

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL – GAMEDAY ADD-ON NOTES

College World Series – Game #3, vs. Stanford (Saturday, June 15, 2002)

CAPE COD REUNION: Several former Cape Cod League teammates from ND and Stanford had a chance to reunite at Thursday's night's tournament dinner ... ND senior C **Paul O'Toole**, sophomore 2B **Steve Sollmann** and senior 3B **Andrew Bushey** took the time to catch up with three former Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox (a.k.a YDR) teammates: sophomore LF Brian **Hall**, junior DH Jason **Cooper** and senior RHP J.D. **Wilcox** ... a couple tables over, ND junior LF **Brian Stavisky** was visiting with his former Hyannis Mets teammates junior C Ryan **Garko** and junior LHP Tim **Cunningham** ... Irish senior CF **Steve Stanley** played for the Brewster Whitecaps in the summers of 1999 and 2000, with his Brewster teammates including Stanford senior LHP Dan **Rich** ... ND senior DH **Matt Bok** also was a late Cape Cod addition in 2002, playing for the Bourne Braves ... O'Toole played for Brewster in 2000 while Stavisky played for Hyannis in 2000 and '01 Bushey played just the first month of '01 with YDR before electing to have surgery on his non-throwing shoulder.

MORE CAPE COD CONNECTIONS: Other Cape Cod players in the CWS include four from Hyannis: Clemson junior OF **Frank**, Georgia Tech junior OF John Henry **Kail** and junior 1B/OF Jason **Perry** and South Carolina senior RHP Blake **Taylor** (that's seven Mets teammates in the CWS, including Stavisky).

OTHER ND-STANFORD TIES: ND senior OF **Matt Strickroth** and Stanford sophomore RHP John **Hudgins** were teammates on the 1992 South Mission Viejo (Calif.) Little League All-Stars ... current ND head coaches Bobby Clark (men's soccer) and Tyrone Willingham (football) previously were head coaches at Stanford.

MAINIERI TO LEAVE OMAHA BRIEFLY FOR FATHER-IN-LAW'S SERVICE: Notre Dame head coach Paul Mainieri will be making a short departure from Omaha on Sunday morning in order to be with his wife Karen in Oregon, Ohio ... Karen's father Bill Fejes passed away on Friday morning, with his funeral service to be held Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. ... Mainieri's time of return to Omaha is contingent on ND's result in the first game (and the time of the ensuing Monday game) ... **media are encouraged to make use of Saturday's postgame period to direct any questions they may have for coach Mainieri (including questions regarding Monday's matchup) ... after Saturday night, associate head coach Brian O'Connor will serve as the official spokesman of the ND coaching staff until coach Mainieri's return.**

ONE YEAR LATER: The Notre Dame baseball team has ended its 45-year CWS drought – led by a veteran lineup (nine of top 10 batters returned) and a highly-touted freshman class that includes three of the team's top pitchers (led by top starters Grant Johnson and Chris Niesel) ... the Irish had to replace their pair of ace pitchers from the 2001 season – Aaron Heilman and Danny Tamayo – who combined for a 23-3 record and 2.22 ERA in 227 innings during the 2002 season, with 217 strikeouts (8.6 per 9 IP), just 48 walks (1.9 per 9 IP) and 177 hits allowed (7.0 per 9 IP).

DUBBER GETS W's: Today's starter, freshman RHP **Grant Johnson** – nicknamed "Dubber" due to his middle initial (for Wayne) – has racked up plenty of wins in recent weeks, winning each of his last seven decisions for a 9-4 overall record ... Johnson needs one more win to become the first ND freshman ever to post double-digit wins (David Sinnes was 9-2 in 1990) ... just 13 previous ND pitchers have posted 10-plus wins – with Aaron Heilman the only one to do so since 1994 (he was 11-2 in 1999, 10-2 in 2000, and 15-0 in '01).

DOUBLE-DUECE REVISITED: Grant Johnson's many similarities to former ND four-year All-American Aaron Heilman include a chance to pitch for the USA National team (as Heilman did in the summer of 1999, after his sophomore season) ... Johnson also inherited Heilman's No. 22 jersey ... here's a comparison of their freshman seasons (Heilman served as the closer for most of 1998 and led the nation in ERA, with a 31-inning shutout streak):

Freshman Year Comparison

Pitcher	ERA	W-L (SV)	IP	GP/GS	H	K/BB	WP/HB	OppAvg	HR
Heilman ('99)	1.61	7-3 (9)	67.0	31/1	46	78/19	4/10	.198	2
Johnson ('02)	3.29	9-4 (0)	95.2	17/13	87	84/42	5/6	.246	4

Notre Dame Baseball Notes (vs. Stanford, p. 2)

OPENING WINS: Notre Dame has won the opening game in each of its previous three 2002 postseason competitions: 8-3 vs. Rutgers (BIG EAST Tournament), 8-6 vs. Ohio State (NCAA South Bend Regional) and 10-4 at Florida State (NCAA Super Regional) ... the Irish are 8-2 overall in the 2002 postseason.

