

2005 NOTRE DAME BASEBALL

PLAY BALL! – The 22nd-ranked Notre Dame baseball team takes the nation's second-best winning pct. of the 2000s into its 2005 season opener on Friday, Feb. 18, vs. Florida A&M (1:00 p.m. EST) ... all four games this week will be played at the University of Central Florida's Bergman Stadium ... ND, coming off a record-setting 51-12 season in 2004, will face UCF on Sat., Feb. 19, and Sun. Feb. 20 (both 1:00) while playing a second game vs. FAMU on the 19th at 5:00 ... the Irish are ... the probable starting pitcher rotation for the Irish this week includes (in order) sophomore RHP Jeff Samardzija, junior LHP Tom Thornton, freshman LHP Wade Korpi and sophomore RHP Jess Stewart.

NOTRE DAME PROBABLE 2005 OPENING-DAY STARTING LINEUP (vs. RHP)

* indicates lefthander hitter, ** indicates switch hitter

Pos.	Player	Yr./Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2004 Statistics and Notes
CF	#9 Craig Cooper	Jr./6-2/220	Plainview, NY	.360, 10 HR, 48 RBI ... 12-17 SB, 42 R, 13 2B, 25 BB career: .336, 10 HR, 63 RBI, 22-30 SB, 19 2B, 64 R 1st player ever to lead BE in avg. (.470), OB, slug. ('04)
2B	#2 Brett Lilley*	Fr./5-7/165	North Canton, OH	'04 Hoover HS (SS): .375, 5 RBI, 16 ABs (hand injury) '03 Canton Central Catholic HS: .469, 45 R, 15 2B
1B	#14 Matt Edwards	Sr./6-2/195	Mechanicsville, VA	.310, 10 HR, 54 RBI ... 13 2B, 32 BB, 3B, 48 R career: .340, 20 HR, 127 RBI, 30 2B, 60 BB '03: 1st team all-BIG EAST, 2nd team all-region
DH	#12 Matt Bransfield	Jr./6-1/200	Englewood, CO	.306, 12 HR, 58 RBI ... 44 R, 12 2B, 22 BB career: .307, 12 HR, 68 RBI ... 57 R, 15 2B, 25 BB led BIG EAST with 33 RBI in conference play ('04)
LF	#36 Steve Andres*	Jr./5-10/200	Napa, CA	.320, 8 HR, 39 RBI ... 44 BB, 13 2B, 4 3B career: .300, 12 HR, 61 RBI, 64 R, 15 2B, 63 BB
RF	#17 Cody Rizzo	Jr./6-1/200	Temecula, CA	.263, 4 HR, 29 RBI ... 5 2B, 39 R, 21 HBP, 5-6 SB career: .290, 4 HR, 67 RBI, 16 2B, 92 R, 15 BB, 6-8 SB owns top HBP seasons in ND history (28 in '03)
C	#11 Sean Gaston*	So./6-0/185	Brownsburg, IN	.316, 11 RBI, 11 R, 3 2B, 5 BB, 4-4 SB, 23 GP/12 GS Missed 17 games in '04 due to mononucleosis National player of the year in '04 (started 10-for-12)
SS	#4 Greg Lopez	Jr./6-0/185	Upper Arlington, OH	'04: .332, 2 HR, 34 RBI ... 39 R, 14 2B, 10 SAC, 4-5 SB career: .299, 2 HR, 60 RBI, 56 R, 15 2B, 18 SAC 3rd team all-BIG EAST ('04)
3B	#7 Ross Brezovsky*	Fr./5-10/170	Naples, FL	'04 Collier HS: .390, 21 RBI, 10 SB (2nd team all-state) Gold Glove Award as prep shortstop

OFF THE BENCH

	Player	Yr./Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2004 Statistics and Notes
1B	#44 Mike Dury**	So./6-5/230	Indianapolis, IN	.250, HR, 2 RBI ... 4 R, 3 BB, 2 HBP
OF	#6 Danny Dressman*	So./5-9/180	San Jose, CA	.264, 18 RBI ... 25 R, 7 2B, 18 BB, 2-4 SB, 5 SAC
OF	#16 Alex Nettey	Jr./6-1/200	Dolton, IL	car.: .214, 57 GP/18 GS, 8 RBI, 20 R, 5 2B, 7 BB, 3 SB
IF	#5 Eddie Smith*	Jr./5-11/165	Olympia, WA	'04 Centralia CC: .307, 38 R, 8 2B, 11 SB, 18 HBP
IF	#3 Tony Langford	Fr./5-11/175	Fort Worth, TX	'04 FW Country Day: .413, 3 HR, 19 RBI, 8 2B, 6 SB
C	#25 Nick Mainieri	Jr./5-11/180	South Bend, IN	4 GP, 3 R, 2 BB; bullpen catcher; starting QB as a prep

OPENING-WEEK BULLPEN

	Player	Yr./Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2004 Statistics and Notes
RHP	#37 Dan Kapala	So./6-5/225	Royal Oak, MI	2.70, 2-1, SV, 28 GP, 40 IP, 37 H/.248, 16 BB, 40 Ks
RHP	#47 Ryan Doherty	Jr./7-1/255	Toms River, NJ	'04: 2.38, 5-1, 34 IP, 46 K, 11 BB, 19 H, .160 opp. avg. converted 12-of-13 saves ('04), 1-of-17 IBR scored car.: 2.30, 7-1, 13 SV, 62.2 IP, 90 K, 22 BB, 40 H, .179
RHP	#51 Joey Williamson	Fr./6-1/190	Lantana, FL	'04 Santaluces HS: 0.57, 9-1, 68 IP, 90 Ks, 22 BB, 43 H
LHP	#44 Mike Dury	So./6-5/230	Indianapolis, IN	1.88, 2-0, 14.1 IP, 11 GP, 13 H/.255, 4 BB, 10 K, 3 WP
RHP	#20 Derik Olvey	So./6-2/205	Pelham, AL	3.52, 1-0, 4 GP/2 GS, 15.1 IP, 14 H/.241, 3 BB, 7 Ks
LHP	#24 David Gruener	Fr./6-2/210	Gig Harbor, WA	'04 Life Christian Acad.: 1.90, 4-1, 30 IP, 65 Ks, 5 BB
RHP	#3 Tony Langford	Fr./5-11/175	Fort Worth, TX	'04 FW Country Day: 1.11, 5-3, 50 IP, 81 Ks, 18 BB
RHP	#38 Tyler Jones	6-4/210	Arlington, TX	'04: 9 GP, 14 R/13 ER, 3 K/4 BB, 17 H car.: 3-1, SV, 29 ER, 25 GP/2 GS, 32 IP, 24 Ks/15 BB
LHP	#54 Matt Whittington	So./6-1/185	Melbourne, FL	0.00, 3 GP, 5 IP, 6 H, 3 BB, 2 Ks, WP
LHP	#33 Scott Bickford	Sr./6-5/170	Owings, MD	'04: 0.00, 2 GP, 2 IP, 3 BB, K, H career: 5.65, 1-0, SV, 14.1 IP, 15 K/7 BB, 15 H

RADIO, LIVE-STATS & HOTLINE – All of Notre Dame's 2005 regular-season and postseason games again will be broadcast by South Bend-based WDND 1580 AM (and its sister station, WNDV 1490) ... the broadcasts are available via the internet at www.und.com (College Sports Pass subscription required) ... und.com also provides links to livestats on the website's main page, for all home games and select road games (including all four of this week's games being played at UCF) ... call the ND Sports Hotline at 574-631-3000 for schedule and result information for all varsity sports currently in season (from the main menu, select "4" and then select "1" for baseball information).

SERIES NOTES

RATTLERS SET TO BECOME OPPONENT #284 – Notre Dame has faced 283 different opponents in 112 previous seasons of Division I baseball, with Oklahoma State the most noteworthy team not on that list ... the Irish are 16-1 in their past 17 games vs. a first-time opponent (six straight wins), dating back to a win over Sam Houston State at the 2001 Alamo Invitational ... the only loss to a first-time opponent in that stretch was a 10-inning game at Jacksonville in 2003, with other recent wins over the University of the Pacific, New Mexico, UC Santa Barbara, Fairfield, Sacred Heart, Arkansas-Little Rock, Rochester College, Rice, Newman, IPFW, San Diego State, Winthrop, Florida Memorial, Texas Tech and UC Irvine in that 17-game stretch.

ND-UCF (3-2) – Notre Dame swept a pair of games from visiting UCF late in the 2004 season (4-0, 3-2) ... the Irish dropped a doubleheader at UCF in '79 (3-10, 2-5) while the '93 ND squad beat UCF in an NCAA regional elimination game at Florida State (12-3) ... the 11-year Paul Mainieri era has featured other marquee non-conference games at Eck Stadium, with the Irish splitting vs. Alabama in '95 (5-3, 1-9), a near-sweep of eventual national champ Miami in '99 (3-5, 1-0) and a 9-4 win over Arizona State in '02 (USC will play two at ND late in the '05 season) ... UCF athletic director Steve Orsini is a former ND football player and athletic department administrator ... Orsini was a team captain and fullback on ND's 1977 national championship team ... ND defeated two other teams in '04 – Minnesota (Joel Maturi) and Ball State (Bubba Cunningham) – whose ADs are Notre Dame alums ... former ND football player Gene Smith also is an ND alum, with the Irish and Sun Devils meeting in 2002 and '03 ... ND alums also are the ADs at Bradley, San Jose State and Santa Clara (former ND baseball player Mike Bobinski recently was AD at Xavier, now a VP).

ND-UCF SERIES

Date	Site	Result	
3/19/79	CFU	L	3-10
3/19/79	CFU	L	2-5
5/29/93	FSU (NCAAs)	W	12-3
5/18/04	ND	W	4-0
5/19/04	ND	W	3-2

Series Scoring	Total	Avg.
Notre Dame	24	4.8
Central Florida	20	4.0

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ... (OUTDOOR) PRACTICE! - After checking into its Orlando team hotel on Wednesday night, Notre Dame was scheduled spend several hours at UCF's Bergman Stadium on Thursday, playing a simulated scrimmage while getting the team's first outdoor workout of '05 ... ND's current 6-1 streak in season openers was sparked by the first season ('98, with the 10-1 win over Florida State) of the Mainieri era in which the Irish opted to use a missed-class-day for a practice day leading into the opener ... the only season since '98 in which the Irish have not used the practice day led to the only opening-day loss since '98 (7-6, vs. New Orleans in 2001).

