



BIG EAST Baseball Doubleheader
St. John's Red Storm (17-10, 6-2)



vs.

#4 Notre Dame Fighting Irish (25-4, 7-1)

Monday, April 12, 2004 ... Eck Stadium (Notre Dame, Indiana)



Grant Johnson



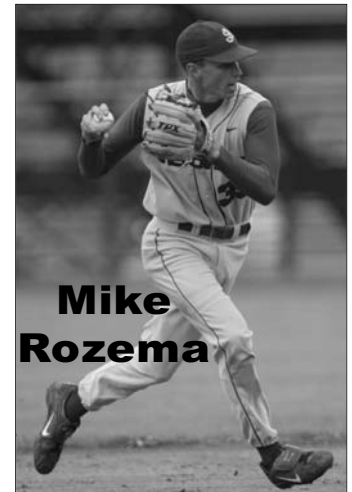
Matt Bransfield



Jess Stewart



Craig Cooper



Mike Rozema



THE TALE OF THE TAPE

| | ST. JOHN'S | NOTRE DAME |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2003 Records | 29-27, 12-14 (7th) | 45-18, 16-7 BE (3rd) |
| Lettermen Ret./Lost | 14/14 | 21/7 |
| CURRENT STATS (BIG EAST rank in parentheses) | | |
| Batting Average | (11) .318 | (3) .314 |
| Runs Per 9 Innings | 6.8 | 9.2 |
| Home Runs | (10) 15 | (1) 31 |
| Slugging Percentage | (11) .435 | (2) .474 |
| Batters BB/K Margin | -38 (91/129) | -31 (140/171) |
| On-Base Percentage | (10) .388 | (1) .417 |
| Stolen Bases | (11) 44-64 | (10) 31-41 |
| Stolen Base Percentage | .688 | .756 |
| Team ERA | (3) 4.24 | (1) 3.66 |
| Pitchers' K-to-BB Ratio | 1.43 (197/138) | 2.42 (189/78) |
| Pitchers' Ks Per 9 Inn. (Ks) | 7.7 | 6.6 |
| Opponent Batting Average | (2) .246 | (3) .247 |
| Fielding Pct./Errors | (8) .962/39 | (2) .968/37 |
| Double Plays Turned | (4) 28 | (4) 24 |
| Record In One-Run Games | 3-4 | 3-0 |
| Extra-Inning Record | 0-2 | 3-0 |

Probable Starters

Game 1

SJ – Anthony Varvaro (So., RHP)
 (4.50, 4-0, 40 IP, 35 K/23 BB, .215)

ND – Grant Johnson (Jr., RHP)
 (0.82, 1-0, 11 IP, 8 K/8 BB, .238)

Game 2 (TBA)

SJ – candidates include senior RHP Geno Orsogna and freshman RHP Anthony Sullivan

ND – candidates include sr. LHP Joe Thaman and fr. RHPs Jess Stewart and Jeff Samardzija



Anthony Varvaro

Updated BIG EAST Conference Baseball Standings

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|---------|
| 1. Notre Dame | 7-1 (.875) | 25-4 |
| 2. Rutgers | 8-2 (.800) | 16-13 |
| 3. St. John's | 6-2 (.750) | 17-10 |
| 4. Pittsburgh | 7-3 (.700) | 19-8 |
| 5. Boston College | 4-3 (.571) | 12-17 |
| 6. Connecticut | 5-5 (.500) | 16-12 |
| 7. Seton Hall | 4-6 (.400) | 8-20-1 |
| 8. Georgetown | 5-8 (.385) | 19-20 |
| 9. Villanova | 3-7 (.300) | 18-12-1 |
| 10. Virginia Tech | 3-7 (.130) | 16-14 |
| 11. West Virginia | 1-9 (.100) | 9-20 |

Thursday's BIG EAST Scores

BC swept at Vill. (8-5, 3-0/6) ... SJU split at UConn (7-6, 2-6)
 SHU split at WVU (3-4, 9-8) ... VT split at GU (3-4, 16-3)
 Rutgers swept at home vs. Pittsburgh (4-0, 8-5)

Saturday's Other BIG EAST Doubleheaders

Rutgers swept G'town (2-0, 11-1) ... UConn swept SHU (5-4, 4-2)
 VT swept at Vill. (2-1/9, 18-1) ... Pitt swept at WVU (2-0, 7-2)

Last Week's Other Series

GU lost 2-of-3 at UConn (2-5, 3-11, 5-0) ... RU swept WVU (6-4, 8-4, 6-4)
 BC lost 2-of-3 at Pitt (4-9, 4-2, 6-7) ... SJU swept VT (3-2, 9-5, 2-0)

SERIES NOTES – ND leads the series with SJU 17-6 (just 6-4 at Eck Stadium), with the Irish winning 8 of the last 9 ... ND has taken 4 of the 6 previous series from SJU (one game in '96, dnp in '97) ... the series has featured 7 one-run wins (4 for ND) ... SJU's 3-0 win at ND on May 9, 1998, remains one of only two shutout losses for the Irish at Eck Stadium during the Paul Mainieri era (since '95, a span of 271 games) ... ND has lost just seven three-game BIG EAST series, with SJU owning two of them ('98, '99) ... Aaron Heilman's 2-1 loss to SJU in '98 was one of just seven losses in his 43-7 career ... ND won the first two games of the SJU series (7-3, 4-0, in '96) but the teams alternated victories in the next 10 games ... the ND-SJU series featured just one regular-season game in 1996 and '97 due to weather (ND also beat SJU in the '96 BIG EAST Tournament, 4-0) ... the teams then split four games in 1998 (SJU won a series at ND but the Irish won a BIG EAST Tournament meeting later in that '98 season) ... ND's Javi Sanchez – a .211 career hitter vs. SJU (4-for-19) played alongside SJU shortstop Mike Rozema last summer with the Madison Mallards (ND's Joe Thaman and Tyler Jones also were members of that team).

