

2005 NOTRE DAME BASEBALL

NCAA Gainesville Regional Tournament Notes

(June 3-6; McKethan Stadium; University of Florida)

The Notre Dame baseball team (36-22-1) will be looking to continue its recent success in the state of Florida when the Irish head to Gainesville this week to compete in the four-team NCAA Regional being held at the University of Florida's McKethan Stadium ... ND is the No. 3 seed in the Regional and will face 2nd-seeded North Carolina in the first game on Friday, June 3 (4:00 EDT/3:00 in South Bend), followed by top-seeded Florida vs. No. 4 seed Stetson in the 8:00 game ... Notre Dame has announced junior LHP Tom Thornton as its game-1 starter (rest of rotation is TBA) ... every game of the double-elimination Gainesville Regional will be telecast live by College Sports Television, with South Bend's WHME TV-46 also showing some of the games (both live and tape-delayed, see schedule below).

NEW FORMAT – The NCAA Regionals will feature a slight tweak in the schedule, whereby only two games are scheduled per day (thus meaning that the 6/7-game format could stretch to a fourth day) ... the losers of Friday's games will play an elimination game on Saturday at 3:30 EDT, followed by the winners-bracket game at 7:00 ... the second elimination game (between the winner of Saturday's early game and the loser of the late game) then will shift to Sunday at 2:00 while the first championship game will follow at 6:00 ... if a second championship game is needed, it will be played on Monday at 7:00 p.m. ... in past years of the four-team regional format (which dates back to 1999), three games were played on the second day and both championship games were contested on the third day (this is the format still used by the BIG EAST and in other similar conference tournaments).

GAINESVILLE REGIONAL SCHEDULE (all times are EDT)

Friday, June 3

Game 1 - 4:00 p.m. - Notre Dame (36-22-1) vs. North Carolina (40-17)

Game 2 - 8:00 p.m. - Stetson (35-26) vs. Florida (40-20)

Saturday, June 4

Game 3 - 3:30 p.m. - Loser of game one versus loser of game two

Game 4 - 7:00 p.m. - Winner of game one versus winner of game two

Sunday, June 5

Game 5 - 2:00 p.m. - Winner of game three versus loser of game four

Game 6 - 6:00 p.m. - Winner of game four versus winner of game five

Monday, June 6

Game 7 - 7:00 p.m. - if necessary

WHME TO PICK UP CSTV FEEDS – South Bend's WHME TV-46 will show Friday's ND-UNC game live (3:00 in South Bend) and will telecast ND's game on Saturday on a delayed basis (at 11:00 p.m. EST) ... if ND plays in Sunday's championship game, WHME also will re-air that game at 11:00 p.m. ... WHME coverage of a potential Monday game involving the Irish is TBA.

RADIO, LIVE-STATS & HOTLINE – All of Notre Dame's 2005 games again have been 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 (note that the official NCAA livestats are used for the regionals) ... 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).

Note: the Irish had a quick turnaround this week after returning on Sunday from the BIG EAST Tournament and leaving Wednesday afternoon for Gainesville ... more gamenotes will be forthcoming each day this week, including a look at the matchups (with a Tale of the Tape comparison), notes on the pitchers, an updated on ND players in pro baseball, etc.

FOUR-PEAT NO EASY FEAT – Notre Dame enters the NAAs with wins in eight of its previous nine games, including a split with then-#17 USC and an undefeated run (3-0) to its unprecedented fourth straight BIG EAST Tournament title ... Oral Roberts (8) is the only team in the nation with a longer active streak of conference tournament titles while Rice has claimed nine straight Western Athletic Conference automatic bids (the WAC does not sponsor a tournament and awards its bid to the regular-season champ) ... ORU and Rice are the only teams – among 30 Division I conferences – that are riding a streak of more than four consecutive conference automatic bids ... ND also owns the record for consecutive wins in BIG EAST tournament play (7).

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2005 ROSTER (as of June 1)

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)
6	Danny Dressman*	So.	OF	5-9	180	L-L	12/12/84	San Jose, CA (Archbishop Mitty HS)
7	Ross Brezovsky	Fr.	3B	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/1B	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	225	R-R	3/16/83	Mechanicsville, VA (Lee-Davis HS)
16	Alex Netthey**	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)
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)
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)

The players listed below are not on the NCAA Tournament Roster

5	Eddie Smith	Jr.	IF	5-11	165	L-R	2/8/84	Olympia, WA (North Thurston HS)
18	Brent Weiss**	Sr.	DH	6-1	190	R-R	7/25/82	Cockeysville, MD (St. Paul's 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)

* – monograms won (prior to 2005)

(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

Sean GAS-tun

Wade CORE-pee

Nick and Paul Muh-NAIR-ee

Ross Bruh-ZOV-ski

David GREW-ee

DEREK OHL-vee

Jeff Suh-MARR-zhuh

Mike DURR-ee

David GREW-nurr

Dan Kuh-PELL-uh

SEVEN STRAIGHT – Notre Dame, which bounced back from a 14-14 start to the '05 season by going 22-8-1 in the second half, will be making its seventh straight appearance in the NCAAs and eighth of the 11-year Paul Mainieri era ... the Irish are part of an elite group of 12 teams that have appeared in the NCAAs every year since 1999, with the others including: recent NCAA champions Miami, LSU, Texas, Rice and Cal State Fullerton, plus Florida State, Stanford, Clemson, Tulane, East Carolina and Oral Roberts.

WARMING UP IN FLA. – The Irish baseball team owns a 48-41-1 all-time record in the state of Florida but has found the Sunshine State to be an especially welcome home-away-from-home during the past six seasons, racking up a 26-6 record (.813) in Florida during that 2000-05 span (including a win at Central Florida on the first weekend of the '05 season).

THE REGIONAL FIELD – North Carolina (40-17-1) finished 5th in the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season standings (23-5) before going 0-2 at the ACC Tournament, with a pair of one-run losses to Miami (2-1) and Florida State (3-2) ... Florida (40-20) is the No. 7 national seed after winning its Southeastern Conference divisional title (20-10) and finishing 3rd in the SEC Tournament (9-8 win over Arkansas, 10-7 win and then 14-1 and 4-2 losses to Mississippi) ... Stetson (35-26) played its way into the NCAAs by winning the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament as the #4 seed (15-12 record), with an 8-5 win over Central Florida, a 3-0 loss to Florida Atlantic, a 6-5 win over Gardner Webb and two wins over FAU (7-3 and 8-0).

WHAT'S AT STAKE – The winner of the Gainesville Regional will advance to the Super-Regional round versus the winner of the regional being played in Tallahassee, Fla., and hosted by Florida State (other teams in that regional include Auburn, South Alabama and Army) .. the Super-Regional features a best-of-3 series, June 10-13. The eight Super-Regional winners then advance to the College World Series, set for May 17-27 at Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Neb. ... if ND and FSU were to advance out of their respective regionals, it would set up a repeat of the 2002 Super-Regional won by the Irish (ND was the only team to win a 2002 Super-Regional series on the road).

ND IN THE NCAAs – Notre Dame will be making its 20th all-time appearances in the NCAAs, with a 40-39 record in previous NCAA Tournaments including trips to the College World Series in 1957 and 2002 ... the Irish own an 18-15 record in the NCAAs during the Mainieri era (since '95) and have gone 9-9 away from home in Mainieri-era NCAA games, including a win over homestanding Mississippi State in 2000 (plus two wins over Tulane at that '00 Regional), the Super-Regional victories at Florida State in 2002 and the '02 CWS win over Rice ... the Irish also have recently played in the 2003 NCAA Regional held at Cal State Fullerton ... previous Notre Dame teams played NCAA Tournament games at Minnesota, Western Michigan, Illinois, Ohio State, Fresno State, Miami and Clemson.

NEW FACES (SERIES HISTORY) – Notre Dame has a limited series history vs. North Carolina (0-1), Florida (1-3) and Stetson (1-2), having not played UNC in nearly 50 years and not faced the Gators in the past 25 years while playing the Hatters just once in that 25-year span ... a look at the ND all-time series records at first indicated that ND and **UNC** had not played previously – but, in fact, the Tar Heels beat the Irish in a 1956 game played in Tallahassee at Florida A&M (14-4) ... the correction was noted by longtime *South Bend Tribune* writer Forrest "Woody" Miller, who has been on the Notre Dame baseball beat for nearly 50 years (including coverage at the 1957 and '02 College World Series) ... **Florida** swept a pair of games from Notre Dame early in the 1979 season (6-1, 12-0), with those games representing the only ones in the ND-UF series in the previous 74 seasons (dating back to a pair of games at UF in 1930, with ND winning 5-4 and then losing 1-0) ... ND and **Stetson** first met at the 1978 Rollins Collins Invitational in Orlando (Stetson won, 8-2) and the Irish evened the series the next season with a 19-11 win at Stetson. The only other meeting in the series came 17 years later, when Mainieri's second ND team lost to Stetson at the NCAA South Regional (7-6, held at the University of Alabama).

ROAD WARRIORS – Notre Dame's tradition of upsetting home teams in NCAA Tournament play includes wins at Minnesota ('56), Western Michigan ('57), Miami ('92), Florida State ('93 Regional; twice in '02 Super-Regional), Clemson ('94) and Mississippi State ('00).

CONNECTED – There are several connections between the Notre Dame baseball program and the other three teams in the Gainesville Regional ... second-year Irish pitching coach Terry Rooney spent the previous two seasons on the staff at Stetson while Florida coach Pat McMahon was the skipper at Mississippi State when Notre Dame staged its historic battle at the 2000 Starkville Regional (McMahon invited Mainieri and the Irish back to open their '01 season and ND swept both games from the Bulldogs ... North Carolina assistant athletic director Larry Gallo was the Notre Dame baseball coach from 1981-87 while many of the current Irish players (namely Florida natives Ross Brezovsky, Wade Korpi and Joey Williamson) are former teammates of players from the Regional's other three teams ... heck back later in the week for a complete listing of the Regional connections, included with the pre-tournament notes.

20-20 ... 20 – Notre Dame is one of just four schools in college sports history to participate in at least 20 NCAA baseball tournaments (20), 20 basketball tournaments (37) and 20 bowl games (25) ... the others are (baseball-basketball-football): upcoming opponent UNC (20-37-5), Oklahoma (28-23-38) and Texas (49-23-44).

THE SKIPPER – Paul Mainieri, in his 11th season at ND and 23rd overall as a college head coach, heads into the game with an **817-473-3 career** record (.633) that includes **486-194-2 with the Irish** (.714) ... Mainieri owns the top winning pct. in BIG EAST history (.730; 171-63-1, in BIG EAST regular-season games) ... earlier this season, he became the 27th active Div. 1 coach with 800-plus career wins as a college head baseball coach ... in addition to the many noteworthy accomplishments on the field by Mainieri's players, the Irish baseball program also owns a 100% graduation rate during the Mainieri era (63-of-63, among 4-year players, with 11 others who signed professionally as juniors returning to complete/near completion of their degree).

BALANCED BATS WIN TITLE – Senior 1B Matt Edwards took home tournament MVP honors but there were plenty of heroes up and down the lineup in the 11-4 win over Pittsburgh that extended Notre Dame's unprecedented run to four straight BIG EAST tournament titles ... ND saw all nine starters rap out hits for the second time in the team's three games at Commerce Bank Ballpark ... half of the team's 14 hits went for extra bases, including two-run blasts by Edwards and Cody Rizzo, a pair of doubles (one that plated two runs) off the bat of extra-base specialist Steve Andres, an RBI double from Edwards and Sean Gaston's triple that led to another run ... Craig Cooper extended his career-best hitting streak to 13 games (3-for-5, 3 runs) from the leadoff spot while Brett Lilley had a key two-run single in the 4th that helped Notre Dame answer Pittsburgh's only runs of the game ... a pair of sophomores – RHP Dan Kapala and LHP Mike Dury – combined in limiting Pittsburgh to 6 hits, 4 walks and 12 total baserunners (only seven of which reached scoring position) ... ND's clutch hitting throughout the lineup included .539 batting by the Irish with runners in scoring position (7-for-13) and 6-for-15 (.400) with 2-outs ... all three of Edwards' RBI came with 2-outs, as did Rizzo's home run and an RBI single from Gaston ... Pittsburgh boasts one of the top hitting tandems in the BIG EAST – with leadoff man Ben Copeland and 3-hole hitter Jim Negrych – but Kapala and Dury held them to a 1-for-7 combined day (BB, HBP, RBI, 2 R, 3 Ks).

40 FOCUS – Notre Dame's 8-1 streak leaves the Irish just four wins shy of extending the program's streak of 40-win seasons (16) that stretches back to 1988 (Wichita State and Florida State, each with 27, are the only schools with longer 40-win streaks).

EDWARDS JOINS ELITE 80 HIT-40 WALK CLUB – Senior 1B Matt Edwards (80 H, 43 BB) collected five hits at the BIG EAST Tournament to become the third ND player ever to reach 80 hits and 40 walks in the same season ... SS Pat Pesavento did it twice (87 H, 46 BB in '88; 92 H, 61 B in '89) while 3B Matt Macri had 87 H, 40 BB in '04.

BULLPEN SHUTS THE DOOR AT BET – Four ND relievers combined for an impressive three-game stretch at the BIG EAST Tournament, with a 2.08 bullpen ERA, a relief win and a pair of saves to help deliver the team title ... the bullpen posted a 3.3 K-to-walk ratio at the BET (10 Ks/3 BB) while holding the opponents to five hits and a .161 batting avg. in 8.2 IP (a double by BC's Dave Preziosi was the only extra-base hit vs. the ND bullpen in Bridgewater) ... sophomore RHP Jeff Manship picked up his first save of the season in the 6-5 win over Boston College (3 IP, 2 R, 3 H, 2 BB, 4 Ks) ... freshman RHP Tony Langford then had a key shutout inning vs. Pittsburgh in the 4-2 winners-bracket game (H, K, 4 BF) and junior RHP Ryan Doherty closed things out by striking out three of the four batters he faced for his 6th save of the season and 19th of his career (1.1 IP) ... sophomore LHP Mike Dury had faced one batter in that game and then saved the 11-4 title game vs. Pitt (3.1 IP, H, B, 2 Ks, 11 BF) ... the relievers also allowed just 1-of-6 inherited baserunners to score in the three BET games.