TALE OF THE TAPE

Offense	Stanford	Notre Dame
Batting Average.....	.321.....	.324
Runs Per 9 Innings	8.1 (486/541.2)	8.1 (481/536.1)
Home Runs	84	51
Triples	21.....	24
Doubles	140	124
Slugging Pct. ....	.516.....	.473
Walks	203.....	247
Strikeouts	330.....	313
Walk-to-K Ratio	0.62.....	0.79
On-Base Pct. ....	.388.....	.399
Sac. Bunts	29.....	65
Stolen Bases	73	61
Grounded Into DPs	64.....	33
Starters Over .400.....	0.....	2
Starters Over .350.....	3.....	3
Starters Over .300.....	7	6

Pitching	Stanford	Notre Dame
ERA	3.95.....	3.55
Opponent Batting Avg.....	.257.....	.254
Innings	556.1	558.1
Strikeouts	432.....	469
Walks	203.....	223
K/BB Ratio.....	2.1	2.1
Saves	16.....	18
Shutouts	3.....	3
Complete Games	8	6
Home Runs Allowed	45.....	26
Wild Pitches	45.....	36
Hit Batters.....	48.....	46

Fielding	Stanford	Notre Dame
Errors	70	98
Fielding Pct. ....	.971.....	.960
Double Plays.....	70	64

Notre Dame Baseball Notes (vs. Stanford, p. 3)

STARTING PITCHER COMPARISON

	<u>Guthrie</u>	<u>Johnson</u>
ERA	2.34	3.29
Record	12-1	9-4
Opponent Batting Avg.....	.228	.246
Appearances	18	17
Starts	18	13
Innings	142.1	95.2
Strikeouts	125	84
K Per 9 IP	7.9	7.9
Walks	32	42
BB Per 9 IP.....	2.0	4.0
K-to-BB Ratio	3.9	2.0
Shutouts	1	0
Complete Games	5	1
Home Runs Allowed	8	4
Wild Pitches	13	5
Hit Batters.....	10	6

GRANT JOHNSON INNING-BY-INNING

<u>Inning</u>	<u>ERA</u>	<u>Opp. Avg.</u>	<u>Strikeouts</u>	<u>Walks</u>	<u>Innings</u>
1st.....	6.23	.250	19	6	13.0
2nd.....	1.38	.213	17	3	13.0
3rd.....	2.57	.235	12	7	14.0
4th.....	3.00	.264	10	5	15.0
5th.....	1.26	.278	12	6	14.1
6th.....	7.45	.400	3	8	9.2
7th.....	1.50	.050	5	4	6.0
8th.....	0.00	.056	2	2	6.0
9th.....	7.71	.203	4	1	4.2

Early Bump – Freshman RHP **Grant Johnson** often has struggled in the 1st inning this season (9 earned runs in 13 innings, or the equivalent of a 6.23 ERA) but the Team USA hopeful has been tough in the 2nd-5th, allowing just 13 earned runs (2.08 ERA) ... Johnson tired in the 6th inning of several early outings, with a 7.45 overall ERA for that inning.

Quick Ks – Despite his early ERA struggles, Grant Johnson has posted his most strikeouts in the 1st (19 Ks) and 2nd(17) innings, compared to 12 in the 3rd, 10 in the 4th and 12 in the 5th.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: Notre Dame and Stanford consistently have ranked among the national leaders for graduate rates of their student-athletes ... ND and Stanford recently joined Nebraska, Alabama and Air Force as the only schools with two players on the Verizon CoSIDA Academic All-America team (junior LF **Brian Stavisky** and senior 3B **Andrew Bushey** were the ND honorees) and Notre Dame ranks second all-time with 141 Academic All-Americans ... here's the top five in the latest graduation rates released last fall by the NCAA (based on students who enrolled from 1991-94 and graduated within six years, with all transfers counted as non-graduates):

Graduation Rates For All Student-Athletes

1. Northwestern 92 percent
2. Duke 91 percent
- 3. Stanford 88 percent**
- 4. Notre Dame 85 percent**
5. Rice 82 percent

Notre Dame Baseball Notes (vs. Stanford, p. 4)