RECAPPING THE '03 ND-SJU GAMES – The Irish rolled to a doubleheader sweep at SJU in 2003 (11-3, 18-3), in possibly the ND program's most dominant day ever in BIG EAST play (the second game is the largest margin of victory for the Irish in a BE game) ... ND had 27 hits in the doubleheader and allowed just 3 earned runs ... Chris Niesel (7 IP, 3 R/2 ER, 9 H, 2 BB, 4 Ks, 10 GOs) and Ryan Kalita (7 IP, 3 R/1 ER, 6 H, 0 BB, 4 Ks, 14 GOs) picked up the wins ... Matt Edwards (6-for-9, 5 RBI, 5 R, 2 HR, 3B) and Steve Sollmann (7 RBI, 2 opp.-field HR) paced the offense, with both of Edwards' blasts going to dead-center field (a feat accomplished just twice previously in the SJU Ballpark's three-year history) ... ND's 7-9 hitters – Coy Rizzo, Craig Cooper and junior Joe Thaman – combined to bat 6-for-11 in the nightcap (2 BB, 7 RBI, 7 R) ... ND stranded just 5 runners in both games.

IRISH TEAM NOTES – Notre Dame saw its 11-game winning streak end Saturday vs. BC (4-7, 6-4) but the Irish still are tied for the fewest losses among 287 Division I programs (along with 35-4 Texas and 18-4 Albany) ... ND already is assured of the program's best record ever at the 30-game point (the 2001 team was 24-5-1 and later earned the #1 national ranking) ... ND has compiled a 64-9 record during the past four seasons ... ND has posted 12 error-free games, 4 with 1 E ... ND's 31 HRs already have matched the '03 team's entire total ... the Irish have hit 3 HRs four times in '04 ... ND has dominated 2nd-inning scoring (25-3) and owns a 65-19 combined edge in the 7th (34-10) and 8th (31-9) ... the 7-0 league start ranks among ND's best in nine BIG EAST seasons (the '99 team started 12-1 in BIG EAST play, the '98 team was 10-0 and then 13-1, and the '03 owned an 8-1 BIG EAST start) ... the Irish have posted 3-0 sweeps of nine different BIG EAST teams but have notched the tough 3-0 road sweep just six times in BIG EAST play ... ND is 52-8 in its last 60 at Eck Stadium (since mid-'02) ... the Irish have scored in 113 straight games and have been shut out just once in the last 343 ... ND has scored in 99.32% of the games during the 10-year Mainieri era (585 of 589) ... Mainieri's 22-year career record is 755-443-2 (424-164-1/.723 at ND) ... the Irish own a 144-49 (.746) record in 8-plus seasons of BIG EAST play, with Mainieri owning the best BIG EAST winning pct. in the league's history ... ND's 76 all-time BIG EAST series include 57 series wins, 10 even series and just 9 series wins by the opponent ... since starting 0-4 in '02 BIG EAST play, ND is 40-12 in its last 52 BIG EAST games ... the Irish have lost just 3 of 40 all-time BIG EAST home series (32 series wins, 4 even) while the last 25 BE series at Eck have seen ND win 22 (split 3) ... the last 6 games have featured 4 "big innings" (6-plus runs) from the ND offense ... the team's .417 on-base pct. would rank 4th in ND history (best since '94) while the .247 opp. batting avg. is 5th-best by an ND staff since 1971 ... the Irish have won 14 times by 5-plus runs ... last week's 34 runs vs. Villanova was ND's biggest offensive output in a BIG EAST series since 2000 ... the Irish have posted double-digit hits and double-digit runs in 5 of the last 7 games, with 16 total double-digit hit games (12 with 12-plus) and 11 games with double-digit runs.

IRISH PLAYER NOTES – Saturday's starters **Chris Niesel** (17-3, .850) and **Tom Thornton** (2.12) have combined respectively for the 5th-best career win pct. and best career ERA in ND baseball history ... ND's infield shifts – **Greg Lopez** to SS, **Matt Macri** SS to 3B, **Matt Edwards** 3B to 1B and **Joe Thaman** 1B to LHP – have paid bid dividends, with the four starting IF (also 2B **Steve Sollmann**) combining for just 15 errors ... the leftside IFs have combined for 45 error-free games this season (22 for Lopez; 23 for Macri, error-free 17 of last 18) ... after flipping spots with Danny Dressman (now the leadoff hitter), Sollmann was batting .476 (10-for-21) as the 2-hole hitter during his last 6 games (prior to his injury) ... Macri is batting 17-for-28 (.607) in his current career-best 7-game hit streak (10 RBI, 16 R, 4 BB, HBP, HR, 2 3B, 2 2B, .929 slugging) ... sophomore LF **Steve Andres** is a classic slugging/on-base double threat (his combined "OBS" is a team-best 1.120), with 15 walks in his current and career-best 12-game hitting streak (15-for-37/.405, 11 RBI, 12 R, 2 HR, 3B, 2 2B) ... **Craig Cooper** saw his own career-best 9-game hit streak end vs. BC (his 4 HRs have come in the last 8 games) ... **Matt Bransfield** has hits in 14 of the last 15 games (pair of 7-game hit streaks) while smacking all of his team-best 6 HRs in that stretch (he and Cooper did not homer in 193 combined ABs as freshman) ... Sollmann has not made an error in his last 26 games with the Irish (16 total Es in last 3 seasons) and ranks 4th on the ND career hits list (280) ... **Cody Rizzo**'s 38 times have tied the ND career record (Craig Desemsi, '92-'95) ... Thornton's 6-hit gem at WVU is just ND's third 9-inning solo shutout in a BIG EAST game during the last six seasons (Danny Tamayo had two in '01) ... **Jeff Samardzija** (a scholarship receiver on the ND football team) has not allowed a run in his last 16 innings and 8 appearances ... Lopez (.250 in '03, .343 in '04) and Macri (.273 in '02/'03, .388 in '04) continue to hit well above their career averages heading into '04 ... Lopez totaled just 26 RBI in 50 GP/132 ABs during the '03 season while Bransfield had only 10 RBI in 33 GP/71 ABs (they both have 22 RBI in '04) ... senior C **Javi Sanchez** (who also doubles as Sollmann's top replacement at 2B) has hit safely in his last 9 games.