HBP HIGHWAY ROLLS ON – Three ND players (Brett Lilley, Alex Nettey and Steve Andres) were hit by pitches in the BIG EAST title game, pushing ND's season HBP total to 122 ... that leaves the Irish just three shy of the NCAA record for HBPs in a season (125, by Nevada in '97) while the 1998 Long Beach State team is the only other with more HBPs in a season (124) ... ND players have been HBP in 53 of 59 games this season, with the Irish collecting at least one HBP in 24 of the past 25 games ... the Irish are averaging 2.07 HBPs per game ... junior CF Cody Rizzo ranks 4th in NCAA history with 69 HBPs, including 20 this season (4th in the ND record book, behind his 28 in '03, 21 in '04 and freshman 3B Brett Lilley's current 25) ... Lilley now ranks 13th on the NCAA list for HBP in a season, behind Andrew Slater (33; Richmond, '97), Steve Dembowski (32; Fairleigh Dickinson, '79), David Bacani (30; Cal State Fullerton, '98), Chris Nelson (29; Southern Utah, '02), Jonah Martin (29; ASU, '00), Corky Miller (29; Nevada, '98), Rizzo's 28 in '03, Daniel Bruce (28; Nebraska, '02), Ryan Earey (28; UNC '00), Eric Nielsen (27; UNLV, '04) and Gabe Sommariba (27; Florida Atlantic, '01 and '02) ... five of the 13 highest HBP totals in ND history belong to 2005 players: Lilley (25), Rizzo (20), junior CF Alex Nettey (16, 5th), junior SS Greg Lopez (14, 8th) and junior OF Craig Cooper (14).

AVOIDING 0-AND-2 – Notre Dame will enter the NCAAs looking to maintain the program's distinction of never going 0-2 at a postseason tournament in the 11-year Paul Mainieri era ... that's a streak of 20 postseason events, including 11 conference tournaments, seven NCAA Regionals, the 2002 Super Regional at Florida State and the '02 College World Series ... the Irish also have gone 0-2 just four times in 28 regular-season tournaments during the Mainieri era.

BRIDGEWATER BESTS – Two ND veterans own a .400 career batting avg. in BIG EAST tournament play: senior 1B **Matt Edwards** (16-for-40, 12 RBI, 13 R, 2 HR, 3 2B, 6 BB, HBP, 7 Ks, 2 Es, SB) and junior SS **Greg Lopez** (10-for-25, RBI, 2 E, 2 HBP, 3 Ks) ... junior LF/DH **Steve Andres** now is a .345 career hitter at the BET (10-for-29, 10 RBI, 7 R, HR, 3B, 5 2B, 5 BB, 2 HBP, 8 Ks, E), well above his overall .275 career batting avg. (Lopez owns a .288 career avg. while Edwards is hitting at a .349 career clip).

LONG-BALL LONGING – Matt Edwards ended his recent home run drought in the BIG EAST title game vs. Pittsburgh, stroking a 2-run shot in the 4th (he had just 1 HR in the previous 23 games and just 2 HRs in the second half of the season, after blasting 11 HRs in the first 27 games of '05) ... his 14 HR this season rank 9th in the ND record book and equal the most by an ND player since Brant Ust hit 17 in '99 ... Edwards now has 34 career HRs with the Irish, tying Ryan Topham ('94-'96) for 6th in the ND record book behind Jeff Wagner (49, '96-'99), Ust (47, '97-'99), Frank Jacobs (37, '89-'91), Mike Amrhein (37, '94-'97) and Alec Porzel (37, '98-'01).

BIG EAST TOURNEY STAT LEADERS – ND hit .310 at the 2005 BIG EAST Tournament (3 HR, 6 2B, 2 BB, 4 HBP, 24 Ks, 3 SB), outscoring the opposition 21-11 with a 3.00 staff ERA (24 Ks, 11 BB, 23 H/.235 opp. avg. in 27 IP) and a .983 fielding pct. (2 Es, including an errant OF throw) ... ND previous road games in the 2005 season had included just a .279 team batting avg., a 5.44 staff ERA and a .310 opp. batting avg. ... top hitters at the '05 BET included: junior DH/LF **Steve Andres** (4-for-9, 4 RBI, HR, 2 2B, 2 R, HBP, 2 Ks), junior SS **Greg Lopez** (4-for-10, K, no Es at SS on 11 chances), senior 1B **Matt Edwards** (5-for-13, 4 RBI, HR, 2 2B, 5 R, BB, 3 Ks, SB, E) and junior OF **Craig Cooper** (5-for-13, RBI, 5 R, BB, K).

THE TURNING POINT – The midseason series vs. Boston College remains a key turning point for the ND season in many respects, namely in the won-loss record ... ND was 14-14 and 3-4 in BIG EAST play after losing the first game of that series but has gone 22-8-1 in the second half of the season (14-5-1 vs. BE teams) ... that 14-14 start had included 18 ND errors at third base but the Irish moved freshman **Brett Lilley** from 2B to 3B and he has made just 7 Es in 31 games at the hot corner (26 error-free) ... the BC series also marked the key decision of moving sophomore RHP **Dan Kapala** into the starting rotation ... since the key shifts in the BC series, the Irish have posted a .971 fielding pct. (35 Es in 31 GP) while posting a 3.35 staff ERA (.261 opp. avg., 174 Ks, 84 BB, 273 H in 276.2 IP) and just 2.7 walks per 9 IP ... ND's 22-8-1 record during the second half includes: a loss to top-20 team USC, three losses at BIG EAST regular-season champ St. John's, two losses at 4th-place finisher Pittsburgh, a loss to NCAA hopeful Michigan, and a loss to a Central Michigan team that nearly won the MAC tournament.

LUCKY NUMBERS – ND enters the NCAAs with a 19-8-1 record when scoring in the 1st inning, 24-8 when scoring the game's first run, 30-2 when leading at the end of the 6th inning, 23-3-1 when outhitting the opponent and 27-4 when holding the opponent to 0-4 runs ... ND was just 11-9 during the regular-season in games decided by 1-2 runs before the 6-5 win over BC and the 4-2 game vs. Pitt at the BIG EAST tournament ...

ROADTRIPPERS – Notre Dame owned just a 9-18 record in 2005 road games (including at neutral sites) before the 21-1 win at Pittsburgh that sparked a current four-game winning streak outside of the home confines (including 3-0 at the BIG EAST Tournament).

FIRST-INNING FOCUS – ND's quick start in the BIG EAST title game (3-0 in the 1st) gives the Irish 55 runs in the 1st inning ... ND has scored a 1st-inning run in 28 games this season, including 13 games with multiple runs in the 1st.

MORE IN FOUR – Notre Dame's largest scoring margin in 2005 has come in the 4th inning (+37, 67-30), with ND owning just a +53 edge in all other innings combined.

MISTER MAY – Here are the ND batting leaders during the month of May (the first game in May also corresponded with the end of final exams (16 GP): junior OF **Craig Cooper** (.414, 24-for-58, 17 RBI, 15 R, 2 HR, 5 2B, 7 BB, HBP, 7 Ks, 3 SAC, 2 SB, E), senior 1B **Matt Edwards** (.367, 18-for-49, 12 RBI, 16 R, 2 HR, 5 2B, 20 BB, 13 Ks, 3 SB, 3 Es) and junior RF/C **Cody Rizzo** (.309, 17-for-55, 9 RBI, 12 R, 4 HR, 3 2B, 2 BB, 7 HBP, 9 Ks, 6 SB, 2 Es).

HITS ON THE ROAD – Four ND players have posted solid batting averages away from home this season: **Craig Cooper** (.333, 37-for-111, 23 RBI, 26 R, 4 HR, 8 2B, 16 BB, 4 HBP, 15 Ks, 6 SB, E), **Matt Edwards** (.322, 38-for-118, 33 RBI, 33 R, 7 HR, 10 2B, 20 BB, 4 HBP, 19 Ks, 3 SB, 7 Es), **Ross Brezovsky** (.299, 29-for-97, 11 RBI, 17 R, HR, 2 3B, 5 2B, 3 BB, 4 HBP, 24 Ks, 2 SAC, SB, 9 Es) and **Tony Langford** (.298, 17-for-57, 15 RBI, 5 R, 2 HR, 2 2B, BB, 8 Ks).

ON A ROLL – ND is batting .342 with a 73-32 scoring edge during the current 8-1 streak (9 HR, 3B, 21 2B, 24 BB, 13 HBP, 46 Ks, 7 SB), plus a .964 fielding pct. (12 Es) and a 2.62 staff ERA (57 Ks, 24 BB, 68 H in 79 IP) ... top hitters in the nine-game hot streak include seven who are batting above .300:

Craig **Cooper**500 (18-for-36, 14 RBI, 13 R, 2 HR, 3 2B, 3 BB, HBP, 3 Ks, SB, E)
Matt **Edwards**467 (14-for-30, 9 RBI, 10 R, HR, 4 2B, 8 BB, 5 Ks, 2 SB, 3 Es)
Cody **Rizzo**333 (11-for-33, 7 RBI, 9 R, 3 HR, 3 2B, 2 BB, 3 HBP, 7 Ks, 3 SB, 2 Es)
Sean **Gaston**333 (6-for-18, 4 RBI, 2 R, 3B, 2B, K, SAC)
Ross **Brezovsky**313 (10-for-32, 4 RBI, 8 R, HR, 2B, 2 BB, 5 Ks, E)
Tony **Langford**310 (9-for-29, 7 RBI, 4 R, HR, BB, 3 Ks)
Steve **Andres**304 (7-for-23, 8 RBI, 5 R, HR, 3 2B, BB, HBP, 3 Ks).

COOPER HIT STREAK REACHES 13 – Junior OF Craig Cooper is batting .460 (23-for-50) with 17 RBI (13 R, 5 2B, 2 HR, 4 BB, HBP, 5 Ks, SAC, SB) during his career-best 13-game hitting streak, the second-longest by an Irish player in 2005 behind a 15-game midseason streak from Alex Nettey ... Cooper posted his 16th multi-hit game of the season (and 7th with 3-plus hits) in the BIG EAST title game vs. Pitt.

FUNGOS – Senior 1B Matt Edwards and freshman 3B Brett Lilley have started all 59 games this season ... leftside infielders Lilley (49) and junior SS Greg Lopez (43) have combined for 92 error-free games this season (Lilley played the first 28 games at 2B and has 26 E-free games at 3B, including 12 straight heading into the NCAAs) ... Lilley played near-perfect defense (1 E) in 27 games vs. BIG EAST teams this season ... Steve Andres had been batting just .136 in May/post-finals (3-for-22, 4 RBI) before bettering that hit total in three games at the BET (4-for-9, 4 RBI) ... Andres enters the NCAAs riding a 6-game hitting streak (as does Cody Rizzo) ... Andres' two-run double in the title game vs. Pitt marked his 3rd multi-RBI game of the season ... Ross Brezovsky made 10 Es at 3B in the first half of the season but has just 3 Es at 2B in the second half of '05, including a single E in the past 14 games ... Edwards is just 6 RBI shy of 200 for his career (his 194 RBI remain 5th in the ND record book) ... Edwards had his team-best 25th multi-hit game of the season in the BIG EAST title game, also adding his 16th multi-RBI game (tying Craig Cooper for the team lead) ... Edwards also pushed his team-leading 2-out RBI total to 22 ... his 50 career doubles place him 8th on that ND career list, one behind Brant Ust and four behind former teammate Andrew Bushey ... Edwards has logged 99 straight starts and has played in 181 of 182 games (179 starts) during the past three seasons, after missing most of '02 with a broken leg ... Lilley's BIG EAST-leading on-base pct. has dropped a bit (.498) but still would rank 10th in ND history ... Lilley picked a good time for his 8th multi-RBI game of the season, hitting the two-run single vs. Pitt that produced an 8-4 lead ... Lilley has totaled 60 free passes (34 BB, 26 HBP) to go along with 71 hits this season ... Lopez was in an 0-for-12 slump before batting 4-for-10 at the BET ... wide-ranging CF Alex Nettey has not made an error in the past 19 games (63 chances) ... Rizzo enters the NCAAs with hits in 11 of the past 12 games and had his 4th multi-RBI game of the season in the title game vs. Pitt.

BEEN THERE – Notre Dame went just 12-12 in its first six visits to the BIG EAST Tournament but the Irish now are riding a 12-2 record as the four-time defending champs, with a record-setting seven-game unbeaten streak at the BET.

RISING UP – Notre Dame's impressive effort while playing six games in the final six days of the regular season (5-1) included a .361 team batting avg., a 2.42 staff ERA and .954 fielding pct. (10 Es) ... Craig Cooper (.565, 13 RBI) and Matt Edwards (.529, 5 RBI) led the way at the plate while Jeff Samardzija bookended wins over Pittsburgh and West Virginia during that six-day stretch (2.77 ERA, .220 opp. batting avg., 8 Ks, 3 BB, 11 H in 13 IP) ... Samardzija then posted his third win in 13 days, defeating Pittsburgh in the key winners-bracket game at the BIG EAST Tournament.

WE MEET AGAIN – The BIG EAST Tournament opener vs. Boston College reunited Notre Dame with the team it faced during a key turning point of the 2005 season ... the Irish had lost the series opener to the Eagles on April 9 in Brockton, Mass., leaving ND with a 14-14 overall record and just 3-4 in the BIG EAST standings ... that's when head coach Paul Mainieri made the key shift of Lilley from second to third base and the Irish responded by going on a 7-0-1 run in BIG EAST play (plus 19-9-1 in the second half of the season) ... ND made another key shift starting with the BC series, by moving setup man Dan Kapala into the weekend rotation.

HOME BOYS – Notre Dame's strong play at home salvaged the 2005 season, as the Irish went 23-4-1 (.839) for the program's third-best winning pct. at Eck Stadium in the facility's 11 seasons (the '97 team was 25-2/.926 at home while the '02 team went 26-3/.897 at The Eck).

TOUGH ROAD – A look back at the 2005 schedule shows that Notre Dame had the toughest road to claiming a spot in the BIG EAST Tournament, as the Irish had to face each of the other top teams (SJU, BC, Pitt and RU) on the road ... the unbalanced, 25-game BIG EAST schedule also resulted in ND facing the league's bottom two teams (Georgetown and Seton Hall) just twice but the Irish rose to the challenge by closing with the four clutch wins.

CLOSING STRONG – The ND pitchers turned in a strong series vs. West Virginia to close the 2005 regular season, holding the potent Mountaineers offense to just five runs and a .237 team batting avg. (well below its .312 season avg.) in the three games ... the Irish pitchers combined for a 1.80 series ERA, struck out 16 and walked just three while allowing 22 hits in the 25 innings.

IT'S ALL THEIR FAULT – Notre Dame would be riding a 438-game scoring streak (which would rank as one of the longest in NCAA history) if not for one game, an 11-0 loss to Rutgers, late in the 2002 season ...that game ended ND's team-record scoring streak at 231 (stretching from 2/26/99-5/4/02) but the Irish have scored in every game since that loss (206) for the 2nd-longest scoring streak in the program's history ... ND has scored in virtually every game (all but six) of the 11-year Paul Mainieri era (99.12%; 676 of 682).

