 20-6 in 2004).

CONTROL FREAKS – Notre Dame’s 2006 pitching staff boasts the best all-around control numbers in the BIG EAST Conference, with the Irish pitchers totaling just 24 wild pitches, 158 walks and 50 hit batters (the Irish finished the regular season with the fewest BBs, HBP and WPs in the BIG EAST) ... the ND pitchers’ combined control number of 232 (BB + HBP + WP) is far-and-away the best among the 12-team BIG EAST, followed by UConn (259), Villanova (270), Pittsburgh (284) and Rutgers (285) ... among those teams, RU has a much higher opponent batting avg. (.320) while VU’s opposing batters are hitting .274 and Pittsburgh’s .287 (ND owns a .249 opp. batting avg. and UConn .259) ... the ND pitchers are averaging just 0.39 wild pitches per game, which would tie the team record set by the talented 1993 staff.

TOP CONTROL NUMBERS AMONG BIG EAST PITCHING STAFFS

<i>Team</i>	<i>Walks</i>	<i>Hit Batters</i>	<i>Wild Pitches</i>	<i>Control Number (BB+HBP+WP)</i>	<i>Opponent Batting Avg.</i>	<i>Home Runs Allowed</i>
Notre Dame	158	50	24	232	(.249)	16
Connecticut	170	61	28	259	(.259)	22
Villanova	189	46	35	270	(.274)	24
Pittsburgh	204	54	30	284	(.287)	42
Rutgers	178	70	37	285	(.320)	54
St. John’s	211	54	38	303	(.247)	22
South Florida	254	50	42	346	(.290)	27
Louisville	218	81	49	348	(.273)	17
Seton Hall	248	64	46	358	(.297)	17
West Virginia	255	61	47	363	(.276)	41
Cincinnati	288	61	48	397	(.288)	50
Georgetown	262	66	71	399	(.305)	45

NO-FLY ZONE – Another area that showcases the control of the ND pitching staff continues to be the low number of home runs allowed by Irish pitching this season (17) ... the staff has allowed an avg. of 0.28 HRs per game, which would rank 3rd in the ND record book and best in more than 30 years (0.16, in '75) ... there were 40 BIG EAST pitchers who ended the regular season having met the league minimum for the ERA stat leaders charts (1.0 IP per team game) ... of those 40 pitchers, only five had yielded 0-1 home runs – with three coming from ND (Tom Thornton, Jeff Samardzija and Wade Korpi, who each allowed 1 HR in the regular season – with Samardzija and Thornton then allowing a HR in the BIG EAST Tournament) ... until the recent Michigan game, Korpi held the distinction of being one of three BIG EAST “regulars” who had yet to allow a HR (Seton Hall’s Dan Merklinger ended up not serving up a home run while Rob Delaney of St. John’s was touched for a long ball the first time this season at the BER).

WALK IS A FOUR-LETTER WORD – ND pitching coach Terry Rooney has preached the importance of low walk totals since his arrival in the summer of 2003 and his staff nearly ripped through the full 27 innings of the Villanova series without issuing a single walk (Jeff Manship had the staff’s only BB in the three games) ... the ND pitchers now have pushed their season K-to-walk ratio over 3.0 (3.07; 485/158), which would best the team record set by the 2001 staff (2.92) that was fronted by senior standouts Aaron Heilman and Danny Tamayo ... the Irish pitchers are averaging just 2.60 walks per 9.0 IP, which would rank 2nd in the ND record book (behind the 2.48 BB/9 IP in '01).

PITCHERS PERFECT – The ND pitching staff entered the postseason on a roll, after allowing just 9 runs (8 earned; 1.67 ERA) in the final five regular-season games (1-2 vs. Seton Hall, 1-3 vs. Michigan and then 3-1, 6-2 and 12-1 vs. VU) ... the ND pitchers held the opponents to .225 batting avg. in those five games (34-for-151), with a K-to-walk ratio of better than 9-to-1 (37/4) and nine more innings pitched (43) than hits allowed (34) in those final five games of the regular season.

CRAIG COOPER NOTES

COOPER CLAIMS BIG EAST CAREER BATTING RECORD – It came down to his final at-bat in the final game of the regular season and ND's Craig Cooper delivered with a ringing single into right field (a 2-run hit, on a 1-2 pitch), completing his 3-for-4 game to claim the BIG EAST record for career batting average in BIG EAST games by finishing at .444 (120-for-270) for the best mark in the 22-year history of BIG EAST baseball.

EARNING THE RECORD – Former Rutgers player Joe Cirrone had held the BIG EAST career batting avg. record of .443 but he totaled just 115 career at-bats (with 51 hits) in his BIG EAST career, five fewer than Cooper's hit total (the BIG EAST min. for the stat is 100 career ABs).

UNPRECEDENTED THREE-TIME BIG EAST BATTING CHAMP – Cooper ended the regular season with a .432 overall batting average while claiming an unprecedented third career BIG EAST batting title (for conference games) ... Cooper won his first BIG EAST batting title in 2004 (.470; 31-for-66) and then hit .403 in 2005 BIG EAST games (27-for-67), joining former Boston College player Kevin Penwell ('95 and '96) as the only repeat batting champs in the history of BIG EAST baseball ... Cooper's BIG EAST career had a modest start in 2003, when he hit "just" .345 (10-for-29) while platooning in the outfield.

CLASSIC RUNAWAY – The race for the 2006 BIG EAST batting title was far from close, as Cooper outdistanced runner-up Todd Frazier of Rutgers (.424) by a whopping 57 batting points ... Cooper could have gone hitless in 14 more at-bats and still claimed his unprecedented third career BIG EAST batting title (would have been 52-for-122/.426) ... he also currently holds a 4-point lead atop the overall BIG EAST batting charts (.427, to .403 by Chris Joachim of St. John's).

ONE OF THE BEST THERE EVER WAS – Cooper .481 league batting avg. in '06 represents one of the highest averages ever turned in by a BIG EAST batting champ ... since 1989, only four of the previous 16 BIG EAST batting champs – Rutgers SS Darren Fenster (.505, in '99), ND infielder Brant Ust (.493, in '98), UConn CF Mike Scott (.491, in '01) and ND catcher/DH Jeff Wagner (.488, in '97) – have claimed the BIG EAST batting title with a higher avg. than Cooper's .481.

THREE-WAY THREAT – Prior to the 2004 season, former ND standout 3B Brant Ust (in '98) had been the only player ever to lead the league in conference batting avg., slugging pct. and on-base pct. for the same season ... Cooper became the second player to lead all three categories in the '04 season (.470 batting, .573 on-base, .759 slugging) and duplicated the unique feat this season (.481 batting, .573 on-base, .759 slugging).

BIG EAST BEAST – In addition to leading the above three hitting categories, Cooper paced the BIG EAST in OPS (1.332), hits (52), runs (43), home runs (7, tied for lead) and total bases (82) during 2006 conference games, also ranking 7th in walks (19) and 8th in RBI (24) ... he enters the NCAAs with a 24-point cushion atop the BIG EAST charts for overall batting avg. (.427) and also ended the regular season leading the league in total runs (72, no 77) and overall on-base (.529, now .523) – plus 2nd in OPS (1.202; now 1.188), 3rd in hits (86; now 93), and slugging pct. (.673; now .665), 5th in total bases (134; now 145), 9th in home runs (9) and 12th in walks (34; now 36).

ALWAYS THERE – Cooper's 55 games played this season have seen him reach base in all but two (53), with hits in 49 of those games and runs scored in 47.

MVP NO-BRAINER – Cooper completed the regular season having dominated the team stats possibly like no other player in the program's history ... he currently leads the team (or shares the lead) in 15 different categories, with a: .427 batting avg., .665 slugging pct., .523 on-base pct., 1.188 OPS (on-base plus slugging), 93 hits, +32 plate-discipline ratio (BB+HBP-Ks), 9 home runs, 19 doubles 145 total bases, 36 walks and batting vs. RHPs (.437) and overall clutch hitting score (1.135; see chart later in release) – plus key situational stats such as leadoff on-base pct. (.576), batting with runners on (.438) and with them in scoring position (.382) ... Cooper also ranks 2nd on the team in stolen bases (9), triples (3) and games started (55), plus 4th in RBI (41) and HBPs (10).

IN THE RECORD BOOKS (also see ND record charts later in release) – In addition to claiming the BIG EAST career batting avg. record, Cooper also finished 6th on the BIG EAST list for career hits (120, one behind former UConn CF Mike Scott) and 8th with 83 career runs (one behind former SHU player Dana Brown) ... Cooper's 52 hits in 2006 BIG EAST action were two shy of that record, set by former Rutgers SS Darren Fenster ... his .427 overall season avg. ranks 6th in ND history (2nd-best since '93), behind Edwin Hartwell (.447), Dan Peltier (.446), Steve Stanley (.439) and Eric Danapilis (.438) ... Cooper's career avg. has climbed to .360 (10th in ND history; 5th in the Mainieri era) ... his season on-base pct. remains at .523, 3rd all-time but in range of the record set by Danapilis in '91 (Cooper's .460 career on-base is 7th in the ND record book) ... Cooper (189) also ranks 8th at ND in career hits (261) plus 9th in stolen bases (45), doubles (52) and runs (189), and 10th in walks (109) ... his 77 runs this season are 4th on that ND list (his 93 hits rank 6th).

CRAIG COOPER NOTES

LEADOFF LEADER – Cooper has reached a team-best 58% of the time when leading off any inning but his production is even more impressive when leading off for the Irish in the 1st inning ... Cooper has reached base 34-of-52 times (65.4%) when leading off the game for the ND offense, batting 27-for-44 (.614) in his 1st-inning leadoff plate appearances, including 4 leadoff home runs (1.068 slugging pct., 8 doubles, 7 walks, plus a time hit-by-pitch) ... his OPS (on-base plus slugging) is an off-the-charts 1.722 as the 1st-inning leadoff batter this season ... led by Cooper, the Irish are batting .350 as a team this season in the 1st inning while outscoring their opponents 64-35 in the opening frame.

AMONG THE NCAA LEADERS – Cooper enters the NCAAs ranked 6th in the nation (tops among players from top-25 teams) with a .427 batting avg. and 1st in runs per game (1.40; 77 total), also checking in at 31st in “toughest to strike out” (15.5 ABs per K).

TRADING HRs FOR Ks – Cooper’s many impressive stats this season include totaling nearly as many home runs (9) as strikeouts (14) while grounding into just four double plays all season (no GDPs in 44 games before two last week).

HITTING BASEBALLS AND TEXTBOOKS – Craig Cooper has rocketed to the top of most All-America projections and narrowly missed a chance at being considered for 2006 Academic All-America honors, with a 3.197 cumulative GPA as a political science major (min. 3.20) ... Cooper was one of 21 members of the 2006 ND baseball team to post a GPA of 3.0 or higher (3.40) during the 2005 fall semester ... six of his teammates – senior LHP **Tom Thornton**, senior SS **Greg Lopez**, senior LF/DH **Matt Bransfield**, junior C **Sean Gaston**, sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** and sophomore 2B **Ross Brezovsky** – were potential candidates for the official 2006 Academic All-America honors (as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America).

OH-SO-CLOSE – Prior to the 0-for-4 game vs. Purdue that snapped his 21-game hitting streak, Craig Cooper had hits in 30 of his previous 31 games and possibly would have been riding a 31-game hit streak if he could have managed another at-bat or two versus Central Michigan on March 22 (when he went 0-for-1, walked three times and added a sacrifice fly) ... he now has collected at least one hit in 49 of his 61 games played during the 2006 season (reaching base in all but two), with only four hitless games in which he had at least four ABs (also 0-for-4 vs. Memphis and Seton Hall, 0-for-5 at UConn).

EXTENDED ROLL – Including the final 17 games of his junior season, Craig Cooper has collected hits in 63 of his past 72 games (54 of 59 in the regular season) ... he ended the 2005 regular season on a 10-game hitting streak, then hit safely in all three games of the '05 BIG EAST Tournament before enduring a two-game slump at the NCAA Gainesville Regional (he bounced back with hits in ND’s final two games of the '05 NCAAs) ... the current stretch of collecting hits in 63 of his past 72 games played spans the only double-digit hitting streaks of Cooper’s four-year ND career (13 and 21 games, plus a 9-game streak that ended with the 0-for-1 game vs. Central Michigan).

HOME & AWAY – Craig Cooper has compiled strong batting marks both at home (.461, 41-for-89) and on the road (.403, 52-for-129) this season.

THE X FACTOR – Notre Dame is 41-10-1 with Cooper batting in the leadoff spot and just 4-5 when another player serves as the leadoff batter ... the Irish dropped four straight games when Cooper was out of the lineup (vs. top opponents Oklahoma, Nebraska, Minnesota and Arizona) but ND now is riding a 43-10-1 extended streak after Cooper’s return to the lineup (he has played in all but two of those games).

PAIR OF LONG HIT STREAKS – Cooper’s 13-game hit streak near the end of the 2005 season and his recent 21-game tear made him the third player in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era to post multiple hit streaks of 13-plus games ... centerfielder Steve Stanley had a 16-game hit streak in 2000 and hit safely in 13 straight games during the 2002 season while another former All-American, second baseman Steve Sollmann, had 13- and 15-game hit streaks during the 2003 season.

NATIONAL PLAYER OF WEEK – The third week of April saw Cooper bat over .500 with a slugging percentage of nearly 1.000 while reaching base 15 times over the course of five games (vs. Toledo and IPFW, plus series with Rutgers) and tying the school record by extending his hitting streak to 21 – all en route to receiving national player-of-the-week honors from both *Collegiate Baseball* magazine and *Rosenblatt Report*, in addition to being named the BIG EAST Conference player of the week for the second time this season and the third time in his career ... the righthanded slugger now has been named a national player of the week twice in his career ... Cooper’s damage in the five victories from April 18-23 included a .526 batting avg. (10-for-19), 13 RBI, 9 runs scored, a .952 slugging pct. (4 home runs, 2 doubles), a .654 on-base pct. (5 walks and a hit-by-pitch) and a lofty 1.606 OPS (on-base plus slugging) ... Cooper joined 1997 catcher Mike Amrhein as the only players in the history of ND baseball who are known to have pushed single-season hit streaks to 21 games ... the week included his first career multi-home run game, in the 11-5 win over Rutgers, and 5 RBI (tied career high) in the 14-12 series finale.