BIG EAST LEADERS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Batting Average | |
| 1. PJ Hiser, Pittsburgh | .423 |
| 3. Matt Macri, ND | .388 |
| 4. Blake Hershelman, SJU | .376 |
| 5. Jim Martin, SJU | .373 |
| Home Runs | |
| 1. PJ Hiser, Pitt | 10 |
| 2. Matt Bransfield, ND | 6 |
| 6. Edwards/Macri, ND | 5 |
| Blake Hershelman, SJU | 5 |
| 9. Cooper/Andres, ND | 4 |
| RBI | |
| 1. Matt Macri, ND | 32 |
| 2. Matt Edwards, ND | 31 |
| 3. Blake Hershelman, SJU | 26 |
| 8. Eddie Schultz, SJU | 23 |
| 9. Lopez/Bransfield, ND | 22 |
| Slugging Percentage | |
| 1. PJ Hiser, PITT | .972 |
| 2. Matt Macri, ND | .660 |
| 3. Blake Hershelman, SJU | .624 |
| 4. Matt Bransfield, ND | .603 |
| 5. Steve Andres, ND | .594 |
| 8. Craig Cooper, ND | .589 |
| On-Base Percentage | |
| 1. Graig Badger, RU | .533 |
| 2. Steve Andres, ND | .526 |
| 5. Matt Macri, ND | .480 |
| 10. Blake Hershelman, SJU | .447 |
| Stolen Bases | |
| 1. Kris Molloy, VU/Chris Stanton, VT | 13 |
| 7. Mike Rozema, SJU | 10-11 |
| 9. P.J. Antoniato, SJU | 7-9 |
| Triples – 1. Matt Macri, ND | |
| Doubles | |
| 1. Brian Newbold, VILL | 10 |
| Hershelman/Schultz, SJU | 10 |
| Parker Brooks, GU | 10 |
| 5. Greg Lopez, ND | 9 |
| Walks | |
| 1. Steve Andres, ND | 25 |
| 5. Macri/Edwards, ND | 17 |
| Runs Scored | |
| 1. Matt Macri, ND | 35 |
| 4. Greg Lopez, ND | 26 |
| 9. P.J. Antoniato, SJU | 24 |
| 10. Steve Sollmann, ND | 23 |
| Hershelman/Martin, SJU | 23 |
| Hits | |
| 1. Michael Lombardi, GU | 42 |
| 2. Matt Macri, ND | 40 |
| 3. Hershelman/Martin, SJU | 38 |
| 5. Mike Rozema, SJU | 37 |
| 8. Greg Lopez, ND | 34 |
| 10. P.J. Antoniato, SJU | 33 |
| Total Bases | |
| 1. PJ Hiser, PITT | 69 |
| 2. Matt Macri, ND | 68 |
| 3. Blake Hershelman, SJU | 63 |
| 5. Matt Edwards, ND | 54 |
| 6. P.J. Antoniato, SJU | 52 |
| ERA (min. 1 IP/per team game) | |
| (Jeff Samardzija, ND | 0.44) |
| 1. Tom Thornton, ND | 2.42 |
| (Joe Thaman, ND | 3.42) |
| Opponent Batting Average | |
| (Jeff Samardzija, ND | .147) |
| (Joe Thaman, ND | .170) |
| 1. Chris Lambert, BC | .196 |
| 4. Tom Thornton, ND | .216 |
| 8. Anthony Varvari, SJU | .215 |
| Wins | |
| 1. Ryan Doherty, ND | 4-0 |
| Thornton/Niesel, ND | 4-1 |
| Joe Reid, SJU | 4-1 |
| 5. Jess Stewart, ND | 3-0 |
| Strikeouts | |
| 1. Chris Lambert, BC | 53 |
| 3. Joe Reid, SJU | 41 |
| 4. Chris Niesel, ND | 38 |
| Saves | |
| 1. Ryan Doherty, ND | 5 |
| 5. Craig Hansen, SJU | 3 |
| Appearances | |
| 1. Ryan Doherty, ND | 14 |
| Craig Hansen, SJU | 14 |
| 4. Joe Thaman/Dan Kapala, ND | 12 |
| Innings | |
| 1. Tom Thornton, ND | 52.0 |
| 7. Joe Reid, SJU | 42.2 |