COOPER COPS NATIONAL HONOR – Notre Dame junior OF Craig Cooper (Plainview, N.Y.) was tabbed for national hitter-of-the-week honors on May 24, as selected by the National College Baseball Writers of America ... it capped off an award-filled stretch of days for Cooper, who also had been named the BIG EAST player of the week for the first time in his career after repeating as the BIG EAST batting champ (the second player ever to do so, and first in nearly 10 years) and surging near the top of the BIG EAST record book list for career batting average in conference games ... Cooper batted 13-for-23 (.565) and extended his career-best hitting streak to 10 games as the Irish won four straight BIG EAST games during the week (one at Pittsburgh and a three-game series vs. West Virginia) while gaining a midweek split with a USC team that was ranked as high as 17th in the national polls ... his stinging righthanded swing and improving plate discipline helped him lead the team during the week in batting avg. (.565), RBI (13), slugging pct. (.957), OPS (1.550, on-base plus slugging), runs (8), hits (13), home runs (2) and total bases (22) ... he also hit a team-best 4-for-4 with 2 outs and 7-for-10 with runners in scoring position, with his other stats for the week including three doubles, two walks, one time hit-by-pitch, a .593 on-base pct., just two strikeouts and a stolen base ... in the four league games, Cooper hit 9-for-14 (.643, 9 RBI, 2 HR, 2B, 2 BB, K, SB) to run away with the BIG EAST batting title ... he opened the week at Pittsburgh with the added challenge of shifting into the leadoff spot for the first time since the season opener and he responded with ND's first leadoff home run of the season before adding a three-run shot in that 21-1 win (3-for-5, 5 RBI, 4 R, BB) ... he returned home to Eck Stadium and helped upset the Trojans (13-6; 3-for-5, 2 RBI, R, 2B) before shifting to the 3-hole for the WVU series (senior 1B Matt Edwards had been the ND 3-hole hitter all season prior to last week's action) ... Cooper – the fifth recent ND player to earn a national player-of-the-week honor and the program's 19th to receive BIG EAST player-of-the-week honors – closed the week by batting 6-for-9 vs. WVU (4 RBI, 2 R, 2B, BB, SB, SF), as the Irish secured a BIG EAST Tournament spot ... he scored in the tight opener (3-1; 2-for-2, BB) and helped secure the postseason berth by batting 3-for-3 with 3 RBI in the 7-3 series finale (2B, SF).

BACK-TO-BACK BATTING TITLES FOR COOPER – Craig Cooper ended up batting .403 in 2005 BIG EAST games, placing him 16 points ahead of second-place finishers Doug Nelms of West Virginia and Dan McDonald of Seton Hall (both hit .386) ... Cooper also led the league in batting as a sophomore (.470, in '04) and joined former Boston College player Kevin Penwell ('95 and '96) as the only repeat batting champions in the 21-year history of BIG EAST baseball.

ONE OF THE BEST THERE EVER WAS – Craig Cooper's surge also has moved him into third place on the list for career batting average in BIG EAST games, at .420 (68-for-162) ... the only players in BIG EAST history to hit at a higher clip in conference action for their career are former Rutgers player Joe Cirone (.443, 51-for-115; '97-'00) and former Seton Hall standout Martees Robinson (.432, 83-for-192; '85-'87) ... Cooper joins Cirone as the only players in the past 18 seasons to hit above .420 or higher in their BIG EAST career.

BIG WEEK INCLUDES UPSET OF #17 USC – Notre Dame used another big inning and a 17-hit attack to slug its way past #20 USC on May 17 ... it marked ND's third straight win vs. the Trojans (also 15-8 game in Round Rock, Texas, during the 2002 season and last year's 3-1 win at the USC Classic) ... USC was held to single-digit hits and lost by one if its largest margins this season, as just four of the Trojans' previous 47 games had seen them lose by more than seven runs ... the visitors scored a run in the first but left the bases loaded, setting up ND for its pivotal five-run 2nd inning ... USC then closed to 5-4 on a Blake Sharpe home run in the 3rd, but the Irish went on to score eight of the game's final 10 runs ... Craig Cooper hit 3-for-5 (2 RBI, R) from the leadoff spot for the second straight game while Tony Langford's 3-for-5 game included a 2-run home run that yielded a 10-5 lead in the bottom of the 4th ... four other Irish players chipped in with two-hit games, with Notre Dame's big offensive night including five doubles, three walks and two hit batters (all nine starters had hits) ... Derik Olvey and four relievers avoided the big inning to help maintain the ND margin ... Olvey came two outs shy of qualifying for the win (4.2 IP), allowing five earned runs (one unearned) on eight hits and two walks with a pair of strikeouts ... Scott Bickford (2-1) came on in the 5th to record the final two outs en route to picking up the victory (1.0 IP, K, HB, 4 BF) ... Ryan Doherty (1.2 IP, BB, 2 Ks), Langford (1.0 IP) and Jeff Manship (1.0 IP) combined with Bickford in allowing just three USC baserunners over the final four innings ... LHP Michael Friedman suffered the loss (2 IP, 5 R/4 ER, 6 H, BB) ... Jeff Clement (3-for-3) was the only USC player with multiple hits ... the only teams to post larger victory margins vs. USC this season are Rice (12-1), Arizona State (17-1), California (9-1) and Arizona (18-4).

MILESTONE MARKERS – The following players are approaching (or recently reached) statistical milestones in their ND careers:

Steve Andres..... 105 hits, 91 runs
Craig Cooper..... 110 runs
Greg Lopez..... 94 RBI, 89 runs
Matt Edwards 193 RBI, 50 doubles, 103 walks
Cody Rizzo..... 90 RBI

STENCIL THEM IN – Two ND players have started all 59 games this season: freshman 2B/3B Brett Lilley and senior Matt Edwards (1B/3B/DH) ... Edwards was the only player to hit in the same spot (3-hole) during the first 50 games before dropping down to cleanup the past nine games (with Steve Andres/Craig Cooper in the 3-hole).

IRISH ERUPT FOR BIG WIN AT PITTSBURGH – Just one day after bringing home only six of 30 baserunners in a doubleheader sweep at the hands of Pittsburgh, the Notre Dame offense responded in stunning fashion by plating 21 of its 28 baserunners in Monday's 21-1 win over the Panthers ... for the second straight day, the teams flipped spots in the BIG EAST standings, with the Irish returning to 3rd and maintaining control of their own postseason fate ... ND hit 11-for-16 with runners in scoring position and launched a season-high 4 home runs in the 18-hit attack ... Jeff Samardzija (6 IP, R, 2 H, 3 BB, 4 Ks) combined with Mike Dury and Joey Williamson for a 2-hitter ... ND held Pittsburgh hitless with runners on base (0-for-11) and with 2-outs (0-for-10) ... the 21 runs are the 3rd-most by and ND team in the 11-year Paul Mainieri era, trailing only two games during the 2002 College World Series season (23-1 vs. Detroit and 25-1 vs. South Alabama in the NCAA Regional) ... it marked the first time the Irish have reached 20 runs in a BIG EAST game (the '98 team had a 19-7 win over Georgetown) and first time they have won a BIG EAST game by more than 15 runs (the '03 team won 18-3 at St. John's) ... top hitters included Ross Brezovsky (4-for-4, RBI, 4 R, HR, BB), Craig Cooper (3-for-5, 5 RBI, 4 R, 2 HR) and Greg Lopez (3-for-5, 3 RBI, R) ... Cody Rizzo homered for the second time in the series (3-run shot) and reached base nine times in the series (5-for-8, BB, 3 HBP, 2 HR).

MORE THAN JUST STUDENTS OF THE GAME – Junior LHP Tom Thornton and junior SS Greg Lopez (3.36 GPA; anthropology and pre-professional science) were nominated for 2005 Academic All-America honors ... Thornton took a 3.46 cumulative GPA into the '05 spring semester as a double major in anthropology and film, television and theater (he earned Academic All-District honors in 2004 and advanced to the '04 Academic All-America ballot).

HOT CORNER SWITCH PROVIDES SPARK – After starting the season 14-14 (18 Es at 3B), the Irish are 22-8-1 since shifting freshman Brett Lilley to 3B and inserting his classmate Ross Brezovsky at 2B, with that 31-game stretch including a .970 team fielding pct. (0-1 Es in 23 games; 34 total Es) ... Lilley played error-free in his first 9 games at 3B and now has totaled just 7 Es in 31 games at the position (four of his teammates combined for 18 Es at 3B in the first 28 games).

CONFERENCE COMMAND – Through 10 seasons of play in the BIG EAST, Notre Dame has remained a consistent presence atop the league standings:

- Paul Mainieri owns the top winning pct. in BIG EAST history (.730; 171-63-1, in BIG EAST regular-season games)
- ND's .721 overall win pct. (446-172-2) during the past 10 seasons ('96-'05) is best among any BIG EAST team
- Notre Dame owns the best BIG EAST Tournament winning pct. during the past 10 seasons (.600, 21-14), followed by St. John's at .579 (11-8)
- ND has totaled 66 BIG EAST series wins, 14 series ties and just 13 series losses
- The Irish have been swept just 8 times in 89 all-time BIG EAST doubleheaders (with ND sweeping 51, plus 30 splits)

FAR AND WIDE – Notre Dame's 2005 roster includes players from 15 states and Canada, with no more than four players from any state ... the breakdown includes 4 from Indiana, 3 each from California, Florida and Texas, and a pair each from Maryland, Ohio, Virginia and Washington, plus one player each from Alabama, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Ontario ... the 11-year Paul Mainieri era has featured players from 35 states (plus Canada), those listed above plus: Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Oregon ... the list of all-time ND baseball monogram winners includes players from 44 states (all but Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Vermont), plus Canada and Panama.

OUTFIELD MERRY-GO-ROUND – Notre Dame entered the 2005 season with a trio of juniors returning as starters in the outfield (LF Steve Andres, CF Craig Cooper and RF Cody Rizzo) but there has been a steady variety of lineups in the OF this season as the Irish look for consistency from that group ... another junior, Alex Nettey, actually has emerged as the starter in CF and is doing a solid job as well batting from the leadoff spot ... freshman Tony Langford, a prep infielder, even has been used significantly as a starter in LF ... here's a breakdown of the OF starting assignments so far in 2005:

Notre Dame's 2005 Starting Outfielders

Left Field: Tony Langford (19 starts), Craig Cooper (19), Steve Andres (16), Danny Dressman (4), Ross Brezovsky (1)

Center Field: Alex Nettey (55), Craig Cooper (4)

Right Field: Cody Rizzo (36), Craig Cooper (20), Tony Langford (2), Danny Dressman (1)

LEFTSIDE LOCKDOWN – Notre Dame's strong defense on the left side of the diamond includes a pair of players, junior SS Greg Lopez (43) and freshman 3B Brett Lilley (49), who have played error-free a combined 92 games this season, with Lilley playing at 2B for the first 28 games ... Lopez opened the '05 season without an error in the first 15 games and saw a 10-game errorless streak end recently vs. Michigan (he then had 4 Es in 5 games) ... Lopez has only four multi-E games in '05 (none with 3-plus Es) and had 42 E-free games in '04 (for 82 total in '04 and '05) ... Lilley logged an impressive 21-game span without an error (96 fielding chances) from March 24-April 21 (spanning time at 2B and 3B) ... four of Lilley's teammates combined for 18 errors at 3B in the first 28 games of the season but he then turned in nine error-free games to open his stint at the hot corner (in 40 chances) ... Lilley now has totaled 26 error-free games in 31 GP at 3B (7 Es).

ROAD HAZARDS – Notre Dame owns a 23-4-1 mark in all 2005 home games but is just 13-18 on the road, with a .282 team batting avg., 5.20 staff ERA and .964 fielding pct. ... the Irish were 9-18 on the road before winning four straight heading into the NCAAs (at Pitt and 3-0 at the BET) ... ND hit .319 in 2005 home games – 37 points above its road batting avg. – with a 3.22 staff ERA and .958 fielding pct. at home in '05 ... here's a team and individual home-and-away comparison for the 2005 season:

HOME (23-4-1)	Stat/Player	AWAY (13-18)
.319	Batting Average	.282
8.2	Runs Per 9 Innings	6.6
20	Home Runs	23
.449	Slugging Pct.	.405
.418	On-Base Pct.	.377
+40	Red Ratio (BB+HBP-K)	-13
61	Hit-By-Pitch	61
42	Stolen Bases	24
3.22	Staff ERA	5.20
.269	Opp. Batting Avg.	.303
2.20	Pitchers K/BB Ratio	1.38
9	Home Runs Allowed	19
.958 (46 E)	Fielding Pct.	.964 (43 E)
28	Double-Plays Turned	35
.345, 3 HR, 33 RBI, 3B, 5 2B, 14 BB, 10 HBP, 5 Ks, 8 SB	Cooper	.333, 4 HR, 23 RBI, 8 2B, 16 BB, 4 HBP, 15 Ks, 6 SB
.420, 7 HR, 33 RBI, 3B, 10 2B, 23 BB, 2 HBP, 10 Ks	Edwards	.322, 7 HR, 33 RBI, 10 2B, 20 BB, 4 HBP, 19 Ks
.244, HR, 9 RBI, 3 2B, 13 BB, 13 Ks, 4 Es	Brezovsky	.299, HR, 11 RBI, 2 3B, 5 2B, 3 BB, 4 HBP, 24 Ks, 9 Es
.286, HR, 13 RBI, 4 2B, 2 BB, 2 HBP, 10 Ks	Langford	.299, 2 HR, 14 RBI, 2 2B, BB, 8 Ks
.415, 15 RBI, 2 2B, 18 BB, 10 HBP, 14 Ks, 7 SB	Lilley	.296, 10 RBI, 3 2B, 16 BB, 16 HBP, 18 Ks, 2 SB
.233, HR, 7 RBI, 4 2B, 10 BB, 10 HBP, 8 Ks, 10 SB	Rizzo	.280, 4 HR, 16 RBI, 3B, 4 2B, 12 BB, 10 HBP, 25 Ks, 7 SB
.310, HR, 14 RBI, 3 2B, 2 BB, 7 Ks, 3 SB	Gaston	.274, 13 RBI, 3B, 2 2B, 3 BB, 3 HBP, 9 Ks, SB
.289, HR, 16 RBI, 3B, 6 2B, 3 BB, 11 HBP, 21 Ks, 13 Es	Lopez	.265, HR, 18 RBI, 10 R, 7 BB, 5 HBP, 20 Ks, 7 Es
.345, 11 RBI, 4 2B, 6 BB, 5 HBP, 7 ks, SB (19 GP)	Bransfield	.265, 5 RBI, 3 BB, 2 HBP, 7 Ks (11 GP)
.321, 2 HR, 14 RBI, 6 2B, 6 BB, 8 HBP, 13 Ks, 5 SB	Nettey	.260, 8 RBI, 5 2B, 7 BB, 6 HBP, 16 Ks, 4 SB
.250, HR, 9 RBI, 3B, 3 2B, 8 BB, 4 Ks	Andres	.209, 4 HR, 16 RBI, 4 2B, 11 BB, 6 HBP, 15 Ks
3.23, 3-0, 30.2 IP, 24 Ks, 6 BB, 31 H (.261)	Samardzija	4.43, 5-1, 42.2 IP, 30 Ks/21 BB, 50 H (.289)
2.48, 4-0, 36.1 IP, 19 Ks, 9 BB, 33 H (.236)	Kapala	4.84, 2-3, 35.1 IP, 19 Ks/16 BB, 41 H (.299)
2.25, 4-0, 36 IP, 15 Ks, 5 BB, 38 H (.277)	Thornton	5.95, 2-5, 56 IP, 24 Ks/14 BB, 68 H (.311)