VS. FIRST ROUNDERS: Notre Dame – which is slated to face Stanford All-American and Cleveland Indians 1st-round draft pick Jeremy Guthrie - has some experience this season facing a pitcher who ended up being a 1st-round pick in the 2002 Major League draft, with the Irish winning all three of those games:

* April 12 - The first showdown produced one of the key victories in ND's 2002 season, as the Irish rode the strong pitching of replacement starter Ryan Kalita (subbing for Chris Niesel, who was out with mono) and surging closer J.P. Gagne to outlast Virginia Tech ace lefthander Joe Saunders (the 12th overall pick, by the Anaheim Angels) ... that 7-inning game extended to 11 innings, with ND winning 2-1 behind Matt Bok's pinch-hit triple and Joe Thaman's single back to the box ... Saunders allowed the single run on eight hits and no walks over eight innings while racking up 11 Ks in his 134-pitch outing – but Kalita (6 IP, UER, BB, 5 K) and Gagne (5 IP, 3 H, BB, K) matched the pitcher who was rated as the top lefty in college baseball.

* May 4 - The next matchup vs. a top pitcher saw ND rally in its final at-bat of the 7-inning opener to beat Rutgers and its ace righthander Bobby Brownlie, 6-5 ... Brownlie was touched for nine hits and one walk in his 91-pitch outing while failing to strike out an ND batter (the first time in his career that he failed to register a K)

* May 23 - The Irish later jumped all over Brownlie in the opener of BIG EAST Tournament, knocking the RU ace out of that 8-3 game after five innings (6 H, 7 R/6 ER, 3 BB, 3 K).

Notre Dame also faced an eventual 2nd-round draft pick in the May 11 game vs. Villanova in Philadelphia, with VU rallying in the 9th for an 8-7 win ... ND roughed up ace RHP Brian Slocum over the first 5.1 innings (6 H, 5 R, 3 BB, 4 Ks) but VU came back from the 6-4 deficit to get the win.

FAR & WIDE: The 2002 Notre Dame baseball team includes players from 21 states/provinces, with junior RHP **Brandon Vilorio** (Wailuku) becoming the first Hawaii native ever to letter with the ND baseball program (which has produced nearly 700 all-time letterwinners, from 43 different states) ... Vilorio's parents Adefo and Sandra are in Omaha and have the chance to see their son pitch for just the third time in his ND career ... they also attended this season's March 30th doubleheader vs. Georgetown, in Bethesda, Md., in addition to attending the St. John's series the following weekend at Eck Stadium, on April 6-7.

NOTRE DAME PITCHING INNING-BY-INNING

<u>Inning</u>	<u>ERA</u>	<u>Opp. Avg.</u>	<u>Strikeouts</u>	<u>Walks</u>
1st.....	5.54.....	.291.....	65.....	34
2nd.....	3.05.....	.216.....	59.....	18
3rd.....	4.57.....	.269.....	51.....	31
4th.....	2.91.....	.256.....	56.....	26
5th.....	1.25.....	.203.....	54.....	25
6th.....	3.88.....	.286.....	50.....	30
7th.....	3.05.....	.226.....	55.....	20
8th.....	5.19.....	.302.....	37.....	21
9th.....	3.40.....	.246.....	38.....	17
10th+.....	0.00.....	.130.....	4.....	1

Dominance In The Middle – The Irish pitching staff has been nearly untouchable in the 5th inning this season, allowing just nine earned runs in the 65 games (equivalent to a 1.25 team ERA, well ahead of the second-best inning, a 2.91 in the 4th) ... opponents are batting just .203 vs. the ND pitchers in the 5th, with 54 Ks and 25 walks.

Notre Dame Baseball Notes (vs. Stanford, p. 5)

IRISH OVERCOME EARLY INJURY BUG – Notre Dame survived major injuries during the first half of the season, including the loss of one of the nation's top-rated freshmen (SS Matt Macri) ... five players that were slated to start on opening day or who assumed an early starting job due to another's injury (Matt Edwards for Macri) have combined to miss 135 games due to injuries ... Macri and several other ND players who are not on the 25-man CWS roster are in Omaha to cheer on their teammates (that group includes freshman catcher Jay Molina, a versatile defensive player who has missed the entire season due to "Tommy John" reconstructive elbow surgery) ... the below list details the major injuries and does not include several other players who missed spot duty (many of them in that early-season stretch):

* **Shortstop (48/56)** – Highly-touted **Matt Macri**, the No. 2-rated prospect among the nation's freshmen (according to *Baseball America*) never had the chance to play his natural position, with two starts at 2B and 14 at DH due to an elbow strain that ultimately required "Tommy John" reconstructive surgery ... all told, Macri has missed 48 games, with his last action coming on March 28 at West Virginia ... Macri's replacement at SS, classmate **Matt Edwards**, also was lost for the year after suffering a broken leg when he collided with a teammate chasing a popup into left field during the March 9 win over USC ... Edwards now has missed 56 games ... Edwards also was a candidate to see time in the outfield, at third base or as a DH ... sophomore **Javier Sanchez** was the third option at SS and has done a solid job at the new position (he played mostly 3B and 2B prior to 2002).