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

| NO | NAME | CL | POS | HT/WT | HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL |
|----|--------------------|-----|---------|----------|---|
| 2 | Tim Murray | Sr. | IF | 6-2/190 | Shrub Oak, NY (Lakeland) HS |
| 3 | Steve Sollmann (C) | Sr. | 2B | 5-11/195 | Cincinnati, OH (St. Xavier HS) |
| 4 | Greg Lopez | So. | SS | 6-0/185 | Upper Arlington, OH (Upper Arlington HS) |
| 5 | Matt Macri | Jr. | 3B/SS | 6-2/190 | Clive, IA (Dowling HS) |
| 6 | *Danny Dressman | Fr. | CF | 5-9/175 | San Jose, CA (Archbishop Mitty HS) |
| 7 | *Zach Sisko | Sr. | IF | 6-2/205 | Belleville, IL (St. Louis University HS) |
| 8 | Chris Fournier | Fr. | 2B/OF | 5-11/200 | Fairfield, CT (Fairfield HS) |
| 9 | Craig Cooper | So. | OF | 6-2/205 | Plainview, NY (Chaminade HS) |
| 10 | Chris Niesel (C) | Jr. | RHP | 6-0/205 | Plantation, FL (St. Thomas Aquinas HS) |
| 11 | *Sean Gaston | Fr. | C | 6-0/170 | Brownsburg, IN (Brownsburg HS) |
| 12 | Matt Bransfield | So. | DH/LF | 6-1/200 | Englewood, CO (Cherry Creek HS) |
| 13 | *Brennan Grogan | So. | OF | 6-2/175 | Tequesta, FL (Benjamin HS) |
| 14 | Matt Edwards | Jr. | 1B/3B | 6-2/195 | Mechanicsville, VA (Lee-Davis HS) |
| 15 | Javi Sanchez (C) | Sr. | C/IF | 6-3/205 | Miami, FL (Christopher Columbus HS) |
| 16 | Alex Netzey | So. | OF | 6-1/195 | Dolton, IL (Thornridge, IL) |
| 17 | Cody Rizzo | So. | OF | 6-1/200 | Temecula, CA (Chapparal HS) |
| 18 | Brent Weiss | Jr. | DH | 6-1/195 | Cockeysville, MD (St. Paul's HS) |
| 20 | Derik Olvey | Fr. | RHP | 6-2/205 | Pelham, AL (Pelham HS) |
| 21 | *Joe Thaman | Sr. | LHP/1B | 6-4/210 | St. Louis, MO (St. Louis University HS) |
| 22 | Grant Johnson | Jr. | RHP | 6-5/215 | Burr Ridge, IL (Lyons Township HS) |
| 23 | Martin Vergara | Jr. | RHP | 6-0/190 | Paterson, NJ (DePaul Catholic HS) |
| 24 | Rico Bertucci | Fr. | RHP | 6-0/170 | Belleville, IL (Belleville HS) |
| 25 | Nick Mainieri | So. | C | 5-11/160 | South Bend, IN (St. Joseph's HS) |
| 29 | Cody Wilkins | Sr. | LHP | 6-1/225 | Hudson, NC (South Caldwell HS) |
| 30 | Tom Thornton | So. | LHP | 6-6/215 | Middleboro, MA (Middleboro HS) |
| 32 | Jess Stewart | Fr. | RHP | 6-3/215 | Manassas, VA (Manassas HS) |
| 33 | Scott Bickford | Jr. | LHP | 6-4/170 | Owings, MD (Northern HS) |
| 34 | Jeff Manship | Fr. | RHP | 6-1/175 | San Antonio, TX (Reagas HS) |
| 35 | Chris Vasami | Fr. | RHP/1B | 6-3/250 | Mamaroneck, NY (Mamaroneck HS) |
| 36 | *Steve Andres | So. | DH/OF/C | 5-10/190 | Napa, CA (Justin Siena HS) |
| 37 | Dan Kapala | Fr. | RHP | 6-5/210 | Royal Oak, MI (Shrine Catholic HS) |
| 38 | Tyler Jones | Jr. | RHP | 6-4/205 | Arlington, TX (James Martin HS) |
| 44 | #Mike Dury | Fr. | 1B/LHP | 6-5/225 | Indianapolis, IN (Bishop Chatard H) |
| 45 | Jeff Samardzija | Fr. | RHP | 6-5/205 | Valparaiso, IN (Valparaiso HS) |
| 46 | Matt Whittington | Fr. | LHP | 6-1/185 | Melbourne, FL (Melbourne Central Catholic HS) |
| 47 | Ryan Doherty | So. | RHP | 7-1/220 | Toms River, NJ (Toms River East HS) |
| 49 | John Axford | Jr. | RHP | 6-5/180 | Port Dover, Ontario (Assumption College HS) |