ND STARTING POSITION PLAYERS (probable order vs. RHP) * = lefthander hitter

Pos.	Player	Yr./Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2006 Statistics
1B	#9 Craig COOPER	Sr./6-2/210	Plainview, NY	.427, 77 R, 41 RBI, 9 HR, 3 3B, 19 2B, .665 slug. 36 BB, 10 HBP, .532 OB (1.197 OPS), 9 SB, 14 K
<i>situational</i> – .576 leadoff OB ... .382 batting with RISP ... .321 two-out batting (12 two-out RBI) <i>BIG EAST</i> – .481, 24 RBI, 43 R, 7 HR, 2 3B, 5 2B, 19 BB, .573 OB, .759 slug, 1.332 OPS <i>career</i> – .360 (219 GP/190 GS) ... 162 RBI, 189 R ... 26 HR, 7 3B, 52 2B (.559 SL) ... 109 BB, 30 HBP, 81 Ks (+58), .460 OB ... 45-62 SB				
3B	#2 Brett LILLEY*	So./5-7/165	North Canton, OH	.328, 38 R, 31 RBI, 2 HR, 5 2B, .385 slug, 26 BB, 21 HP, .453 OB, 14 SAC, 5 SB, 21 K, 8 E/.946
<i>situational</i> – .486 leadoff OB ... .333 batting with RISP ... .333 two-out batting (6 two-out RBI) <i>BIG EAST</i> – .419, 25 R, 22 RBI, 2 HR, 2B, 16 BB, 13 HBP, 10 SAC <i>career</i> – .342 ... 59 RBI, 94 R ... 2 HR, 10 2B ... 60 BB, 51 HBP, 54 Ks (+57) ... 14-28 SB, 23 SAC ... 22 Es/.948				
DH/2B	#20 Jeremy BARNES	Fr./5-11/185	Garland, TX	.295, 49 RBI, 38 R, 2 HR, 5 3B, 10 2B, .414 slug. 28 BB, 5 HBP, .384 OB, 9 SB, 2 SAC, 37 Ks
<i>situational</i> – .468 leadoff OB ... .366 batting with RISP ... .221 two-out batting (12 two-out RBI) <i>BIG EAST</i> – .306, 27 RBI, 19 R, HR, 3 3B, 5 2B, 15 BB				
2B	#7 Ross BREZOVSKY*	So./5-10/170	Naples, FL	.299, 42 RBI, 35 R, 4 HR, 2 3B, 12 2B, .442 slug. 20 BB, 6 HP, .378 OB, 3 SAC, 2 SB, 26 K, 9 E/.953
<i>situational</i> – .393 leadoff OB ... .329 batting with RISP ... .300 two-out batting (15 two-out RBI) <i>BIG EAST</i> – .309, 19 RBI, 19 R, 3B, 8 2B, 13 BB <i>career</i> – .281 ... 62 RBI, 70 R ... 6 HR, 4 3B, 20 2B ... 37 BB, 10 HBP, 68 Ks (-21) ... 5-8 SB, 9 SAC ... 22 Es (9 in '06)				
RF	#8 Danny DRESSMAN*	Jr./5-9/180	San Jose, CA	.317, 35 RBI, 38 R, 9 2B, 2 3B, .387 slug. 30 BB, 5 HBP, .425 OB, 12 SAC, 6 SB, 16 Ks
<i>situational</i> – .379 leadoff OB ... .365 batting with RISP ... .327 two-out batting (13 two-out RBI) <i>BIG EAST</i> – .305, 15 RBI, 18 R, 6 2B, 13 BB <i>career</i> – .293 ... 63 RBI, 72 R ... 3 3B, 18 2B ... 53 BB, 6 HBP, 53 Ks (+6) ... 9-17 SB, 21 SAC				
LF	#12 Matt BRANSFIELD	Sr./6-1/200	Englewood, CO	.335, 43 RBI, 34 R, 6 HR, 3B, 18 2B, .525 slug 16 BB, 3 HBP, .386 OB, 5 SAC, 4 SB, 35 Ks
<i>situational</i> – .360 leadoff OB ... .354 batting with RISP ... .315 two-out batting (18 two-out RBI) <i>BIG EAST</i> – .323, 19 RBI, 17 R, HR, 7 2B, 7 BB <i>career</i> – .318 ... 127 RBI, 105 R ... 18 HR, 4 3B, 39 2B (.495 slug.) ... 51 BB, 22 HBP, 101 Ks (-28) ... 5-10 SB				
C	#11 Sean GASTON*	Jr./6-0/175	Brownsburg, IN	.333, 30 RBI, 27 R, HR, 3B, 8 2B 30 BB, HBP, .408 OB, 4 SAC, 4 SB, 11 Ks
<i>situational</i> – .488 leadoff OB ... .321 batting with RISP ... .268 two-out batting (10 two-out RBI) <i>BIG EAST</i> – .357, 16 RBI, 14 R, 5 2B, 10 BB <i>career</i> – .313 ... 69 RBI, 65 R ... 2 HR, 2 3B, 16 2B ... 30 BB, 5 HBP, 37 Ks (-2) ... 12-14 SB, 11 SAC				
SS	#4 Greg LOPEZ	Sr./6-0/190	Upper Arlington, OH	.305, 37 RBI, 31 R, 3B, 9 2B, .360 slug, 10 E/.958 8 BB, 5 HBP, .341 OB, 7 SAC, 2 SB, 16 Ks
<i>situational</i> – .347 leadoff OB ... .371 batting with RISP ... .242 two-out batting (15 two-out RBI) <i>BIG EAST</i> – .347, 18 RBI, 18 R, 5 2B, 4 BB <i>career</i> – .293 (228 GP/215 GS) ... 131 RBI, 122 R ... 4 HR, 2 3B, 31 2B ... 37 BB, 34 HBP, 114 K (-44) ... 32 SAC, 61 E/.935				
CF	#16 Alex NETTEY	Sr./6-1/200	Dolton, IL	.293, 44 R, 22 RBI, 2 HR, 2 3B, 8 2B, .392 slug. 12 BB, 23 HBP, .406 OB, 7 SB, 11 SAC, 22 Ks
<i>situational</i> – .439 leadoff OB ... .271 batting with RISP ... .290 two-out batting (8 two-out RBI) <i>BIG EAST</i> – .253, 14 RBI, 20 R, HR, 3B, 2 2B, 7 BB, 8 HBP <i>career</i> – .277 ... 54 RBI, 108 R ... 4 HR, 4 3B, 24 2B ... 33 BB, 42 HBP, 65 Ks (+10) ... 22-32 SB, 21 SAC				
or RF/C	#17 Cody RIZZO	Sr./6-1/195	Temecula, CA	.263, 36 RBI, 39 R, 3 HR, 11 2B, .377 slug. 16 BB, 13 HBP, .365 OB, 13 SB, 3 SAC, 27 Ks
<i>situational</i> – .364 leadoff OB ... .324 batting with RISP ... .263 two-out batting (16 two-out RBI) <i>BIG EAST</i> – .222, 12 RBI, 20 R, HR, 4 2B, 7 BB, 6 HBP <i>career</i> – .274 (231 GP/206 GS) ... 127 RBI, 172 R ... 17 HR, 3 3B, 35 2B ... 53 BB, 83 HBP, 125 Ks (+11) ... 36-50 SB				

BIG EAST STAT LEADERS

Notre Dame Team Ranks Among BIG EAST Teams (Overall)

1st – .407 on-base pct., 99 HBPs, low batters Ks (264)
3rd – .318 batting avg., .434 slugging pct., 657 hits, 242 runs
4th – 17 triples, 64 sac. bunts
5th – 239 walks
6th – 105 doubles
7th – 32 home runs, 63 stolen bases, low GDPs (41)

1st – 485 strikeouts, 45 wins, 18 saves, low walks allowed (158),
low home runs allowed (16), low hit batters (46), low wild pitches (24)
2nd – .247 opp. batting avg., 159 Ks looking, low hits allowed (509)
3rd – 3.48 ERA
6th – 12 pickoffs

1st – .973 fielding pct.
3rd – 27 opp. runners caught stealing
4th – 54 double plays turned

Notre Dame Team Ranks Among BIG EAST Teams (BIG EAST)

1st – .423 on-base pct., 216 runs, 7 triples, 42 HBPs, low batters Ks (111)
2nd – .334 batting avg., .444 slugging pct., 319 hits, 49 doubles,
37 sac. bunts, 31 stolen bases
5th – 117 walks, low GDPs (18)
7th – 14 home runs

1st – 207 strikeouts, 21 wins, low walks allowed (70), low HRs allowed (6),
low wild pitches (9)
2nd – 74 Ks looking, 7 saves
low hits allowed (461)
3rd – 3.98 ERA, 5 pickoffs
4th – .274 opp. batting avg., low hit batters (25)
6th – low hits allowed (255)

1st – .974 fielding pct.
4th – 12 opp. runners caught stealing
8th – 25 double plays turned

Notre Dame Players Among BIG EAST Stat Leaders

(see previous pages for **Craig Cooper's** ranks among the league leaders)

Brett Lilley – 4th in sac. bunts (14), HBPs (21) ... 3rd in BE batting avg. (.419), 10th in BE sac. bunts (10)
Jeremy Barnes – 3rd in triples (5) ... 4th in BE RBI (27), 2nd in BE 3Bs (3)
Alex Nettey – 2nd in hit-by-pitch (23) ... 1st in BE sac. bunts (10)
Danny Dressman – 6th in sac. bunts (12) ... 4th in BE sac. buntss (8)

Jeff Manship – 1st in wins (9-2) and Ks looking (43), 2nd in Ks (103), 3rd in ERA (3.09), 4th in opp. batting avg. (.224) and IP (90.1), 6th in low walks (21), 9th in starts (14) ... 1st in BE wins (7-1), BE Ks (70) and BE Ks looking (29), 3rd in BE opp. avg. (.226) and IP (63.1), 5th in BE ERA (3.13),
Tom Thornton – 1st in low BB (5), 3rd in low HR all. (1), 8th in wins (6-2)
Wade Korpi – 1st in ERA (2.00) ... 2nd in low hits allowed (55), opp. batting avg. (.204) and low HR all. (1), 4th in Ks (94)
Jeff Samardzija – 4th in wins 9 (8-2), 4th in low HR (2), 9th in starts (14) ... 6th in BE IP (59.2)
Kyle Weiland – 1st in saves (16) and BE saves (6), 3rd in app. (26) and BE app. (14)
Mike Dury – 6th in appearances (26) ... 3rd in BE appearances (14)

20-20 PAIR – **Tom Thornton** (27-11) and **Jeff Samardzija** (21-7) give Notre Dame multiple pitchers with 20-plus career wins ... it marks just the third time in the program's history – and first season since 1993 - that an Irish staff has featured multiple pitchers with 20-plus career victories ... ND's 1992 staff featured four pitchers who owned 20-plus career wins with the Irish: LHP Chris Michalak (23-8) and RHPs David Sinnes (22-5), Pat Leahy (25-7) and Alan Walania (25-9) ... Michalak (34-13), Sinnes (32-8) and Walania (30-12) returned in 1993 while Price (26-5) also reached 20 career wins that season ... Samardzija is one of 16 ND pitchers ever to reach 20 career wins while Thornton now ranks 7th on the ND career wins list.

IRISH POST FIFTH 3-0 SWEEP OF SEASON

– Notre Dame earlier this season posted 3-0 sweeps of Pittsburgh, South Florida, St. John's and Rutgers, in addition to not losing a game (2-0-1) in the show-down series at UConn – with the games vs. Villanova then representing the team's fifth 3-0 BIG EAST sweep of the season ... the 2004 team is the only other ND squad to post five 3-0 BIG EAST sweeps (vs. West Virginia, Villanova, Georgetown, UConn and Rutgers) ... the 2001 team rattled off 3-0 sweeps of Seton Hall, RU, VU and St. John's but failed to close a fifth 3-0 sweep, losing the third games to both UConn and BC.

DEFENSIVE DYNAMOS

– Notre Dame is on pace to set the team record for season fielding pct. (.973) and finished the regular season with the special distinction of having no players with double-digit errors (Greg Lopez now has 10, Ross Brezovsky 9, Brett Lilley 8 and Jeremy Barnes 7).

BULLPEN NOTES

BULLPEN BOOST – ND lost two top relievers (junior RHP Dan Kapala/shoulder and sophomore RHP Tony Langford/elbow) before the '06 season but the Irish relief corps responded with a solid season that now includes a 3.55 bullpen ERA, a .248 opponent batting avg., a 2.3 K-to-walk ratio (153/67) and 15 more innings pitched (190) than hits allowed (175) ... the relievers have allowed nearly one-half (36-of-91; 40%) of inherited baserunners to score allowing a .291 batting avg. by first batters (32-for-110) with 21 runs scored, 10 walks and 5 hit-batters among those 134 first batters (26 Ks, 2 GDPs):

BULLPEN CHART (IRS indicates inherited runners scored; FB is first batter faced)

Player	ERA	W-L	APP	SV	IP	H	R/ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	B/Avg	WP	HB	IRS	FB (H-AB)
Thornton...	0.00	0-0	1	0	2.0	0	0/0	0	1	0	0	0	7	.000	0	0	0-0	0-1
Dury.....	2.20	3-1	26	1-1	28.2	21	8/7	6	17	4	0	0	101	.208	1	3	6-27	3-20, BB, R, SF 4 Ks, 2 GDP, SAC
Elam.....	2.25	0-0	10	0	12.0	8	4/3	6	19	1	0	0	44	.182	0	3	1-4	3-8, BB, HB, 3 R, K
Stewart.....	2.33	4-2	21	0-0	38.2	39	16/10	10	21	6	1	1	150	.260	1	2	9-19	6-16, BB, 3 R, SF, 2 SAC, 2 K
Weiland.....	2.55	2-3	29	16-17	42.1	35	14/12	19	41	2	2	1	150	.233	6	7	9-16	8-25, 3 BB, HB, 6 R, 6 Ks
Graffy.....	3.76	2-0	10	0	26.1	22	11/11	6	13	4	1	0	92	.239	2	2	0-2	3-9, HB, R, 2 K
Gruener....	4.50	0-0	8	0	8.0	8	4/4	3	6	1	1	0	32	.250	1	0	1-3	3-7, BB, R
Williamson.	6.48	0-0	18	0	16.2	21	17/12	6	20	2	0	1	65	.323	1	7	6-15	3-15, BB, 2 HB 4 R, 7 Ks
Phelps.....	6.59	1-0	9	0	13.2	15	13/10	7	13	4	0	0	55	.273	1	2	3-4	2-8, BB, R, 4 Ks
Korpi.....	32.40	0-0	2	0	1.2	6	6/6	4	2	1	0	0	9	.667	1	0	1-1	1-1, BB, R
Totals.....	3.55	12-6	134	18-19	190.0	175	93/75	67	153	25	5	3	705	.248	13	26	36-91	32-110/.291, 21 R (40%) 10 BB, 5 HB, 26 Ks, 2 GDPs

Inherited Runners Scored (IRS) Pct.: Dury 22%, Williamson 40%, Stewart 47%, Weiland 56%

First Batter (FB) Batting Avg.: Dury .150, Williamson .200, Phelps .250, Weiland .320, Stewart .375, Graffy .333, Gruener .429

SUPER SAVER – Closer **Kyle Weiland** (16) easily has bested Aaron Heilman's ND record for saves by a freshman (9, in '98) and then passed J.P. Gagne's overall ND record for saves in a season (13, in '03) before rising to second in the current NCAA rankings (behind the 18 saves posted by Don Cxyz of Kansas) ... Weiland actually already ranks 4th in the ND record book for career saves, trailing only John Corbin (20; '97-'00), Ryan Doherty (20; '03-'05) and Gagne (19; '00-'03) ... he converted each of his first nine save chances and now owns a 16-of-17 save conversion rate ... Weiland owned a 5.06 ERA after his first 7 appearances (6 ER in 10.2 IP; 9-for-34/.265, 9 BB, 10 Ks) but steadily has lowered his overall ERA to 2.55 (4th-best on the staff), allowing just 6 earned runs in his past 22 appearances and 31.2 IP (a 1.71 ERA in that span, with a .224 opp. avg./26-for-116, 31 Ks and just 10 walks) ... Weiland typically has done better at the end of his outings, allowing 9-of-16 inherited runners to score (56%) while first batters faced are hitting 8-for-25 (.320) vs. him (3 BB, HBP, 6 R, 6 Ks) ... after the first batters in his outings, Weiland has held opposing hitters to a combined .216 batting avg. (27-for-125) ... he saved the day in the series finale at UConn, logging a season-high 5.0 innings as ND emerged with the 1-1, 11-inning tie (0 R, 2 H, 2 BB, 7 Ks) ... he has picked up wins over St. John's (2.0 IP, 2 R/1 ER, 4 H, BB, K; 7-5) and IPFW (1.2 IP, K; 4-3) while his top saves include shutout outings vs. Texas A&M (2.0 IP, 4 BB, K; 5-4), Illinois (0.1 IP; 4-2), Central Michigan (2.0 IP, 2 H, 3 Ks; 11-9), Ball State (0.2 IP; 6-4), South Florida (1.0 IP, H, 2 Ks; 9-6), Rutgers (2.2 IP, 2 H, 4 Ks; 14-12), Purdue (1.0 IP, H; 2-1) and UConn (0.2 IP; 7-6) – plus pair of saves at the BIG EAST Tournament (1.1 IP, H, 2 Ks in 3-1 opener vs. South Florida; 2 IP, R, 3 H, BB, 3 Ks in 5-3 elimination game vs. St. John's).