FOR OPENERS – Notre Dame is 6-1 in its past seven season openers and 6-4 in previous openers during the Paul Mainieri era ... the Irish suffered a tight loss to New Orleans in the 2001 opener (7-6, at Mississippi State) but have opened with wins in 1998 (10-1 vs. Florida State, in Orlando), 1999 (8-4 over James Madison, at Florida International), 2000 (6-0 vs. Air Force, in Millington, Tenn.), 2002 (7-6 vs. Missouri, at UNO), 2003 (10-9 over Dayton, at ASU) and 2004 (7-1, over San Diego State, at USC). .. the 2001-03 openers each produced a one-run game (the Missouri game in '02 went 10 innings).

ON A ROLL IN FLA. – Notre Dame went 12-2 in its previous 14 games played in the state of Florida, starting with the 2002 Super Regional series at Florida State (2-1) and continuing at the 2003 Kennel Clubs Classic in Jacksonville (6-1) before the Irish won the Florida Atlantic Classic (3-0, plus additional win over Florida Memorial).

FAR & WIDE – Notre Dame's nine probable opening-day position starters include two California natives (junior LF Steve Andres and RF Cody Rizzo) and two from Ohio,(the double-play combo of junior SS Greg Lopez and freshman 2B Brett Lilley) plus one each from Virginia (senior 1B Matt Edwards), New York (junior CF Craig Cooper), Colorado (junior DH Matt Bransfield), Indiana (sophomore C Sean Gaston) and Florida (freshman 3B Ross Brezovsky)..

NOTRE DAME IN FLORIDA

- The Notre Dame baseball team has made regular visits to Florida, totaling a 45-40-1 record (23-5 in the past five years) vs. various top teams at games played in Boca Raton, DeLand, Gainesville, Homestead, Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Tallahassee and Winter Park.

- In addition to participating in the 2000 (7-1 record) and 2003 (6-1) Kennel Club Classics (in Jacksonville), the Irish recently have played three series at the University of Miami (1-2 in '92 and '95, 0-3 in '98) while participating in the first ACC/Disney Blast in Orlando ('98; 1-2 with win over FSU) and winning the 2004 Florida Atlantic Classic ... ND nearly advanced to the 1992 and '93 College World Series, after competing in NCAA regionals at Miami and Florida State (the Irish upset the host schools and advanced to the final day of competition in both '92 and '93) – with the 2002 Irish team winning an NCAA Super Regional series at Florida State to earn a College World Series spot (Florida native Chris Niesel picked up the decisive win over FSU) ... other Mainieri-era trips to Florida include the 2001 Devil Rays Invitational in St. Petersburg (lost to USF, beat FAU) and the 2002 Homestead Challenge (3-1, loss to FIU)

- The program's first Florida trip came in 1956 (2-5 in games around Tallahassee area), plus a 5-2 loss at FSU in 1958, three wins at Rollins in '67, tournaments at Miami in '70 (1-5) and Rollins in '78 (3-5-1), seven games around the state in '79 (2-5) and six games played at Rollins and Miami in '89 (4-2).

- Notre Dame has played six previous season openers in Florida (3-3) – with wins at Rollins (7-1, in '67) and vs. Wisconsin (4-1; at Rollins in '78) and FSU (10-1; '98 in Orlando) plus losses to West Virginia (0-4; at Florida A&M in '56), at Miami (3-7, in '70) and at Central Florida (3-10, in '79) ... the 2005 trip to Orlando marks just the second time in the past 26 seasons that the Irish have opened in the Sunshine State.

FLORIDA NATIVES – The 2005 Notre Dame baseball roster includes players from 16 states, with four from Florida: sophomore LHP **Matt Whittington** (Melbourne/Melbourne Central Catholic) freshman 3B **Ross Brezovsky** (Naples/Collier HS) and a pair of RHPs who were teammates at Santaluces HS, **Wade Korpi** (Lake Worth) and **Joey Williamson** (Lantana) – plus head coach Paul Mainieri (Miami) ... the Irish baseball program's list of all-time monogram winners includes 16 Florida natives, with recent pitching ace Chris **Niesel** (Plantation/Aquinas HS) joining other noteworthy RHPs such as Mike **Pasilla** (Windemere/Bishop Moore HS; '87-'89, 4.85 career ERA, 17-11 record, 200.1 innings), David **Sinnes** (Miami/Palmetto HS; '90-'93, 2.91, 32-8, 315 Ks in 297.1 IP), closer John **Corbin** (Hollywood Hills HS; '98-'00, 4.64, 13-7, 20 saves, 112 Ks in 114.1) and Danny **Tamayo** (Miami/Ransom Everglades HS; '98-'01, 3.27, 12-5, 141 Ks in 160.0) ... Sinnes held ND records for career win pct. and Ks (bested by Aaron Heilman in '01) while Corbin is the Irish career saves leader and Tamayo formed a potent 1-2 punch with Heilman ... other noteworthy ND players from Florida have included: SS Daniel **Cunha** (St. Petersburg; '33-'35), IF Joe **LaRocca** (Ft. Lauderdale/Gibbons HS; '70-'72) OF Mike **Galloway** (Cocoa Beach HS; '75-'77), 1B Henry **Valenzuela** (Tampa/Jesuit HS; '79-'82, .314, 15 Hr, 123 RBI), DH Ken **Meyer** (Ft. Myers/Verot HS; '99-'02) and catcher Javi **Sanchez** (Miami/Columbus HS).

RATTLERS NOTES (also see www.thefamerattlers.com) – Florida A&M is off to a 0-10 start, with four losses to Florida International, three vs. Mercer and two vs. Jacksonville (plus a 17-2 loss to Florida) ... FAMU returned 15 of 29 letterwinners from its 2004 team that went 22-30 and finished 3rd in the Med-Eastern Athletic Conference stabbings (9-6; then 1-2 at MEAC Tournament) ... top returners include sophomore SS Brian Brazton (.351, 4 HR, 30 RBI), sophomore OF Stanley Gnat (.325, 4 HR, 25 RBI), senior LHP A.J. Patrick (6.49, 4-6, 55 Ks) and senior C Patick Pinkerton (.295, HR, 36 RBI).

SUPER SKIPPERS – Notre Dame's **Paul Mainieri** (781) and UCF's **Jay Bergman** (1,271) have combined for more than 2,000 wins (2,052-1,135-6) in 56-plus seasons as college head coaches.

SCOUTING UCF (also see www.ucfathletics.com) – Central Florida (which also will face FAMU on Feb. 18) has started 5-1, after a pair of 3-2 wins over Florida International, a 7-1 game vs. Bethune-Cookeman and a series with LeMoyne (10-7, 10-3, 6-9) ... UCF returned 24 of 35 monogram winners from the 2004 team that went 47-18 and won the Atlantic-Sun regular-season tournament (24-6) but did not receive and NCAA bid after going 2-2 in the A-Sun Tournament ... Jay Bergman owns an 878-492-3 record in 22-plus seasons at UCF (1,271-684-4 in 34-plus overall season as a college head coach) ... top returning players include senior OF Dee Brown (.373, 5 HR, 68 RBI), junior C/1B Ryan Bono (.316, 2 HR, 43 RBI), sophomore RHP Taylor Meier (2.55, 6-3, 56 Ks), senior IF Chandler Rose (.308, HR, 35 RBI) and junior C Drew Butera (.282, HR, 32 RBI)

FRIEND OR FOE? – Notre Dame sophomore LHP Matt Whittington and UCF sophomore RHP Bret Bordwine were little-league teammates while growing up in Melbourne, Fla.

PRESEASON RESPECT – Notre Dame is one of just seven teams to be a consensus preseason top-20 pick (in the *Baseball America*, *Collegiate Baseball*, *USA Today*/coaches and baseball writers polls) each of the past five seasons ('01-'05), with the others including Cal State Fullerton, Stanford, LSU, South Carolina, Arizona State and Rice ... the Irish also are one of seven teams that have been in the *BA* preseason top-20 every season since 2000 (others include Rice, LSU, CSF, Georgia Tech, Stanford and Baylor) ... ND checked in at 20th in *BA*'s 2000 preseason poll, followed by 9th in 2001, 5th in '02, 12th in '03 and 20th in '04

MILESTONE WATCH

Greg Lopez – needs 1 more hit for 100 in his career

Cody Rizzo – needs 8 more runs for 100 in his career, 1 more HBP for 50

Matt Edwards – needs 9 more runs for 100 in his career; 40 RBI shy of cracking the ND career top-10 list

Ryan Doherty – needs 10 more strikeouts for 100 in his career

Matt Bransfield – needs 15 more hits for 100 in his career

Steve Andres – needs 18 more hits for 100 in his career

Paul Mainieri – needs 19 more wins for 800 in his 23-year career

ROAD WARRIORS – Notre Dame will be looking to continue its strong play outside of Frank Eck Stadium, after compiling a 27-5 road record in 2004.

WHO'S BACK/WHO'S GONE – The Irish return six of nine position starters but will be looking for others to step into the voids in the lineup created by graduation and the Major League draft ... All-America 3B Matt Macri moved on to pro ball after his stellar '04 season while second 2B Steve Sollmann (the winningest four-year starter in the program's history) and clutch-hitting catcher Javi Sanchez were the leaders of the '04 senior class, taking their considerable leadership skills with them on to postgraduate life and their own pro baseball careers ... OF rates as the strongest and deepest position for the Irish in '05, with juniors **Steve Andres** (LF), **Craig Cooper** (CF) and **Cody Rizzo** (RF) the likely starters as opening day approaches ... senior 1B **Matt Edwards**, junior SS **Greg Lopez** and junior DH **Matt Bransfield** also add to the veteran core – with the three new starters likely to include sophomore C **Sean Gaston** and a pair of prep shortstops at 2B (**Brett Lilley**) and 3B (**Ross Brezovsky**) .. on the mound, the Irish must replace two frontline starters in Grant Johnson and Chris Niesel (both signed as early '04 draft picks) but junior LHP **Tom Thornton** returns after leading BIG EAST pitchers with nine wins in '04 ... three others – senior **John Axford** and sophomores **Jeff Manship** and **Derik Olvey** – could be top members of the '05 rotation after completing their respective comebacks from injuries that wiped out their '04 seasons ... junior All-America closer **Ryan Doherty** leads an impressive group of bullpen talent that also includes hard-throwing sophomore **Dan Kapala** but must replace steady LHP and '04 graduate Joe Thaman ... a stable comprised of several veterans and four highly-regarded newcomers adds further depth to a pitching staff that will be looking to improve on its 2004 team ERA (3.43) that ranked 9th in the nation.