ND SUMMER-BALL PLANS INCLUDE LARGE CAPE-COD CONTINGENT – Notre Dame’s current players again are slated to scatter to some of the top wood-bat leagues during the summer of '05, including five who are set to join the prestigious Cape Cod League (several other ND players also could end up in the '05 CCL, pending the outcome of the MLB draft) ... here’s a look at the summer plans for some of the Notre Dame players:

Notre Dame Baseball 2005 Summer Teams (as of June 1)

Greg Lopez.....	Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox	Cape Cod League
Dan Kapala.....	Falmouth Commodores.....	Cape Cod League
Sean Gaston	Cotuit Kettleers.....	Cape Cod League
Jeff Manship	Cotuit Kettleers.....	Cape Cod League
Derik Olvey.....	Cotuit Kettleers.....	Cape Cod League
Matt Bransfield	Mat-Su Miners.....	Alaska League
Cody Rizzo.....	Mat-Su Miners.....	Alaska League
Alex Nettey.....	Fayetteville (NC) Swampdogs.....	Coastal Plains League
Brett Lilley.....	Delaware (OH) Cows	Great Lakes League
Danny Dressman.....	Madison (WI) Mallards	Northwoods League
Mike Dury.....	Madison (WI) Mallards	Northwoods League
Ross Brezovsky.....	Hays (KS) Larks	Jayhawk League
David Gruener.....	Hays (KS) Larks	Jayhawk League
Wade Korpi.....	Staunton (VA) Braves	Valley League
Joey Williamson	Luray (VA) Wranglers.....	Valley League
Tony Langford	(team TBA).....	Texas Collegiate League
Eddie Smith.....	DuPage.....	Central Illinois Collegeiate League

DYNAMIC DUOS – Notre Dame freshman 3B Brett Lilley (.354) and senior 1B Matt Edwards (.366) rank as one of the top hitting combos in the BIG EAST ... Lilley is the only BIG EAST freshman with an overall batting avg. above .340 ... here’s a look at the teams with multiple players among the BIG EAST’s top-15 batting avg. leaders (note that stats for players from other teams are prior to the BET):

St. John’s.....	Greg Thomson (.385, 3rd) and Joe Burke (.361, 8th)
West Virginia.....	Lee Fritz (.379, 4th), Justin Jenkins (.359, 10th) and Doug Nelms (.349, 13th)
Pittsburgh.....	Ben Copeland (.395, 2nd) and Jim Negrych (.355, 11th)
Notre Dame.....	Matt Edwards (.367, 6th) and Brett Lilley (.351, 12th)
Connecticut.....	Tony Mallozzi (.361, 9th) and Jeff Hourigan (.348, 14th)
Rutgers.....	Johnny DeFendis (.370, 5th) and Cory Rodriguez (.342, 15th)

SEEING RED – ND assistant coach David "Red" Grewe charts plate discipline with a ratio of BB+HBP-Ks and freshman 3B Brett Lilley now is +28 (34+26-32) while junior OF Craig Cooper is +24 (30+14-20) and senior 1B Matt Edwards has surged to +20 (42+6-26) in that "Red Ratio" ... ND as a team is +40 (213 BB, 118 HBPs, 291 Ks):

2005 “RED RATIO” CHART

Player	Walks	Hit-By-Pitch	Strikeouts	“Red Ratio” (BB+HBP-Ks)
Brett Lilley	34	26	32	+28
Craig Cooper	30	14	20	+24
Matt Edwards	43	6	29	+20
Cody Rizzo	22	20	33	+9
Steve Andres	19	6	19	+6
Matt Bransfield	9	7	14	+2
Alex Nettey	13	14	29	-2
Danny Dressman	5	1	12	-6
Sean Gaston	5	3	16	-8
Mike Dury	2	1	11	-8
Tony Langford	3	2	18	-13
Greg Lopez	10	16	41	-15
Ross Brezovsky	16	4	38	-18
Others	4	2	3	+3
TEAM TOTALS	215	122	315	+22

Note: Lilley, Cooper and Edwards are a combined +72 in the Red Ratio (the rest of the team is -37)

GREAT GLOVES GALORE – ND head coach Paul Mainieri traditionally has recruited prep shortstops who then have starred for the Irish at other positions and a quick look at the current ND infield reveals four different HS shortstops manning the positions: senior 1B Matt Edwards, freshman 2B Ross Brezovsky, junior SS Greg Lopez and freshman 3B Brett Lilley ... the '04 team had a similar setup with Edwards, Lopez and 3B Matt Macri, plus a catcher (Javi Sanchez) who had started at SS for most of the '02 College World Series season ... interestingly, the other infielder on the '04 team (2B Steve Sollmann) had completed the rare switch of going from outfield (he was standout prep CF) to middle infield.

EDWARDS RANKS AMONG BIG EAST'S ALL-AROUND TOP HITTERS – When looking at the OPS stat that combines on-base and slugging percentages, ND senior 1B Matt Edwards ranks among the BIG EAST leaders at 1.139 (.478+.661):

BIG EAST Conference 2005 Overall OPS Leaders

1. Ben Copeland (Pittsburgh)469 on-base pct.703 slugging pct..... 1.172 OPS
2. Jim Negrych (Pittsburgh)471 on-base pct.694 slugging pct..... 1.165 OPS
3. **Matt Edwards (Notre Dame)**478 on-base pct.661 slugging pct..... 1.139 OPS
4. Greg Thomson (St. John's)480 on-base pct.639 slugging pct..... 1.119 OPS

HOME-RUN HERO – Craig Cooper's 12th-inning HR beat Purdue at Coveleski Stadium (9-7) as he became the first ND player to hit a game-ending HR since the 2002 CWS game vs. Rice (when Brian Staviksy won that 5-3 game) ... Cooper's next at-bat produced a 1st-inning grand slam that sparked the 9-8 win over Valparaiso.

EDWARDS LAUNCHES THREE – Matt Edwards joined an elite group of ND players with a 3-HR game (6 RBI, 2 IBB) in the 9-5 in over Western Michigan (March 29) ... Edwards became the first ND player to hit 3 HRs in a game since All-America 3B Brant Ust homered vs. three different pitchers in a 1998 game at Seton Hall ... sophomore RHP Derek Schlecker served up two Edwards home runs, the first with 2 outs in the 1st when he left a 1-0 slider up and over (Edwards drove the ball into the wind and over the leftfield fence) ... two innings later, Edwards delivered on another 1-0 pitch, turning on a high fastball and driving it over the leftfield fence for a 2-run shot ... Edwards then greeted senior RHP Tim Bebbler in the 7th, working ahead in the count (2-0) before pulling a belt-high fastball down the leftfield line and out of the park for a booming 3-run shot ... Ust had been the program's only player with three home runs in a game since the early 1990s, when 1B Jon Binkiewicz had 3-HR games vs. Evansville and Michigan in a 12-day stretch of the '91 season ... the 113-year history of Notre Dame baseball now has seen just seven players hit three home runs in a game (total of eight times) – with Edwards, Ust and Binkiewicz the only players to do so in nearly 50 years ... one of the top players for ND's first College World Series team, Jim Morris, had 3 HRs in a game vs. Naval Air Station during that 1957 season ... one must go back 23 seasons before that to find another 3-HR game, by Andy Pilney vs. Chicago in 1934 ... Jake Kline – the Hall of Fame coach who was honored at Eck Stadium in late April (when a bust of the former Irish coach will be unveiled in the stadium concourse area) – was the second ND player ever to hit three home runs in a game, doing so in a 1916 vs. Michigan (Jerry Sheehan is the first known to have a 3-HR game, vs. Hillsdale in 1906).

THAT WAS NOTHING ... – The previous time Matt Edwards hit three home runs in a game was when he had a 4-HR game as a 14-year-old at a Virginia AAU state tournament ... in fact, he hit nine home runs and a double in his first 11 at-bats of that tournament, while playing with the Richmond Virginians.

HOMESTAND SECURITY – Notre Dame's recent 13-1-1 streak included a productive homestand (11-1-1) that saw the Irish sweep UConn and go 2-0-1 vs. Villanova, plus wins over Bowling Green, Purdue (at Coveleski Stadium), Valparaiso, Manchester and Cleveland State (2) and a loss to Central Michigan ... the Irish hit .322 in the homestand – led by freshman 3B Brett Lilley (.449) and junior DH Matt Bransfield (.448) – with a 3.61 staff ERA and .976 fielding pct. (18 Es)

FIVE-HIT HOME DEBUT – Brett Lilley turned in a 5-for-5 game vs. Cincinnati on March 22, the first ND freshman ever to produce five hits in a home opener ... Lilley is one of 29 all-time ND players with 5-plus hits in a game (done 31 total times) and just the second to do so in a home opener ... LF Allen Greene needed extra innings to complete the feat during the home opener of his sophomore season in 1997, batting 5-for-6 in an 8-7, 12-inning win over IUPUI ... the 5-foot-7 Lilley joins another short list as one of four ND freshmen ever to post a 5-hit game at any time in their debut season ... current sophomore C Sean Gaston went 5-for-6 early in the 2004 season vs. Florida Memorial (at FAU) while CF Scott Sollmann hit 5-for-6 at Purdue in his freshman season (5/10/94) and 1B Joe Binkiewicz had a 5-for-5 game vs. Dayton as a rookie (5/20/89) ... each of the above four players is a lefthanded hitter – in fact, 10 of the past 17 Irish players to get five-plus hits in a game have been lefthanded or switch-hitters ... starting with Steve Stanley late in the '01 season, five of the past seven to do so have hit from the left side (also Brian Stavisky and Paul O'Toole in '02 and Gaston in '04, plus righthanders Steve Sollmann in '02 and Matt Macri in '04) ... Sollmann (6-for-7 vs. South Alabama, '02 NCAA regionals) and his former teammate Alec Porzel (6-for-6 vs. Pittsburgh, '01) share the ND record for hits in a game.

ALL HE DOES IS GET EXTRA-BASE HITS – Junior LF/DH Steve Andres remains the master of the extra-base hit, as he has totaled more extra-base hits (13; 5 HR, 3B, 7 2B) than singles (10) in '05 ... Andres hit just one single from April 6-May 16 before his rare single in the first game vs. USC ... four of his previous five hits had gone for extra bases (doubles vs. Cleveland State, Purdue and Pitt, and a triple vs. Bowling Green) ... since hitting a single vs. Northern Illinois on March 18, Andres has totaled 10 extra-base hits (also 2Bs vs. Seton Hall and Rutgers, HR vs. Toledo, a HR and 2 2B at the BET) and just 5 singles ... he is batting only .223 this season but ranks 3rd on the team in slugging pct. (.456) and 4th in home runs (5) while also owning a .372 on-base pct., thanks to 19 walks and 6 HBPs.

BREZOVSKY BREAKS OUT – Freshman 2B Ross Brezovsky (Naples, Fla.) ended a recent slump by batting 4-for-4 with 5 RBI in the 13-3 win over Cleveland State (BB, 2 R, HR, 2 2B) on April 30 ... Brezovsky entered that game with a sagging .252 season batting average that included just a .160 mark at Eck Stadium ... he had 2 RBI in the season-opening win over Florida A&M but had registered just one other multi-RBI game before knocking in five runs in the final game of the homestand ... Brezovsky also went 2-for-3 with a pair of runs scored on March 19 vs. Oakland (he had been hitless in six of the previous seven games).

ON A ROLL – Notre Dame recently compiled the 12th double-digit unbeaten streak (10-0-1; from April 16-30) of the 11-year Paul Mainieri era, with five previous teams posting longer unbeaten streaks: 17 from March 24-April 14, 2003; 16 from April 4-25, 2001, and April 11-May 4, 2002; 13 from April 8-23, 1998; and 12 from April 29-May 21, 2004 ... the Irish have posted a double-digit unbeaten streak every season under Mainieri except 1997 (two in '98, '01 and '04).

THE HBP HIGHWAY – Notre Dame batters were hit-by-pitch nine times in the season opener vs. Florida A&M and the Irish have remained on a record HBP pace all season, as ND has collected at least one HBP in 53 of 59 games this season (including HBPs in each of the final 22 regular-season games, plus 2-of-3 games at the BET) ... the Irish currently have a team-record 122 HBPs in 59 games played ... ND recently became the second team in Division I history to post 100-plus HBPs in back-to-back seasons (also 106 in 2004), with Long Beach State totaling 124 in '98 and 114 in '99 ... ND's current HBP total ranks 3rd in the NCAA record book ... the Irish are averaging 2.07 HBPs per game and, at that pace, would break the NCAA record by playing two more games (the NCAA record of 125 HBPs was set by Nevada in 1997) ... of the 18 teams that have totaled 86-plus HBPs in a season, ND owns the highest avg. of HBPs per game ... no previous ND team had more than three players with 12-plus HBPs but the '05 team has five with 14-plus HBPs: freshman 3B Brett Lilley (26; 2nd in ND history, 13th in NCAA history), junior RF Cody Rizzo (20), junior SS Greg Lopez (16), junior OF Craig Cooper (14) and junior CF Alex Nettey (14) ... Lilley, Rizzo (28 in '03, 21 in '04) and Lopez are the only ND players ever to total more than 15 HBPs in a season ... Rizzo has moved into 4th place on the NCAA career HBP list with 69, trailing only Jeff Ontiveros (74; Texas, '99-'02), Gabe Somarriba (81; Florida Atlantic, '99-'02) and Tony Hurtado (92; San Francisco, '97-'00) ... seven ND players combined for 18 HBPs during the final five games of the recent big homestand – including seven in the Villanova doubleheader and six vs. Manchester – led by six from Cooper (he totaled 6 HBPs in the '03 and '04 seasons combined) ... the first weekend of the season in Orlando included Steve Andres being HBP three times in the opener vs. FAMU and Lilley's 4 HBPs (one shy of the NCAA record) in the 4-2 win over Central Florida ... one previous ND team had three players with 12-plus HBPs (1993): Eric Danapilis (15, record until Rizzo's 28 in '03), Greg Layson (14) and Craig DeSensi (12) ... the past three ND teams have combined for 293 HBPs in 180 games (from '03-'05).