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

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

ST. JOHN'S RED STORM * – lefthanded hitter; # – switch hitter

| NO | NAME | CL | POS | HT/WT | HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOLS |
|----|---------------------|-----|-------|----------|---|
| 2 | P.J. Antoniato | Jr. | IF | 5-11/175 | Levittown, NY/Briarcliffe JC/Division Avenue HS |
| 3 | Joe Reid | Sr. | RHP | 6-0/190 | Rutherford, NJ/St. Mary's HS |
| 4 | #Matt Robinson | Jr. | IF | 5-10/185 | Sacramento, CA/Sac. City JC/Christian Brothers HS |
| 5 | *Joe Burke | Jr. | C | 6-0/195 | Brooklyn, NY/Nassau JC/St. Edmund Prep |
| 6 | Anthony DeRosa | Sr. | OF | 5-11/185 | Salem, NH/Salem HS |
| 7 | Justin Muir | Fr. | LHP | 5-11/180 | Plainsboro, NJ/West Windsor-Plainsboro HS |
| 8 | Eric Grabowski | Fr. | OF | 6-0/170 | Spencer, MA/David Prouty HS |
| 9 | Derek Sullivan | Sr. | SS/3B | 5-8/184 | Lincoln, CA/Sacramento City JC/Woodcreek HS |
| 11 | Tim Blackmon | Jr. | OF | 5-10/160 | Rochester, NY/Monroe JC/Brighton HS |
| 12 | Anthony Varvaro | Sr. | RHP | 6-0/170 | Staten Island, NY/Curtis HS |
| 13 | *Greg Thomson | So. | OF | 6-0/185 | Levittown, NY/Island Trees HS |
| 15 | Brendan Monaghan | Fr. | C | 6-1/186 | Wayne, NJ/Wayne Hills HS |
| 16 | Ryan Crespi | Fr. | IF | 5-10/182 | Sparta, NJ/Pope John XXIII HS |
| 17 | Anthony Sullivan | Fr. | RHP | 5-11/175 | Arlington, MA/Arlington HS |
| 18 | Chris Anninos | Fr. | OF | 6-2/190 | San Antonio, TX/Ronald Regan HS |
| 20 | Christopher Joachim | Fr. | IF | 6-1/195 | Massapequa Park, NY/Massapequa HS |
| 21 | Shane Kochon | So. | RHP | 5-11/200 | Atlantic Highlands, NJ/St. John Vianney HS |
| 22 | Geno Orsogna | Sr. | RHP | 6-2/170 | Norfolk, MA/Bishop Feehan HS |
| 23 | *Robert Delaney | So. | RHP | 6-2/220 | Hillsdale, NJ/Pascack Valley HS |
| 24 | Jim Wladyka | Jr. | RHP | 6-2/205 | Rutherford, NJ/Rutherford HS |
| 26 | Michael Maynard | Fr. | RHP | 6-2/175 | Staten Island, NY/Port Richmond HS |
| 27 | Frank Brogna | Fr. | RHP | 5-10/185 | Clifton Park, NY/Shenendehowa HS |
| 28 | Jesse Schuck | Fr. | IF | 6-3/195 | Valley Cottage, NJ/Nyack HS |
| 30 | Blake Hershelman | Jr. | C | 5-11/200 | Georgetown, DE/Sussex Central HS |
| 31 | James Lally | Fr. | RHP | 5-10/160 | Floral Park, NY/Archbishop Molloy HS |
| 32 | *Drew Jackson | Sr. | OF | 6-0/212 | Morgantown, WV/Potomac State JC/University HS |
| 33 | *Jim Martin | Jr. | IF | 5-10/175 | Norwood, MA/Norwood HS |
| 34 | Craig Hansen | So. | RHP | 6-5/185 | Glen Cove, NY/Glen Cove HS |
| 35 | *Mike Rozema | Sr. | SS | 6-1/180 | Fair Lawn, NJ/Fair Lawn HS |
| 38 | *Matt Tosoni | Fr. | LHP | 6-4/200 | Whitby, ONT/Father Leo J. Austin SS |
| 40 | Eddie Schultz | So. | IF | 5-11/200 | Flemington, NJ/Immaculata HS |
| 41 | Cole Kimball | Fr. | RHP | 6-3/190 | Great Meadows, NJ/Hacketstown HS |
| 44 | Kenny Devenney | So. | OF | 5-11/185 | Philadelphia, PA/Davidson College/Penn Charter HS |

Head Coach: Ed Blankmeyer

Assistant Coaches: Mike Hampton, Scott Brown, Chris Carminucci

2004 Notre Dame Baseball Stats (as of April 11)

Record: 25-4 Home: 9-2 Away: 7-2 Neutral: 9-0 BIG EAST: 7-1

| Player | Avg | GP-GS | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | TB | SLG% | BB | HBP | SO | GDP | OB% | SF | SH | SB-ATT | PO | A | E | FLD% |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 05 Matt Macri..... | .388 | 27-26 | 103 | 35 | 40 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 32 | 68 | .660 | 17 | 2 | 21 | 0 | .480 | 1 | 1 | 5-6 | 17 | 65 | 5 | .943 |
| 04 Steve Andres..... | .348 | 25-21 | 69 | 19 | 24 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 41 | .594 | 24 | 3 | 18 | 0 | .526 | 1 | 0 | 3-6 | 20 | 3 | 2 | .920 |
| 06 Greg Lopez..... | .343 | 28-26 | 99 | 26 | 34 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 22 | 49 | .495 | 8 | 6 | 15 | 2 | .414 | 3 | 4 | 3-3 | 45 | 86 | 8 | .942 |
| 09 Craig Cooper..... | .342 | 25-16 | 73 | 17 | 25 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 43 | .589 | 8 | 0 | 11 | 1 | .402 | 1 | 2 | 5-7 | 39 | 1 | 1 | .976 |
| 11 Sean Gaston..... | .340 | 14-10 | 47 | 11 | 16 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 19 | .404 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 0 | .385 | 1 | 0 | 4-4 | 60 | 7 | 1 | .985 |
| 12 Matt Bransfield.. | .333 | 25-20 | 78 | 16 | 26 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 22 | 47 | .603 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 2 | .409 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1.000 |
| 15 Javi Sanchez..... | .326 | 25-25 | 95 | 20 | 31 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 40 | .421 | 11 | 6 | 12 | 1 | .425 | 1 | 1 | 0-0 | 137 | 21 | 4 | .975 |
| 14 Matt Edwards..... | .304 | 28-26 | 102 | 19 | 31 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 31 | 54 | .429 | 17 | 3 | 18 | 3 | .405 | 4 | 0 | 2-2 | 227 | 20 | 2 | .992 |
| 03 Steve Sollmann... | .294 | 21-21 | 85 | 23 | 25 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 36 | .424 | 13 | 6 | 10 | 3 | .419 | 1 | 0 | 5-7 | 50 | 60 | 0 | 1.000 |
| 13 Brennan Grogan... | .290 | 11-6 | 31 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 15 | .484 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | .353 | 0 | 2 | 1-1 | 9 | 0 | 1 | .900 |
| 17 Cody Rizzo..... | .290 | 20-19 | 69 | 18 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 21 | .304 | 0 | 10 | 12 | 0 | .370 | 2 | 0 | 1-1 | 38 | 4 | 2 | .955 |
| 06 Danny Dressman... | .235 | 25-22 | 85 | 15 | 20 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 25 | .294 | 14 | 0 | 19 | 0 | .337 | 2 | 4 | 2-4 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 Brent Weiss..... | .400 | 3-2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .400 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .625 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| 02 Tim Murray..... | .286 | 8-3 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .286 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | .444 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 1.000 |
| 16 Alex Nettey..... | .273 | 5-2 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | .455 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | .385 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| 07 Zach Sisko..... | .211 | 8-6 | 19 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 7 | .211 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 0 | .375 | 0 | 2 | 0-0 | 15 | 14 | 2 | .935 |
| 08 Chris Fournier... | .207 | 17-7 | 29 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 7 | .241 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | .385 | 1 | 0 | 0-0 | 10 | 5 | 1 | .938 |
| 44 Mike Dury..... | .200 | 6-3 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | .500 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | .467 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 32 | 6 | 3 | .927 |
| 38 Tyler Jones..... | .000 | 3-0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1.000 |
| 35 Chris Vasami..... | .000 | 1-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1.000 |
| 45 Jeff Samardzija.. | .000 | 1-0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1.000 |
| 25 Nick Mainieri.... | .000 | 4-0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .500 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Totals..... | .314 | 29-29 | 1020 | 250 | 320 | 56 | 7 | 31 | 220 | 483 | .474 | 140 | 53 | 171 | 15 | .417 | 18 | 16 | 31-41 | 774 | 337 | 37 | .968 |
| Opponents..... | .247 | 29-29 | 970 | 123 | 240 | 38 | 5 | 17 | 109 | 339 | .349 | 78 | 33 | 189 | 17 | .323 | 7 | 13 | 35-53 | 727 | 272 | 62 | .942 |