OUTFIELD OF DREAMS – Notre Dame's starting OF comprised of juniors Steve Andres (LF), Craig Cooper (CF) and Cody Rizzo (RF) could prove to be the best all-around outfield unit in the 11-year Paul Mainieri era, a distinction most likely owned by the 2002 CWS group of Brian Stavisky, Steve Stanley and Kris Billmaier ... the lefthanded-hitting Andres (Napa, Calif.) was cited by *Baseball America* as the BIG EAST player with the "best plate discipline" and is equally dangerous as a power hitter (.586 slugging pct. in '04, with 8 HR, 3 3B and 13 2B) and steady on-base performer (his 44 walks in '04 led the BIG EAST, helping produce a .471 on-base pct. and 1.057 OPS that ranked 5th in the BIG EAST) ... Cooper (Plainview, N.Y.), who also has begun training some at 1B, is a strong All-America candidate after picking up 2nd team all-BIG EAST honors in '04, when he became the first player ever to lead the lead in conference batting average (.470), slugging and on-base percentage ... the hard-swinging Cooper ranked 2nd on the '04 team with a .360 overall batting avg. while launching 10 home runs to go along with 48 RBI and 12 stolen bases ... *BA* rated Cooper as the BIG EAST's "best athlete" and "outfielder with the best arm" for 2005 (the magazine also rated him as the No. 60 prospect for the '05 draft, 10th among outfielders) ... Rizzo (Temecula, Calif.) will be looking for a return to his freshman-year production, when he hit .314 with 8 HRs and 53 runs ... those numbers tailed off in '04 (.263, 4 HR, 39 R) as the team's southern California native coped with a lingering wrist injury that limited his bat speed ... noted for his stellar defensive ability and strong arm, Rizzo made 30 starts in CF during his first two seasons with the Irish.

EDWARDS RETURNS TO RIGHTSIDE CORNER – Senior 1B/3B **Matt Edwards** has started during his career on both corners of the infield but likely will focus on 1B in '05, much as he did in '04 when he hit .310 with 54 RBI and 12 HR ... a .340 career hitter who earned 1st team all-BIG EAST and 2nd team all-region honors as a sophomore, the 6-2, 225-pound Edwards has the option to apply for a fifth year of eligibility in '06 after missing most of '02 due to a broken leg.

CURRENT NOTRE DAME PLAYERS' OPENING-WEEK CAREER STATS

Player (Year)	H-AB	RBI	R	SLUG	HR-3B-2B	BB/K	SB	AVG
Cody Rizzo ('03-'04)	8-15	5	3	.733	1-0-1	0/3	1-1	.533
Steve Andres ('03-'04)	7-17	2	8	.765	1-1-1	3/4	0-1	.412
Matt Bransfield ('03-'04)	2-5	0	0	.400	0-0-0	0/2	0-0	.400
Greg Lopez ('03-'04)	5-13	2	3	.385	0-0-0	0/2	1-1	.385
Matt Edwards ('02-'04)	11-30	8	7	.633	1-0-3	3/5	0-0	.367
Craig Cooper ('03-'04)	4-14	2	2	.357	0-0-1	1/4	2-2	.286
Danny Dressman ('04)	1-7	2	2	.143	0-0-0	1/0	0-0	.143

Pitcher (Year)	R/ER	IP	K	BB	H-AB	AVG	WP/HB	W-L (SV)	ERA
Tyler Jones ('04)	0/0	1.0	1	0	0-3	.000	0/0	0-0 (0)	0.00
Tom Thornton ('03-'04)	3/2	5.1	4	3	4-19	.211	0/1	1-0 (0)	3.33
Ryan Doherty ('03-'04)	5/5	1.2	2	3	4-8	.500	0/2	0-0 (1)	37.50

TOP OPENING-WEEK HITTERS IN PAUL MAINIERI ERA (MIN. 8 AB)

Player (Year)	H-AB	RBI	R	SLUG	HR-3B-2B	BB/K	OB	SB	AVG
Brian Stavisky ('01)	9-13	3	3	1.154	0-2-2	3/2	.750	1-1	.692
Cody Rizzo ('03)	5-8	5	3	1.125	1-0-1	0/1	.700	0-0	.625
Andrew Bushey ('02)	6-9	3	1	1.111	1-0-1	0/2	.667	0-1	.667
Rowan Richards ('95)	6-11	5	5	.909	1-0-1	2/2	.643	1-2	.545
Steve Sollmann ('01)	7-13	2	1	.615	0-0-1	1/3	.571	2-3	.538
Mike Amrhein ('97)	7-13	3	3	.615	0-0-1	1/1	.571	0-0	.538
Mike Amrhein ('95)	7-13	2	2	.692	0-0-2	1/3	.571	0-0	.538
Jeff Wagner ('97)	7-14	0	2	.571	0-0-0	0/2	.500	0-0	.500
Ryan Topham ('95)	6-13	8	4	1.154	1-1-4	2/4	.533	0-0	.462
Paul O'Toole ('00)	5-11	5	1	.636	0-1-0	0/1	.417	0-0	.455
Craig DeSensi ('95)	5-11	1	4	.545	0-0-1	2/1	.538	0-0	.455
Jeff Wagner ('98)	5-11	4	3	.727	1-0-0	3/1	.571	0-0	.455

ND Players Opening-Week Home Runs in the Mainieri Era

Rowan Richards (Jr., CF, '95) – game 3 vs. Pepperdine, in Anaheim (14-5)

Ryan Topham (Jr., RF, '95) – game 3 vs. Pepperdine, in Anaheim (14-5)

Bob Lisanti (Sr., C, '96) – game 1 at Georgia Tech (4-12)

Justin Scholl (Sr., RF, '97) – game 2 vs. USC, at Long Beach (4-14)

Dan Leatherman (Sr., 1B, '98) – game 1 vs. Florida State, in Orlando (10-1)

Brant Ust (So., 3B, '98) – game 2 vs. N.C. State, in Orlando (8-10)

Jeff Wagner (Jr., C, '98) – game 2 vs. N.C. State, in Orlando (8-10)

Brant Ust (Jr., SS, '99) – game 1 vs. JMU, at FIU (8-4)

Ed Golom (Fr., PH, '99) – game 2 at FIU (1-14)

Alec Porzel (Jr., SS, '00) – game 3 at Memphis (4-3)

Brian Stavisky (Fr., RF, '00) – game 3 at Memphis (4-3)

Matt Bok (Sr., DH, '02) – game 1 vs. Missouri, @UNO (7-6)

Andrew Bushey (Sr., C/B, '02) – game 2 at New Orleans (7-8)

Kris Billmaier (Sr., RF, '03) – game 1 vs. Dayton, @ASU (10-9)

Kris Billmaier (Sr., RF, '03) – 2 HRs in game 2 vs. Newman, @ASU (15-5)

Steve Andres (Fr., DH, '03) – game 3 at Arizona State (3-16)

Matt Macri (So., SS, '03) – game 4 at Arizona State (8-14)

Cody Rizzo (Fr., CF, '03) – game 4 at Arizona State (8-14)

Matt Edwards (Jr., 1B, '04) – game 1 vs. San Diego State, @USC (7-1)

Opening-Day Home Runs in the Mainieri Era

Bob Lisanti (Sr., C, '96) – at Georgia Tech (4-12)

Dan Leatherman (Jr., 1B, '98) – vs. Florida State, in Orlando (10-1)

Brant Ust (Jr., SS, '99) – vs. James Madiso, at FIU (8-4)

Matt Bok (Sr., DH, '02) – vs. Missouri, @UNO (7-6)

Kris Billmaier (Sr., RF, '03) – vs. Dayton, @ASU (10-9)

Matt Edwards (Jr., 1B, '04) – vs. San Diego State, @USC (7-1)

TOP OPENING-WEEK PITCHERS IN PAUL MAINIERI ERA (MIN. 3 IP)

Player (Year)	R/ER	IP	K	BB	H-AB	AVG	WP/HB	W-L (SV)	ERA
Scott Cavey (Sr., '00 vs. Air Force)	0/0	6.0	6	1	1-19	.053	0/0	1-0 (0)	0.00
Alex Shilliday (So., '98 vs. FSU)	0/0	5.0	6	4	1-16	.063	0/1	1-0 (0)	0.00
Matt Buchmeier (Jr., '01 vs. Miss. St.)	0/0	4.0	1	1	4-20	.250	0/1	0-0 (0)	0.00
Chris McKeown (Jr., '99 vs. JMU)	0/0	4.0	4	2	4-20	.250	0/0	0-0 (0)	0.00
Danny Tamayo (Fr., '98 vs. Duke)	0/0	4.0	0	1	1-10	.100	0/1	0-0 (0)	0.00
Chris McKeown (So., '98 vs. FSU)	0/0	3.0	3	1	2-9	.222	0/0	0-0 (0)	0.00
Aaron Heilman (Sr., '01 vs. Miss. St.)	5/1	6.0	6	2	4-24	.167	0/1	1-0 (0)	1.50
Tom Thornton (So., '04 at USC)	1/1	6.0	4	2	4-19	.211	0/0	1-0 (0)	1.50
Chris Niesel (Fr., '02 vs. SIU)	1/1	5.0	10	0	5-21	.238	1/2	0-0 (0)	1.80
Peter Ogilvie (Sr., '03 at ASU)	5/1	5.0	2	2	4-19	.211	0/1	0-1 (0)	1.80
Chris McKeown (Fr., '97 at LBSU)	1/1	4.0	5	3	2-11	.182	2/1	0-0 (0)	2.25
Alex Shilliday (Jr., '99 vs. JMU)	3/2	7.0	8	1	5-24	.208	0/0	1-0 (0)	2.57
Tim Kraus (Sr., '95 vs. Pepperdine)	1/1	3.1	2	2	4-13	.308	0/0	1-0 (0)	2.70