DURY DOES IT – Junior LHP **Mike Dury** currently owns the top career ERA in Notre Dame history (min. 60 IP), at 1.83 ... he ultimately could break an ND record that has stood for 45 years, as All-America RHP Nick Palihnich compiled a 2.36 career ERA, from 1959-61 ... Dury – who has allowed just 6-of-27 inherited runners to score (22%) while limiting his first batters faced to .120 batting (3-for-20, BB, 4 Ks, 2 GDP) – had a key midseason outing vs. Ball State as the third of four Irish relievers, retiring five of the six batters he faced (K) in the key comeback win while improving to 5-0 in his Irish career (now 6-1) ... Dury took the mound with two outs and two runners on base in the top of the 7th vs. BSU, inducing a rightside popup off the bat of Kyle Dygert to keep the deficit at 4-3 (won 6-4) ... his 2006 season stats include a 2.20 ERA in 26 appearances and 28.2 innings (21 H/.208 opp. avg., 17 Ks, 6 BB), with the 1.90 career ERA in 69 IP and 61 appearances (44 Ks, 17 BB, 60 H/.237) ... he has been the pitcher of record in 2006 wins over Iowa (1.1 IP, H; 7-5), BSU, and at UConn (0.2 IP, K; 7-6) while saving the second win at UConn (0.1 IP; 7-3) ... Dury pitched in all three games of the UConn series, with a shutout inning in the 1-1, 11-inning series finale (H) ... his other noteworthy '06 outings have included shutout outings vs. Minnesota (2.1 IP, 2 K, K, WP; 0-8), Illinois (0.2 IP; 4-2), South Florida (2.1 IP, K; 9-6), St. John's (2.0 IP, H, BB, K; 9-2), Rutgers (1.0 IP, K; 15-3), Purdue (1.0 IP, K; 2-1) and two of the wins at Villanova (0.1 IP in 3-1 game; 1.0 IP with a K in 12-1 win) – plus 1.2 IP in the 3-1 BIG EAST opener vs. USF (3 H, BB, K) and his close of the 7-0 BIG EAST title game vs. Louisville (IP, 2 H, 2 Ks).

GIVING BACK THE INHERITANCE – Sophomore RHP **Joey Williamson** had allowed just 3-of-12 inherited runners to score before allowing three to score at the BIG EAST Tournament (now 6-of-15) ... junior LHP **Mike Dury** (22%, 6-of-27) owns the bullpen's best pct. of inherited runners scored ... both have been particularly strong versus his first batters faced, with Williamson allowing just 3-for-15 batting (.200; 7 Ks, BB, 2 HB, 4 R) while Dury's first batters have hit just .150 (3-for-20, BB, R, SF, SAC, 4 Ks, 2 GDP).

KEEPING THE BALL IN THE PARK – The Notre Dame relief corps has allowed just three home runs all season (in 190 IP), with one of those long balls coming in the first week of action ... the ND bullpen is averaging 64 innings per home run allowed while the starters are yielding a HR every 28 IP (13) ... Memphis hit a 2-run HR off Kyle Weiland that produced a 7-6, 10-inning win on Feb. 25 ... it then was eight weeks before the next HR allowed by an ND reliever, by Joey Williamson in the April 18 win over Toledo ... Jess Stewart then allowed a home run in the April 23 win over Rutgers ... the ND bullpen has not allowed a HR in the past 19 GP, spanning 67 innings of work.

NOTRE DAME RECORD BOOK

2006 Team Stat Rankings in ND History:

Category	In ND Record Book	In Mainieri Era (since 1995)
64 Sacrifice Bunts	2nd (66 in '02)	2nd
99 Batters Hit-By-Pitch	3rd (130 in '05; 106 in '04)	3rd
.407 On-Base Percentage	4th	1st (also .407 in '04)
10.77 Hits Per Game	5th	4th
7.88 ABs Per K	5th	1st (7.86 in '01)
0.91 Batters BB/K Ratio		2nd (1.50 in '00)
.316 Batting Average		4th (.334 in '97; .322 in '01; .321 in '02)
6.95 Runs Per Game		5th
485 Strikeouts Thrown	1st (483 in '02)	1st
18 Saves	1st (18 in '02, '03)	1st
3.07 K/BB Ratio	1st (2.92 in '01)	1st
0.39 Wild Pitches Per Game	1st (0.39 in '93)	1st
2.60 BB per 9 Innings Pitched	2nd (2.48 in '01)	2nd
0.26 HRs Allowed Per Game	3rd (0.16, in '75; 0.23 in '63)	1st
41 Regular-Season Wins	4th (45 in '01; 46 in '04; 44 in '90)	3rd
.249 Opponent Batting Average	6th-best since 1971	3rd (.246 in '01; .248 in '04)
3.48 ERA		3rd (3.22 in '01; 3.36 in '04)
7.97 Ks per 9 IP		4th (8.38 in '99, 8.19 in '98, 8.07 in '03)
.973 Fielding Pct.	1st (.970 in '03)	1st

CRAIG COOPER IN THE NOTRE DAME SINGLE-SEASON RECORD BOOK

Place	Category	Other Top Season Totals
3rd	.523 on-base pct.	Eric Danapilis .531 in '91; Edwin Hartwell .529 in '93
4th	77 runs scored	Pat Pesavento 88 in '89 and 81 in '88; Dan Peltier 81 in '89
6th	.427 batting avg.	2nd in Mainieri era (Steve Stanley .439 in '02)
6th	93 hits	Stanley 119 in '02, 102 in '01; Pelier 115 in '89; Steve Sollmann 98 in '03; Danapilis 96 in '93
12th	145 total bases	8 have 150-plus (record is 202 by Peltier in '89)

CRAIG COOPER IN THE NOTRE DAME CAREER RECORD BOOK

Place	Category
7th	.460 on-base percentage (3rd in Mainieri era; Scott Sollmann .522; Ryan Topham .470)
8th	261 hits
9th	45 stolen bases
9th	52 doubles
9th	189 runs scored
10th	.360 batting average (6th in Mainieri era)
10th	109 walks
10th	30 hit-by-pitch
10th	219 games played
12th	162 RBI
14th	714 at-bats

PRO BASEBALL REPORT

FORMER NOTRE DAME PLAYERS IN PRO BASEBALL (stats as of May 30)

Craig Counsell, IF (Arizona Diamondbacks)

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG	AVG
39	170	29	52	7	3	0	17	65	9	24	6-10	.359	.382	.306

Brian Stavisky, OF (Sacramento River Cats; A's, AAA)

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG	AVG
33	109	16	26	6	0	2	8	38	16	23	0-0	.333	.349	.239

Brant Ust, IF (Altoona Curve; Pirates, AA; since April 21)

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG	AVG
19	58	8	14	1	0	3	10	24	9	15	0-1	.353	.414	.241

(Lynchburg Hillcats; Pirates, high-A)

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG	AVG
7	18	1	3	1	0	0	1	4	4	9	0-0	.375	.222	.167

Matt Macri, IF (Tulsa Drillers; Rockies, AA)

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG	AVG
48	166	26	45	6	2	6	26	73	12	38	1-2	.321	.440	.271

Steve Sollmann, IF (Brevard Country Manatees; Brewers, High-A)

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG	AVG
46	169	26	51	5	0	1	23	59	19	21	6-6	.399	.349	.302

Javi Sanchez, C (Fort Myers Miracle; High-A) – injured

Brad Lidge, RHP (Houston Astros)

W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R/ER	HR	BB	SO
0-2	5.26	27	0	0	14	25.2	23	16/15	3	19	36

Aaron Heilman, RHP (New York Mets)

W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R/ER	HR	BB	SO
0-1	3.03	23	0	0	0	29.2	24	12/10	1	12	27

Danny Tamayo, RHP (Omaha Royals; Royals, AAA)

W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R/ER	HR	BB	SO
3-2	4.21	7	3	0	0	25.2	24	12/12	4	4	26

Chris Michalak, LHP (Louisville Bats; Reds, AAA)

W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R/ER	HR	BB	SO
4-2	3.88	10	9	0	0	51.0	54	28/22	11	9	21

Grant Johnson, RHP (Daytona Cubs; Cubs high-A)

W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R/ER	HR	BB	SO
4-5	5.17	10	10	0	0	54.0	61	37/31	5	22	29

Chris Niesel, RHP (Kinston Indians; Indians, high-A)

W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R/ER	HR	BB	SO
1-0	5.19	14	0	0	0	26.0	29	16/15	6	14	30

Ryan Doherty, RHP (South Bend Silver Hawks; Diamondbacks, low-A)

W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R/ER	HR	BB	SO
4-0	2.59	14	0	0	1	24.1	20	11/7	1	5	27

SENIOR SALUTE

The May 7 game vs. Louisville marked the final regular-season home game for Notre Dame's eight-member senior class, a group that hails from seven different home states ... the seniors have helped maintain the program's level of excellence, winning 111 more games than they have lost (**179-69-2; .720 win pct.**) during their careers with the Irish ... they have helped Notre Dame win the **2004 and 2006 BIG EAST regular-season titles** and **four BIG EAST tournaments**, with trips to the NAACAs each season ... their sophomore season in 2004 saw the Irish **win a team-record 51 games** while the current season produced another school record with the **23-game winning streak** ... their combined stats with the Irish include nearly 1,300 career games played, more than 1,000 hits and nearly 700 RBI ... all eight graduated on May 21, extending the baseball program's 100% graduation rate among four-year players in the Paul Mainieri era (71 of 71) ... they graduated with a **3.32 combined cumulative GPA** and three – **Matt Bransfield, Greg Lopez and Tom Thornton** – were under consideration in the final stage of the Academic All-America balloting ... the seniors also have been the leading force behind various community service projects that helped the baseball team be recognized with the athletic department's 2005-06 award for outstanding community service activity by a varsity team ... here are updated bio. capsules on the seniors:

#36 STEVE ANDRES (Napa, Calif.) – Joined the Irish as a walk-on in the fall of 2002 and has gone on to be one of the team's top lefthanded hitters while serving as an outfielder and DH ... career stats include 18 home runs, 98 walks and 92 RBI ... as a sophomore, he compiled a team-best 13-game hit streak and earned all-tournament honors at the 2004 NCAA South Bend Regional ... also led team in batting as the Irish won the 2005 BIG EAST Tournament ... a fourth-generation ND student who followed in the footsteps of his great-grandfather William Andres as a baseball player at Notre Dame ... graduated with a 3.18 cumulative GPA, as a finance major.

...

#12 MATT BRANSFIELD (Englewood, Colo.) – Third team al-BIG EAST selection in 2006 who has served as a DH and outfielder while rating as one of the team's top power hitters ... batting .335 this season with 43 RBI, 6 home runs and 18 doubles (all 2nd-best on the team), plus and one of the top slugging percentages in the BIG EAST (.525) ... as a sophomore, he led the Irish with 12 home runs and 58 RBI while finishing as the big east's RBI leader ... the ND baseball team's 2006 recipient of the Rockne Student-Athlete Award and also an Academic All-America candidate, he graduated with a 3.40 GPA as a sociology major (3.78 in '06 spring semester).

...

#9 CRAIG COOPER (Plainview, N.Y.) – BIG EAST player of the year and one of the nation's top players, leading ND in 15 categories while ranking near the top of the BIG EAST and NCAA charts ... compiling one of top seasons in ND history, batting .427 with 41 RBI, 9 home runs, 19 doubles, 36 walks, 9 stolen bases and 77 runs scored – plus a .523 on-base percentage that would challenge the ND season record (.531) ... 10th in Irish history with .360 career batting avg., also ranking among the top-10 with 257 hits, 52 doubles, 45 stolen bases and 109 walks ... a three-time all-BIG EAST selection, he claimed an unprecedented third career BIG EAST batting title (.481) and owns the top career BIG EAST batting average in the 22-year history of the league (.444, in BIG EAST play) ... a two-time national player of the week whose sparkplug play as the 2006 leadoff batter has included tying the school record with a 21-game hit streak ... closed with an impressive semester in the classroom (3.83 GPA) while graduating with a 3.26 overall GPA as a political science major.

...

#4 GREG LOPEZ (Upper Arlington, Ohio) – Second-year captain who is putting final touches on one of the best all-around seasons ever by ND shortstop (2nd team all-BIG EAST), batting .305 with 37 RBI and just 10 errors in 54 games played ... rates as one of team's most clutch hitters, batting .371 with runners in scoring position while totaling 15 RBI with 2-outs ... among BIG EAST leaders with .376 batting avg. in conference play ...has appeared in 226 career games with Irish, compiling 216 career hits while ranking 2nd in ND history with 32 sac. bunts and 4th in fielding assists (573) ... his all-BIG EAST season in 2004 included batting .332, highlighted by 4-hit, 6-RBI game vs. #25 Winthrop ... top Academic All-America candidate ... also has been nominated for prestigious NCAA postgraduate scholarship and already has been accepted into medical school ... carries 3.39 GPA as a double major in pre-professional studies and anthropology.

...

#16 ALEX NETTEY (Dolton, Ill.) – First joined program as invited walk-on and played as reserve before winning starting spot in center field the past two seasons ... known for stellar defense and clutch hitting, he ranks 2nd on team with 44 runs scored and is among the team leaders in on-base pct. (.406) ... as a freshman, he singled and scored the winning run in a 13-inning game versus wake forest while collecting four hits and a home run in last season's win over Purdue ... ND fans never will forget his game-ending home run earlier this season versus St. John's ... graduated with a 3.17 GPA, as a management information systems major.

...

#17 CODY RIZZO (Temecula, Calif.) – Standout defensive outfielder who also serves as valuable backup catcher ... team's best all-around baserunner, totaling 36 stolen bases, 172 runs, 17 HRs and approaching 200 hits for career (193) ... only player to appear in every game of '06 season ... ranks 8th in ND history for games played (231) ... 2nd in NCAA history with 83 career HBPs ... career highlights include being a top hitter at '03 BIG EAST tournament and career-best 5 RBI vs. Iowa ('06) ... double major in sociology and international peace studies ... one of 21 ND baseball players to post GPA of 3.0-plus in 205 fall semester (one of 25 to do so in '06 spring term).