LOB - Team (266), Opp (205). **DFs Turned** - Team (24), Opp (20). **CI** - Team (1), Javi Sanchez 1.
IBB - Team (5), Steve Andres 2, Matt Macri 1, Greg Lopez 1, Sean Gaston 1, Opp (2). **Picked Off** - Bransfield 1, S. Sollmann 1.

| Pitcher | ERA | W-L | APP | GS | CG | SHO/CBO | SV | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | 2B | 3B | HR | AB | B/Avg | WP | HBP | BK | SFA | SHA |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 45 Jeff Samardzija.. | 0.44 | 1-0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 1 | 20.1 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 68 | .147 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 47 Ryan Doherty.... | 0.60 | 4-0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 5 | 15.0 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 19 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 49 | .102 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 22 Grant Johnson... | 0.82 | 1-0 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 11.0 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 42 | .238 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 30 Tom Thornton.... | 2.42 | 4-1 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1/0 | 0 | 52.0 | 41 | 19 | 14 | 12 | 32 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 190 | .216 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 21 Joe Thaman..... | 3.42 | 2-1 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 23.2 | 15 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 19 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 88 | .170 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 Derik Olvey..... | 3.52 | 1-0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 15.1 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 58 | .241 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 Jess Stewart.... | 3.70 | 3-0 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 24.1 | 24 | 12 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 91 | .264 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 35 Chris Vasami..... | 4.63 | 1-0 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 11.2 | 13 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 46 | .283 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 37 Dan Kapala..... | 4.70 | 1-0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 1 | 15.1 | 18 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 18 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 61 | .295 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 10 Chris Niesel.... | 5.40 | 4-2 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 45.0 | 57 | 29 | 27 | 11 | 38 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 176 | .324 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 46 Matt Whittington. | 0.00 | 0-0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | .231 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 Scott Bickford... | 0.00 | 0-0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 2.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | .143 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 44 Mike Dury..... | 3.00 | 2-0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 9.0 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 33 | .273 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 Rico Bertucci.... | 4.15 | 1-0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 4.1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 14 | .214 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 38 Tyler Jones..... | 21.60 | 0-0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 5.0 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 28 | .500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 29 Cody Wilkins.... | 45.00 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 1.0 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | .500 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals..... | 3.66 | 25-4 | 29 | 29 | 1 | 1/0 | 7 | 258.0 | 240 | 123 | 105 | 78 | 189 | 38 | 5 | 17 | 970 | .247 | 13 | 33 | 2 | 7 | 13 |
| Opponents..... | 7.09 | 4-25 | 29 | 29 | 2 | 0/0 | 1 | 243.2 | 320 | 250 | 192 | 140 | 171 | 56 | 7 | 31 | 1020 | .314 | 47 | 53 | 2 | 18 | 16 |

PB - Team (7), Javi Sanchez 4, Sean Gaston 2, N. Mainieri 1, Opp (12). **Pickoffs** - Team (6), Tom Thornton 2, R. Bertucci 1, Jess Stewart 1, Whittington 1, Sean Gaston 1, Opp (2). **SBA/AIT** - Javi Sanchez (21-32), Sean Gaston (14-16), Tom Thornton (10-13), Chris Niesel (4-9), G. Johnson (5-6), Jess Stewart (3-5), Derik Olvey (3-5), Tyler Jones (3-3), Dan Kapala (3-3), Mike Dury (0-3), Joe Thaman (2-2), J Samardzija (1-1), Chris Vasami (0-1), Steve Andres (0-1), Ryan Doherty (1-1), Whittington (0-1).