* **Left Field (18)** – Preseason All-American and two-time Cape Cod League all-star **Brian Stavisky** was sidelined for a pair of nine-game stretches in the first half of the season: Feb. 23-March 11 (after injuring his shoulder on a slide into third, after tripling in the game at UNO) ... ND went just 4-5 during his first nine-game absence ... Stavisky then was lost for nine more games (March 28-April 7) after he was hit in the face by a 90-mph fastball in the first game of a doubleheader at West Virginia (ND lost that game to fall to 9-10 but then rallied to go 8-1 with Stavisky out of the lineup).

* **Second Base (8)** – Another preseason All-American, sophomore **Steve Sollmann**, was hampered for much of the year with a pulled quadriceps (he played through the injury in many games) ... he first hurt the quad in the fourth inning of the season (vs. Missouri, at UNO on Feb. 22) and then missed eight of the next 17 games (including the three losses at UConn on March 23-24) ... with Macri and Edwards also sidelined for the March 8-11 Irish Baseball Classic in San Antonio, ND actually tried four different players as the starting 2B in the four games of that tournament.

* **Third Base (5)** – Senior **Andrew Bushey** suffered a freak shoulder injury while reaching for a ball during infield practice prior to the Feb. 23 game vs. SIU ... Bushey missed the next five games (including all four at the Homestead Challenge) ... Bushey also shares time behind the plate with classmate **Paul O'Toole**, whose ability to catch was limited early in the season due to a thumb injury.

RUDY, RUDY, RUDY!: ND head coach Paul Mainieri was busy earlier this week with the task of checking his voicemail, jotting down the names of the callers and then erasing the messages to free up his voicemail ... the calls rolled in from all corners of baseball and elsewhere, including former and current Major League managers (such as Tommy Lasorda and Don Baylor) and scores of head coaches from Northern baseball schools ... one unique call came from Rudy Ruettiger, the former ND football walk-on whose story is depicted in the movie "Rudy," who told Mainieri he was inspired by the baseball team's underdog triumph at top-ranked Florida State ... Ruettiger is not the only "Rudy" who has a connection to Notre Dame baseball and last week's Super Regional – as two of ND's three Florida natives have fathers named Rudy ... freshman RHP Chris Niesel won the decisive third game at FSU, with his father Rudy Niesel looking on ... senior DH Ken Meyer – who hit 2-for-3 in the first Super Regional game – also is the son of a father by the same name (Rudy Meyer passed away in 1998).

FAMILIAR FACE: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Tommy Lasorda was the keynote speaker at the Notre Dame baseball team's season-opening "ballpark-style" dinner (Feb. 18) that drew nearly 1,000 fans to the Joyce Center Fieldhouse ... Lasorda fittingly was in Omaha for Thursday night's festivities that kicked off the College World Series and he then gave the ND team an inspirational speech at its team breakfast on Friday morning.

Notre Dame Baseball Notes (vs. Stanford, p. 6)

DRAFT DAY RECAP: Four Notre Dame position players were selected in last week's Major League draft, led by a pair of Oakland A's draftees (senior CF Stave Stanley in the 2nd round and junior LF Brian Stavisky in the 6th) ... senior 3B/C Andrew Bushey then was the 15th-round pick of the Colorado Rockies and senior C Paul O'Toole went to the Chicago Cubs in the 21st round ... here's some notes on the draft's significance:

- * Stanley was the 67th overall pick and the 27th U.S. college player selected ... he was the ninth outfielder drafted and the third college OF selected, just behind Jeremy Reed of Long Beach State (59th) and Fred Lewis of Southern University (66th).
- * Stanley is the 4th-highest-drafted player in ND baseball history, plus the program's 2nd-highest drafted senior and second-highest position player ... the top three all-time ND draft picks include catcher Ken Plesha (17th overall pick of Chicago White Sox, 1965) and the RHP tandem of Brad Lidge (17th overall pick of Houston Astros in 1998) and Aaron Heilman (31st pick by Minnesota Twins in 2000, returned for senior season and drafted in 2001 by New York Mets with 18th pick of first round).
- * Stanley and Stavisky became the first ND teammates ever drafted in the first six rounds while no previous Irish team had produced four players all drafted in the first 21 rounds (the 2001 squad had four in the first 33 rounds).
- * Stavisky has been drafted twice previously – by the Montreal Expos in 1999 (12th round) and by the Cubs in the 33rd round of the 2001 campaign ... Stanley, Bushey and O'Toole all were undrafted out of high school ... both O'Toole (48th rd, San Francisco Giants) and Stanley (50th rd, Florida Marlins) were late-round picks in 2002.
- * Stanley and Stavisky (188th pick) were the highest-drafted outfielders from the same team ... Val Majewski of Rutgers (3rd rd, 76th overall pick of Baltimore Orioles) actually gave the BIG EAST Conference three outfielders that were picked in the first six rounds ... in fact, no other conference can match the BIG EAST with three outfielders drafted that high.
- * The BIG EAST also produced three highly-drafted pitchers: Virginia Tech LHP Joe Saunders (12th overall, Anaheim), Rutgers RHP Bobby Bronwlie (21st pick, Cubs) and Villanova RHP Brian Slocum (63rd, Cleveland) ... again, no other conference could match that level of high draft picks among pitchers.
- * The BIG EAST's total of four players selected is second only behind Clemson's six.
- * There was plenty of representation from the Midwest region among the top picks ... in fact, five players from Indiana colleges were among the top 67 selections: Ball State RHP Brian Bullington (1st overall pick) and BSU lefthander Luke Hagerty (32nd), Purdue RHP Chadd Blasko (36th), Evansville RHP Steve Obenchain (37th) and Stanley.
- * Four players in the CWS were drafted higher than Stanley: South Carolina SS Drew Meyer (10th overall, Rangers), Clemson SS Khalil Greene (13th, Padres), Stanford RHP Jeremy Guthrie (22nd, Indians) and Clemson 1B Michael Johnson (54th, Padres).
- * In addition to Stanley and Stavisky, just two other CWS outfielders were picked in the first six rounds: Stanford's Jason Cooper (82nd, Indians) and Georgia Tech's Jason Perry (176th, Blue Jays).

Notre Dame Baseball Notes (vs. Stanford, p. 7)

NOTRE DAME OFFENSE INNING-BY-INNING

Inning	Batting Avg.	Runs	Home Runs	Slugging %	On-Base %
1st.....	.333.....	64.....	6.....	.487.....	.397
2nd.....	.314.....	52.....	5.....	.443.....	.390
3rd.....	.345.....	67.....	6.....	.506.....	.412
4th.....	.278.....	58.....	6.....	.425.....	.376
5th.....	.318.....	53.....	8.....	.485.....	.382
6th.....	.370.....	54.....	6.....	.521.....	.438
7th.....	.331.....	55.....	6.....	.452.....	.415
8th.....	.295.....	41.....	6.....	.473.....	.380
9th.....	.318.....	30.....	2.....	.424.....	.385
10th+ .....	.370.....	6.....	6.....	.556.....	.452

Sixth Sense – The Notre Dame offense has enjoyed its best success in the 6th inning, with a .370 team batting average in the 6th (25 points higher than any other inning), plus 54 runs scored, six home runs, a .521 team slugging pct. and a .438 team on-base pct. (both team bests) ... the veteran hitting skill of senior CF and leadoff batter **Steve Stanley** can be seen in his strong batting in the 6th (typically his third at-bat), with a .565 batting avg. in the 6th (13-for-23), plus a .913 slugging pct. (HR, 3B, 3 2B), eight runs, five RBI, six walks and just one strikeout ...five other ND regulars are batting above .400 in the 6th inning: sophomore 2B **Steve Sollmann** (.550, 11-for-20, 9 R, 5 RBI, 5 BB/0 K), junior RF **Kris Billmaier** (.516, 16-for-31, 6 R, 8 RBI, 2 HR, 2 BB/3 K), senior DH **Matt Bok** (.476, 10-for-21, 2 R, 2 RBI, 3 BB/4 K) and sophomore SS **Javier Sanchez** (.414, 12-for-29, 8 R, 3 RBI, 4 BB/4 K).

Strong Starter ... and Finisher – Leadoff batter **Steve Stanley** has been ready to hit right out of the box this season, with a .475 batting average during the 1st inning of ND's 2002 games (28-for-59, 22 R, just 2 Ks) ... Stanley also is ND's top hitter in the 9th inning (.571, 8-for-14, 4 R, 4 RBI).