...

#5 EDDIE SMITH (Yakima, Wash.) – Became a member of the Irish program in 2005, after transferring to ND ... valuable member of the infield who has appeared in 38 career games with the Irish ... served as starting shortstop in key win at UCF last season ... joined his teammates in various service activities and was one of two ND baseball players who volunteered their time to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in New Orleans during the fall semester break ... graduated with a 3.64 GPA (3.67 in '06 spring term) as a Spanish major.

...

#30 TOM THORNTON (Middleboro, Mass.) – Joined former basketball great Ruth Riley as only ND student-athletes ever to receive both the Kanaley Award (recognizing ND student-athletes those who are exemplary as students and leaders) and the Zorich Award (excellence in community service) ... 7-2 this season, with 57 strikeouts and just 5 walks in 78.1 innings ... has averaged just 1.7 walks/9 IP in his career while ranking among ND career top-10 with 27 wins, 329 IP and 52 starts – plus 3.72 career ERA ... 9-2 as all-BIG EAST pitcher in 2005 ... his five career BIG EAST pitcher-of-the-week honors are 2nd-most in history of the conference ... top outings include pair of 5-hit shutouts, win at #20 USC and 12 Ks vs. Kent State in '04 NCAA elimination game ... top candidate for Academic All-America honors and NCAA Postgrad Scholarship (3.58 GPA as double major in anthropology and film-television-and-theater; 3.87 in '06 spring).

**MANSHIP, SAMARDZIJA
AMONG NATION'S TOP PROSPECTS**

- *Baseball America* released its annual preseason list of college baseball's top-100 prospects for the 2006 Major League baseball draft and Notre Dame was one of six teams in the nation to feature two starting pitchers among those top-100 prospects – as **Jeff Manship** was slotted at No. 75 on that list (now #41) while fellow junior righthander **Jeff Samardzija** was listed 94th (now 40th) ... the other teams with two starting pitchers among the preseason top-100 prospects were UNC, Missouri, Cal Poly, Washington and San Diego (ND, UNC and Missouri are the only ones currently with two starting pitchers among the top-50 prospects).

- *BA's* college preview listed ND senior 1B **Craig Cooper** and sophomore B **Brett Lilley** on its preseason all-BIG EAST team ... *BA* cited Lilley, senior SS **Greg Lopez** and junior catcher **Sean Gaston** as the BIG EAST's best defensive players at their positions while tabbing Lilley as the BIG EAST batter with the "best strike-zone discipline," **Samardzija** as the BIG EAST's best athlete, **Manship** as the league's pitcher with the best breaking ball and senior LHP **Tom Thornton** as the BIG EAST pitcher with the best control.

- *BA's* preseason rankings had Manship 4th and Samardzija 6th among the BIG EAST's prospects (Cooper was 44th among the nation's top senior prospects).

LIDGE NAMED TO USA's WBC TEAM

– Former Notre Dame ace pitcher and current Houston Astros all-star closer **Brad Lidge** ('96-'98) was one of 16 college baseball products named to the United States original 30-man roster for the World Baseball Classic, a 16-nation tournament held March 3-20 in Japan, Puerto Rico and the U.S. ... former Notre Dame standout and current Arizona Diamondbacks infielder **Craig Counsell** ('92) was not named to the team but was one of 22 players who remained on the provisional roster ... all 10 of the relief pitchers originally named to the team are former college baseball players, as is Astros starting pitcher Roger Clemens (Texas) and five position players on the USA roster ... Lidge saved the 2-0 win over Canada in the WBC and was the pitcher of record in the 4-3 win over eventual champion Japan.

THAT WAS THEN ... THIS IS NOW – Notre Dame's 2005 season marked the other ND team since 1989 that has failed to reach 40 wins but the 2006 team has eclipsed the 0'06 team in virtually every statistical category ... most noticeably, the Irish have been blown out just four times (by 5-plus runs; 11 in '05) and are batting 21 points higher (.316), with the ND offense totaling 78 fewer Ks (264) and own a +74 plate-discipline ratio (BB+HBP-Ks; up from +15 in '05) ... the ND pitchers have dropped the staff ERA nearly a full run (4.41 to .348), have sliced 42 points off the opponent batting avg. (down to .248) and already have set the ND record with 485 strikeouts thrown (well up from the 342 in '05) ... the ND pitchers also have nearly doubled the staff K-to-walk ratio (3.07, on pace for ND record) and have allowed half as many home runs (16) as in 2005 (31) ... defensively, the team fielding pct. is up 13 points (to .973, which would set another ND record) while errors are down from 97 to 62 (less than one per game):

<u>Category</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>Improvement</u>
Dropoff			
Record	38-24-1	45-15-1	+7
BIG EAST Record	14-9-1	21-5-1	+7
One-Run Games	7-7/E	6-5/+1	+1
Two-Run Games	5-2/+3	12-4/+8	+5
Wins By 5-Plus	14	20	+6
Losses By 5-Plus	11	4	(-7)
Big Innings (5+ Runs)	11	15	+4
Batting Average	.295	.316	+0.021
Runs Per Game	6.7	7.0	+0.3
Extra-Base Hits	158	164	+6
Slugging Pct.	.416	.433	+0.017
Home Runs	43	32	-11
triples	11	17	+6
Doubles	104	115	+11
Batters Walks	227	239	+12
Batters Hit-By-Pitch	130	99	-31
Batters Strikeouts	342	264	(-78)
BB+HBP-Ks	+15	+74	+59
On-Base Pct.	.393	.407	+0.014
Stolen Bases	69	62	-7
Errors	97	65	(-32)
Fielding %	.960	.973	+0.013
ERA	4.41	3.48	-0.93
Walks Allowed	204	158	(-46)
Walks Per 9 IP	3.29	2.60	(-0.69)
Strikeouts Thrown	342	485	+143
Strikeouts Per 9 IP	5.52	7.97	+2.45
K/BB Ratio	1.68	3.07	+1.39
Opp. Batting Average	.290	.248	(-.042)
Hits Allowed	640	509	(-131)
Wild Pitches	25	24	(-1)
Hit Batters	74	50	(-24)
Home Runs Allowed	31	16	(-15)

ATTENDANCE NOTES

RECORD-SETTING ATTENDANCE PLACES ECK STADIUM AMONG NATIONAL LEADERS – The 3,185 tickets sold for the series finale vs. Louisville (May 7) completed an impressive regular season at ND's Eck Stadium while pushing the total attendance over 60,000 (60,334) and the ag. attendance over 2,500 for the 24 home dates (2,514) – with both the total and average attendance numbers representing the highest in the stadium's 13-year history ... a check around the country also revealed that Notre Dame ranks among the national attendance leaders ... the final three-day attendance figure for the Louisville series pushed above 8,000 (8,048) while the team's avg. attendance in the final two BIG EAST series (also 10,003 vs. Rutgers) numbered 3,009 for those six games ... the seven largest attendance numbers in Eck Stadium history – and 14 of the 20 biggest crowds – have come in '06 (see sidebar) ... a quick look at home attendance for teams among the May 7 *Baseball America* top-25 revealed that Notre Dame owned the 11th-best average home attendance (2,514) among those 25 elite teams (the teams in that May 7 *BA* poll with a higher avg. attendance included four from the SEC, two Big-12, two ACC, a CUSA and a Pac-10):

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Arkansas – 7,030 (#10 in May 7 <i>BA</i> poll) | 7. Nebraska – 4,232 (#5) |
| 2. Texas – 5,441 (#8) | 8. South Carolina – 3,834 (#19) |
| 3. Clemson – 4,502 (#10) | 9. Rice – 3,042 (#1) |
| 4. Florida State – 4,497 (#21) | 10. Arizona State – 2,724 (#18) |
| 5. Alabama – 4,458 (#12) | 11. Notre Dame – 2,514 (#11) |
| 6. Mississippi – 4,282 (#22) | |

The Irish had a higher average attendance than 14 other teams in the May 7 *BA* top-25: North Carolina, Cal State Fullerton, Oregon State, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Virginia, Houston, Georgia Tech, Georgia, Pepperdine, College of Charleston, Miami, Oklahoma State and Old Dominion ... complete Division I attendance rankings typically are not calculated until after the season but it appears likely that Notre Dame will finish among the top-25 – as the team's current home attendance average would have ranked 23rd on the 2005 national attendance average list.

In a May 7 sampling of 69 noteworthy teams (see full list below), Notre Dame ranked 22nd in average attendance for the 2006 season (through games played on May 7) ... those 69 teams sampled met at least one of the three following criteria: currently receiving votes in a national poll; among the top-25 leaders in 2005 avg. attendance; or from the ACC, SEC, Big-12 or Pac-10 ... other teams of note that entered the week of May 7 with a lower avg. home attendance than Notre Dame include: Tennessee, Auburn, Stanford, USC, N.C. State, Vanderbilt, Ohio State, UCLA, California, Fresno State and Washington (others are listed below).

Attendance Average Leaders Sampling (as of games through May 7)

sampling includes 69 teams that meet at least one of the following three criteria: receiving votes in a May 7 national poll; among the top-25 leaders in 2005 average attendance; or from the ACC, SEC, Big-12 or Pac-10

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| LSU – 7,288 | Washington – 485 | Oklahoma – 1,047 |
| Arkansas – 7,030 | California – 469 | Kansas State – 1,030 |
| Mississippi State – 6,922 | Old Dominion – 450 | South Alabama – 821 |
| Texas – 5,441 | Maryland – 417 | Arizona – 807 |
| Texas A&M – 4,548 | Duke – 387 | Missouri – 793 |
| Clemson – 4,502 | Fresno State – 2,160 | UC Irvine – 748 |
| Florida State – 4,497 | Ohio State – 2,068 | Michigan – 726 |
| Alabama – 4,459 | Cal State Fullerton – 1,955 | Winthrop – 654 |
| Mississippi – 4,282 | Stanford – 1,781 | UNC Wilmington – 613 |
| Nebraska – 4,232 | Miami – 1,781 | College of Charleston – 593 |
| South Carolina – 3,834 | Tennessee – 1,724 | Washington State – 586 |
| Wichita State – 3,697 | Georgia – 1,682 | Wake Forest – 568 |
| Florida – 3,537 | Georgia Tech – 1,649 | UCLA – 534 |
| Southern Miss – 3,133 | Vanderbilt – 1,464 | USC – 529 |
| Rice – 3,042 | Kentucky – 1,383 | Pepperdine – 373 |
| Baylor – 3,039 | Oregon State – 1,320 | Jacksonville – 371 |
| Tulane – 2,872 | Virginia – 1,238 | Elon – 350 |
| East Carolina – 2,855 | Troy – 1,216 | Virginia Tech – 320 |
| Arizona State – 2,724 | North Carolina – 1,181 | Boston College – 264 |
| Texas Tech – 2,569 | N.C. State – 1,174 | Connecticut – 249 |
| Hawaii – 2,558 | Houston – 1,169 | Kent State – 233 |
| NOTRE DAME – 2,514 | Oklahoma State – 1,169 | St. John's – 192 |
| Auburn – 2,437 | Kansas – 1,129 | San Francisco – 189 |

PACKING THE ECK

The crowd for the Louisville series finale on May 7 (2,514) ranks as the 4th-highest attendance number in ND's Eck Stadium history, behind the '06 Rutgers series (3,507, 3,221 and 3,275, from April 21-23) ... other top attendance numbers in '06 include 3,101 for the series finale vs. St. John's on April 15, the doubleheader two days earlier vs. SJU (3,052; counted as one attendance number) and the Friday-night opener of the Pittsburgh series on March 31 (3,028; first of four record-setting attendance numbers in '06) ... a high number of tickets were sold for the second game of the Louisville series (2,714, on March 6), ranking 10th in Eck Stadium history behind the 2,900 for the 2002 game vs. Arizona State.

There have been 20 Eck Stadium attendance numbers of 2,300-plus and 14 have come in 2006, the eight listed above plus: 2,569 vs. Bowling Green (April 26), 2,568 vs. Purdue (April 24), 2,517 vs. Cleveland State (May 2), 2,443 vs. Toledo (April 18), 2,320 vs. IPFW (April 19) and 2,305 vs. Ball State (April 5).

Largest Attendance Numbers in Eck Stadium History (1994-2006)

- 3,507 ... 4/21/06** Rutgers (gm 1; Fri. night before football Blue-Gold)
- 3,275 ... 4/23/06** ... Rutgers (gm 3)
- 3,221 ... 4/22/06** Rutgers (gm 2) football Blue-Gold day)
- 3,185 ... 5/7/06** Louisville (gm 3)
- 3,101 ... 4/15/06** St John's (gm 3)
- 3,052 ... 4/13/06** St John's (Thursday DH)
- 3,028 ... 3/31/06** Pittsburgh (Friday night)
- 2,900 ... 4/26/02 Arizona State (Friday night before football Blue-Gold)
- 2,816 ... 4/26/03 Connecticut (DH; football Blue-Gold day)
- 2,714 ... 5/6/06** Louisville (gm 2)
- 2,606 ... 5/10/05 .. Oakland (senior week)
- 2,569 ... 4/26/06** .. Bowling Green ("turn back the clock" night)
- 2,568 ... 4/24/06** .. Purdue
- 2,517 ... 5/2/06** Cleveland State
- 2,497 ... 5/17/05 .. USC
- 2,443 ... 4/18/06 .. Toledo
- 2,396 ... 5/21/05 .. West Virginia (gm 3)
- 2,382 ... 5/16/04 .. Rutgers (graduation day)
- 2,320 ... 4/19/06** .. IPFW
- 2,305 ... 4/5/06** Ball State

* Note – ND also sold 2,421 tickets for the game vs. Purdue on April 20, 2005, that was played in downtown South Bend at Coveleski Stadium.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- The Notre Dame baseball team traditionally has matched its stellar play on the field with strong performances in the classroom and that continued to be the case in the 2005 fall semester – as the 32 players combined for a 3.17 team GPA during the semester.
- The NCAA's recently-released Graduation Success Rate (GSR) data also reinforced the Notre Dame baseball program's elite academic standing, as the Irish were one of 17 teams among 268 in Division I – but one of only two teams from that group that also currently are in the national top-25 polls – to compile a 100% graduation rate, during a four-year sample of classes entering from 1995-98.
- The Irish also own a 100% graduation rate (63-of-63) among four-year players throughout the tenure of head coach Paul Mainieri ('95-present), with 12 others who signed professionally prior to their senior season returning to complete or near completion of their degree requirements.
- Twenty-one of the ND baseball players posted a GPA of 3.0-plus during the 2005 fall semester, with 11 checking in at 3.4 or higher ... the ND players also have combined for an impressive 3.10 cumulative team GPA over the course of their college careers.
- Notre Dame boasts several strong Academic All-America candidates in 2006, most notably: senior LHP **Tom Thornton** (3.54 cumulative GPA; double major in anthropology and film-television-and-theater), sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (3.64; accounting), senior SS **Greg Lopez** (3.39; pre-professional studies and anthropology), senior LF/DH **Matt Bransfield** (3.36; sociology), junior catcher **Sean Gaston** (3.36; political science and history) and sophomore 2B **Ross Brezovsky** (3.26; economics) ... Notre Dame's unmatched Academic All-America history includes 20 honorees since 1992.
- The senior class led the way for the Irish during the 2005 fall semester, averaging a 3.54 semester GPA that included seven players above a 3.4 and all eight posting a semester GPA of 3.05 or higher.

NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT SHINES AGAIN – Craig Cooper previously earned a national honor at the end of the 2005 regular season, when the National Collegiate Baseball Writers named him national hitter of the week ... Cooper batted 13-for-22 (.565) in that May 16-21, 2005, stretch that included one game at Pittsburgh, two vs. #17 USC and a three-game series with West Virginia (13 RBI, 8 R, 2 HR, 3 2B, 2 BB, HBP, SB, 2 Ks), as the Irish closed 5-1 to roll into the post-season ... five other recent ND players have received national weekly honors:

- RHP **Aaron Heilman** was named the *Collegiate Baseball* national pitcher of the week twice during his junior season in 2000, after a 12-K game in a 6-4 win over Georgia (March 9, at the Metrodome) and an 18-K game in a 3-1, 10-inning win at West Virginia (April 15),
- RF **Brian Stavisky** opened his sophomore season in '01 season by batting .692 (9-for-13) and reaching base 10 consecutive times at the Mississippi State Classic, earning the weekly hitter honor from the NCBWA and *CB's* national player-of-the-week award.
- The 25-1 win over South Alabama in the '02 NAAs resulted in then-sophomore 2B **Steve Sollmann** (6-for-7, 7 RBI, 6 R, HR, 2 3B) and then-freshman RHP **Grant Johnson** (1-hitter, 8 Ks, BB, HBP, 30 BF) earning the respective player/hitter and pitcher-of-the-week awards from the NCBWA and *CB*.
- Current junior catcher **Sean Gaston** earned NCBWA hitter-of-the-week after opening his career by batting 10-for-12 during '04 games played in Boca Raton, Fla., vs. Winthrop, Florida Memorial and Minnesota (6 RBI, 7 R, 3 2B, 2 SB).

AWARDS PILE UP – ND players combined for three 2006 BIG EAST player-of-the-week awards (3) and two pitcher weekly awards from the BIG EAST this season ... Craig Cooper's first BIG EAST weekly award of the 2006 season came on April 10, after ND's 5-0 week that included wins over Chicago State and Ball State, plus the 3-0 sweep at South Florida (he hit 12-for-20 that week, with 5 RBI, 10 R, HR, 3B, 2 2B, 3 BB, 2 SB, K) ... junior OF **Danny Dressman** earned the March 13th honor after opening the Spring Break trip in San Antonio by batting 7-for-12 in wins over Texas A&M, Iowa and Illinois (8 RBI, 2 R) ... senior LHP **Tom Thornton** has been named BIG EAST pitcher of the week twice this season, after beating Indiana State on Feb. 23 (3-0, in Millington, Tenn.; 7 IP, 5 H, 0 BB, 5 Ks) and then hurling a 5-hit shutout vs. Southern Illinois on March 19, in San Antonio (2 Ks, 0 BB, 84 pitches).

THREE-TIME HONOREE – Craig Cooper's three career BIG EAST player-of-the-week honors tie him for second-most in BIG EAST history (four former ND standouts also collected three weekly player honors from the BIG EAST) ... in addition to his pair of 2006 weekly honors, Cooper was BIG EAST player of the week for the final week of the 2005 regular season (the same stretch that earned him national honors) ... former Boston College OF Jason Delaney holds the record for most career BIG EAST player-of-the-week honors (5), while former Virginia Tech 2B Marc Tugwell totaled three awards, as did four former ND greats: OF Brian Stavisky (4/24/00, 2/19/01, 4/2/01), SS Alec Porzel (5/0/00, 4/15/01, 5/7/01), 2B Steve Sollmann (2/24, 3/17 and 5/19 in '03) and SS/3B Matt Macri (4/21/03, 4/5/04, 5/17/04) ... Sollmann is the only position player in BIG EAST history to receive three weekly awards in the same season ... a total of 20 Notre Dame players – including current junior catcher Sean Gaston (3/1/04) and current senior SS Greg Lopez (4/19/04) – have combined to earn 34 BIG EAST baseball player-of-the-week awards, since ND joined the BIG EAST in '95-'96 ... the ND program has produced 31 total BIG EAST pitcher-of-the-week recipients, including five honors for current senior LHP Tom Thornton (2nd-most all-time, behind 10 by former ND ace Aaron Heilman) ... ND's previous all-time BIG EAST player-of-the-week recipients include the five three-time honorees (Stavisky, Porzel, Sollmann, Macri and Cooper), plus five two-time recipients: catcher Jeff Wagner (4/7/97, 5/5/97), SS/3B Brant Ust (4/3/98, 3/29/99), 1B Jeff Felker (4/15, 5/12), catcher Paul O'Toole (5/13/00, 4/1/02) and CF Steve Stanley (2/26, 4/23) ... the other seven ND position players who have received weekly BIG EAST honors: catcher Mike Amrhein (3/17/97), OF Allen Greene (4/28/97), SS J.J. Brock (3/16/98), catcher Mike Knecht (5/4/98), 3B/C Andrew Bushey (2/25/02), 1B Joe Thaman (5/13/02) and 3B Matt Edwards (4/7/03).

WIN STREAK WRAPUP

23-GAME WIN STREAK OVERVIEW – The Irish hit **.353** in the recent record-setting 23-game win streak (**longest in nation** this season) from March 25-April 25, averaging 8.6 runs per game with a .499 team slugging pct. (20 HR, 6 3B, 44 2B), a .442 on-base pct. (106 BB, 31 HBP, 88 Ks), 30 stolen bases and 32 sac. bunts ... the ND pitchers owned a **2.81 staff ERA** during the win streak (79 total runs allowed/3.43 per game), with a .227 opp. batting avg., a 3-to-1 K-to-walk ratio (192/62) and 36 more innings pitched (208) than hits allowed (172, with just 5 HR) ... ND had a .972 fielding pct. in the win streak (24 Es) ...

top hitters in the win streak included:

Craig Cooper476, 40-for-84, 27 RBI (hits in 22 of the games)
9 HR, 3B, 8 2B, 32 R, 12 BB, 3HBP, 5 Ks, 6 SB
Greg Lopez440, 33-for-75, 20 RBI, 17 R
3B, 4 2B, 4 BB, 3 HBP, 4 K, 2 SAC, 2 SB
Brett Lilley418, 28-for-67, 12 RBI, 15 R,
2 2B, 3 3B, 6 2B, 5 SAC, 2 SB

top pitchers in the win streak included:

Wade Korpi – 0.26 ERA, 4-0, 5 GS, 34.2 IP, 44 K, 10 BB, 14 H/.125 opp. avg.
Jess Stewart – 1.12, 3-0, 8 GP, 16 IP, 9 K, 3 BB 16 H/.262
Kyle Weiland – 1.93, 2-0, 10 GP, 6 SV, 14 IP, 10 K, 5 BB, 13 H/.245

The streak included **12 blowout wins** (by 5-plus runs) and the Irish **scored 14 times in the 1st** inning ... ND totaled 0-1 errors in 18 of the games during the win streak ... the Irish outhit the opponents in 20 of the 23 games during the streak, reached on 48% of the time when leading off the inning and batted **.366 with runners in scoring position** ... ND dominated the middle innings during the win streak, with a **104-12** scoring edge from the **4th to the 6th** innings (37-3, 37-2, 30-7) ... the win streak spanned 31 days and was part of 19 straight wins at Eck Stadium (18 in the streak).

TOP WIN STREAKS IN ND SPORTS HISTORY (also see sidebar)

Other ND team-based sports top win streaks (see sidebar for others)

Volleyball – 17 (Oct. 24-Nov. 22, 1986)

Hockey – 14 (Dec. 11, 1987 - Feb. 13, 1988)

Women's Lacrosse - 14 (April 22, 2003 - April 17, 2004)

Men's Lacrosse - 9 (April 1-May 26, 2001 and March 18-May 1, 1992)
(see sidebar for other team-based sports, including football and basketball)

Top winning streaks for ND sports with individual-based competition

• **Men's Fencing** has totaled 15 all-time win streaks of 20-plus dual matches (10 of 24 or better): 122 ('75-'80), 98 ('84-'88), 90 ('00-'04), 50 ('90-'93), 46 ('89-'90), 37 ('97-'98), 37 ('93-'95), 31 ('67-'68), 26 ('73-'74), 25 ('57-'59), 23 ('99-'00), 23 ('81-'82), 22 ('83-'84), 22 ('04-'05) and 21 ('81).

• **Women's Fencing** has seven all-time win streaks of 20-plus (five above 23): 75 ('93-'96), 42 ('86-'88), 41 ('03-'04), 38 ('97-'98), 35 ('90-'92), 26 ('05-'06) and 21 ('89-'90).

• **Men's Tennis** had a 29-match win streak (May 5, 1965 - April 29, 1967) and a 23-match streak from March 28, 1971 - April 9, 1972.

• **Women's Swimming** had a 16-match win streak from Nov. 4, 2000 – Oct. 30, 2002.

• **Women's Tennis:** 20 (Sept. 9, 1979 – Oct. 4, 1980)

• **Men's Swimming:** 11 Feb. 23, 1974 – Feb. 15, 1975

Note: no win streak data for teams that don't typically compete head-to-head (cross country, track and field, golf, rowing)

Longest Winning Streaks in Notre Dame Athletics History

(sports with team-based competition)

33 – Softball
(March 28-May 10, 2001)
ranked #8, ended with 2-1 loss to Seton Hall in BIG EAST Tournament opener

26 – Men's Soccer
(Sept. 20, 1977 – Oct. 3, 1978)
first two seasons,
several games vs. non-Div. I teams

24 – Women's Soccer
(Aug. 27-Nov. 24, 2000)
earned #1 rank early in season,
lost 2-1 to UNC in NCAA semifinals

23 – **BASEBALL**
(March 25-April 26, 2006)
ranked as high as #8,
ended with 11-8 loss to Bowling Green

23 – Women's Basketball
(Nov. 11, 2000-Feb. 17, 2001)
ranked #1,
ended with 54-53 loss at #11 Rutgers

23 – Football (Sept. 10, 1988 – Nov. 25, '89)
ranked #1,
lost 27-10 at #7 Miami in final game of regular season

22 – Men's Basketball
(final 11 games in '32-'33, first 11 in '33-'34)

22 – Men's Basketball
(1908-09)

21 – Football
(Nov. 16, 1946 – Dec. 4, 1948)

20 – Softball
(April 1-27, 2003)

20 – Women's Basketball
(Dec. 11, 1999-Feb. 26, 2000)

20 – Football
(Oct. 5, 1929 – Oct. 10, 1931)

20 – Football
(Oct. 4, 1919 – Oct. 8, 1921)

see other streaks listed at left

ND BASEBALL AND ECK STADIUM FEATURED IN EA SPORTS GAME

– The Notre Dame baseball program and Eck Stadium are prominent elements in the newly-released EA Sports home video game MVP 06 NCAA Baseball ... the revolutionary game features Notre Dame and 127 other Division I teams while Eck Stadium is one of 19 stadiums featured in the popular new release ... EA Sports – the makers of the highest-rated and top-selling baseball game of the past three years – has created a completely new baseball experience: MVP 06 NCAA® Baseball. Inspired by the spirit and emotion of collegiate athletics, MVP 06 NCAA Baseball is the first-ever college baseball game.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON – Five current Irish players are second-generation college baseball players: senior IF Eddie **Smith** (Ed Smith, Gonzaga), junior LHP/1B Mike **Dury** (John Dury, N.C. State), junior RHP Jeff **Manship** (John Manship, Arizona), freshman IF Evan **Sharpley** (Tom Sharp-ley, Spring Arbor) and freshman C **Mike Many** (Bob Many, Northern Illinois).

AWESOME IN APRIL – Notre Dame has won just 67% of its pre-April games in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era (182-90-1/+92; .669) but now has won 82% of its April games in those 12 seasons (234-52-2/+180; .816).

IN-STATE BATTLES – After the season-opening win over Indiana State and the ensuing wins over Valparaiso, Ball State, Manchester, IPFW and Purdue, Notre Dame now owns a 54-10 record (.841) vs. fellow Indiana-based schools during the Paul Mainieri era (since '95), with games versus: Valparaiso (11-1), Butler (7-0), Manchester (7-0), Purdue (7-2), IUPUI (5-0), Indiana Tech (4-1), Indiana (3-0), IPFW (3-0), Indianapolis (2-0), Indiana St. (2-1), Ball State (3-4) and Evansville (1-1).

ND TEAM QUICK NOTES – Since the start of the current decade (2000-06), ND owns the 4th-best win pct. among nearly 300 D-I teams (.731; 320-117-2), trailing only Rice (.751; 337-112), Florida State (.737; 351-125-1) and O4al Roberts (.737; 303-112) ... ND, FSU, Georgia Tech, Clemson and Wichita State are the only teams to post 35-plus wins every season since 1989 (the '89-'04 ND teams all won 40-plus), with LSU (34-22) the only other that could join that group with 35-plus wins every year since '89 ... ND and Virginia were remain the only teams in the nation ranked last week among the top-30 for batting avg. (ND 20th at .321, now .318), staff ERA (30th at 3.46, now 3.60) and fielding pct. (30th at .971, now .972) ... ND is 21-4 at home this season (36-5-1 in the past 42 games at "The Eck") ... ND has totaled 15 "big innings" (5-plus runs) this season (5 in the 4th) ... the Irish own a 67-14 overall scoring edge in the 4th inning ... ND has totaled 36 games with double-digit hits ... ND saw several streaks end recently: Craig Cooper's 21-game hit streak (tied ND record) ended vs. Purdue; the team's 23-game win streak (ND record) was halted by Bowling Green and also ended an 18-game home win streak; and the team's 16-game BIG EAST win streak (two shy of the BIG EAST record) ended in the 1-1 tie with UConn ... the Irish also tied the BIG EAST record for unbeaten streak (18) in league games (ND's '01 team had a 18-0 stretch in BIG EAST play) ... the 23-game win streak was one of the longest in ND athletics history, ranking alongside streaks by the softball (33), women's soccer (24), football (23), women's basketball (23) and men's basketball (22) teams ... the two wins at UConn gave ND its best-ever BIG EAST start (16-1; the '98 team started 14-1) ... since the start of the win streak on March 25, ND has erased 22 of 29 deficits it has faced ... the seven largest attendance numbers in Eck Stadium history have come this season (record 3,507 for opener vs. Rutgers) ... ND had totaled just 11 HRs in its first 30 games but has 17 HRs in the past 26 games ... Alex Nettey's 2-run blast vs. St. John's (9-7) was ND's 12th game-ending home run in the Mainieri era (first at Eck Stadium since '01) ... the Irish reached 30 wins (30-8) quicker than all but the '04 (30-5) and '01 (30-5-1) Irish teams ... ND's 10 regular position players are a veteran group, combining for nearly 1,300 career starts ... the Irish staff has allowed just 12 HRs all season and recently went 25 games (943 batters faced) without allowing a HR ... ND rapped out 49 hits in the sweeps of both USF and Rutgers, the most hits for the Irish in a BIG EAST series since 50 vs. Georgetown in '98 ... ND's 56 games this season have featured 43 different batting orders.