NCAA RECORD BOOK – SEASON HIT-BY-PITCH

Team	Year	Gms	HBP	HBP/gm
1. Nevada	1997	60	125	2.08
2. Long Beach State	1998	67	124	1.85
3. Notre Dame	2005	59	122	2.07
College of Charleston	2004	63	122	1.94
5. Cal State Fullerton	2003	66	117	1.77
6. Arizona State	2000	59	115	1.95
Long Beach State	1999	60	114	1.90
8. Notre Dame	2004	63	106	1.68
9. San Jose State	2000	65	105	1.62
10. Cal State Fullerton	1998	64	102	1.59
11. Washington	1998	58	101	1.74
12. Nebraska	2002	68	99	1.46
Oklahoma State	1999	67	99	1.48
Richmond	1997	60	99	1.65
15. Texas	2000	67	88	1.31
16. Southern Mississippi	1997	57	87	1.53
North Carolina	2000	63	86	1.37
Loyola Marymount	1986	65	86	1.32

* The 2005 Notre Dame team owns the 2nd-best HBP per game among teams on the above list

* ND has totaled 228 HBPs in the past two seasons, in 121 games (1.88 per game)

* Teams on the above list more than once include: Long Beach State (124 in '98, 114 in '99), Cal State Fullerton (117 in '03; 102 in '98) and Notre Dame (106 in '04; 114 in '05)

NCAA DIVISION I CAREER HIT-BY-PITCH LEADERS

1. 92	Tony Hurtado	San Francisco	1997-2000	221 GP	2.40 games played per HBP
2. 81	Gabe Somarriba	Florida Atlantic	1999-2002	226 GP	2.79 gms/HBP
3. 74	Jeff Ontiveros	Texas	1999-2002	258 GP	3.49 gms/HBP
4. 69	Cody Rizzo	Notre Dame	2003-active	171 GP	2.48 gms/HBP
5. 68	Clay Schwartz	Wisconsin-Milwaukee	1994-1997	180 GP	2.65 gms/HBP

* At his career avg. pace, Rizzo would need to play in 60 more games to break the NCAA career HBP record

THE DRIVE FOR 30 ... AND 40 – Notre Dame has posted its 18th consecutive season with 30-plus victories but the program's standard has been higher than that for nearly two decades, as the Irish also are riding a 16-year streak of seasons with 40-plus wins ... Florida State and Wichita State are the only Division I teams with longer active streaks of 40-win seasons (each now with 28) but the Shockers streak includes several seasons in which they were allowed to play more than 56 games (for exempted games in Hawaii, including the current season) ... the Irish would need to add four wins in the NAAs to reach 40 victories ... the previous 10 seasons of the Paul Mainieri era saw the 30th win come, on average, in the 41st game (the 1997 team posted its 30th win in the 45th game of that season).

BONUS BASEBALL – ND has played to extra-innings five times in the past 24 games, going unbeaten in the first four (before the 6-5 loss, in 10, at St. John's) with wins over UConn (3-2, in 8), Purdue (9-7, in 12) and Cleveland State (7-6, in 13), plus the 7-7 tie vs. Villanova ... the Irish had a rare 0-3 start in extra-innings this season but ND now is 23-9-2 in its past 34 extra-inning games (dating back to 1997), including 3-4-1 in 2005 ... the Irish have suffered nearly as many extra-inning losses this season (4) as in the previous eight seasons (5, from '97-'04).

RIZZO RISES – Junior RF/C Cody Rizzo has endured an often frustrating 2005 season that has seen him hit just .257 in the regular but he has found other ways to impact the game, compiling a .436 regular-season slugging pct. thanks to 14 of those 32 hits going for extra bases (5 HR, 3B, 8 2B) while his 22 walks and 19 HBPs had produced a .398 on-base pct. in the regular season (he also leads the team and ranks 7th in the BIG EAST with 17 stolen bases, prior to the NAAs, after totaling just 6 in his first two seasons) ... Rizzo also had reached on 47% of his leadoff plate appearances, good for 4th-best in the team ... he has filled admirably in as a starting catcher during most of the past month, after not playing the position full-time since high school (he made 4 starts at C for the Irish in '03) ... Rizzo also played a key role in ND's surge to a BIG EAST Tournament spot, as his .353 batting in BIG EAST play ranked 2nd on the team and 15th in the league ... he finished the BIG EAST season ranked 3rd among the conference player in on-base pct. for conference games (.514), 4th in slugging pct. (.648) and stolen bases (7), and 8th in home runs (4) games ... the Pittsburgh duo of Jim Negrych (1.311) and Ben Copeland (1.205) were the only players with a higher OPS (on-base plus slugging) in BIG EAST games than Rizzo's 1.162 ... prior to the BET, Rizzo ranked 3rd on the team with a .310 batting avg. during the post-finals games (13-for-42, 7 RBI, 10 R, 3 HR, 3 2B, 2 BB, 6 HBP, 4 SB), including .350 during the final week of the regular season (7-for-20, 5 RBI, 7 R, 2 HR, 3 2B, 2 BB, 2 HBP, SB).

CLUTCH HITTING KEY COMPONENT – ND's 2004 team racked up its record-setting 51 wins behind an explosive offense that totaled 69 home runs, 19 triples and 120 doubles for a .479 slugging pct. ... the '05 team has seen that slugging pct. drop 53 points (.426), with just 43 HRs, 11 triples and 98 doubles ... three stats that measure clutch offensive production – leadoff on-base pct., batting with runners in scoring position and 2-out batting – show that clutch hitting can overcome such a dropoff in power numbers, with freshman 3B Brett Lilley proving to be a valuable addition to the 2005 team ... using a formula that combines those three situational hitting numbers, Lilley is the runaway team leader with a "clutch hitting" score of 1.381 ... that number can be skewed a bit by the on-base pct. (which has the benefit of including walks and HBPs and thus is higher than the batting avg. stats) ... using an adjustment whereby the leadoff on-base pct. is multiplied by 75% (based on the fact that the '04 ND team hit .309 but had a .409 on-base; also mirrored by the '05 team's .300 batting and .397 OB), Lilley still checks in as ND's all-around leader in clutch hitting with a 1.254 score (.508 leadoff on-base/.381 adjusted, .429 RISP, .444 with 2-outs) ... Lilley leads the team in 2-out batting while ranking 2nd in batting with RISP and 3rd in leadoff OB ... junior OF Craig Cooper is several spots Lilley in leadoff on-base (5th; .439) – with those playing sharing leadoff duties in the past three weeks – but Cooper owns a team-best .444 batting with RISP and is 2nd on the team in 2-out batting (.383; for 1,157 clutch-hitting score) ... senior 1B Matt Edwards is the team's runaway leader in leadoff OB (.632), plus 3rd in RISP (.352) and 4th in 2-out hitting (.315) for a 1,141 clutch-hitting score ... as a team, the most consistent part of ND's clutch offense has been leadoff on-base pct. (.414/.311 adjusted), followed by batting with RISP (.314) while the 2-out batting lags behind at .298 ... here's a look at how each player rates on the clutch-hitting matrix:

CLUTCH-HITTING CHART (team rank listed before each stat)

	Leadoff On-Base Pct.	Batting w/ RISP	2-Out Batting	Clutch-Hitting Score (Adjusted)
Brett Lilley	(3) .508 (.381 adjusted)	(2) .429	(1) .444	1,254
Craig Cooper	(5) .439 (.330)	(1) .444	(2) .383	1,157
Matt Edwards	(1) .632 (.474)	(3) .352	(4) .315	1,141
Matt Bransfield	(2) .591 (.443)	(5) .324	(5) .303	1,070
Tony Langford	(11) .275 (.206)	(4) .345	(3) .340	891
Sean Gaston	(6) .400 (.300)	(6) .304	(7) .281	885
Alex Netzey	(6) .400 (.300)	(9) .278	(12) .225	803
Greg Lopez	(8) .367 (.275)	(10) .246	(7) .281	802
Ross Brezovsky	(9) .311 (.233)	(6) .304	(10) .241	778
Cody Rizzo	(4) .447 (.335)	(12) .190	(11) .246	771
Steve Andres	(10) .296 (.222)	(11) .216	(6) .286	724
Danny Dressman	(13) .200 (.150)	(8) .286	(9) .250	686
Mike Dury	(12) .250 (.188)	(13) .182	(13) .167	537
TEAM	.414 (.311)	.314	.298	923

APRIL AWAKENINGS – Notre Dame closed the book on yet another successful April, as Paul Mainieri's 11 ND teams now have combined to win 80.3% of their games in the month of April (+158; 209-51-1) compared to winning just 67% of the Feb./March games in the Mainieri era (+75; 167-82-1) ... the Irish were only three games over .500 in Feb./March this season (13-10) before rallying for a 14-5-1 mark (+9) in April, sparked by a 3.18 staff ERA during the month's 20 games ... ND hit just .293 during the month of April, averaging 7.0 runs per 9 innings ... five ND players hit above .275 in April: freshman 3B Brett Lilley (.361, 7 RBI, 19 R, 3 2B, 12 BB, 6 HBP, 8 Ks, SAC, 5-6 SB, 6 Es), senior 1B Matt Edwards (.350, 19 RBI, 17 R, 3 HR, 3B, 7 2B, 10 BB, HBP, 9 Ks, 3-3 SB, 7 Es), junior DH Matt Bransfield (.348, 9 RBI, 8 R, 4 2B, 6 BB, 2 HBP, 7 Ks, E), junior OF Craig Cooper (.321, 20 RBI, 14 R, 2 HR, 3B, 5 2B, 7 BB, 9 HBP, 7 Ks, SAC, 6-6 SB) and sophomore C Sean Gaston (.321, 11 RBI, 6 R, HR, 2 2B, 3 BB, HBP, 7 Ks, 2 SAC, 3-3 SB, 3 Es) ... the Irish pitchers bounced back from a rocky first month to post a 3.81 staff ERA, .281 opp. batting avg. and 2.3 K-to-walk ratio (106/47) in April – compared to a 5.11 ERA, .314 opp. avg. and 1.3 K/BB ratio in Feb./March ... junior LHP Tom Thornton led the staff in April with his 2.68 ERA (3-1. 5 GS, 37 IP, 38 H./268, 15 Ks/3 BB) while freshman LHP Wade Korpi (3.32 April ERA) and sophomore RHP Jeff Samardzija (3.81) also made key improvements from the first month of the season.

GOING THE DISTANCE – The 13-inning win over Cleveland State (7-6; 3:52 game time) on April 29 ranks as the 3rd-longest in the 11-year history of Eck Stadium, both in terms of innings and time ... the only games at The Eck to see more innings both stretched to the 15th frame: a 5-3 win over West Virginia on May 3, 1998, and the 7-6 win over Ball State on March 23, 2004 ... the two games that have lasted longer in game time were the 1998 WVU game (4:20) and the wild 22-18 loss to Pittsburgh on May 7, 2000 (4:06).

BIG BOPPER – Senior 1B Matt Edwards has hit 14 of ND's 43 home runs in the 2005 season (33%) while his 66 RBI are 10 more than the next-highest run producer on the team (Craig Cooper, who has surged to 55) ... Edwards, who started the first 50 games this season batting in the 3-hole (last six as cleanup), has made 101 straight starts with the Irish while missing a total of just three games in the past three seasons ... he ranks 5th in ND history for career RBI (194, in 193 games) and is only 27 shy of the record held by '93 grad. Eric Danapilis (221) ... others on that list include Alec Porzel (211; '98-'01), Dan Peltier (202; '87-'89) and Mike Amrhein (202; '94-'97) ... Edwards also ranks 6th in ND history with 34 career home runs and 17th with a .349 career batting avg.

CAREER HOME RUNS

1. Jeff Wagner ('96-'99)	49
2. Brant Ust ('97-'99)	46
3. Frank Jacobs ('89-'91)	37
Mike Amrhein ('94-'97)	37
Alec Porzel ('98-'01)	37
6. Matt Edwards ('02-)	34
Ryan Topham ('93-'95)	34
7. Joe Binkiewicz ('89-'92)	33
Brian Stavisky ('00-'02)	33

CAREER RBI

1. Eric Danapilis ('90-'93)	221
2. Alec Porzel ('98-'01)	211
3. Dan Peltier ('87-'89)	202
Mike Amrhein ('94-'97)	202
5. Matt Edwards ('02-)	193
6. Jeff Wagner ('96-'99)	189
7. Joe Binkiewicz ('89-'92)	176

CAREER BATTING AVG.

1. Dan Peltier ('87-'89)	.406
2. Eric Danapilis ('90-'93)	.405
3. Jim Morris ('57-'58)	.390
4. Steve Stanley ('99-'02)	.384
5. Scott Sollmann ('94-'96)	.372
6. Robbie Kent ('93-'94)	.368
Brant Ust ('97-'99)	.368
8. Pat Pesavento ('86-'89)	.367
9. Randall Brooks ('94-'97)	.364
10. Mike Amrhein ('94-'97)	.361
11. Steve Sollmann ('01-'04)	.360
12. James Sass ('88-'89)	.357
13. Shaun Fitzmaurice ('63-'64)	.355
Brian Stavisky ('00-'02)	.355
15. Edwin Hartwell ('90-'93)	.354
16. Rich Gonski ('62-'64)	.353
17. Matt Edwards ('02-)	.349

MOUND MANEUVERING – Notre Dame's 2005 pitching staff has been slowed by injuries to several key veterans, as senior RHP John Axford and sophomore RHP Jeff Manship both are returning from 2004 reconstructive elbow surgery while sophomore RHP Jess Stewart was sidelined for most of April with a knee injury ... Manship and Axford also have suffered midseason setbacks, as Manship injured a finger on his throwing hand in the first inning of the April 17 game vs. UConn while Axford has been sidelined with a recent shoulder injury that could hold him out until mid-May ... Manship returned to throw one inning out of the bullpen vs. Cleveland State (April 30) and then logged 4.0 as the game-3 starter at St. John's before throwing the final inning in the 13-6 win over USC and saving the BET win over BC ... Manship (21.0), Axford (3.0) and Stewart (14.1) have combined to throw only 38.1 innings this season, representing just 7% of the staff's workload in the 2005 season ... their absence has been magnified due to the fact that the Irish lost three key pitchers – top starters Grant Johnson and Chris Niesel (respectively 2nd- and 9th-round MLB draft picks) and lefthander setup man Joe Thaman – from the 2004 staff that finished 9th in the nation with a 3.36 season ERA.

FIT TO BE TIED – The 7-7 game vs. Villanova was just the second tie in Paul Mainieri's 11 seasons at Notre Dame and his third in 23 seasons as a college head coach ... ND's 2001 team played to a tie with Navy at the Fresno State Classic, with time limits set on those games to keep that eight-team tournament schedule on pace.

STEVE ANDRES (LF/DH/C, Jr., Bats: Left, 5-10/200 ... Napa, CA ... 2004 NCAA Regional All-Tournament Team)

Year	Avg	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003	.269	43-29	104	26	28	2	2	4	22	46	.442	19	9	27	3	.415	3	0	2-3	1
2004	.320	57-49	169	38	54	13	4	8	39	99	.586	44	6	44	0	.471	2	1	4-9	4
2005	.223	38-25	103	27	23	7	1	5	25	47	.456	19	6	19	0	.372	1	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	.279	138-103	376	91	105	22	7	17	86	192	.511	82	21	90	3	.429	6	1	6-12	5

2005 Team Ranks – 3rd on team in slugging pct. (.456), 4th in home runs (5) and 5th in walks (19) ... 3rd on team with 9 multi-RBI games (1 w/ 3 RBI), also has 3 multi-hit games (none w/ 3-plus).

Situational Summary – ranks 6th on team in 2-out RBI (11) ... enters NCAAs with .296 leadoff on-base pct. while batting .258 with runners on, .216 with them in scoring position and .286 with 2 outs ... batting .228 vs. RHPs and .182 vs. LHPs ... 1-for-3 with the bases loaded ... has delivered the RBI 5-of-10 times with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

Recent Trends – dnp in WVU series (all starters were LHPs) but hit safely in three previous games (3-for-14, 4 RBI, 3 R, 2B, BB, K) and then in all three games of BIG EAST Tournament (enters NCAAs on 6-game hit streak).