MAINIERI ERA OPENING-WEEK TEAM STATISTICS

Year (12-18)	Avg. (H-AB)	Runs (R/gm)	Total Bases	Slugging	On-Base	SB	BB/K
1995 (1-2)	.352 (38-108)	23 (7.7)	60 (2-3-10)	.556	.450	2-4	18/25
1996 (0-2)	.246 (17-69)	8 (4.0)	28 (1-0-8)	.406	.316	1-2	4/22
1997 (0-3)	.297 (33-111)	17 (5.7)	46 (1-2-6)	.414	.350	1-1	8/25
1998 (1-2)	.260 (27-104)	19 (6.3)	39 (3-1-1)	.375	.353	2-3	14/21
1999 (1-3)	.197 (25-127)	11 (2.8)	38 (2-0-7)	.299	.270	4-4	10/36
2000 (2-1)	.279 (24-86)	14 (4.8)	40 (2-2-6)	.465	.304	2-2	4/16
2001 (2-1)	.302 (35-116)	17 (5.7)	46 (0-2-7)	.397	.385	6-9	13/22
2002 (1-2)	.257 (29-111)	16 (5.3)	43 (2-1-6)	.387	.415	6-10	8/15
2003 (2-2)	.367 (54-147)	36 (9.0)	86 (6-2-10)	.585	.428	2-2	10/24
2004 (2-0)	.310 (18-58)	10 (5.0)	23 (1-0-2)	.397	.388	5-5	6/17

Mainieri Era .289 (300-1037) 171 (5.7) 449 (19-13-61) .433 .366 31-42 95/223

Per-Game Averages: 3.2 walks, 7.4 strikeouts, 1.0 stolen bases, 3.1 extra-base hits (0.6 home runs)

Year (12-18)	R/ER	IP	ERA	K/BB	H-AB	AVG	Slug. (HR)	WP/HB	(Season ERA)
1995 (1-2)	35/30	25.0	10.80	18/20	39-102	.382	.559 (2)	7/9	(4.53)
1996 (0-2)	21/18	16.0	10.13	11/11	26-72	.361	.556 (3)	1/2	(3.87)
1997 (0-3)	35/24	25.0	8.64	17/21	34-107	.318	.486 (3)	7/5	(4.51)
1998 (1-2)	14/11	25.0	3.96	22/14	24-90	.267	.345 (0)	2/4	(4.02)
1999 (1-3)	33/28	33.0	7.64	29/15	42-141	.298	.560 (10)	6/2	(5.15)
2000 (2-1)	8/5	22.0	2.05	23/7	19-79	.241	.354 (2)	0/1	(3.93)
2001 (2-1)	14/7	29.0	2.17	13/8	26-106	.245	.292 (0)	0/8	(3.22)
2002 (1-2)	20/19	27.2	6.18	22/9	37-112	.330	.473 (3)	2/4	(3.57)
2003 (2-2)	44/34	32.0	9.56	11/28	46-136	.338	.544 (4)	7/5	(3.35)
2004 (2-0)	2/1	16.0	0.57	18/5	9-53	.170	.208 (0)	1/2	(3.43)

Mainieri Era 226/177 250.2 6.36 184/138 302-998 .303 .438 (27) 33/42 (3.96)

9-Inning Averages: 6.6 strikeouts, 5.0 walks, 10.83 hits, 1.0 home runs, 1.2 wild pitches, 1.5 hit batters

Year (12-18)	Errors	Chances	Pct.	UE Runs	Double Plays	UER Loss Margin	(Season Fld)
1995 (1-2)	6	97	.938	5	0	0	.960
1996 (0-2)	4	73	.945	3	1	0	.953
1997 (0-3)	12	118	.898	11	1	(1)	.942
1998 (1-2)	4	121	.967	3	4	0	.962
1999 (1-3)	9	149	.940	5	0	0	.954
2000 (2-1)	3	102	.971	3	2	1	.965
2001 (2-1)	4	129	.969	7	3	1	.964
2002 (1-2)	4	127	.969	1	5	0	.961
2003 (2-2)	8	160	.950	10	3	1	.970
2004 (2-0)	1	64	.984	1	0	0	.967

Mainieri Era 55 1,140 .952 49 19 4 .960

Per-Game Averages: 1.8 errors, 1.6 unearned runs, 0.6 double plays

SAMARDZIJA GETS OPENING-DAY CALL – Two-sport standout Jeff Samardzija is the probable starter on the mound for the 2005 season opener vs. Florida A&M ... Samardzija is slated to become the first walk-on pitcher ever to start a season opener in the 11-year Paul Mainieri era ... he also is the third sophomore in the Mainieri era to draw the season-opening start, joining Alex Shilliday (5 shutout innings to help beat Florida State, 10-1, in '99 at the Disney Sports Center) and Chris Niesel (allowed 4 runs in 5 IP vs. Dayton in '03 no-decision).

RECENT OPENING-DAY STARTERS

Player (Year)	Year	Opp. (Result)	R/ER	IP	K	BB	H	W-L	ERA
Alex Shilliday (So.)	1998	Florida State (10-1; Orlando/Disney)	0/0	5.0	6	4	1	W	0.00
Alex Shilliday (Jr.)	1999	James Madison (8-4; at FIU)	3/2	7.0	8	1	5	W	2.57
Scott Cavey (Sr.)	2000	Air Force (6-0; in Millington, TN)	0/0	6.0	6	1	1	W	0.00
Danny Tamayo (Sr.)	2001	New Orleans (6-7; at Mississippi St.)	3/2	5.0	3	0	6	L	3.60
Peter Ogilvie (Jr.)	2002	Missouri (7-6, in 10; at UNO)	4/3	3.0	3	1	6	--	9.00
Chris Niesel (So.)	2003	Dayton (10-9; at ASU)	4/4	5.0	1	2	6	--	7.20
Chris Niesel (Jr.)	2004	San Diego State (7-1; at USC)	1/1	5.2	0	1	3	W	1.59
Jeff Samardzija (So.)	2005	Florida A&M (at UCF)							

JEFF SAMARDZIJA NOTES (RHP, So., 6-5/215; Valparaiso, IN ... 2004 Freshman All-American)

Samardzija's 2004 Stats

G/GS/CG	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	WP	HB	BK	AVG	HR	W-L (SV)	ERA
20/6/0	64.0	50	25	21	17	42	3	3	0	.209	5	5-3 (1)	2.95

2004 Nine-Inning Averages: 7.0 hits, 2.4 walks, 5.9 Ks, 12.0 groundouts

2004 Situational: .261 opp. batting with runners on, .228 with 2 outs, 29% of leadoff batters reached (2.7 per 9 IP)

Averaged nearly 18 outs per 9 IP in 2004 via Ks or groundouts

- Notre Dame's first baseball/football athlete since Scott Sollmann in the mid-'90s
- His 2.95 ERA in 2004 ranked 2nd among BIG EAST regulars, behind West Virginia ace LHP Zac Cline (2.65)
- Owned 2nd-best opponent batting avg. (.209) on BIG EAST pitching charts, behind BC 1st-rounder Chris Lambert (.196)
- His .209 opponent batting avg. in '04 ranks 3rd-best ever by ND freshman while his 20 appearances rank 5th
- 3rd among ND's 2004 regular pitchers (20-plus IP) in opp. batting, innings and groundouts (85), also 4th among regulars in ERA and GP, 5th in wins and Ks
- Owned 2004 staff's best opp. batting avg. by LH hitters (.160)
- Held unique distinction of ranking 4th on '04 staff in relief appearances (14, closed 4) and 5th in starts (6)
- Ended 2004 regular season with 2.45 season ERA that ranked 47th in nation
- Helped salvage '04 season as Irish overcame injuries to three top pitchers (John Axford, Jeff Manship, Derik Olvey)
- '04 season highlights included 22-inning scoreless streak (2nd-longest by ND pitcher in Mainieri era) and 4-0 win over #20 Central Florida (7 IP, 2 H, 2 BB, HB, 4 Ks, 10 groundouts, 2 popups, 25 batters faced, took perfect game into 4th inning; LH batters hit just 1-for-14 vs. him)
- Combined with Derik Olvey to allow just two hits and seven baserunners vs. Penn State in Round Rock (4 IP, save, BB, K, 13 BF; 4-2)
- Picked up 5-3 win at WVU in 7-inning opener that extended to 10 (2 IP, BB, K, 5 GO, 7 BF; 5-3)
- Suffered tough-luck loss in first start, taking no-hitter into 7th before St. John' scored 2 unearned runs for 2-1 win (7.1 IP, 2 H, BB, 2 Ks, 11 GOs, 26 BF, 85 pitches, retired first 14)
- Picked up 7-3 win over Michigan in Grand Rapids, as starter in planned rotation (4 IP, H, R, 3 BB, 3 Ks, 61 pitches)
- Lettered with 2003 and '04 ND football teams as reserve wide receiver, saving best game of career for the '04 Insight Bowl (5 catches, 89 yards)
- 2nd on 2004 ND football team with 16.1 yards per catch (17 for 274) while appearing in all 12 games
- Earned all-conference, all-area and all-state (as centerfielder) at Valparaiso High School (.467, 55 RBI, 7 HR, 6 3B)m after stellar '02 season on mound (3.28, 6-3 record, 50 Ks, 27 BB)
- Never missed a start in final three seasons at VHS, spanning football, basketball and baseball (160-plus games)
- Runner-up for Indiana Mr. Football Award and named top receiver in state

STATE ROLL CALL – The Notre Dame list of all-time monogram winners includes players from 44 home states ... pitchers Brandon Vilorio (Wailuku, Hawaii) in 2000 and Cody Wilkins (Hudson, N.C.) in '04 became the first players from their respective states ever to monogram with the Irish baseball program ... the only other states that have not produced ND baseball letterwinners include Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Vermont ... the 11-year Paul Mainieri era has featured players from 36 states, including 16 states/provinces on the '04 roster (see list below):