SILVER STREAKS – Notre Dame now has totaled 11 double-digit win streaks in the Paul Mainieri era ... all but three (1997, 2000, '05) of the 12 Mainieri-era seasons have featured at least one double-digit winning streak (with two in both '98 and '04) ... the recent 23-game win streak began on March 25, within a day of the starting point in four of the 10 previous double-digit streaks (March 24 in '96, '03 and '04; March 26 in '98):

Longest Single-Season Win Streaks in Notre Dame Baseball History

23	2006 (March 25 – April 25) ... overall record was 21 from 1906-07
18	1991 (April 7-28, 1991)
17	2003 (March 24 – April 14) and 1907 (April 20 – May 21)
16	2002 (April 11 – May 4), 2001 (April 4-25) and 1988 (April 24 – May 20)
15	1910 (May 4 – June 7)

Double-Digit Win Streaks in the Mainieri Era

23	2006 (March 25 – April 25)
17	2003 (March 24 – April 14); 3rd-longest in ND history (18, in '91)
16	2002 (April 11 – May 4); tied for 5th-longest in ND history
16	2001 (April 4-25); tied for 5th-longest in ND history
13	1998 (April 8-23)
12	2004 (April 29 – May-21)
11	2004 (March 24 – April 7) ... 1995 (April 13-23)
10	'99 (March 10-28), '98 (March 26 – April 4) and '96 (March 24 – April 6)

VETERAN LINEUP	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B/3B/HR	RBI	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	OB%	SH	SB	E
Cody Rizzo (Sr., RF/C)	.274	231/205	704	172	193	35/3/17	127	.405	53	83	125	.387	6	36-50	22
Greg Lopez (Sr., SS)	.293	228/215	736	122	216	31/2/4	131	.357	37	34	114	.349	32	7-15	61
Craig Cooper (Sr., 1B)	.360	219/190	724	189	261	52/7/26	162	.559	109	30	81	.460	10	45-62	9
Matt Bransfield (Sr., LF/DH)	.318	179/153	573	105	182	39/4/18	125	.494	51	22	101	.387	9	5-10	5
Alex Nettey (Sr., CF)	.277	177/132	491	108	136	24/4/4	54	.367	33	42	65	.371	21	22-32	7
Steve Andres (Sr., LF/DH)	.270	172/122	448	100	121	25/7/18	92	.478	98	24	109	.420	1	7-14	6
Danny Dressman (Jr., OF)	.293	133/87	362	72	106	18/3/0	63	.359	53	6	53	.388	21	9-17	2
Sean Gaston (Jr., C)	.313	126/98	377	65	118	16/2/2	69	.382	30	5	37	.367	11	12-14	6
Brett Lilley (So., 3B)	.342	118/118	406	94	139	10/0/2	59	.382	60	51	54	.479	23	14-28	22
Ross Brezovsky (So., 2B)	.281	110/107	385	70	108	20/4/6	62	.400	37	10	68	.354	9	5-8	22
Jeremy Barnes (Fr., DH/IF)	.284	51/48	201	34	57	10/3/2	43	.393	27	4	33	.372	2	8-13	7
TOTALS	.303	1,724/1,475	5,405	1,131	1,639	280/37/99	987	.405	588	311	840	.398	145	170-263	149

BATTLE-TESTED VETERANS – Notre Dame currently is using an 11-player rotation in the everyday lineup, with left-handed hitting outfielders **Danny Dressman** and **Steve Andres** alternating with their righthanded counterparts **Matt Bransfield** and **Cody Rizzo** ... those 11 players have combined for some gaudy numbers in their ND careers (see above chart), including: 1,724 career games played (1,475 starts); 1,639 hits; 987 RBI; 99 home runs; and a +59 plate-discipline ratio (walks + HBPs - Ks) ... the group includes six seniors (Andres, Bransfield, Rizzo, CF **Alex Nettey**, SS **Greg Lopez** and 1B **Craig Cooper**), the junior duo of Dressman and catcher **Sean Gaston**, sophomore infielders **Brett Lilley** (3B) and **Ross Brezovsky** (2B), and freshman **Jeremy Barnes** (who lately has been rotating with Brezovskys as the DH or 2B).

OUTFIELD OLD-TIMERS – Notre Dame's current four veteran outfielders – the senior trio of LF **Steve Andres**, CF **Alex Nettey** and RF **Cody Rizzo**, plus junior **Danny Dressman** – have combined to make 426 outfield starts in their Notre Dame careers ... that total does not include the 115 career outfield starts by senior Craig Cooper (who has shifted to first base in 2006) or the 45 starts by senior **Matt Bransfield** (most in LF this season), who served mostly as a DH in 2003-06 (the above six players have combined for 586 career outfield starts):

Career Outfield Starts	LF	CF	RF	Total
Cody Rizzo	13	34	111	158
Alex Nettey	4	121	2	127
<i>Craig Cooper (1B in '06)</i>	50	8	57	115
Danny Dressman	10	31	32	73
Steve Andres	65	0	3	68
Matt Bransfield (DH in '03-'05)	44	0	1	45
Totals	186	194	206	586

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 QUICK FACTS

Location	Notre Dame, IN 46556
Founded	1842
First Season of Baseball	1892
Undergraduate Enrollment	8,311
Nickname	Fighting Irish
Colors	Gold and Blue
Conference	BIG EAST
Athletic Director	Kevin White
Stadium (cap.)	Eck Stadium (2,500)
Surface, Dim.	Grass, 331-401--331
Head Coach	Paul Mainieri (Fla. Int'l '80)
Career Record	873-490-4 (25th season)
Record at ND	533-211-3 (13th season)
Asst. Coach	Terry Rooney (Radford '96)
Asst. Coach	Cliff Godwin (ECU '01)
Vol. Asst.	John Gumpf (CS San Bernadino '97)
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	21/7
Position Starters Ret./Lost	8/1
Letterwinning Pitchers Ret./Lost	10/5
Total Returners	21 (13 pos./10 pitchers)
Newcomers	11
2005 Record	38-24-1
2005 BIG EAST Record/Finish ..	14-9-1/3rd
Postseason	2-2 NCAA Gainesville Reg.
Baseball SID Contact	Pete LaFleur
Sports Information Office ...	(574) 631-7516
LaFleur's E-mail	lafleur.4@nd.edu
Sports Information Fax	(574) 631-7941
ND Sports Hotline	(574) 631-3000
Website	www.und.com

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 ROSTER BREAKDOWN

Position Starters Returning ('05 Avg/HR/RBI)

1B – Craig Cooper (Sr.; .325/7/58; 14 SB)
 3B – Brett Lilley* (So.; .355/0/28; 30 HBP)
 SS – Greg Lopez (Sr.; .274/2/34; 7 SAC)
 C – Sean Gaston* (Jr.; .293/1/28; 27 R)
 RF – Cody Rizzo (Sr.; .252/6/24; 17 SB)
 LF – Matt Bransfield (Sr.; .313/0/16; 6 2B)
 CF – Alex Nettey (Sr.; .288/2/24; 44 R)
 2B – Ross Brezovsky* (So.; .261/2/20; 35 R)
 DH/LF – Steve Andres* (Sr.; .232/5/25; 21 BB)

Position Starter Lost ('05 Avg/HR/RBI)

1B – Matt Edwards (.353/14/68; 21 2B, 46 BB)

* Notes: stats for '05 season ... asterisks indicate lefthanded hitters ... no other position players lost from the 2005 team that had more than 5 at-bats ... Cooper started in the outfield during the 2003-05 seasons ... Bransfield was injured for part of '05 and previously has been a DH and reserve catcher with the Irish.

Top Returning Pitchers ('05 stats)

Tom Thornton* (Sr.; 4.69 ERA, 6-6, 40 Ks)
 Jeff Samardzija (Jr.; 3.89 ERA, 8-1, 56 Ks)
 Jeff Manship (Jr.; 3.97 ERA, 2-1, SV, 20 Ks)
 Mike Dury* (Jr.; 1.38 ERA, 1-0, 2 SV, 17 Ks)
 Wade Korpi* (So.; 5.47 ERA, 4-3, 32 Ks)

Top Pitcher Lost ('05 stats)

Ryan Doherty (3.79 ERA, 1-3, 7 SV, 44 Ks)

* Note: asterisks indicate LHPs

Key Freshmen (stats for 2005)

Kyle Weiland (RHP; Albuquerque, NM)
 First team all-state
 (5.20 ERA, 4-1, 2 SV, 53 Ks, 19 BB, 35 IP)

Jeremy Barnes (RHP/IF; Garland, TX)
 All-state shortstop
 (.430, 4 HR ... team-record 1.31 ERA in '04)

David Phelps (RHP; Hazelwood, MO)
 First team all-state
 (1.56 ERA, 6-2, 88 Ks, 18 BB, 25 H, 54 IP)

Sam Elam (LHP; Mesquite, TX)
 Led team to regional championship
 (2.50 ERA, 9-3, 72 Ks, 35 IP)

Eddy Mendiola (3B/C; Miami, FL)
 All-county honors
 (.390, 3 HR, 6 2B, 14 RBI, 20 BB, 14 SB)

HBP NOTES

HBP HIGHWAY RETURNS – The ND batters are averaging 1.6 times hit-by-pitch per game (99, in 61 GP) ... senior CF **Alex Nettey** leads all BIG EAST players with 23 HBPs – 3rd in the nation (Arizona's Colt Sedbrook totaled 26 HBPs, Louisville's Logan Johnson 24) and 3rd-most in ND history (his 42 career HBPs also are 3rd all-time at ND) ... senior RF/C **Cody Rizzo** (13 HBP in '06) ranks 2nd in NCAA history with 83 career HBPs ... sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (21 HBP in '06; 9th in nation; 4th in ND history) already is 2nd in ND history with 51 career HBPs (including an ND record 30 in 2006, good for 5th in the NCAA record book) ... senior SS **Greg Lopez** (34), senior 1B **Craig Cooper** (30) and senior LF/DH **Steve Andres** (24) rank 7th, 10th and 13th on the ND career HBP list ... ND's six fourth-year senior position players have combined for 235 career HBPs (also 22 for LF **Matt Bransfield**) ... ND players have posted 15-plus HBPs 10 times in a season (8 by current players; including each of the top-7 on the list).

NCAA RECORD BOOK CAREER HIT-BY-PITCH

1. 92 Tony Hurtado (San Francisco; '97-'00)..... 221 GP 2.40 gms/HBP
 2. **83*** ... **Cody Rizzo (Notre Dame; '03-)**..... **231 GP** **2.78 gms/HBP**
 3. 81 Gabe Somarriba (Florida Atlantic; '99-'02) 226 GP 2.79 gms/HBP
 4. 74 Jeff Ontiveros (Texas; 1999-2002) 258 GP 3.49 gms/HBP

NCAA RECORD BOOK PLAYER SEASON HIT-BY-PITCH

1. 33..... Andrew Slater (Richmond, '97)
 2. 32..... Gary Morris (Elon, '05); Steve Dembrowski (Fairleigh Dickinson, '79)
 4. **30**..... **Brett Lilley (Notre Dame, '05)**
 5. 29..... Ryder Mathias (Wake Forest, '05); Chris Nelson (Southern Utah, '02);
 Jonah Martin (Arizona State, '00); Corky Miller (Nevada, '98)
 10. 28..... **Cody Rizzo (Notre Dame, '03)**

Note: Lilley and Rizzo are the only players from the same school on the above top-10 list (28-plus HBPs in a season)

NCAA RECORD BOOK TEAM SEASON HIT-BY-PITCH

Team	Yr.	Games	HBP (per gm)
1. Notre Dame	2005	63	130 (2.06)
2. Nevada	1997	60	125 (2.08)
3. Long Beach State	1998	67	124 (1.85)
<i>College of Charleston</i>	2004	63	122 (1.94)
5. Cal State Fullerton	2003	66	117 (1.77)
6. Arizona State	2000	59	115 (1.95)
Long Beach State	1999	60	114 (1.90)
8. Notre Dame	2004	63	106 (1.68)
9. San Jost State	2000	65	106 (1.63)
10. Cal State Fullerton	1998	65	102 (1.57)
11. Creighton	2005	65	101 (1.55)
Washington	1998	58	101 (1.74)
13. NOTRE DAME	2006	61	99 (1.62)

Notes: The Irish have averaged 1.79 HBP/gm from '04-'06 (335 in 187 GP) ... the '05 ND team (1.68) owns the 3rd-best HBP per game among teams on the above list ... ND is on the verge of becoming the first team ever with 100-plus HBPs in three seasons (Long Beach State is the only other with 106-plus HBPs in multiple years).

NOTRE DAME CAREER HBP

1. **Cody Rizzo (2003-)** **83**
 2. **Brett Lilley (2005-)** **51**
 3. **Alex Nettey (2003-)** **42**
 4. Craig DeSensi (1992-95)..... 38
 5. Dan Bautch (1990-92) 36
 Greg Layson (1991-94) 36
 7. **Greg Lopez (2003-)** **34**
 8. Ed Lund (1988-90) 32
 Eric Danapilis (1990-93) 32
 10. **Craig Cooper (2003-)** **30**
 11. Paul O'Toole (1999-2002)..... 28
 12. Javi Sanchez (2001-04) 27
 13. **Steve Andres (2003-)** **24**
 – **Matt Bransfield (2003-)** **22**

NOTRE DAME SEASON HBP

1. **Brett Lilley (2005)** **30**
 2. **Cody Rizzo (2003)** **28**
 3. **ALEX NETTEY (2006) 23**
 4. **BRETT LILLEY (2006) ... 21**
 Cody Rizzo (2004) **21**
 Cody Rizzo (2005) **21**
 7. **Greg Lopez (2005)** **16**
 8. **Alex Nettey (2005)** **15**
 Eric Danapilis (1993) 15
 Javi Sanchez (2004)..... 15
 11. **Craig Cooper (2005)**..... **14**
 (four others)..... 14
 16. **CODY RIZZO (2006)..... 13**

INNINGS NOTES

FIRST-INNING FOCUS – Notre Dame's impressive 1st-inning stats this season include a 64-35 scoring margin, with 1st-inning runs in half of the games (30) ... the Irish this season had a 7-game scoring streak in the 1st inning, longest by an ND team in the past five seasons (the 2004 team scored in the 1st inning of six straight games, the '05 team in five straight) ... ND is batting .350 as a team in the 1st inning (28 extra-base hits, 8 HRs), led by:

Craig Cooper587 (27-for-46) 5 RBI, 25 R, 4 HR, 8 2B, 1.022 slug.
 8 BB, HBP, 4 Ks, SF, .643 on-base
 Sean Gaston563 (9-for-16) 12 RBI, 4 R, HR, 3B, 2 2B, 2 BB, K, SF
 Matt Bransfield364 (8-for-222) 11 RBI, 4 R, 3 HR, 2B, 3 BB, HBP, 4 K, SAC

STRONG STARTERS – The Notre Dame pitchers have posted a scoreless first inning in 43 of 61 games this season.