At the 2005 BIG EAST Tournament – hit team-best 4-for-9 in 3 GP/2 GS (4 RBI, HR, 2 2B, 2 R, HBP, 2 Ks), boosting his season batting avg. from .203 to .223 ... led off top of the 9th inning with pinch-hit single as Irish scored twice to claim 6-5 lead and win over BC in BET opener ... smacked 2-run HR the next day for 3-0 lead in winners-bracket game vs. Pitt (4-2) ... closed with pair of doubles (one a 2-run hit) and scored a run vs. the Panthers in 11-4 title game ... now is a .345 career hitter at the BET (10-for-29, 10 RBI, 7 R, HR, 3B, 5 2B, 5 BB, 2 HBP, 8 Ks, E), well above his overall .275 career batting avg.

In the NCAAs – combined to hit .455 (176 points above his current career avg.) with .727 slugging pct. in '03 and '04 NCAA regionals (10-for-22, 8 GP/5 GS, 3 RBI, 6 R, HR, 3 2B, 3 BB, K) ... just two players in ND history have hit at a higher career clip in the NCAAs (min. 20 ABs): Matt Haas ('92-'94; .514, 19-for-37, 15 RBI) and Andres' former teammate Steve Sollmann ('01-'04; .462, 43-for-93, 18 RBI, 23 R, HR, 3 3B, 2 2B, 9 SB in 22 GS) ... named to the 2004 NCAA South Bend Regional all-tournament team after batting 6-for-11 (3 RBI, 4 R, HR, 3 2B, 2 BB, K, 4 GP/3 GS) ... helped beat Kent State in '04 elimination game (3-for-3, 2 RBI, 3 R, 2B, BB) ... hit safely in all four games at '03 Fullerton Regional (4-for-11, R, 2 BB, 4 GP/2 GS).

Final Week of Regular Season – hit .214 in 3 GS (3-for-14, 4 RBI, 3 R, 2B, BB, K, SF)

In '05 BIG EAST Play – hit .148 in 12 GP/7 GS (4-for-27, 5 RBI, 6 R, 3 2B, 7 BB, 4 Ks, SF) ... a .282 career hitter in all games vs. BIG EAST teams (44-for-156, 36 RBI, 5 HR)

In a Pinch – owns a .407 career batting avg. as a pinch-hitter (11-for-27), including 3-for-6 in '05 (rest of team is 7-for-27/.259)

Post-Finals Stats/in May (16 GP) – batting .226 (7-for-31) with 8 RBI, 5 R, HR, 3 2B, 3 BB, HBP, 3 Ks

Lineup Notes – starts include 16 in LF, 8 as DH, 1 at C; with 13 in cleanup spot (4 in 5-hole, 5 in 3-hole, 2 in 7-hole, 1 in 8-hole)

A Little Extra – has totaled more extra-base hits (13; 5 HR, 3B, 7 2B) than singles (10) in the 2005 season ... his career totals includes 59 singles and 46 extra-base hits (17 HR, 7 3B, 22 2B)

Milestone Watch – registered 100th hit of his Notre Dame career in 13-6 win over USC on May 17 ... 9 runs shy of 100

“Red Ratio” – ranks 5th on team with +6 plate-discipline ratio (19 BB + 6 HBP – 19 Ks)

Home & Away – batting 41 pts higher in '05 home games (.250, 9-for-36, 9 RBI, 8 R, HR, 3B, 3 2B, 8 BB, 4 Ks) than in all road games (.209, 14-for-67, 16 RBI, 19 R, 4 HR, 4 2B, 11 BB, 6 HBP, 15 Ks) ... but 4 of 5 HRs, 16 of 25 RBI have come on road.

Left-Coast Lounge – one of three California natives who patrol the Notre Dame outfield (also soph. Danny Dressman from San Jose and junior RF Cody Rizzo from Temecula)

Monthly Checkup – compiled .269 batting avg. in month of April (7-for-26, 8 RBI, 8 R, HR, 3B, 3 2B, 7 BB, 4 Ks)

Top '05 Games (also see BET above) – his leadoff single preceded Greg Lopez HR as ND scored three times in 9th to tie series finale vs. Villanova (ended in 7-7 tie) ... sparked offense from 3-hole in 21-1 win at Pittsburgh, having a hand in 5 of the ND runs (1-for-4, 3 RBI, 2 R, 2B, BB, SF) ... repeated as all-tournament selection at Alamo City Irish Baseball Classic (.500, 5-for-10, 4 RBI, 4 R, 2 HR, 3 BB, 2 Ks) ... homered at ACIBC vs. Oral Roberts and in 3rd-place game vs. Southwest Missouri (2 RBI, 2 R in both games, added 2 BB vs. SMS) ... hit HR in 2nd AB of season, vs. Florida A&M ... had RBI double and scored in 5-run, 9th-inning comeback that tied game-2 at Rutgers ... hit HR to dead-center field vs. Toledo.

Generation Gap – 4th-generation ND student who combines with William Andres as first great-grandfather and great-grandson ever to monogram with ND baseball program ... William Anddres was a catcher on the 1916-18 teams (his teammates included future ND Hall-of-Fame coach Jake Kline) and he also was a right end on the Knute Rockne-coached 1917 football team.

MATT BRANSFIELD (DH/1B/C, Jr., Bats: Right, 6-1/205 ... Englewood, CO ... 2004 BIG EAST RBI Champion)

Year	Avg	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.310	33-17	71	13	22	3	0	0	10	25	.352	3	3	19	1	.354	2	1	0-0	0
2004....	.306	59-54	206	44	63	12	3	12	58	117	.568	22	9	30	0	.388	5	1	0-3	0
2005....	.315	30-27	89	13	28	5	0	0	16	33	.371	9	7	14	4	.411	2	2	1-1	1
TOTAL...	.309	122-98	366	70	113	20	3	12	84	175	.478	34	19	63	5	.388	9	4	1-4	1

2005 Team Ranks – 4th in batting avg. (.315) and 5th in on-base pct. (.411) ... has 7 multi-hit games (none with 3-plus), also has 4 multi-RBI games (1 w/ 3 RBI) ... missed 18 games after suffering broken hand in season opener

Situational Summary – leads team with .423 batting vs. LHPs (.270 vs. RHPs) ... also 2nd on team in leadoff on-base pct. (.591), and 5th in 2-out batting (.303; 6 RBI), batting with runners on (.314) and in scoring position (.324) ... 2-for-7 (.286) with the bases loaded ... has delivered the RBI 7-of-10 times with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

Recent Trends – enters NCAAs having played in just 6 of previous 12 games but he hit safely in 5 of them (6-for-18, 2 RBI, 2 R, 2B, HBP, 3 Ks)

At the 2005 BIG EAST Tournament – started at DH in opening win over BC (6-5; 1-for-5, 2B, K)

In the NCAAs – combined to hit .235 in '03 and '04 NCAA regional actions (4-for-17, RBI, 2 R, 3 BB, HBP, 4 Ks) ... hit 2-for-11 in the '04 South Bend Regional (R, RBI, 3 BB, HBP, 4 Ks, 4 GS) after going 2-for-6 at the '03 Fullerton Regional (R, 3 GP/2 GS).

Final Week of Regular Season – hit 1-for-3 in limited duty (2 GP/1 GS, HBP)

In '05 BIG EAST Play – hit .273 in 15 GP/13 GS (12-for-44, 5 RBI, 6 R, 2 BB, 2 HBP, 10 Ks, 2 SAC, SF) ... a .295 career hitter in all games vs. BIG EAST teams (56-for-190, 38 RBI, 8 HR) ... led league with 33 RBI in '04 BE regular season.

In a Pinch – has batted at a .368 clip as a pinch-hitter during his ND career (7-for-19), including 2-for-3 in 2005 pinch-hit ABs (rest of team is 7-for-29/.241)

Post-Finals Stats (in May) – batting .276 (8-for-29) with 5 RBI, 2 R, 2B, BB, 4 HBP, 6 Ks, SAC, SB

“Red Ratio” – ranks 6th on team with +2 plate-discipline ratio (9 BB + 7 HBP – 14 Ks)

Lineup Notes – his 27 starts include 19 at DH, 6 at C, 2 at 1B; 10 starts batting cleanup, 11 in the 6-hole, 5 in 5-hole (also batted 7th in start at the BET)

Home and Away – batting 80 points higher in the '05 regular season during home games (.345, 19-for-55, 11 RBI, 6 R, 4 2B, 6 BB, 5 HBP, 7 Ks, SAC, SB, E) than on the road (.265, 9-for-34, 5 RBI, 7 R, 2B, 3 BB, 2 HBP, 7 Ks, SAC, 2 SF)

13-Game Homestand – ranked 2nd on team (.448 batting avg., just behind Brett Lilley's .449) after hitting 13-for-29 in 10 GP/8 GS (8 RBI, 3 R, 4 2B, 3 BB, 2 HBP, 6 Ks, E) from April 12-30.

Summer Ball – slated to join teammate Cody Rizzo as member of the Mat-Su Miners of the Alaska League during the summer of 2005 (ND's Matt Edwards played for Mat-Su in the summer of '04) ... previously has played summer ball with the Colorado Sox of the Rocky Mountain League ('03) and the Waynesboro (Va.) Generals of the Valley League ('04).

Top '05 Games – had leadoff pinch-hit single and scored as ND rallied to force extra-innings in 3-2 win over UConn ... scored 3 times in series finale at Rutgers (H, BB) ... had RBI groundout and run-scoring single to help beat Cleveland State in 7-6 game ... plated 3 runs in 9-8 win over Valparaiso.

ROSS BREZOVSKY (2B, Fr., Bats: Left, 5-10/170 ... Naples, FL)

Year	Avg	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2005....	.274	52-49	175	34	48	8	2	2	20	66	.377	16	4	38	10	.342	4	6	3-5	13

2005 Team Ranks – co-leader with 2 triples, also ranking 4th in doubles (8) and sac. bunts (6) ... 6th on team with 12 multi-hit games (2 w/ 4 hits, 3 w/ 3 hits), also has 4 multi-RBI games (season-high 5-RBI game)

Situational Summary – ranks 3rd on team with .340 batting vs. LHPs (.250 vs. RHPs) ... enters NCAAs with a .311 leadoff on-base pct. while batting .293 with runners on, .304 with them in scoring position and .241 with 2 outs (8 RBI)... 0-for-6 with the bases loaded ... has delivered the RBI 7-of-13 times (54%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

Recent Trends –made 10 errors at 3B in first half of season but has totaled just 3 Es at 2B in second half of '05 ... enters NCAAs with just a single E in previous 11 games (62 chances)

At the '05 BIG EAST Tournament – hit 2-for-9 (RBI, 2 R, 2B, K) in games vs. BC (1) and Pittsburgh (2)

Final Week of Regular Season – 3rd on team with .381 batting in 6 GS (8-for-21, 3 RBI, 6 R, HR, 2 BB, 4 Ks, SF, E)

In '05 BIG EAST Play – hit .200 in 21 GP/18 GS (12-for-60, 3 RBI, 10 R, HR, 2B, 4 BB, 14 Ks, SB, 4 SAC, SF)

Post-Finals Stats (in May) – batting .280 (14-for-50) with 4 RBI, 12 R, HR, 2B, 4 BB, HBP, 14 Ks, 2 SAC, 2 Es

Home and Away – has hit at a clip 61 points higher on the road (.305/3rd on team, 29-for-95, 11 RBI, 17 R, HR, 3 3B, 4 2B, 3 BB, 4 HBP, 24 Ks, 2 SAC, SB, 9 Es) than at home in '05 season (.244, 19-for-78, 9 RBI, 17 R, HR, 3 2B, 13 BB, 14 Ks, 4 SAC, 2 SB, 4 Es)

“Red Ratio” – owns a -18 plate-discipline ratio (16 BB + 4 HBP – 38 Ks), with team avg. of +2

Lineup Notes – his 49 starts include 15 at 3B, 30 at 2B (all in past 31 games) and 3 at SS (plus a single start at LF) ... has hit mostly at bottom of the order (21 in 8-hole, 12 in both 9- and 7-hole), plus 4 as leadoff hitter (early-season)

Monthly Checkup – batted .232 during April (13-for-56, 9 RBI, 12 R, HR, 4 2B, 8 BB, 10 Ks, 3 SAC, 2 SB, 2 Es)

Summer Ball – slated to join classmate David Gruener as member of Hays (Kan.) Larks in Jayhawk League, during summer of '05 ... several Mainieri-era players have been on previous Larks teams, including current players Craig Cooper ('03), Cody Rizzo ('03, injured) and Tyler Jones ('02) ... other recent ND players who have been on Hays teams include Javi Sanchez ('02), Ryan Kalita ('02), J.P. Gagne ('01), Joe Thaman ('01), Andrew Bushey ('00), Matt Buchmeier ('00), Drew Duff ('99-'00), Paul O'Toole ('99), Mike Carlin ('98), Ben Cooke ('98-'99), Jeff Felker ('98-'99) and Pat Davis (also later was Hays assistant coach)

Top '05 Games – drove in 5 runs vs. Cleveland State on April 30 (13-3; 4-for-4, HR, 2B, BB) for his first multi-RBI game since opening week ... had similar 4-hit game two weeks later in 21-1 win at Pittsburgh (4-for-4, RBI, 4 R, HR, BB) ... helped upset #17 USC with pair of RBI (13-6; 1-for-4, SF) ... scored 3 times in 5-2 win over Villanova (2-for-3, SB) ... plated Alex Nettey with groundrule double to end 4-3 win over Florida A&M ... closed Dayton series with 3-for-4 game (2 R, HBP; 10-11) ... hit 3-for-5 vs. Oral Roberts (R) en route to earning all-tournament spot at Alamo City Irish Baseball Classic (.357, 5-for-14, 3 R, 3B, 2 Ks, E).

CRAIG COOPER (OF, Jr., Bats: R, 6-2/220 ... Plainview, NY ... 2nd Tm All-BIG EAST '04, 3rd tm '05)

Year	Avg	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.303	46-31	122	22	37	6	2	0	15	47	.385	15	4	23	3	.397	0	2	10-13	1
2004....	.360	58-46	175	42	63	13	1	10	48	108	.617	25	2	22	0	.441	2	4	12-17	2
2005....	.338	56-54	195	46	66	13	1	7	56	102	.523	30	14	20	6	.456	2	4	14-17	3
TOTAL...	.337	160-131	492	110	166	32	4	17	119	257	.522	70	20	65	9	.437	4	10	36-47	6

Double Distinction – repeated as BIG EAST batting champ (.403, in league games, after .470 in '04) ... joined former BC player Kevin Penwell ('95, '96) as only repeat batting champs in 21-year history of BIG EAST baseball ... moved into 3rd place on BE career batting list, at .420 (68-for-162), behind Joe Cirone (.443, 51-for-115; Rutgers, '97-'00) and Martese Robinson (.432, 83-for-192; Seton Hall, '85-'87) ... joins Cirone as only players in past 18 seasons to hit above .420 or higher in their BIG EAST career.