Florida (4) – Ross Brezovsky (Naples), Wade Korpi (Lake Worth), Matt Whittington (Melbourne), Joey Williamson (Lantana)
Indiana (4) – Mike Dury (Indianapolis), Sean Gaston (Brownsburg), Nick Mainieri (South Bend), Jeff Samardzija (Valparaiso)
California (3) – Steve Andres (Napa), Danny Dressman (San Jose), Cody Rizzo (Temecula)
Texas (3) – Tyler Jones (Arlington), Tony Langford (Fort Worth), Jeff Manship (San Antonio)
Maryland (2) – Scott Bickford (Owings), Brent Weiss (Cockeysville)
Ohio (2) – Brett Lilley (North Canton), Greg Lopez (Upper Arlington)
Virginia (2) – Matt Edwards (Mechanicsville), Jess Stewart (Manassas)
Washington (2) – David Gruener (Gig Harbor), Eddie Smith (Olympia)
Alabama (1) – Derik Olvey (Pelham)
Colorado (1) – Matt Bransfield (Englewood)
Illinois (1) – Alex Netty (Dolton)
Massachusetts (1) – Tom Thornton (Middleboro)
Michigan (1) – Dan Kapala (Royal Oak)
New Jersey (1) – Ryan Doherty (Toms River)
New York (1) – Craig Cooper (Plainview)
Ontario (1) – John Axford (Port Dover)

TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER – Junior CF **Craig Cooper** enters the 2005 season as the likely leadoff hitter, a spot held from 1999-2002 by CF Steve Stanley before 2B Steve Sollmann was the leadoff hitter in '03 and for parts of '04 (as was 3B Matt Macri) ... Cooper – who hit in the leadoff spot during three '04 games – brings a unique combination of power and speed to the top of the Irish batting order and could prove to be the ideal table-setter for another productive season from the Irish offense.

DYNAMIC DUO – Two freshman pitches on the 2005 Notre Dame staff, LHP **Wade Korpi** and RHP **Joey Williamson**, are the first high school teammates ever to sign with the Irish during the 11-year Paul Mainieri era ... each was an all-state performer at Santaluces High School in 2004 while combining for a 19-1 record, 0.87 ERA and 215 strikeouts in 133 innings pitched.

SEASON-OPENING SITES

- This marks the 72nd season – and 15th straight, since the 1990 team played a rare Feb. 5 home game (vs. Goshen) to open that season – that Notre Dame has opened its season away from home ... Florida is the second-most common season-opening road site in the history of the Notre Dame baseball program, with six previous Irish teams also opening in the Sunshine State (13 have opened in other Indiana cities).

- ND is opening its season with a game played at the University of Central Florida for the second time (also '79), with only three road sites having been more frequent for an ND baseball season opener (6 at Indiana University, 4 at Purdue, 3 at Georgia Tech) ... other states that have been multiple sites for an ND baseball season opener include Georgia and Tennessee (6 each), Kentucky, Louisiana and Texas (5 each), California (4), Arizona, Arkansas, Illinois, Ohio and Oklahoma (3 each) and Mississippi (2) ... ND baseball teams also have opened in Alabama, Michigan, Missouri and North Carolina.

- In addition to UCF, other sites that have seen two ND season openers include: St. Mary's (Ky.), Ft. Benning (Ga.), Cincinnati, Arkansas State, Rollins, New Orleans, Delta State, USA Stadium (Millington, Tenn.), Arizona State, Memphis State and Duke ... the other 36 sites for ND season openers: Rose Poly (1918), Western Kentucky, Ouachita (Ark.) College, Univ. of Chicago, Western Michigan, Illinois, Camp Atterbury (Ind.), Washington Univ., Illinois Wesleyan, Ohio State, Camp Breckinridge (Ky.), Memphis Naval A.S., Florida A&M, Georgia, Evansville, California, Keesler Air Force Base (Miss.), Tennessee, St. Mary's (Texas), Miami, Murray State, Tulsa, Texas Wesleyan, Alabama, Oklahoma, Oral Roberts, St. Edward's, TCU, Trinity, Phoenix, Tulane and Mississippi State.

QUALITY ROAD WINS – This weekend's games vs. UCF will give the Irish another chance to beat a top team on its home field ... previous Notre Dame teams have posted noteworthy wins over homestanding teams such as Miami, Florida State, LSU, Texas, Clemson, Mississippi State, USC and Florida Atlantic.

MAINIERI NEARING 800th WIN AS COLLEGE HEAD COACH

The Paul Mainieri File

Career: 781-451-2 (.634, 22 seasons)

At Notre Dame: 450-172-1 (.723, 10 seasons)

Notre Dame's Paul Mainieri – now in his 11th season as head coach for one of the nation's elite college baseball programs – couldn't help but get a little nostalgic as the calendar turned from 2004 to 2005.

- The previous spring had seen his 10th Notre Dame team continue the program's record-setting ascension and the ensuing fall of 2004 then included the first-ever reunion of Mainieri's former players ... a spirited turnout at that event helped to pay tribute to the players – and their coach – who had combined to rack up 450 wins during the previous 10 seasons.

- Shortly after the calendar flipped to 2005, Mainieri was honored with a 25-year coaching certificate at the American Baseball Coaches Association convention and was voted as the ABCA's chair of the Division I Baseball Coaches ... three weeks later, he returned to his hometown of Miami to be honored at Christopher Columbus High School with the Explorer Diamond Award – a prestigious honor recognizing alumni for postgraduate accomplishments.

- Then, just last week, outgoing Indiana governor Joe Kernan bestowed the state's highest honor (the Sagamore of the Wabash) on the ND baseball head coach.

- The energetic coach who once was touted among the nation's top young coaches steadily has evolved into a respected elder statesman – and his past five Irish teams have combined for the nation's 2nd-best winning percentage in the 2000s (.752, 241-79-1).

- The 47-year-old Mainieri – who in 2002 became the nation's only coach to repeat as one of eight ABCA regional coaches of the year – has continued the program's standard of excellence in his first 10 seasons, with: seven conference titles, seven trips to the NCAAs, 450 victories, 40 players who have been drafted or signed free-agent contracts, and 14 selected in the first 10 rounds of the Major League Draft – with his Irish players also combining for 12 All-America and nine Academic All-America seasons ... his squads have extended the program's string of consecutive seasons with 40-plus wins to 16, the nation's 3rd-longest active streak.

- In addition to on-field success, Mainieri's Notre Dame teams have combined for a 100-percent graduation rate (59 of 59), among players who completed their eligibility (11 who signed professionally after their junior year have returned to complete or near completion of their degree requirements) ... ND is the only Division I baseball program to produce Academic All-Americans in each of the past five years, with two so honored every season from '00-'03 ... the current squad combined for a 3.07 team GPA in the 2004 fall semester, led by 17 players with a 3.0-plus and seven at 3.4-plus.

- Two of Mainieri's former Notre Dame assistant coaches – Brian O'Connor (at Virginia) and Cory Mee (Toledo) – were named Division I coaches within weeks of one another, during the summer of 2003.

- In nine seasons of BIG EAST play, the Irish have won more league games (157-54, .744) than any other team in the conference, which has sent five different teams to the NCAAs since 1999.

- Mainieri, who spent the previous six years as head coach at the U.S. Air Force Academy, is entering his 23rd year of coaching on the collegiate level, with an overall record of 781-451-2 (.634) ... he ranks 2nd on the Notre Dame baseball career coaching wins list (450-172-1/.723), behind Hall of Famer Jake Kline (558, '34-'75).

- His 2001 team claimed the program's first No. 1 national ranking, the '02 team made the program's first College World Series appearance in 45 years, the '03 squad became the first to repeat as BIG EAST Tournament champions since 1986 and his '04 team then turned in an historic 51-12 record while becoming the first to win three straight BIG EAST titles.

- The hard work put into the recruiting process by Mainieri and his staff has yielded impressive results, with highly-regarded prospects and diamonds in the rough comprising the recent incoming classes – highlighted by the nation's top-ranked freshman class in 2002 and the No. 7-rated class for the prospective 2006 freshmen ... all told in the Mainieri era, eight of 10 Irish players who were drafted out of high school have gone on to be drafted in a higher round at Notre Dame while 19 who were undrafted as preps went on to be drafted as members of the Irish program ... three of Mainieri's former ND players – Lidge, Heilman and Christian Parker (New York Yankees) have pitched in the Major Leagues, with Lidge emerging as one of the game's elite closers in 2004.

The Paul Mainieri Era (1995-2004) – *By The Numbers*

- 231 ... ND-record scoring streak ('99-'02)
- 144 ... Active scoring streak
- 100% ... Team graduation rate
- 73 Record-setting 1997 home run total
- 51 Record-setting 2004 victory total
- 45.0 ... Average victories per season
- 40 ... Players who moved on to pro ball
- 36 ... Different home states
- 25-1 ... NCAA win over South Alabama ('02)
- 22-4 ... Record-setting BIG EAST mark in '01
- 18 ... Consecutive BIG EAST wins ('01)
- 17 ... Players with 3.0-plus GPA (fall '04)
- 14 ... Players drafted in first 10 rounds
- 10 ... Consecutive 40-win seasons
..... (16 straight for program)
- 5 Consecutive preseason top-20
- 4 NCAA Regionals at Eck Stadium
- 2 First-round draft picks
- 1 Recruit class ranking ('02 season)
- 1 College World Series team ('02)
- 1 National ranking in 2001 season

IRISH OFFENSE SEES RED IN 2004

Current third-year ND assistant coach David "Red" Grewe helped the Irish experience great success in 2004.