JUMPING ON TOP – Notre Dame's best 1st-inning scoring margin of the Mainieri era (since '95) came in 2001 (+48; 59-11) ... the recent streak of scoring 1st-inning runs in seven straight games (March 21-29) was longest by an ND team since that 2001 team scored in eight straight, from April 21-29 of that season ... ND's current +29 scoring margin in the 1st inning (64-35) is better than three times that of the '05 team (+9; 58-49) ... ND has finished with a positive 1st-inning scoring margin every season of the Mainieri era except 1998 (-12), with an average margin of +18 and avg. ratio of 1.9 ... the most 1st-inning runs ever scored by a Mainieri-era offense at ND are 75 (in '04; 1.19/gm) while the fewest allowed are 11 (in '01; 0.18/gm) ... ND's current averages are 1.05 runs/gm and 0.57 runs allowed/gm in the 1st ... here's a look at 1st-inning production in the Mainieri era:

Year	1st-Inning		Ratio	Final Record
	Runs	Margin		
1995	65-27	+38	2.4	40-21
1996	70-37	+33	1.9	44-18
1997	65-60	+5	1.3	41-19
1998	29-41	-12	0.7	41-18
1999	50-45	+5	1.1	43-18
2000	35-32	+3	1.1	46-18
2001	59-11	+48	5.4	49-13-1
2002	65-49	+16	1.3	50-18
2003	40-35	+5	1.1	45-18
2004	75-29	+46	2.6	51-12
2005	58-49	+9	1.2	38-14-1
2006	64-35	+29	1.9	(45-15-1)
Average		+18	1.9	

MORE IN FOUR – Notre Dame's ability to make midgame adjustments (at the plate and on the mound) resulted in a dominating 37-3 scoring edge during the 4th-inning of the midseason 23-game win streak ... the 4th now has become ND's most dominating overall inning in 2004 (+52, 68-18), with the team's .327 batting in the inning led by Danny Dressman (.467, 7-for-15, 8 RBI, 6 R), Jeremy Barnes (.400, 10-for-25, 7 RBI, 6 R), Alex Nettey (.387, 12-for-31, 3 RBI, 15 R), Brett Lilley (.381, 8-for-21, 7 RBI, 6 R) and Greg Lopez (.355, 11-for-31, 6 RBI, 4 R).

IS THE EIGHTH ENOUGH? – The Irish have put away several games this season in the 8th, owning a 52-28 scoring edge in the inning (+24) ... Notre Dame is batting .344 in the 8th inning this season, led by:

Greg Lopez550 (11-for-20) 5 RBI, 7 R, 3 2B, BB, K, SF, GDP
 Alex Nettey444 (8-for-18) 4 RBI, 4 R, BB, 3 HBP, 3 Ks
 Brett Lilley421 (8-for-19) 2 RBI, 2 R, 2B, 6 BB, 2 HBP, 3 K, SAC, GDP
 Craig Cooper409 (9-for-22) 6 RBI, 7 R, BB, 3 HBP, GDP
 Danny Dressman... .391 (9-for-23) 2 RBI, 9 R, 2 3B, 2B, 6 BB, 3 Ks, GDP

BUSTING OUT THE BIG INNINGS – Notre Dame has posted 5-plus runs in an inning 15 times this season, with five of those "big innings" coming in the 4th inning (including two of the season's top-3 scoring innings, 9 vs. Oakland and 8 vs. St. John's) ... 10 of the big innings this season have broken open tight games (margin of 0-2 runs) before ND's key offensive explosion ... the Irish are unbeaten this season when scoring 5-plus runs in an inning and – backed by strong pitching and defense – have gone 36-5 overall when scoring at least 5 runs in a game this season.

NOTRE DAME 2006 "BIG INNINGS"

Runs	Inning	Opponent (Date)
9	6th	Rutgers (4/22) led 4-3 (before big inning) ... won 15-3
9	4th	Oakland (4/11) led 4-0 ... won 15-1
8	4th	St. John's, gm 2 (4/13) trailed 3-6 ... won 13-7
7	4th	Manchester (4/12) led 1-0 ... won 8-2
7	5th	at South Florida (4/8) led 2-1 ... won 10-4
7	2nd	Valparaiso (3/28) led 1-0 ... won 12-0
7	1st	Central Mich. (3/22) trailed 0-1 ... won 11-9
6	7th	at Seton Hall (5/13) led 6-4 ... won 14-12
6	8th	vs. Air Force, in Mill. (2/24) led 2-1 ... won 8-2
5	4th	Louisville (5/5) led 3-1 ... won 11-3
5	4th	Cleveland State (5/2) led 4-0 ... won 12-1
5	6th	St. John's, gm 1 (4/13) tied 2-2 ... won 9-2
5	7th	at South Florida (4/9) led 2-1 ... won 10-1
5	8th	So. Illinois, in S.A. (3/17) led 7-2 ... won 12-2
5	3rd	vs. Iowa, in S.A. (3/13) scoreless ... won 6-2

CLUTCH HITTING

FAR & WIDE – Notre Dame's top-10 position player starters hail from seven states, including two outfielders from **California** (jr. RF Danny Dressman and sr. RF/C Cody Rizzo) and two leftside infielders from **Ohio** (sr. SS Greg Lopez and soph. 3B Brett Lilley), plus one each from **New York** (sr. 1B Craig Cooper), **Colorado** (sr. LF Matt Bransfield), **Indiana** (jr. C Sean Gaston), **Florida** (soph. 3B Ross Brezovsky), **Illinois** (sr. CF Alex Nettey) and **Texas** (fr. DH/2B Jeremy Barnes).

STATE ROLL CALL – The Notre Dame list of all-time monogram winners includes players from **44 home states** ... pitchers Brandon Vioria (Wailuku, Hawaii) in 2000 and Cody Wilkins (Hudson, N.C.) in 2004 became the first players from their respective states ever to monogram with the Irish baseball program ... the only states that have not produced ND baseball letterwinners include Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Vermont ... the 12-year Paul Mainieri era has featured players from 36 states, including 15 states on the 2006 roster (see list below):

Florida (4) – Ross Brezovsky (Naples), Wade Korpi (Lake Worth), Eddy Mendiola (Miami), Joey Williamson (Lantana)

Indiana (4) – Mike Dury (Indianapolis), Sean Gaston (Brownsburg), Jeff Samardzija (Valparaiso), John Seabaugh (Granger)

Texas (4) – Jeremy Barnes (Garland), Sam Elam (Mesquite), Tony Langford (Fort Worth), Jeff Manship (San Antonio)

California (3) – Steve Andres (Napa), Danny Dressman (San Jose), Cody Rizzo (Temecula)

Illinois (3) – Brett Graffy (Homer Glen), Mike Many (Naperville), Alex Nettey (Dolton)

Michigan (2) – Dan Kapala (Royal Oak), Evan Sharpley (Marshall)

New York (2) – Ryan Connolly (Binghamton), Craig Cooper (Plainview)

Ohio (2) – Brett Lilley (North Canton), Greg Lopez (Upper Arlington)

Washington (2) – David Gruener (Gig Harbor), Eddie Smith (Olympia)

Colorado (1) – Matt Bransfield (Englewood)

Massachusetts (1) – Tom Thornton (Middleboro)

Missouri (1) – David Phelps (Hazelton)

New Jersey (1) – Chris Soriano (Randolph)

New Mexico (1) – Kyle Weiland (Albuquerque)

Virginia (1) – Jess Stewart (Manassas)

CLUTCH HITTING KEY COMPONENT – Three stats that measure clutch offense – leadoff on-base pct., batting with runners in scoring position and 2-out batting – show that clutch hitting can overcome a dropoff in power numbers ... using a formula that combines those three situational hitting numbers, **Brett Lilley** was the 2005 team's runaway team leader with a "clutch hitting" score of 1,402 ... that number can be skewed a bit by on-base pct. (which has the benefit of including walks and HBPs and thus is higher than batting avg. stats) ... using an adjustment whereby leadoff on-base pct. is multiplied by 75%, Lilley still checked in as ND's all-around leader in 2005 clutch hitting with a 1,273 score (.515 leadoff on-base/.386 adjusted, .448 RISP, .439 with 2-outs) ... the 2005 team's overall clutch-hitting score was 908 but the 2006 team has gone well beyond that, checking in at 943 thanks to a big jump in leadoff on-base pct. (.406 to .449) and batting with runners in scoring position (.309 to .334) ... senior 1B **Craig Cooper** (team-best 1,135) is 18 points above his 2005 CH score, with a 157-point jump in leadoff OB (.419 to .576) ... junior OF **Danny Dressman** owns a 976 clutch-hitting score – more than 300 points above his 673 in '05, with huge jumps in all three categories (up 197 points in leadoff OB, 79 in batting with RISP and 77 in 2-out hitting) ... senior SS **Greg Lopez** owns an 873 CH score that is 87 points higher than his 2005 mark, mostly due to a 129-point rise in his batting with RISP (.371) while sophomore 2b **Ross Brezovsky** has boosted his CH score 166 points (to 924), with a 95-point boost in leadoff on-base (.398) ... Lilley led the '05 team in 2-out batting and batting with RISP while ranking 3rd in leadoff OB (better than his overall team-leading .502 OB pct.) ... Cooper was 2nd overall in 2005 with a 1,117 clutch-hitting score that included the team's 2nd-best batting averages with 2-outs (.439) and with runners in scoring position (.448).

CLUTCH-HITTING CHART (team rank in parentheses)

		<i>Leadoff On-Base Pct.</i>	<i>Batting w/ RISP</i>	<i>2-Out Batting</i>	<i>Clutch Hit Tot.</i>
Craig Cooper	(2)	.576 (.432 adjust.)	(1) .382	(3) .321	(1) 1,135
(2005)	(5)	.419 (.314)	(2) .434	(2) .369	(2) 1,117
Brett Lilley	(4)	.486 (.365)	(6) .333	(1) .333	(2) 1,031
(2005)	(3)	.515 (.386)	(1) .448	(1) .439	(1) 1,273
Danny Dressman	(8)	.379 (.284)	(4) .365	(2) .327	(3) 976
(2005)	(13)	.182 (.137)	(8) .286	(9) .250	(10) 673
Sean Gaston	(3)	.488 (.366)	(9) .321	(7) .268	(4) 955
(2005)	(7)	.357 (.268)	(4) .322	(5) .302	(5) 892
Matt Bransfield	(10)	.360 (.270)	(5) .354	(4) .315	(5) 939
(2005)	(2)	.542 (.407)	(6) .314	(6) .286	(4) 1,007
Jeremy Barnes	(5)	.468 (.351)	(3) .366	(10) .221	(6) 938
Ross Brezovsky	(7)	.393 (.295)	(7) .329	(5) .300	(7) 924
(2005)	(10)	.298 (.224)	(7) .288	(10) .246	(9) 758
Alex Nettey	(6)	.439 (.329)	(10) .271	(6) .290	(8) 890
(2005)	(6)	.418 (.314)	(9) .273	(12) .219	(6) 806
Greg Lopez	(11)	.347 (.260)	(2) .371	(9) .242	(9) 873
(2005)	(8)	.353 (.265)	(10) .242	(7) .279	(7) 786
Cody Rizzo	(9)	.364 (.273)	(8) .324	(8) .263	(10) 860
(2005)	(4)	.436 (.327)	(12) .190	(10) .246	(8) 763
Steve Andres	(1)	.625 (.469)	(11) .087	(11) .120	(11) 676
(2005)					
TEAM		.449 (.337)	.334	.272	943
(2005)		.406 (.311)	.309	.294	908

PLATE DISCIPLINE

CUTTING DOWN THE Ks – Senior SS **Greg Lopez** has lowered his strikeout total from 43 in '05 to 16 in '06 (-27) while sophomore 2B **Ross Brezovsky's** Ks are down from 40 to 26 ... junior C **Sean Gaston** (11), senior 1B **Craig Cooper** (14) and junior OF **Danny Dressman** (16) join Lopez with fewer than 20 Ks – with Cooper ranking 31st in the nation among “toughest to strikeout” (15.5 ABs per K) ... the ND offense is averaging nearly one fewer K per game (4.3) than in '05 (5.2), with the batters averaging 7.86 at-bats per K (5th-best in the ND record and best since the '89 team's 7.89).

LORDS OF DISCIPLINE – The 2006 Notre Dame offense owns a +74 plate-discipline ratio (walks + hit-by-pitch - strikeouts) that is best in the 12-year Mainieri era and better than four times the 2005 team's PDR (+17; with the '06 PDT 57 points higher) ... the Irish batters have boosted their walks (3.9/gm in '05 to 4.0/gm in '06) while hitting at a .316 clip (21 points higher than in '05) ... the offense nearly has a 1-to-1 ratio of walks to Ks (239/264; 0.91), 2nd-best in the Mainieri era behind the 2001 team's 1.50 ratio ... the biggest improvements in PDR have been seen by junior OF Danny **Dressman** (up 25; from -6 to +19), soph. 2B **Ross Brezovsky** (20; from -20 to even), senior SS **Greg Lopez** (13; from -17 to -3), senior CF **Alex Nettey** (15; from -2 to +13) and junior C **Sean Gaston** (17; from -7 to +10) ... senior 1B **Craig Cooper** +32 would surpass Brett Lilley's team-best +29 in from the 2005 season (Lilley has surged to a +26 in '06):

PLATE-DISCIPLINE CHART

<i>Player</i>	<i>Walks</i>	<i>Hit-By-Pitch</i>	<i>Strikeouts</i>	<i>Plate Discipline (BB+HBP-Ks)</i>
Craig COOPER ('06)	36	10	14	+32
(2005)	32	14	22	+24
Brett LILLEY ('06)	26	21	21	+26
(2005)	34	27	32	+29
Danny DRESSMAN ('06)	30	5	16	+19
(2005)	5	1	12	-6
Alex NETTEY ('06)	12	23	22	+13
(2005)	13	14	29	-2
Sean GASTON ('06)	20	1	11	+10
(2005)	5	4	16	-7
Cody RIZZO ('06)	16	13	27	+2
(2005)	22	21	35	+8
Ross BREZOVSKY ('06)	20	6	26	Even
(2005)	16	4	40	-20
Steve ANDRES ('06)	14	2	16	Even
(2005)	21	6	20	+7
Greg LOPEZ ('06)	8	5	16	-3
(2005)	10	16	43	-17
Jeremy BARNES ('06)	28	5	37	-4
Matt BRANSFIELD ('06)	16	3	35	-16
(2005)	10	7	14	+3
TEAM TOTALS	239 BB	99 HBP	264 Ks	+74
(2005)	220	125	328	+17

* Lilley, Cooper and Matt Edwards (+17) were a combined +70 in '05 (rest of team -53)

Double-Digit Hit Streaks in the Paul Mainieri era (since '95)

Four different ND players have posted double-digit hit streaks this season (noted below, in bold and non-italics):

- 21 – Craig Cooper (2006; Sr., 1B)**
- 21 – Mike Amhein (1997; Sr., C)
- 18 – Jeff Felker (1999; Jr., 1B)
- 16 – Steve Stanley (2000; So., CF)
- 15 – Alex Nettey (2005; Jr., CF)**
- 15 – Steve Sollmann (2003; Jr., 2B)
- 15 – Jeff Wagner (1997; Sr., C/DH)
- 15 – Brant Ust (1997; Fr., 2B/SS)
- 14 – Steve Andres (2004; So., LF)**
- 14 – Brian Stavisky (2000; Fr., RF)
- 14 – Matt Nussbaum (1999; Jr., LF)
- 13 – Craig Cooper (2005; Jr., LF)**
- 13 – Steve Sollmann (2003; Jr., 2B)
- 13 – Steve Stanley (2002; Sr., CF)
- 13 – Andrew Bushey (2001; Jr., 3B)
- 13 – Allen Greene (1997; So., LF)
- 12 – Matt Bransfield (2006; Sr., LF)**
- 12 – Javi Sanchez (2002; SS, So.)
- 12 – Steve Stanley (1999; CF, Fr.)
- 12 – Jeff Wagner (1998; Jr., C)
- 11 – Danny Dressman (2006; Jr., OF)**
- 11 – Ross Brezovsky (2006; So., 2B)**
- 11 – Steve Stanley (2002; CF, Sr.)
- 11 – Brian Stavisky (2002; Jr., LF)
- 11 – Allen Greene (1998; Jr., CF)
- 11 – Scott Sollmann (1996; Jr., CF)
- 10 – Matt Edwards (2005; Sr., 1B)
- 10 – Matt Macri (2004; Jr., 3B)
- 10 – Matt Edwards (2004; Jr., 1B)
- 10 – Matt Edwards (2003; So., 3B)
- 10 – Steve Stanley (2002; Sr., CF)
- 10 – Steve Sollmann (2002; So., 2B)
- 10 – Steve Stanley (2001; Jr., CF)
- 10 – Ken Meyer (2001; Jr., DH)
- 10 – Steve Sollmann (2001; Fr., 2B)
- 10 – Steve Stanley (2000; So., CF)
- 10 – Brian Stavisky (2000; Fr., RF)
- 10 – Steve Stanley (1999; Fr., CF)
- 10 – Brant Ust (1998; So., 3B)
- 10 – J.J. Brock (1997; Sr., 3B)
- 10 – Randall Brooks (1996; Jr., 2B)
- 10 – J.J. Brock (1996; Jr., 3B)

Most Double-Digit Hit Streaks in the Mainieri Era

- 8 – Steve Stanley
- 4 – Steve Sollmann
- 3 – Brian Stavisky, Matt Edwards
- 2 – Brant Ust, Allen Greene,
Jeff Wagner, J.J. Brock, Craig Cooper

Note: Cooper's earlier 9-game hit streak ended this season after going 0-for-1 with 3 walks and a sac. fly vs. Central Michigan on March 22.