2005 Team Ranks – 2nd among ND players in six categories – slugging pct. (.523), RBI (56), home runs (7), doubles (13), stolen bases (14) and total bases (102) – also ranking 3rd in batting avg. (.338), on-base pct. (.456), runs (46), hits (66) and walks (30), 4th in hit-by-pitch (14) and games played (56), and 5th in starts (54) ... shares team lead with 16 multiple-RBI games (2 w/ 5 RBI, 2 w/ 3 RBI), also 3rd with 16 multi-hit games (7 w/ 3 hits).

Among BIG EAST Stat Leaders – 3rd among league's players in overall RBI (56), trailing teammate Matt Edwards (66) and Pitt sophomore 2B Jim Negrych (59) ... also has surged to 7th among BE players with a .456 overall on-base pct. ... repeated as BIG EAST leader in conference batting (.403; .470 in '04) and on-base pct. in conference games (.529; .471 in '04) while finishing 8th in league slugging pct. (.582), 6th in RBI (19), 10th in doubles (6) and walks (12) ... only four players in the league finished with a higher OPS (on-base plus slugging) during '05 BE games than his 1.111: Negrych (1.311), Pitt junior CF Ben Copeland (1.205), fellow ND junior OF Cody Rizzo (1.111; .514 OB, .648 slugging) and WVU junior 1B Stan Posluszny (1.122).

Situational Summary – batting team-best .444 with runners in scoring position ... 2nd on team in 2-out batting (.383) and batting with runners on (.380), 3rd in 2-out RBI (15), 5th in leadoff on-base pct. (.439) ... batting .341 vs. RHPs (3rd on team) and .333 vs. LHPs (4th) ... 2-for-8 (.250) with the bases loaded ... has delivered the RBI 22-of-29 times (76%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

Recent Trends – batting at a .460 clip (23-for-50) with 17 RBI and 34 total bases in his current 13-game hitting streak (13 R, 2 HR, 5 2B, 4 BB, HBP, 5 Ks, SAC, SB, .680 slugging, .491 on-base, 1.171 OPS) that ranks 2nd-longest by an ND player in '05 season (behind Alex Nettey's 15-game streak) and is longest of his career

At the '05 BIG EAST Tournament – hit 5-for-13 with 5 runs scored (RBI, BB, K) in gms vs. BC (1) and Pittsburgh (2) ... went 3-for-5 and scored 3 times from leadoff spot in title-game win over Pitt (11-4).

In the NAAs – combined to bat .222 in '03 and '04 NCAA regional action (6 GS; 4-for-18, 4 RBI, 3 R, HR, 2B, 2 BB, SF) ... his 2-for-13 effort at the '04 South Bend Regional (4 RBI, 3 R, HR, 2B) included 2-out, 3-run blast that produced a 4-0 lead in elimination-game win over UC Irvine (added sac. fly in that 6-5 game for team-leading 15th bases-loaded RBI of '04) ... went 2-for-5 with a 2B in 2 GS at the '03 Fullerton Regional.

Final Week of Regular Season – earned BIG EAST player-of-the-week and national hitter-of-the-week (NCBWA) honors after batting team-best .565 with 13 RBI in 6 GS (13-for-23, 8 R, 2 HR, 2 BB, HBP, 2 Ks, SF, E), vs. Pitt, USC and WVU

In '05 BIG EAST Play – repeated as BIG EAST batting champ, hitting .403 in 23 GP/21 GS (27-for-67, 19 RBI, 14 R, 2 HR, 6 2B, 13 BB, 6 HBP, 9 Ks, 5 SB, 3 SAC, SF, 2 Es) ... a .408 career hitter in all games vs. BIG EAST teams (73-for-179, 45 RBI, 7 HR)

Post-Finals Stats (in May) – batting team-best .414 (24-for-58) with 17 RBI, 15 R, 2 HR, 5 2B, 7 BB, HBP, 7 Ks, 2 SAC, 2 SB, E

“Red Ratio” – ranks 2nd on team with +24 plate-discipline ratio (30 BB + 14 HBP – 20 Ks)

Lineup Notes – 54 starts include 20 in RF and 19 in LF (15), plus starts at 1B (9), CF (4) and DH (2) ... his 9 starts as leadoff batter include 8 recent games, also batting in the cleanup (23), 5th (8), 6th (7), 7th (3) and 3rd spots (4; including WVU series)

Milestone Watch – collected 100th career RBI vs. Cleveland State (4/30), 100th career run scored at Pittsburgh (5/16) ... has 17 career home runs, 36 stolen bases (2 shy of ND top-10 list) and a year of eligibility remaining ... former teammates Alec Porzel ('01; 37 HR-32 SB) and Paul O'Toole ('02; 31 HR-54 SB) are the only ND players ever to reach 30 HR and 30 SB in their career

Home and Away – batting similarly in all road games (team-best .333, 37-for-111, 23 RBI, 25 R, 4 HR, 8 2B, 16 BB, 4 HBP, 13 Ks, 6 SB, 3 SAC,E) and in '05 home games (.345/4th on team, 29-84, 33 RBI, 21 R, 3 HR, 3B, 5 2B, 14 BB, 10 HBP, 5 Ks, SAC, 8 SB, 2 Es)

Monthly Checkup – ranked 4th on team with .321 batting avg. and team-best 20 RBI while helping team go 14-5-1 in April (17 GS, 14 R, 2 HR, 3B, 5 2B, 7 BB, 9 HBP, 7 Ks, SAC, 6-6 SB)

Top '05 Games (also see BET above) – hit ND's first game-ending HR (9-7 vs. Purdue; April 20) since '02 CWS (Brian Stavisky; 5-3 vs. Rice) and then hit grand slam in next AB, vs. Valparaiso (9-8; 5 RBI) ... smacked ND's first leadoff HR of season and added another HR in 21-1 win at Pittsburgh, having a hand in 7 runs (3-hole; 3-for-5, 5 RBI, 4 R, BB) ... helped upset #17 USC, 13-6 (3-for-5, 2 RBI, R, 2B) ... 6-for-9 series vs. WVU included 2-for-2 in 3-1 opener (R, BB), 3-for-3 in 7-3 finale (3 RBI, 2B, SF) ... helped post 4-2 win at UCF (3-for-4, 2 RBI, R, BB, SB) ... 3-for-4 in first win over Southwest Missouri (2 RBI, 2 R, HR) ... HR vs. South Dakota State (2 RBI, 3 R, 2 BB) and Cincinnati (1-for-3, 2 R, BB, SB) ... helped avert loss to Cleveland St. (7-6; 3-4, 3 RBI, 2 R, 3B, BB, 2 SB), adding 3 RBI in 13-3 win (H, R, SB) ... hit .333 (5 RBI, 2 HR) on spring break (6-18, 6 R, 5 BB, 3 Ks)... .250 (11-44), team-best 18 RBI in 13-game homestand.

MATT EDWARDS (1B, Sr., Bats: Right ... Mechanicsville, VA ... First Team All-BIG EAST in 2003)

Year	Avg	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2002....	.290	9-8	31	3	9	1	0	0	4	10	.323	3	1	6	1	.371	0	0	1-1	6
2003....	.376	62-62	229	40	86	16	2	8	69	130	.568	25	4	39	0	.439	4	0	2-5	9
2004....	.310	61-59	216	48	67	13	1	12	54	118	.546	32	9	40	0	.414	4	3	5-6	5
2005....	.367	59-59	218	60	80	20	1	14	66	144	.661	43	6	29	7	.478	3	0	7-8	14
TOTAL...	.349	191-188	694	151	242	50	4	34	193	402	.579	103	20	114	8	.441	11	3	15-20	34

2005 Team Ranks – team leader in nine categories: batting avg. (.367), slugging pct. (.661), home runs (14), RBI (66), runs (60), hits (80), doubles (20), walks (43) and total bases (144) ... joined freshman 2B/3B Brett Lilley as only players to start all 59 games (SS Greg Lopez is only other to play in all 59) ... also ranks 2nd on team in on-base pct. (.478) and 5th in stolen bases (7) ... leads team with **25 multiple-hit** games (2 w/ 4 hits, 5 w/ 3 hits) and shares team lead with **16 multi-RBI** games (1 w/ 5 RBI, 2 w/ 4 RBI, 6 w/ 3 RBI).

Among BIG EAST Stat Leaders – enters NCAAs as league leader in RBI (66), also 2nd in home runs (14), walks (43) and total bases (144), 3rd in slugging pct. (.661), on-base pct. (.478) and OPS (1.139 on-base plus slugging), 4th in hits (80), runs (60) and doubles (20), and 7th in batting avg. (.367) ... in conference games only, he finished 4th in doubles (8), 5th in RBI (20), 6th in walks (15).

Situational Summary – leads team in 2-out RBI (22) and leadoff on-base pct. (.632) ... also 3rd in batting with runners on base (.372), and in scoring position (.352) and 5th in 2-out batting (.315) ... batting team-best .346 vs. RHPs, .346 vs. LHPs (2nd) ... 3-for-8 (.375, HR) with the bases loaded ... has delivered the RBI 16-of-24 times (67%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

At The 2005 BIG EAST Tournament – named MVP after batting 5-for-13 with 4 RBI (5 R, HR, 2 2B, BB, 3 Ks, SB, E) in games vs. BC (1) and Pittsburgh (2), including a 2-run HR and RBI double in the 11-4 title game vs. Pitt ... he now owns a .400 career batting avg. in the BET (16-for-40, 12 RBI, 13 R, 2 HR, 3 2B, 6 BB, HBP, 7 Ks, 2 Es, SB)

In the NCAAs – hit a combined .300 (9-for-30) in the '03 and '04 NCAA regionals (injured in '02), with 6 RBI and 2 HR in 8 GS (5 R, 3B, 2B, 3 BB, 9 Ks) ... earned all-tournament honors at the '04 South Bend Regional (4-for-15, 2 RBI, 3 R, 2 HR, 2B), thanks to [air of solo shots over both fences in final game vs. Arizona (3-for-4, 3 R; 7-6 loss) ... went 5-for-15 at the '03 Fullerton Regional (4 RBI, 2 R, 3B, 3 BB) ... hit 1st-inning, bases-loaded triple in '03 Regional win over Arizona (2-for-3, 2 R).

Final Week of Regular Season – ranked 2nd on team with .529 batting in 6 GS (9-for-17, 5 RBI, 5 R, 2 2B, 7 BB, 2 Ks, SB, 2 Es)

In '05 BIG EAST Play – 4th on team with .329 batting in 24 GS (28-for-85, 20 RBI, 20 R, 2 HR, 8 2B, 15 BB, HBP, 13 Ks, 3 SB, 4 Es) ... a .319 career hitter in all games vs. BIG EAST teams (89-for-279, 67 RBI, 10 HR)

Record Books – ranks 5th in ND history with 193 career RBI, 6th with 34 HRs, 8th with 50 doubles, 10th with .579 slugging pct. and 13th with 103 walks ... 3rd ND player with 80-plus hits and 40-plus walks in same season (Matt Marci, in '04, was first to do so since 1989)

Post-Finals Stats (in May) – 2nd on team with .367 batting (18-for-49), plus 12 RBI, 16 R, 2 HR, 5 2B, 20 BB, 13 Ks, 3 SB, 3 Es

Recent Trends – had rare stretch of 12 straight games with at least one walk (21 total BB) from April 29-May 18, ultimately drawing 23 walks in final 15 games of regular season ... bounced back from 1-for-5 doubleheader vs. WVU (2 GDPs, 2 BB, 2 R, K) for his second 4-hit game of '05 in regular-season finale (RBI, R, 2B, SB) ... hit just one HR in final 5 weeks of the regular season (21 GP), vs. Michigan in Grand Rapids on May 11 (previous HR was April 17 vs. UConn) ... actually totaled just 2 HR in the second half of the regular season (29 GP; HR vs. Ball State on April 6) – prior to hitting HR at BET – after hitting 11 HR in first 27 games.

“Red Ratio” – ranks 3rd on team with +20 plate-discipline ratio (43 BB + 6 HBP – 29 Ks)

Lineup Notes – his 59 starts include 48 at 1B, 10 at 3B (DH in gm-3 vs. UConn) ... made first 50 starts batting in 3-hole before shifting to cleanup role the past 9 games

Home and Away – 2nd on team with .336 batting in all '05 road games (38-for-113, 33 RBI, 33 R, 7 HR, 10 2B, 20 BB, 4 HBP, 19 Ks, 3 SB, 7 Es) plus team-best .420 in '05 home games (42-for-100, 33 RBI, 27 R, 7 HR, 3B, 10 2B, 23 BB, 2 HBP, 10 Ks, 4 SB, 7 Es)

Monthly Checkup – 2nd on team with .350 batting in April (28-for-30, 19 RBI, 17 R, 3 HR, 3B, 7 2B, 10 BB, HBP, 9 Ks, 3 SB, 7 Es)

Old Reliable – has logged 101 consecutive starts with the Irish and has played in 181 of 182 games during the past three seasons (starting 179), since returning from broken leg that halted his freshman season early in '02

Top '05 Games (also see BET above) – first ND player since '98 to hit 3 HR in game (vs. Western Michigan on 3/29; 6 RBI, 2 IBB) ... had rare HR at 5th/3rd Bank Ballpark in Grand Rapids, vs. Michigan (3 BB, 3 R, SB) ... delivered from cleanup spot in 21-1 win at Pittsburgh (2-for-4, 4 RBI, R, 2B, BB) and in 13-6 upset of #17 USC (2-for-3, R, 2 BB) ... closed regular season with 4-for-4 game vs. WVU (7-3; RBI, R, 2B, SB) ... his other 4-hit game of '05 season came April 5 vs. Toledo (4-for-4, 3 RBI, 2 R, HR, SB) ... homered in opener vs. Florida A&M (RBI, 4 R, 2B, BB, HBP) ... his 8-for-17 Dayton series included HR in 10-2 win (2 RBI, 3 R) ... launched grand slam vs. Texas-San Antonio and homered next day vs. Southwest Missouri, as part of all-tournament performance at the Alamo City Irish Baseball Classic ... added HRs at Evansville and in game-2 vs. Georgetown ... his 5-for-11 series vs. UConn included HR to dead-center field in series finale ... helped secure 7-7 tie in season finale vs. Villanova (3-for-5, 3 RBI, R, 2 2B, BB) ... other HRs came vs. Ball State and UConn.