- Grewe's star defensive pupil with the record-setting '04 squad was catcher Javi Sanchez, a converted infielder with no catching experience prior to the '02 fall season ... Sanchez steadily progressed, defensively and offensively, under Grewe's watchful eye ... his late surge as a junior included MVP honors at the BIG EAST Tournament and a spot on the NCAA Fullerton Regional all-tournament team ... by the time the 2004 season rolled around, Sanchez had become a polished catcher with the refined defensive skills and clutch-hitting ability that prompted the Minnesota Twins to select him in the 14th round of the '04 Major League draft.
- Sanchez was just one of several '04 players whose success stories are linked to Grewe's effective style of instruction ... 3B Matt Macri had failed to live up to his tremendous pre-college hype in his first two seasons with the Irish but that all changed in an All-America junior season that saw Macri's reworked hitting approach place him among the national and BIG EAST leaders in multiple categories ... he became just the third ND player – and first in 15 years – to reach 80 hits and 40 walks in the same season while racking up a 1.174 "OPS" (combined on-base and slugging percentage) that rates among the best in the program's history.
- Other players on the '04 team – namely OF Craig Cooper, SS Greg Lopez and DH Matt Bransfield – showed huge jumps in their production after a second year of instruction from Grewe ... the hard-swinging Cooper became the first player ever to lead the BIG EAST in conference batting average (.370), slugging and on-base in the same season while combining with Bransfield (24 RBI) and Macri (7 HR) for a Notre Dame sweep of the BIG EAST triple-crown titles.
- The '04 ND offense produced a 49-point jump in the team's slugging pct. from 2003 (.430 to .479) while finishing with a .407 on-base pct. (up from .383 in '03) that ranks 4th in ND history and best in the 10-year Paul Mainieri era ... the Irish also ranked 19th on the NCAA scoring charts with 7.8 runs per game in '04, good for fourth in the ND record book (just two Irish teams since the late 1950s have scored at a higher clip) ... more than half of the '04 team's record-setting 51 wins (26) came by a margin of 5-plus runs, including eight in which the Irish posted a double-digit cushion.
- The '04 team's rejuvenated power included an unprecedented four players with 10-plus home runs, yielding a home run total that more than doubled from '03 (31 to 69, four shy of the team record) ... Grewe also challenged the '04 hitters to display greater plate discipline and they responded with a +23 margin of walks (275) plus hit-by-pitch (106, 5th in NCAA history) minus strikeouts (358) – well above the '03 squad (-61).
- The '04 offense's quick-strike ability came to fruition down the stretch, plating first-inning runs in 12 of the final 17 games. The full force was on display in the series finale at Connecticut, when ND erupted for 10 hits (3 home runs) and 10 runs before the hosts had even stepped into the batters box ... all nine starters fashioned hit streaks of seven-plus games in '04 – led by a 13-game tear from former walk-on outfielder Steve Andres (two others had double-digit hit streaks, plus four with 9-game streaks).

DECADE OF DOMINANCE – Notre Dame enters the 2005 season with a 241-79-1 record in the decade of the 2000s ('00-'04), yielding a .752 win pct. that ranks second-best in all of Division I baseball.

ROONEY MAKES BIG IMPACT WITH 2004 STAFF

• Upon his arrival in the fall of 2004, ND pitching coach Terry Rooney set about educating the Irish pitchers on the concept of "offensive pitching" that focuses on aspects that the staff can control – being mechanically-sound, working to advantage counts, high first-pitch strike percentages and controlling the running game ... the ND pitchers quickly bought in to Rooney's defined plan, yielding a 3.43 ERA that ranked 9th in the nation and maintained the program's string of five straight seasons among the nation's top-20 ERA leaders (matched only by Texas and Rice).

• An emphasis on limiting free passes yielded just 162 walks allowed by the '04 staff (down from 200 in '03), for an average of 2.63 walks per 9 IP that ranks 2nd in the ND record book behind the '01 staff (2.48) led by senior stars Aaron Heilman and Danny Tamayo.

• Rooney's '04 staff also posted the program's second-best K-to-walk ratio (2.69, trailing only the 2.92 in '01) while the .248 opponent batting average ranks fifth-best by an Irish staff since the wood-bat days of the early 1970s.

• The impressive numbers posted by the '04 staff reflected the strong performances by a diverse group of pitchers who were molded by Rooney to maximize their individual strengths ... he helped nurture ace RHP Grant Johnson's return from 2003 season-ending shoulder surgery while overseeing the transformation of LHP Tom Thornton from a serviceable midweek starter ('03) into a big-game pitcher during the '04 season ... Rooney also started working with two-sport standout Jeff Samardzija in early 2004 and helped shape the wide receiver into a Freshman All-American who finished second on the BIG EAST's ERA charts.

• The program's 112 previous seasons never had seen multiple pitchers log 28-plus appearances but Rooney's debut season featured three – senior LHP Joe Thaman, hard-throwing freshman Dan Kapala and 7-foot-1 closer Ryan Doherty – who each logged 28-30 games ... that three-pronged relief led the way for a 2004 bullpen that owned a 2.97 ERA, a .225 opponent batting avg. and nearly a 3-to-1 strikeout-to-walk ratio ... Thaman had not pitched since high school (he was the Irish first baseman in the '01-'04 seasons) but Rooney quickly transformed him into a reliable lefthanded bullpen presence ... Kapala arrived as a raw – but highly promising – prospect and soon was progressing at a rate faster than any previous pitcher coached by Rooney ... and Doherty tackled his first season ever as a closer with dominating efficiency, earning All-America honors while threatening a number of longstanding Notre Dame records.

• Rooney's leadership of the '04 staff also was evident in the fact that Notre Dame had to overcome the absence of three injured standouts – junior John Axford and freshmen Jeff Manship and Derik Olvey – while also coping with Johnson's gradual return to full-strength ... the Irish ranked among the national ERA leaders all season and peeked in the final month, posting shutouts in the final four series openers of the regular season while compiling impressive numbers (1.92 staff ERA, .230 opp. batting, 3-to-1 K-to-walk ratio) over an 11-game span that included series vs. top teams Rutgers, Virginia Tech and Central Florida, plus the ever-challenging BIG EAST Tournament.

ERA ELITE – Notre Dame has finished in the top-20 of the national charts for team earned-run average in five of the previous seven seasons, owning the nation's best team ERA during portions of 2000 and '01. The 2000 staff surged atop the national ERA charts in late April (2.72) and finished 16th (3.93). The Irish then returned to the top spot among the 2001 team ERA leaders for three weeks in April, finishing 5th at 3.22 (best at ND since '92, third-best since '75). Notre Dame went on to finish 13th in the 2002 ERA rankings (3.57), 18th in '03 (3.53) and 9th in '04 (3.43), joining Texas and Rice as the only teams ranked among the nation's final top-20 ERA leaders every year from 2000-04. The Irish also finished 12th in the final 1998 team ERA rankings (4.02).

DOHERTY DOMINANCE – Junior All-America closer Ryan Doherty is on pace to set four Notre Dame career records, including a team ERA mark that has stood for more than 40 years:

Doherty's Current Career Stats

2.30 ERA
12.93 strikeouts per 9.0 innings pitched
4.091 strikeout-to-walk ratio
5.75 hits allowed per 9.0 innings pitched

Standing ND Record

2.36 (Nick Palihnich, 1959-61)
12.66 (Dan McGinn, 1964-65)
4.088 (Chris Niesel, 2002-04)
6.27 (Dan McGinn, 1964-65)

2004 Honors and Awards (for 2005 returning players)

Ryan Doherty (So., RHP)

- Third Team All-American
(American Baseball Coaches Association, National College Baseball Writers)
- First Team All-Great Lakes Region (ABCA)
- Second Team All-BIG EAST

Craig Cooper (So., OF)

- Second Team All-BIG EAST

Greg Lopez (So., SS)

- Third Team All-BIG EAST
- Notre Dame Baseball
Rockne Student-Athlete Award
- BIG EAST Player of the Week (April 19)
- Alamo City Classic All-Tournament Team

Tom Thornton (So., LHP)

- CoSIDA Academic All-District V selection
- NCAA South Bend Regional All-Tournament
- Florida Atlantic Classic All-Tournament
- BIG EAST Pitcher of Week (Feb. 23, March 15)

Steve Andres (So., OF)

- CoSIDA Academic All-District V selection
- NCAA South Bend Regional All-Tournament
- Alamo City Classic All-Tournament Team

Matt Edwards (Jr., 1B)

- NCAA South Bend Regional All-Tournament
- Florida Atlantic Classic MVP

Jess Stewart (Fr., RHP)

- Alamo City Classic All-Tournament Team

Sean Gaston (Fr., C)

- BIG EAST and national player of the week (College Baseball Writers) for March 1

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL QUICK FACTS

Location	Notre Dame, IN 46556
Founded	1842
Undergraduate Enrollment.....	8,311
Nickname; Colors	Fighting Irish; Gold and Blue
Conference.....	BIG EAST
Athletic Director	Kevin White
Home Stadium (capacity).....	Frank Eck Stadium (2,500)
Surface, Dimensions	Grass, 331-381-401-381-331
Head Coach	Paul Mainieri (Fla. Int'l '80)
Career Record	781-451-2 (22 seasons)
Record at Notre Dame	450-172-1 (10 seasons)
Assistant Coach	David Grewe (Dayton '98)
Assistant Coach	Terry Rooney (Radford '96)
Vol. Asst.	John Gumpf (CS San Bernadino '97)
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	20/11
Position Starters Returning/Lost	6/3
Letterwinning Pitchers Returning/Lost	10/5
Total Returners	23 (12 position players/12 pitchers)
Newcomers	7
2004 Record.....	51-12
2004 BIG EAST Record/Finish	20-6/1st
Postseason.....	2-2 in NCAA South Bend Regional
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
Notre Dame Sports Hotline	(574) 631-3000
Website	www.und.com

THREE NEW STARTERS AROUND THE HORN – Notre Dame's 2005 lineup will include three first-year starters around the infield: sophomore C Sean Gaston, freshman 2B Brett Lilley and freshman 3B Ross Bresovsky ... that's the first time the Irish have fielded three or more first-year starters (i.e. not including players who started previously for ND at other spots) in the infield since the first season of the Paul Mainier era, when sophomores Randall Brooks (2B), J.J. Brock (SS) and Mike Amrhein (3B) each moved into the 1995 lineup after playing sparingly in '94 ... the 1997 season saw freshman 1B Jeff Felker and 2B Brant Ust make their debuts as starters but that season ultimately included three first-year starters (Ust went on to split time as a starter at 2B, SS and 3B while junior Todd Frye eventually logged the most starts at 2B, in his first season as a regular).