2004 St. John's Baseball Stats (as of April 11)

Record: 17-10 Home: 8-1 Away (includes neutral sites): 9-9 BIG EAST: 7-2

| Player | AVG | GP-GS | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | TB | SLG% | BB | HBP | SO | GDP | OB% | SF | SH | SB-ATT | PO | A | E | FLD% |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 44 Kevein Devenney... | .563 | 13-4 | 16 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 | .625 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | .556 | 1 | 0 | 0-0 | 5 | 1 | 1 | .857 |
| 11 Tim Blackmon..... | .500 | 11-1 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | .625 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .556 | 0 | 0 | 1-1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| 13 Greg Thomson..... | .420 | 15-15 | 50 | 17 | 21 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 24 | .480 | 11 | 2 | 6 | 0 | .531 | 1 | 0 | 6-9 | 27 | 2 | 1 | .967 |
| 30 Blake Hershelman.. | .376 | 27-26 | 101 | 23 | 38 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 26 | 63 | .624 | 8 | 5 | 17 | 0 | .447 | 0 | 0 | 2-5 | 36 | 4 | 1 | .976 |
| 33 Jim Martin..... | .373 | 27-27 | 102 | 23 | 38 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 42 | .412 | 13 | 2 | 5 | 0 | .449 | 1 | 2 | 4-6 | 26 | 40 | 9 | .880 |
| 35 Mike Rozema..... | .349 | 26-26 | 106 | 21 | 37 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 44 | .415 | 4 | 5 | 16 | 1 | .397 | 1 | 2 | 10-11 | 35 | 77 | 7 | .941 |
| 16 Ryan Crespi..... | .333 | 9-0 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | .333 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | .333 | 0 | 0 | 0-1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | .750 |
| 02 PJ Antoniato..... | .308 | 27-27 | 107 | 24 | 33 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 52 | .486 | 10 | 1 | 8 | 2 | .364 | 3 | 1 | 7-9 | 69 | 78 | 3 | .980 |
| 40 Eddie Schultz..... | .303 | 26-23 | 89 | 16 | 27 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 23 | 48 | .539 | 13 | 1 | 17 | 4 | .394 | 1 | 0 | 1-4 | 136 | 10 | 3 | .980 |
| 05 Joe Burke..... | .287 | 26-23 | 87 | 11 | 25 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 31 | .356 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | .364 | 1 | 0 | 4-4 | 168 | 11 | 4 | .978 |
| 20 Chris Joachim..... | .275 | 23-21 | 69 | 9 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 25 | .362 | 11 | 1 | 9 | 0 | .378 | 1 | 0 | 1-2 | 83 | 5 | 3 | .967 |
| 15 Brendan Monaghan.. | .273 | 9-2 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | .364 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | .357 | 1 | 0 | 2-2 | 24 | 2 | 0 | 1.000 |
| 06 Anthony DeRosa.... | .250 | 27-26 | 96 | 10 | 24 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 31 | .323 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 3 | .275 | 2 | 5 | 3-5 | 34 | 3 | 1 | .974 |
| 09 Derek Sullivan.... | .250 | 7-1 | 12 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | .500 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | .400 | 0 | 0 | 0-1 | 1 | 7 | 1 | .889 |
| 32 Drew Jackson..... | .238 | 7-5 | 21 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | .286 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | .273 | 0 | 0 | 0-1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| 08 Eric Grabowski.... | .180 | 17-15 | 50 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 13 | .260 | 5 | 0 | 13 | 1 | .255 | 0 | 2 | 3-3 | 27 | 3 | 1 | .968 |
| 04 Matt Robinson..... | .167 | 4-0 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | .333 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .167 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| 27 Frank Brogna..... | .000 | 1-1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| Totals..... | .318 | 27-27 | 940 | 175 | 299 | 55 | 5 | 15 | 159 | 409 | .435 | 91 | 24 | 129 | 16 | .388 | 13 | 12 | 44-64 | 693 | 292 | 39 | .962 |
| Opponents..... | .246 | 27-27 | 856 | 141 | 211 | 39 | 5 | 21 | 121 | 323 | .377 | 138 | 30 | 197 | 20 | .367 | 10 | 17 | 27-36 | 694 | 307 | 44 | .958 |

LOB - Team (211), Opp (217). **DPs Turned** - Team (28), Opp (20). **CI** - Team (1), J. Burke (1), J. Burke (1), IBB - Team (2), J. Martin (1), J. Burke (1), Opp (5). **Picked Off** - C. Joachim (1), M. Rozema (1), D. Sullivan (1).

| Pitcher | ERA | W-L | APP | GS | CG | SHO | CBO | SV | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | 2B | 3B | HR | AB | B/AVG | WP | HBP | BK | SFA | SHA |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| 26 Michael Maynard... | 0.00 | 1-1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0/2 | 0 | 8.0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 30 | .167 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 07 Justin Muir..... | 0.61 | 2-0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0/1 | 0 | 14.2 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 49 | .163 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| 23 Robert Delaney.... | 2.81 | 0-0 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0/0 | 1 | 16.0 | 18 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 63 | .286 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | |
| 22 Geno Orsogna..... | 3.06 | 0-1 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0/2 | 1 | 17.2 | 19 | 12 | 6 | 12 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 68 | .279 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| 34 Craig Hansen..... | 3.31 | 1-1 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0/2 | 3 | 16.1 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 25 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 53 | .132 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| 38 Matt Tosoni..... | 4.15 | 1-0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0/1 | 0 | 17.1 | 15 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 61 | .246 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| 24 Jim Wladyka..... | 4.28 | 2-3 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0/0 | 1 | 33.2 | 39 | 23 | 16 | 14 | 25 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 132 | .295 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| 12 Anthony Varvaro.... | 4.50 | 4-0 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1/0 | 0 | 40.0 | 31 | 21 | 20 | 23 | 35 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 144 | .215 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| 03 Joe Reid..... | 5.06 | 4-1 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 0/1 | 0 | 42.2 | 39 | 30 | 24 | 36 | 41 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 154 | .253 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 5 | |
| 17 Anthony Sullivan.. | 5.79 | 2-2 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0/2 | 1 | 18.2 | 19 | 16 | 12 | 15 | 17 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 75 | .253 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| 08 Eric Grabowski.... | 9.00 | 0-1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 1 | 5.0 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 17 | .294 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | |
| 27 Frank Brogna..... | 40.50 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 1.1 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 10 | .600 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Totals..... | 4.24 | 17-10 | 27 | 27 | 1 | 3/2 | 8 | 231.1 | 211 | 141 | 109 | 138 | 197 | 39 | 5 | 21 | 856 | .246 | 26 | 30 | 5 | 10 | 17 | |
| Opponents..... | 5.64 | 10-17 | 27 | 27 | 4 | 0/0 | 2 | 231.1 | 299 | 175 | 145 | 91 | 129 | 55 | 5 | 15 | 940 | .318 | 22 | 24 | 6 | 13 | 12 | |