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 STARTS – By Batting Order

Opp.	Leadoff	2-hole	3-hole	Cleanup	5-hole	6-hole	7-hole	8-hole	9-hole
Ind.St.	Lilley	Gaston	Cooper	Andres	Lopez	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Rizzo
AFA	Barnes	Dressman	Cooper	Andres	Lopez	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Dury	Rizzo
MEM	Nettey	Lilley	Cooper	Bransfield	Lopez	Gaston	Barnes	Brezovsky	Rizzo
OKLA	Nettey	Lilley	Andres	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Brezovsky	Dury	Rizzo
NEB	Nettey	Lilley	Andres	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Brezovsky	Rizzo	Dressman
MINN	Lilley	Dressman	Gaston	Bransfield	Andres	Dury	Brezovsky	Lopez	Nettey
ARIZ	Lilley	Dressman	Bransfield	Nettey	Barnes	Mendiola	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
A&M	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Gaston	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez
IOWA	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Bransfield	Barnes	Andres	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
ILL	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Gaston	Barnes	Andres	Brezovsky	Nettey	Rizzo
IOWA	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Gaston	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
IOWA	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
SIU	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Gaston	Nettey	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
IOWA	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Sharpley	Lopez	Rizzo
SIU	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Bransfield	Gaston	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
Wr.St.	Cooper	Dressman	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lilley	Lopez	Rizzo
CMU	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
GU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
GU	Barnes	Lilley	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
GU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Gaston	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
VALPO	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Dury	Lopez	Rizzo
WMU	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Dressman	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Rizzo
PITT	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Bransfield	Dressman	Nettey	Gaston	Lopez	Rizzo
PITT	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Dressman	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Nettey
PITT	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Gaston	Lilley	Lopez	Nettey
Chi St.	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Gaston	Brezovsky	Andres	Nettey	Mendiola	Rizzo
BSU	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lilley	Lopez	Rizzo
USF	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Nettey
USF	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Rizzo
USF	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
OAK	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
MAN	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Andres	Dury	Nettey	Rizzo
SJU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Nettey
SJU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Gaston	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
SJU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
TOL	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
IPFW	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Lopez	Gaston	Nettey	Mendiola	Rizzo
RU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Nettey
RU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
RU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
PUR	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
BG	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Rizzo
UConn	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Nettey
UConn	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
UConn	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Rizzo
ClevSt	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
LOU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
LOU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Nettey
LOU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Rizzo
SHU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
SHU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Gaston	Bransfield	Lopez	Nettey
SHU	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Lopez	Gaston	Nettey	Rizzo
MICH	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Brezovsky	Dressman	Gaston	Bransfield	Lopez	Nettey
VILL	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Brezovsky	Dressman	Andres	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
VILL	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Brezovsky	Dressman	Andres	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
VILL	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Brezovsky	Gaston	Andres	Bransfield	Sharpley	Nettey
USF	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Brezovsky	Dressman	Andres	Gaston	Lopez	Nettey
WVU	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Bransfield	Lopez	Gaston	Nettey	Brezovsky	Rizzo
SJU	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Lopez	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo
SJU	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Andres	Brezovsky	Gaston	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
LOU	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Andres	Brezovsky	Gaston	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo

Batting Order and Position Combination Notes

- The first 32 games featured **32 different batting orders** (now **47** in 61) ... ND is 41-10-1 with Cooper at leadoff spot (4-5 with others).
- The first 32 games featured **25 different position combinations** (excluding pitchers), now **33** different position combos in 61 GP.
- The top four spots have included: **four** different **leadoff** batters (Brett Lilley, Jeremy Barnes, Alex Nettey and Craig Cooper) ... **three** players in the **2-hole** (Sean Gaston, Danny Dressman and Lilley) ... **seven** in the ever-important **#3 spot** (Cooper, Steve Andres, Gaston, Matt Bransfield, Lilley, Barnes, Dressman) ... and **seven cleanup** batters as well (Andres, Bransfield, Nettey, Gaston, Barnes, Dressman and Ross Brezovsky)
- **11** different ND players have hit as the **DH** this season: Steve Andres, Mike Dury, Jeremy Barnes, Eddy Mendiola, Brett Lilley, Sean Gaston, Danny Dressman, Evan Sharpley, Ross Brezovsky, Matt Bransfield and Greg Lopez.
- The Irish are **44-8-1 when Barnes has started**, including a 27-5 combined record when he has started in the middle infield (20-5 at 2B, 5-1 at SS) or at third base (6-0), plus 2-1 with him at first base and 14-3-1 as the DH ... ND is **17-5 when Rizzo has started at catcher** (he has caught **9 games by Manship**, **5 by Samardzia**, 5 by Gruener, 2 by Phelps and a single game by Korpi).
- The **DH** spot has hit **just .252** this season (54-for-214), with most of the hits from Bransfield (9-for-17, .529) or Barnes (19-for-67, .284) ... those two are batting a combined .333 as the DH while the other nine who have DH'd are 26-for-130 (.200) ... **Dressman is hitting .337 as an outfielder** (55-for-163, 33 RBI, 35 R) but is 0-for-16 as the DH (0 RBI, R) while Brezovsky is 12-for-49 (.245) as the DH, Gaston 2-for-15 (.153), Andres 3-for-19 (.158) and Dury 2-for-13 (.154) ... **Barnes is batting just 9-for-34 (.265) at SS (.301/56-for-186 at other positions).**

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 STARTS – By Position

Opp.	Catcher	1st Base	2nd Base	Shortstop	3rd Base	Left Field	Center Field	Right Field	DH	Pitcher
Ind.St.	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Andres	Thornton
AFA	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Bransfield	Dressman	Andres	Dury	Samardzija
MEM	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Barnes	Korpi
OKLA	Gaston	Dury	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Andres	Manship
NEB	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Andres	Thornton
MINN	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Andres	Dury	Samardzija
ARIZ	Rizzo	Barnes	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Mendiola	Manship
A&M	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Samardzija
IOWA	Rizzo	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Andres	Manship
ILL	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Barnes	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Andres	Thornton
IOWA	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Bransfield	Dressman	Rizzo	Lilley	Korpi
IOWA	Rizzo	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Gaston	Samardzija
SIU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Manship
IOWA	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Sharpley	Phelps
SIU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Thornton
Wr.St.	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Korpi
CMU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Barnes	Phelps
GU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Manship
GU	Rizzo	Barnes	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Andres	Samardzija
GU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Rizzo	Dressman	Barnes	Thornton
VALPO	Rizzo	Barnes	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Dury	Gruener
WMU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Rizzo	Dressman	Brezovsky	Thornton
PITT	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Bransfield	Samardzija
PITT	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Manship
PITT	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Thornton
Chi St.	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Barnes	Mendiola	Andres	Nettey	Dressman	Gaston	Gruener
BSU	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Korpi
USF	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Samardzija
USF	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Rizzo	Dressman	Brezovsky	Thornton
USF	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Barnes	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Lopez	Manship
OAK	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Bransfield	Korpi
MAN	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Barnes	Lilley	Andres	Nettey	Dressman	Dury	Phelps
SJU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Brezovsky	Samardzija
SJU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Bransfield	Thornton
SJU	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Manship
TOL	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Bransfield	Korpi
IPFW	Rizzo	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Mendiola	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Gaston	Gruener
RU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Brezovsky	Samardzija
RU	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Manship
RU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Bransfield	Thornton
PUR	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Korpi
BG	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Barnes	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Gaston	Gruener
UConn	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Brezovsky	Samardzija
UConn	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Manship
UConn	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Rizzo	Dressman	Barnes	Korpi
ClevSt	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Lilley	Gruener
LOU	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Manship
LOU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Brezovsky	Samardzija
LOU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Barnes	Thornton
SHU	Rizzo	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Brezovsky	Samardzija
SHU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Manship
SHU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Brezovsky	Thornton
MICH	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Korpi
VILL	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Andres	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Samardzija
VILL	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Andres	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Manship
VILL	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Barnes	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Andres	Sharpley	Thornton
USF	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Andres	Nettey	Dressman	Brezovsky	Korpi
WVU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Brezovsky	Samardzija
SJU	Rizzo	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Brezovsky	Manship
SJU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Andres	Nettey	Rizzo	Brezovsky	Thornton
LOU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Andres	Nettey	Rizzo	Brezovsky	Korpi

Player	GS	p	c	1b	2b	3b	ss	lf	cf	rf	of	dh	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
4 Greg Lopez.....	56	.	.	.	.	.	55	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	5	4	.	46	1
16 Alex Nettey.....	55	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	55	.	.	.	3	.	.	1	.	7	25	7	12
2 Brett Lilley.....	55	.	.	.	.	53	.	.	.	.	.	2	4	41	7	.	.	.	3	.	.
9 Craig Cooper.....	55	.	.	55	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	52	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
7 Ross Brezovsky...	54	.	.	.	41	.	.	.	.	.	13	.	.	.	.	8	22	9	13	2	.
12 Matt Bransfield..	53	.	.	2	.	.	42	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	1	17	13	19	3	.	.
20 Jeremy Barnes....	53	.	.	3	20	6	6	.	.	.	18	.	2	.	23	22	5	.	1	.	.
6 Danny Dressman...	51	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	2	36	.	5	.	19	23	2	5	.	1	.	1
17 Cody Rizzo.....	48	.	22	.	.	.	.	.	4	22	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	47
11 Sean Gaston.....	43	.	39	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	1	2	6	10	12	14	.	.

ND Baseball 2006 Summer-League Commitments (others TBA)

Brett Lilley (3B, So.) – Cape Cod League (Cotuit Kettleers)
Joey Williamson (RHP, So.) – Alaska League (Anchorage Glacier Pilots)
David Phelps (RHP, Fr.) – Alaska League (Mat-Su Miners; Palmer, AK)
David Gruener (LHP, So.) – Alaska League (Mat-Su Miners; Palmer, AK)
Ross Brezovsky (2B, So.) – Jayhawk League (Hays, KS, Larks)
Sam Elam (LHP, Fr.) – Jayhawk League (Hays, KS, Larks)
Wade Korpi – Valley League (Staunton, VA, Braves)
Kyle Weiland (RHP, Fr.) – Great Lakes League (Delaware, OH, Cows)
Jeremy Barnes (IF/RHP, Fr.) – Great Lakes League (Delaware, OH, Cows)
Danny Dressman (OF, Jr.) – Northwoods League (Madison, WI, Mallards)
Jess Stewart (RHP, Jr.) – Coastal Plains League (Wilson, NC, Tobs)
Brett Graffy (RHP, Fr.) – Central Illinois League (DuPage Dragons)
Eddy Mendiola (3B/C, Fr.) – Florida Collegiate League
Ryan Connolly (OF, Fr.) – New York Collegiate League

Notre Dame Baseball 2005 Summer-League Statistics

Sean Gaston (Cotuit Kettleers; Cape Cod League) – named to league all-star team, also named first team all-league and team MVP ... hit .298 with 12 RBI and .328 on-base pct. (4 extra-base hits)
Jeff Manship (Cotuit Kettleers; Cape Cod League) – his win in final week clinched playoff spot (3-3, 2.88 ERA, 45 Ks, 15 BB, 44 H, 50 IP, 9 GS)
Craig Cooper (Brewster Whitecaps; Cape Cod League) – hit .217 with 11 R, 6 2B, 17 BB, 4 SB
Matt Bransfield (Mat-Su Miners; Alaska League) – named to league all-star team while leading team in slugging (.469) and doubles (12), ranking 2nd in RBI (23), and 3rd in both batting (.312) and on-base pct. (.409)
Cody Rizzo (Mat-Su Miners; Alaska League) – 2nd on team with 9 times hit-by-pitch (hit .188, 6 BB, HR, 12 R, 5 RBI)
Alex Nettey (Fayetteville, NC, Swampdogs; Coastal Plains League) – hit .236 as starting CF (3 BB, 9 HB, 8 R, 12 RBI, 8 SB)
Danny Dressman (Madison, WI Mallards; Northwoods League) – team's top defensive outfielder, making just one error in 54 GP (hit .297, 18 R, 17 RBI, 3 2B, 12 BB, 6 SB)
Ross Brezovsky (Hays, KS Larks; Jayhawk League) – hit .256 with 18 runs scored (8 RBI, 3 2B, 15 BB, 12 K, 31 G)
David Gruener (Hays, KS Larks; Jayhawk League) – had 9 starts in 11 appearances (5-2, 59 Ks, 23 BB, 44 H, 52 IP)
Wade Korpi (Staunton, VA, Braves; Valley League) – went 3-3 with 4.67 ERA in 12 appearances (46 Ks, 34.2 IP, 4 GS, 18 BB, 36 H, .265 opp. avg.)
Joey Williamson (Luray, VA, Wranglers; Valley League) – posted 2.06 ERA, 3-0 record (9 GP/6 GS, 42 Ks, 20 BB, 26 H)
Eddie Smith (DuPage Dragons; Central Illinois Collegiate League) – stole 4 bases on 5 attempts (.156, 8 R, 5 RBI, .315 OBP, .938 FLD)