<u>First-Year Starters</u>	<u>Converted Starters</u>
'05 so. C Sean Gaston, fr. 2B Brett Lilley, fr. 3B Ross Bresovsky	
'04 so. SS Greg Lopez	jr. 1B Matt Edwards (03 3B), jr. 3B Matt Macri (03 SS)
'03 so. SS Matt Macri,	so. 3B Matt Edwards (02 SS), jr. C Javi Sanchez (02 SS)
'02 so. SS Javi Sanchez (after early Edwards injury)	
'01 fr. 2B Steve Sollmann, fr. 1B Joe Thaman	
'00	jr. SS Alec Porzel (98 2B)
'99 fr. C Paul O'Toole, fr. 3B Andrew Bushey	so. 2B Alec Porzel (97 LF)
'98 sr. 1B Dan Leatherman	so. 3B Brant Ust (97 SS)
'97 fr. 1B Jeff Felker, jr. SS/2B Todd Frye, fr. 2B/SS Brant Ust	sr. C Mike Amrhein (96 LF, 95 3B)
'96 fr. SS Paul Turco, jr. 3B J.J. Brock	
'95 so. 2B Randall Brooks, so. SS J.J. Brock, so. 3B Mike Amrhein	jr. C George Restovich (94 DH), sr. 1B Craig DeSensi (93 DH)
'94 no changes	
'93 fr. 1B Robbie Kent, jr. 3B Matt Haas	so. SS Paul Failla (92 LF)
'92 fr. C Bob Lisanti, jr. 3B Cory Mee	
'91 fr. 2B Greg Layson,	sr. C Mike Coss (90 SS), jr. SS Craig Counsell (90 3B), junior 3B Cory Mee (90 2B)
'90 so. 2B Cory Mee	jr. SS Mike Coss (88-89 3B), so. 3B Craig Counsell (89 LF)
'89 fr. 1B Joe Binkiewicz	

BIG SHADOWS – Notre Dame's 2005 roster includes some big bodies, with five who are 6-foot-4 or taller: junior RHP Ryan Doherty (7-1, 255) and LHP Tom Thornton (6-6, 220), senior RHP John Axford (6-6, 160), sophomore RHP Jeff Samardzija (6-5, 215), senior LHP Scott Bickford (6-5, 170), sophomore LHP/1B Mike Dury (6-5, 230), sophomore RHP Dan Kapala (6-5, 225).

DOUBLE-DIGIT DINGERS – The 2004 Notre Dame baseball team more than doubled the program's home run output from the '03 season (31 to 68), with four Irish players hitting 10-plus home runs for the first time in the program's history: junior 3B Matt Macri (14), sophomore DH Matt Bransfield (12), sophomore 1B Matt Edwards (12) and – a player with a more unique first name – sophomore RF Craig Cooper (10).

DRAFT DAY – A total of 28 Notre Dame players have been Major League draft picks in the Paul Mainieri era (since '95), including an unprecedented six in 2001: RHPs Aaron Heilman (1st round, N.Y. Mets) and Danny Tamayo (10th, K.C.), SS Alec Porzel (13th, Boston), OF Brian Stavisky (33rd, Chicago Cubs), C Paul O'Toole (47th, S.F.) and OF Steve Stanley (50th, Florida) ... four ND position players were drafted in '02 – led by Oakland A's picks Stanley (2nd rd) and Stavisky (6th), plus senior 3B/C Andrew Bushey (Colorado, 15th rd) and O'Toole (Cubs, 21st) ... Stanley and Stavisky were the first ND teammates ever drafted in the first six rounds and were the highest-drafted outfielders from the same team in the '02 draft, while no previous Irish team had four players drafted in the first 21 rounds ... the program's biggest draft day arrived in 2004, as five players were picked in the first 14 rounds: the junior trio of RHP Grant Johnson (Cubs, 2nd), 3B Matt Macri (Rockies, 5th) and RHP Chris Niesel (Indians, 9th), plus 2B Steve Sollmann (Brewers, 10th) and C Javi Sanchez (Twins, 14th) – the highest-drafted pair of seniors in the program's history. Johnson and Macri became the highest-drafted teammates while four players picked in the first 10 rounds doubled the program's previous best.

HBP ... PDQ – Current junior outfielder **Cody Rizzo** already owns the Notre Dame records for times hit-by-pitch in a season (28, in '03) and career (49 – and counting) ... Rizzo also is 2 HBPs shy of cracking the NCAA career top-20 list, with former San Francisco player Anthony Hurtado holding the record of 92 ... Rizzo helped Notre Dame set the team HBP record in 2004 (106), good for 5th on the NCAA all-time list ... two newcomers – freshman 2B Brett Lilley (state record in Ohio with 19 HBP in '03) and junior IF Eddie Smith (team record with 18 HBP at Centralia CC, in '04) – could help the Irish approach triple-digit HBPs again in 2005 ... the departed players combined for 36 HBPs in '04 (15 by C Javi Sanchez, 11 by 2B Steve Sollmann).

CLASS RANK – Notre Dame's current senior class helped Notre Dame compile a 146-48 record (.753) spanning the 2002-04 seasons ... if the Irish reach 50 wins in the 2005 season, the class of '05 will pass the class of '04 (195-61-1) with the program's most wins in a four-year period ... the '04 seniors also rank as the ND class ... with the best career win pct. (.761).

MLB CONNECTIONS

• In addition to several current Major League players who honed their craft with the Irish baseball program, a number of Notre Dame graduates currently serve as top executives in Major League Baseball: Cleveland Indians owner and CEO Lawrence Dolan ('54, '56 ND Law), Indians president Paul Dolan ('83), Tampa Bay owner/CEO/VP Vince Naimoli ('59), Arizona Diamondbacks general manager/VP Joe Garagiola, Jr. ('72), Oakland A's president Mike Crowley ('85), recently-retired Los Angeles Dodgers V.P. of External Affairs Tommy Hawkins ('59, ND basketball star), MLB Executive VP of Administration John McHale ('71) and MLB Director of Special Events Brian O'Gara ('89).

• Former Notre Dame pitcher Brad Lidge ranked as one of MLB's top rookies in his first full season with the Houston Astros (3.60 ERA, 97 Ks, 85 IP, 78 GP, 60 H, 42 BB) and was the winning pitcher in the historic no-hitter vs. the New York Yankees on June 11, 2003 (2 IP, 2 Ks; 8-1) – the first no-hitter vs. the Yankees since '58 (6,980 games) and first suffered by the Yankees at home since '52. Lidge – one of MLB's elite closers in '04 (NL record for Ks by a reliever) – is one of three ND pitchers from the Paul Mainieri era who have gone on to pitch in the big leagues (also Aaron Heilman with the N.Y. Mets and Christian Parker with the Yankees) while two early-'90s Notre Dame players – IF Craig Counsell (left) and LHP Chris Michalak – have played for multiple MLB teams (see pp. 131-139).

PROSPECTS – The Sept. 2004 Perfect Game/*Baseball America* list of the nation's top college prospects for the 2005 Major League draft included three Notre Dame players among the top 150 prospects: junior OF **Craig Cooper** (50th), junior closer **Ryan Doherty** (90th) and senior RHP **John Axford** (145th) ... the annual *Baseball America* preview issue also ranks prospects by class (namely the non-juniors) and RHP **Jeff Manship** was rated the nation's No. 46 sophomore prospect ... Manship was the No. 3 freshman prospect prior to the 2004 season, before being sidelined with an elbow injury (after pitching in the summer of '03 with the U.S. National Team).

MULTI-SPORT STARS

Current sophomore RHP **Jeff Samardzija**, who latched onto 5 passes for 89 yards in the Insight Bowl, is the Notre Dame baseball program's latest two-sport start ... other have included:

• Johnny Mohardt, who teamed with George Gipp in the backfield on Knute Rockne's 1920 national championship team, captained the '21 baseball squad and played professionally in both sports (his teammates included such legends as Red Grange and Ty Cobb).

• Future athletic director Dick Rosenthal pulled off another double ('51-'53), earning two baseball letters and All-America basketball honors ... joining him on the diamond and the court was Jim Gibbons, who later served his alma mater as an assistant baseball coach and assistant vice-president.

• Former Washington Redskins safety Pat Eilers won an ND baseball monogram in '88 while Frank Jacobs ('91) – one of the top long-ball hitters in Irish history – started at tight end for the '88 national championship football team. Irv Smith, a starting tight end in '92, earned baseball letters in '90 and '91.

• Shortstop Paul Failla, a third-round California Angels draft pick ('94), was a backup QB on the '93 football team while Scott Sollmann led the '94 Irish with .402 batting and saw football action as a special teams player and reserve wideout ('94-'95).

• Legendary quarterback Joe Theismann was a 39th-round draft choice of the Minnesota Twins ('71). He played six baseball games with the Irish in 1970, also playing in various summer leagues.

COAST-TO-COAST – The Notre Dame baseball team has travelled to all corners of the nation in recent years, including visits since 1990 to states spanning from Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Washington. Since 1957, the Irish have played in 34 different states (plus Washington D.C.) and 116 cities (including scheduled 2005 trips). In the past 13 years, the Irish have posted wins on the fields of many perennial college baseball powers, including four wins on the road over Miami (4-2 in '89, 2-1 in '92, 6-3 in '92 NCAAs, 5-2 in '95) plus other road triumphs over Texas (13-4 in '91), Louisiana State (6-3 in '91), Arizona State (11-4 in '93), Wichita State (8-6 in '93), Florida State (4-3 in '93 NCAAs; 10-4 and 3-1 in '02 NCAAs), Clemson (8-1 in '94), Mississippi State (7-0 in 2000 NCAAs, 7-5 and 4-2 in '01), USC (3-1, in '04) and Florida Atlantic (3-2, in '04).

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON – Six current Irish players are second-generation college baseball players: senior 1B/3B Matt Edwards (Norm "Cookie" Edwards, Stetson), senior LHP Scott Bickford (Mark Bickford, Salisbury State), junior C Nick Mainieri (Paul Mainieri, New Orleans), junior IF Eddie Smith (Ed Smith, Gonzaga), sophomore LHP/1B Mike Dury (John Dury, N.C. State) and sophomore RHP Jeff Manship (John Manship, Arizona).