PB - Team (8), J. Burke (6), B. Monaghan (1), B. Hershelman (1), Opp (7). **Pickoffs** - Team (3), M. Tosoni (2), A. Varvaro (1), Opp (3). **SB/ATT** - J. Burke (20-25), J. Wladyka (6-8), J. Reid (5-7), A. Varvaro (7-7), B. Hershelman (5-7), G. Orsogna (3-5), R. Delaney (2-3), A. Sullivan (3-3), J. Muir (1-2), B. Monaghan (2-2), M. Tosoni (0-1).

Infield Shifts Lead To Great Results In 2004

By Pete LaFleur

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

Notre Dame's 2002 College World Series team featured Paul O'Toole at catcher, **Joe Thaman** at first base, Sollmann at second base, **Javi Sanchez** at shortstop and Andrew Bushey at third base. Two years later, opened '04 with only Sollmann at the same position (despite Thaman and Sanchez still being on the roster). Even more noteworthy is the fact that Sollmann and Sanchez (at catcher) are the only infield-area starters from the 2003 squad who entered '04 as the starter at the same position.

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

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

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

The most intriguing change has involved the senior Thaman (St. Louis, Mo.), who made a name for himself as one of college baseball's top defensive first basemen during the 2001-03 seasons. Inconsistency on the offensive end prompted Thaman to follow through on an idea that he'd floated earlier in his career: a move to the mound. Now, the 6-4 lefthander finds him-



Greg Lopez

self as a key member of the pitching staff after an impressive transition back to a position that he had not played since high school.

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

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

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

Sanchez is the wildcard in the whole equation, holding a unique dual role as starting catcher and top utility infielder. If Sollmann, Lopez or Macri are forced from a game, the Irish coaching staff's first inclination will be to shift Sanchez into any of those infield spots (as is the case with Sollmann sidelined, with freshman catcher Sean Gaston a more-than-capable option behind the plate). Sanchez – a prep second baseman who spent most of the 2002 College World Series season as the starting shortstop, following injuries to Macri and Edwards – even could fill in at first base in a pinch.

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

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

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

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

The high-energy Lopez then sparkled during fall ball, playing error-free through the first 15 days of practice (plus 22 error-free games thus far in '04). His bat also has reawakened (.343, 22 RBI, 9 2B), providing an added bonus to a defensive-oriented position.

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

"After struggling at times last season, I have learned what type of offensive player I need to be to help this team," adds Lopez, who was an accomplished linedrive hitter as a prep. "My focus needs to be on moving baserunners, getting on base, working walks, lowering my strikeouts – things I feel I can do on a regular basis, in addition to getting some key hits."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Macri – the highest-rated recruit in the program's history – has combined with Lopez for an airtight left side (with 23 error-free games of his own in '04).

"It's very exciting playing alongside Matt and he's a great player," says Lopez. "I think we are



Javi Sanchez



Matt Macri

a very tough left side of the infield and when you combine that will Edwards and Sollmann on the right side, that's a great infield."

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

33rd on the *PGI Baseball America* list (Oct. '03) of top college prospects for the 2004 draft (he was the fourth infielder on that list). *BA* also dubbed Macri as the BIG EAST's "best defensive third baseman" and "infielder with the strongest arm" – and he enters mid-April as one of the leading candidates for BIG EAST player of the year (.388, 32 RBI, 5 HR, 5 Es).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The heavy-hitting Edwards – who claims that Macri "could play any position on the field, due to his tremendous reactions, hands and arm – has shown noticeable improvement at first base in 2004. Notre Dame's 2003 RBI leader (69) en-

dured an unusual summer with an injury-plagued Waynesboro (Va.) Generals squad, causing him to be used at all four infield positions (with just a handful of games at first).

"It was a tough summer for our team and we all filled in where we were needed. But the transition to playing first base went great this fall," says Edwards, whose inspiring return from a broken leg early in the 2002 season included earning first team all-BIG EAST and ABCA second team all-region honors in 2003, en route to batting .376 with a team-best 8 home runs, plus 16 doubles and 25 walks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Coach Rooney has provided a fresh perspective and a lot of pitchers could get chances this spring to show what they can do," says Thaman, whose '04 stats include a 3.42 ERA, 2-1 record, 19 Ks, 8 walks and 15 hits allowed in 23.2 innings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

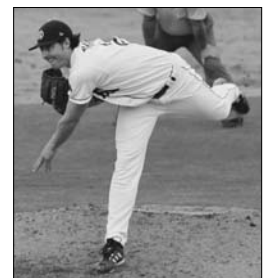
As the Irish headed into their 2004 season opener, Edwards best summed up the team's mindset concerning the numerous position switches.

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

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



Matt Edwards



Joe Thaman