2005 OPPONENT NOTES

Notre Dame's 2005 opponents feature 19 players who were listed by Perfect Game/*Baseball America* (Sept. '04) among the top-150 draft-eligible college prospects for the 2005 MLB draft ... those players include four in the top 25: USC catcher Jeff Clement (2nd), St. John's closer Craig Hansen (8th) and the Texas A&M duo of SS Cliff Pennington (12) and RHP Kevin Whelan (25) ... Clement's USC teammate, RHP Zack Kalter (77), also is on the list, as is SJU ace Anthony Varvaro (71) and two other A&M players: RHP Robert Ray (33) and catcher Craig Stinson (68) ... four players from Rice – RHPs Bryce Cox (83) and Josh Geer (95), RHP/OF Lance Pendleton (93) and LHP Matt Ueckert (127) – also are among the top-150 prospects, as are Michigan 2B Chris Getz (59) and RHP Derek Feldkamp (133) ... the other five top prospects among ND's 2005 opponents include: Oral Roberts OF Travis DeBonds (82), Central Michigan RHP Jayson Ruhlman (79), Bowling Green OF Nolan Reimold (94), Evansville 1B Eric Lis (106) and Rutgers OF John DeFendis (113).

40-SOMETHING – Notre Dame owns 16 straight seasons with 40-plus wins, including 51 in 2004, 50 in '02, 49 in '01, 48 in '89 and '92, 46 in '90, '93, '94 and '00, 45 in '91 and '03, and 44 in '95 ... ND's active streak of seasons with 40-plus wins ranks 3rd in Division I, behind Florida State and Wichita State (both with 27 straight 40-win seasons).

NOT SHORT ON TALENT – Paul Mainieri consistently has recruited prep shortstops and utilized them in other parts of the Notre Dame lineup ... the latest to fit that mold are a pair of current freshmen who are likely opening-day starters at second (Brett Lilley) and third base (Ross Brezovsky) ... others of note who came to ND as prep SS and started at other positions have included: CF Randall Brooks ('97), LF/CF Allen Greene ('97-'98), LF/2B Alec Porzel ('98-'99), 3B Andrew Bushey ('99-'02, also played some C in '02), 3B/1B Matt Edwards ('03-'05), 3B Greg Lopez ('03) and 3B Matt Macri ('04) ... Mainieri also pulled off a rarer position switch when he moved then-freshman Steve Sollmann from CF to 2B (Sollman went on to be an All-American and standout defensive player at his new position of 2B).

SCHEDULE CHANGES – Please note that a handful of Notre Dame's 2005 games have undergone time changes ... namely, the March 7 game vs. Texas State (in Round Rock) will start at 3:30 p.m. CST while the next game, March 9 vs. Texas-San Antonio, has been shifted to a 7:15 start (in San Antonio).

PERFECT CLOSERS – Every four-year player in the Paul Mainieri era (since '95) has graduated from Notre Dame, an impressive 59-of-59 streak that does not include 11 former players who signed as juniors but have returned to complete or near completion of their degree requirements.

Notre Dame Baseball 2004 Summer-League Players (college wood-bat leagues) – Here's a look at 2004 summer baseball stats for current Notre Dame baseball players

Tom Thornton (Wareham Gatemen, Cape Cod League) – shared team lead in wins (3-5) while posting 3.81 ERA in 9 appearances (8 GS, 52 IP, 56 H, 14 BB, 35 Ks, 3 WP, 5 HB)

Craig Cooper (Brewster Whitecaps, Cape Cod League) – hit .217 while ranking 3rd on team in RBI (17) and home runs (3), plus 11 runs, 6 doubles, 17 walks and 4 stolen bases

Matt Edwards (Mat-Su Miners, Alaska League) – hit .232 with 8 RBI in 22 GP (10 R, 7 2B, 3B, 11 BB)

Scott Bickford (Waynesboro Generals, Valley League) – named to league all-star team en route to posting 2.05 ERA in 18 relief appearances (1-0, save, 30.2 IP, 23 H, 11 BB, 47 Ks, .197 opp. avg., 2 WP, 6 HB)

Matt Bransfield (Waynesboro Generals, Valley League) – led team in stolen bases (16-of-20) while ranking 2nd in batting (.296), RBI (18) and doubles (8) and 3rd in walks (17), plus 19 runs and 4 HRs.

Mike Dury (Madison Mallards, Northwoods League) – hit .231 with 13 RBI and 2 HRs (8 R, 4 2B, 9 BB, 29 GP)

Sean Gaston (Waterloo Bucks; Northwoods League) – 2nd on team with .268 batting (5 RBI, 13 R, 2 2B, 8 BB, 25 GP)

Danny Dressman (Faquier, Va., Gators; Clark Griffith League) – ranked 2nd on team in stolen bases (8-of-9), 3rd in RBI (13), runs (17) and walks (16) and 4th in batting (.264), adding 4 doubles and 4 HBP in 34 GP

Matt Whittington (Faquier, Va., Gators; Clark Griffith League) – ranked 2nd on staff with 54.1 IP, 3rd in wins (3-1) and 4th in Ks (35), adding 4.14 ERA, 61 hits allowed, 18 walks in 11 appearances (6 starts)

Dan Kapala (Delaware, Ohio, Cows; Great Lakes League) – posted 3.03 ERA and 3-1 record in 7 starts (32.2 IP, 28 H, 16 BB, 24 Ks, 6 HB)

Alex Nettey (Fayetteville, N.C., Swamp Dogs; Coastal Plains League) – hit .248 with 14 RBI and 13 runs scored (2B, 3B, HR, 7 BB, 12 HBP, 2-6 SB, 2 Es/.973 fielding pct.)

Steve Andres (Solano Thunderbirds; California League) – hit .259 with 28 RBI, 27 walks and 12 extra-base hits (34 R, 7 2B, 3 3B, 2 HR, 6 HBP)

Tyler Jones (Highland Park Blue Sox, Texas League) – stats unavailable

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2005 ROSTER (as of Feb. 15)

No.	Name	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	B-T	Birthdate	Hometown (Previous School)
2	Brett Lilley	Fr.	2B	5-7	165	L-R	7/30/85	North Canton, OH (Hoover HS)
3	Tony Langford	Fr.	RHP/IF	5-11	175	R-R	8/17/85	Ft. Worth, TX (Ft. Worth Country Day HS)
4	Greg Lopez** (C)	Jr.	SS	6-0	190	R-R	1/18/84	Upper Arlington, OH (Upper Arlington HS)
5	Eddie Smith	Jr.	IF	5-11	165	L-R	2/8/84	Olympia, WA (North Thurston HS)
6	Danny Dressman*	So.	OF	5-9	180	L-L	12/12/84	San Jose, CA (Archbishop Mitty HS)
7	Ross Brezovsky	Fr.	IF	5-10	170	L-R	8/26/85	Naples, FL (Collier HS)
9	Craig Cooper**	Jr.	OF/1B	6-2	220	R-L	10/27/84	Plainview, NY (Chaminade HS)
11	Sean Gaston*	So.	C	6-0	185	L-R	2/12/85	Brownsburg, IN (Brownsburg HS)
12	Matt Bransfield**	Jr.	DH/C	6-1	205	R-R	10/9/83	Englewood, CO (Cherry Creek HS)
13	Wade Korpi	Fr.	LHP	5-10	190	R-L	3/10/86	Lake Worth, FL (Santaluces HS)
14	Matt Edwards***	Sr.	1B/3B	6-2	195	R-R	3/16/83	Mechanicsville, VA (Lee-Davis HS)
16	Alex Netzey**	Jr.	OF	6-1	200	R-R	11/30/83	Dolton, IL (Thornridge HS)
17	Cody Rizzo** (C)	Jr.	OF	6-1	200	R-R	1/17/84	Temecula, CA (Chaparral HS)
18	Brent Weiss**	Sr.	DH	6-1	190	R-R	7/25/82	Cockeysville, MD (St. Paul's HS)
20	Derik Olvey*	So.	RHP	6-2	205	R-R	10/27/84	Pelham, AL (Pelham HS)
22	Dan Kapala*	So.	RHP	6-5	225	R-R	9/6/85	Royal Oak, MI (Shrine Catholic HS)
25	Nick Mainieri*	Jr.	C	5-11	180	R-R	11/25/83	South Bend, IN (St. Joseph's HS)
29	David Gruener	Fr.	LHP	6-2	210	L-L	9/21/85	Gig Harbor, WA (Life Christian Academy)
30	Tom Thornton**	Jr.	LHP	6-6	220	L-L	7/20/82	Middleboro, MA (Middleboro HS)
32	Jess Stewart*	So.	RHP	6-3	215	R-R	2/6/85	Manassas, VA (Osborn City HS)
33	Scott Bickford	Sr.	LHP	6-5	170	R-L	1/6/83	Owings, MD (Northern HS)
34	Jeff Manship	So.	RHP	6-1	195	R-R	1/16/85	San Antonio, TX (Reagan HS)
36	Steve Andres**	Jr.	LF/C	5-10	220	L-R	4/14/84	Napa, CA (Justin Siena HS)
38	Tyler Jones** (C)	Sr.	RHP	6-4	210	R-R	10/14/82	Arlington, TX (James Martin HS)
44	Mike Dury*	So.	LHP/1B	6-5	230	S-R	9/19/84	Indianapolis, IN (Bishop Chatard HS)
45	Jeff Samardzija*	So.	RHP	6-5	215	R-R	1/23/85	Valparaiso, IN (Valparaiso HS)
47	Ryan Doherty**	Jr.	RHP	7-1	255	R-R	2/2/84	Toms River, NJ (Toms River East HS)
49	John Axford** (C)	Sr.	RHP	6-6	190	R-R	4/1/83	Port Dover, Ontario (Assumption Coll. HS)
51	Joey Williamson	Fr.	RHP	6-1	190	R-R	1/28/86	Lantana, FL (Santaluces HS)
54	Matt Whittington	So.	LHP	6-1	205	R-L	8/26/85	Melbourne, FL (Melbourne Cen. Cath. HS)

* – monograms won (C) – captains

Head Coach: # 1 Paul Mainieri (St. Thomas '82, 11th season at Notre Dame)

Assistant Coaches: #19 David Grewe (Dayton '98), #26 Terry Rooney (Radford '96)

Volunteer Assistant: #28 John Gumpf (Cal State San Bernadino '97)

Pronunciation Guide

Steve ANN-drees

Ross Bruh-ZOV-ski

Mike DURR-ee

Sean GAS-tun

David GREW-ee

David GREW-nurr

Wade CORE-pee

DEREK OHL-vee

Dan Kuh-PELL-uh

Nick and Paul Muh-NAIR-ee

Jeff Suh-MARR-zhuh