SEAN GASTON (C, So., Bats: Left, 6-0/185 ... Brownsburg, IN)

Year	Avg	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2004....	.316	23-12	57	11	18	3	0	0	11	21	.368	5	0	9	0	.365	1	0	4-4	1
2005....	.290	47-41	155	26	45	5	1	1	27	55	.355	5	3	16	4	.321	2	7	4-4	4
TOTAL...	.297	70-53	212	37	63	8	1	1	38	76	.358	10	3	25	4	.333	3	7	8-8	5

2005 Team Ranks – 3rd in sacrifice bunts (7), 5th in RBI (27) ... has totaled 11 multi-hit games (1 w/ 4 hits, 4 w/ 3 hits), plus 5 with multi-RBI (1 w/ 4 RBI)

Situational Summary – ranks 4th on team in 2-out RBI (14) and 5th with .293 batting vs. RHPs (.282 vs. LHPs) ... has advanced baserunners 54% of the time (3rd-best on team) ... enters NCAAs with a .400 leadoff on-base pct. while batting .281 with runners on, .304 with them in scoring position and .281 with 2 outs ... 2-for-7 with the bases loaded (.286)... has delivered the RBI 10-of-14 times (71%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

Recent Trends – enters NCAAs with .353 batting in his past 5 GP (6-for-17, 4 RBI, 2 R, 3B, 2B, SAC, K) ... back injury limited him to just three post-finals starts in regular season (gm-1 at Pitt; gms 2-3 vs. WVU), also coming off bench in game-3 at Pitt and in both games vs. USC ... provided spark to offense with hits in final three games of regular season (3-for-7, 3 RBI, R, 2B, SAC).

At the '05 BIG EAST Tournament – hit 3-for-10 (RBI, R, 3B, K) in games vs. BC (1) and Pittsburgh (2) ... had an RBI single and added a triple and run scored to help deliver title-game win over Pitt (11-4).

In the NCAAs – saw his only action in '04 South Bend Regional as catcher for final two innings vs. Kent State (7-1 win).

Final Week of Regular Season – hit 3-for-8 in 5 GP/2 GS (3 RBI, R, 2B, SAC, SF)

In '05 BIG EAST Play – ranked 5th on team with .286 batting in 18 GP/17 GS (16-for-56, 13 RBI, 6 R, HR, 2B, 3 BB, HBP, 6 Ks, 4 SB, 4 SAC, SF, 3 Es)

Post-Finals Stats (in May) – batting .300 (6-for-20, 4 RBI, 2 R, 3B, 2 Ks, SAC)

Lineup Notes – has made all 41 of his starts at catcher while batting all over the lineup, with 10 starts in the 6-hole, 8 starts each in the 8- and 9-holes, plus starts in the 2nd (2), 4th (2), 5th (4) and 7th (7) spots

“Red Ratio” – owns -8 plate-discipline ratio (5 BB + 3 HBP – 16 Ks), with rest of team at +30

Home and Away – batting 36 points higher in 2005 home games (.310, 22-for-71, 14 RBI, 9 R, HR, 3 2B, 2 BB, 7 Ks, 3 SB, E) than in all '05 road games (.274, 23-for-84, 13 RBI, 17 R, 3B, 2 2B, 3 BB, 3 HBP, 9 Ks, 3 SAC, SB, 3 Es)

Monthly Checkup – 5th on team with .321 batting in April (17-53, 11 RBI, 6 R, HR, 2 2B, 3 BB, HBP, 7 Ks, 2 SAC, 3 SB, 3 Es)

Summer Ball – set to join classmates Jeff Manship and Derik Olvey as members of the Cape Cod League's Cotuit Kettleers during summer of '05 (at least two other ND players also are set to play in the '05 Cape) ... played with the Waterloo (Iowa) Bucs of the Northwoods League during the summer of '04

Top '05 Games (also see BET above) – went 4-for-8 in doubleheader vs. Villanova (5 RBI, 2 R, BB, 3-run HR) ... hit 9th-inning single prior to Greg Lopez's 3-run HR as ND tied series finale vs. VU (ended 7-7) ... singled for key hit in comeback win over UConn (3-for-4, SB) ... 4-for-6 in 13-9 loss to Dayton (RBI, R) ... 3-for-4 in second win over Southwest Missouri (RBI, 3 R, HBP) and 3-for-5 in comeback vs. Northern Illinois (RBI, 3 R, 2B) ... lead role in win over Bowling Green (3-for-4, 2 RBI, 2 R, 2B).

TONY LANGFORD (OF/DH, Fr., Bats: Right, 5-11/175 ... Fort Worth, TX)

Year	Avg	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2005....	.291	47-37	148	15	43	6	0	3	28	58	.392	3	2	18	8	.312	1	1	1-1	1

2005 Team Ranks – 4th on team in RBI (28) and 5th in slugging pct. (.392) and home runs (3) ... ranks 6th on team with 7 multiple-RBI games (1 w/ 5, 1 w/ 3), also totaling 11 multi-hit games (4 w/ 3 hits) and

Situational Summary – ranks 2nd on team in 2-out RBI (16), also 3rd in 2-out batting (.340) and 4th in batting with runners on base (.333) and in scoring position (.345) ... owns a .275 leadoff on-base pct. ... batting .286 vs. RHPs and .300 vs. LHPs ... 0-for-4 with the bases loaded ... has delivered the RBI 9-of-16 times (56%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs ... 1-for-3 as a pinch-hitter.

Recent Trends – enters NCAAs with hits in 6 of his previous 7 games played (.310, 9-for-29, 7 RBI, 4 R, HR, BB)

At the '05 BIG EAST Tournament – went 1-for-4 (RBI, 2 Ks) in winners-bracket game vs. Pittsburgh

Final Week of Regular Season – hit .320 in 6 GS (8-for-25, 6 RBI, 4 R, HR, BB, K)

In '05 BIG EAST Play – hit .273 in 21 GP/20 GS (21-for-77, 15 RBI, 9 R, 2 HR, 4 2B, BB, HBP, 6 Ks, SB, SF)

Post-Finals Stats (in May) – batting .261 (12-for-46) with 10 RBI, plus 5 R, HR, BB, 7 Ks

“Red Ratio” – owns -13 plate-discipline ratio (3 BB + 2 HBP – 18 Ks), with rest of team at +35

Lineup Notes – his 37 starts include 19 in LF, 16 at DH and 2 in RF while batting mostly in 5-hole (17), plus 9 starts each in the 6- and 7-hole (also single starts batting cleanup and 8th)

Home and Away – owns similar batting numbers in 2005 road games (.298/4th on team, 17-for-57, 15 RBI, 5 R, 2 HR, 2 2B, BB, 8 Ks) and '05 home games (.286, 26-for-91, 13 RBI, 10 R, HR, 4 2B, 2 BB, 2 HBP, 10 Ks, SAC, SB, E)

Monthly Checkup – compiled .266 batting avg. in April (17-for-64, 11 RBI, 6 R, 2 HR, 3 2B, BB, 2 HBP, 8 Ks, SAC, E)

Summer Ball – slated to play in the Texas Collegiate League (team TBA) during the summer of '05

Top '05 Games – played lead role in 13-6 upset of #17 USC (3-for-5, 2-run HR, 2 R) ... hit 4-for-10 to help sweep WVU in final week of regular season (2 RBI, R, BB) ... went 3-for-4 in his first start with the Irish, vs. Southwest Missouri (3 RBI, R, BB), followed by 2-for-4 game vs. Evansville (2B) and 2-for-5 vs. South Dakota State (RBI) ... added 3-for-6 effort in game-2 vs. Georgetown (RBI, 2 R, 2B) ... homered twice to fuel late comeback in extra-inning loss at Rutgers ... hit 3-for-4 in win over Bowling Green (RBI, 2 R, 2B, SAC).

**BRETT LILLEY (3B, Fr., Bats: Left, 5-7/165 ... North Canton, OH)
BIG EAST Freshman of the Year ... Freshman All-America Candidate**

Year	Avg	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2005....	.351	59-59	202	54	71	5	0	0	25	76	.376	34	26	32	2	.498	1	9	9-18	12

2005 Team Ranks – leads team in on-base pct. (.498; would rank 7th in ND history), HBP (26; 2nd in ND history) and sac. bunts (9), also 2nd in batting (.351), hits (71), runs (54) and walks (34), 3rd in stolen bases (9) and 4th in total bases (76) ... joins Matt Edwards as only players to start all 59 games (Greg Lopez is only other with 59 GP) ... 2nd on team with 19 multi-hit games (5-hit vs. Cincinnati, 1 w/ 4 hits, 5 w/ 3 hits), 4th with 8 multi-RBI games (none with 3-plus RBI).

Situational Summary – leads team in 2-out batting (.444, 11 RBI) and batting with runners on base (.414) ... also 2nd on team with .368 batting vs. RHPs (.296 vs. LHPs) and with .429 batting with runners in scoring position, plus 3rd in leadoff on-base pct. (.508) ... 2-for-6 with the bases loaded ... has delivered the RBI 10-of-14 times (71%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs ... has advanced runners a team-best 66% of the time.

Among the BIG EAST Stat Leaders – led the league charts all season in on-base pct. (.498), also leading all BIG EAST freshmen in walks (34; 6th overall) and batting avg. (.351; 12th overall) ... ranks 5th among BE players with 54 runs scored ... in conference games only, he finished 7th (tops among freshmen) in walks (14) and on-base pct. (.460).

Recent Trends – closed regular season by batting just .235 (8-for-34) in final 10 games (9 R, 3 RBI, 2B, 5 BB, 3 HBP, 9 Ks, -1 Red Ratio), after hitting .381 with a +31 Red Ratio (BB+HBP-Ks) in first 46 games of season.

At the '05 BIG EAST Tournament – hit 4-for-13 (2 RBI, 3 R, HBP, 5 Ks) in games vs. BC (1) and Pittsburgh (2)

Final Week of Regular Season – hit .300 in 6 GS (6-for-20, 2 RBI, 7 R, 2B, 3 BB, 3 HBP, 4 Ks, 2 SAC)

In '05 BIG EAST Play – ranked 3rd on team with .333 batting in 24 GS (27-for-81, 5 RBI, 20 R, 2 2B, 14 BB, 6 HBP, 8 Ks, 2 SB, 4 SAC, .990 fielding pct. with just a single error in 103 fielding chances)

Post-Finals Stats (in May) – 5th on team with .298 batting (17-57), plus 6 RBI, 15 R, 2B, 7 BB, 6 HBP, 15 Ks, 3 SAC, E

“Red Ratio” – owns team-best with +28 plate-discipline ratio (34 BB + 26 HBP – 32 Ks)

Lineup Notes – made first 28 starts at 2B before starting past 31 games at 3B, with the Irish going 22-8-1 in that stretch ... has hit mostly in the 2-hole (48), plus 11 starts at leadoff (including the WVU series and one game at the BET).

Great Glove Man – has 49 error-free games, including 21-game span without an error (96 fielding chances) from March 24-April 21 (spanning time at 2B and 3B) and 12-game E-free streak heading into the NCAAs (33 chances) ... four teammates combined for 18 errors at 3B in first 28 games of the season but he then turned in 9 error-free games to open his stint at the hot corner (40 chances) ... has 26 error-free games in 31 GP at 3B (7 Es) ... made just a single E in 2005 BIG EAST regular-season games (24 GP, plus no Es in 3 GP at the BET).

In the Record Books – his 26 HBP rank 2nd in ND history (behind Cody Rizzo's 28 in '03) and 13th in the NCAA record book while his .498 on-base pct. would rank 10th in ND history and is within range of the ND freshman record set by Eric Danapilis in '90 (.509) ... has totaled 60 free passes (also 34 BB) to go along with his 69 hits in '05 season.

Home & Away – hitting significantly higher (120 points) in 2005 home games (.415/2nd on team, 39-for-94, 15 RBI, 30 R, 2 2B, 18 BB, 10 HBP, 14 Ks, 6 SAC, 7 SB, 8 Es) than in all '05 road games (.296/5th on team, 32-for-108, 10 RBI, 24 R, 3 2B, 16 BB, 16 HBP, 18 Ks, 3 SAC, 2 SB, 4 Es)

Monthly Checkup – team-best .361 batter in April (26-for-72, 7 RBI, 19 R, 3 2B, 12 BB, 6 HBP, 8 Ks, 5 SB, 6 Es)

Top '05 Games – became first ND freshman ever to post 5-hit game in home opener (vs. Cincinnati, 2 RBI, R, 2 SB) ... hit-by-pitch 4 times (one shy of tying NCAA record) in 4-2 win over Central Florida (1-for-1, R) ... had 9-for-11 stretch vs. Central Michigan (2-for-3, R, BB) and then in doubleheader vs. UConn: 2-for-3 in opener (R, BB) and 4-for-4 in nightcap (R) ... hit 3-for-5 with 2 RBI in series finale vs. Villanova (7-7) ... helped post key lateseason win at Pittsburgh (21-1; 2-for-5, 3 R, HBP) ... went 2-for-4 to help upset #17 USC (13-6; 2 RBI, R, 2B, SAC) ... hit .368 on spring-break trip (7-for-19, 2 RBI, 6 R, 4 BB, 5 HBP, 4 Ks).

**GREG LOPEZ (SS, Jr. ... Bats: R, 6-0/190 ... Upper Arlington, OH)
Third Team All-BIG EAST in 2004 ... Academic All-America Candidate in 2005**

Year	Avg	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.250	50-40	132	17	33	1	0	0	26	34	.258	4	4	22	5	.289	2	8	1-5	8
2004....	.332	59-57	199	39	66	14	0	2	34	86	.432	14	9	32	0	.396	3	10	4-5	20
2005....	.277	59-58	195	33	54	6	1	2	34	68	.349	10	16	41	2	.351	7	5	0-2	20
TOTAL...	.291	168-155	526	89	153	21	1	4	94	188	.357	28	29	95	7	.353	12	23	5-12	48

2005 Team Ranks – one of three players who has appeared in all 59 games of '05 season ... ranks 3rd on team in RBI (34), HBP (16, 5th in ND history) and games started (58), also 5th in hits (54), total bases (68) and sac. bunts (5) ... his 8 multi-RBI games rank 4th on team (1 w/ 4 hits, 3 w/ 3 RBI), also 5th on team with 13 multi-hit games (5 w/ 3 hits).

Situational Summary – ranks 5th on team in batting vs. LHPs (.328; compared to .255 vs. RHPs) ... enters NCAA with a .367 leadoff on-base pct. while batting .312 with runners on base, .246 with them in scoring position and .281 with 2 outs (5 RBI) ... 3-for-4 with the bases loaded ... has delivered the RBI 20-of-27 times (74%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

At the '05 BIG EAST Tournament – hit 4-for-10 (K, SAC) in games vs. BC (1) and Pittsburgh (2), snapping out of an 0-for-12 slump in final 4 games of regular season (BB, 3 Es) ... now owns a .400 career batting average at the BIG EAST Tournament (10-for-25, RBI, 2 E, 2 HBP, 3 Ks) that is more that 100 points above his .291 overall career avg. with the Irish

In the NCAAs – hit just .125 in '03 and '04 NCAA Regional action (6 GP/2 GS; R, SB, SAC) ... battled through back pain at '04 South Bend Regional (2-for-14, R, SB, SAC), with both hits coming in opening loss to Ken State (2-1; rest of team had 4 hits) ... played 3 games as reserve at '03 Fullerton Regional (0-for-2).

Final Week of Regular Season – hit .238 in 6 GS (5-for-21, 4 RBI, 3 R, 2B, BB, HBP, 5 Ks, 5 Es)

In '05 BIG EAST Play – hit .247 in 24 GS (19-for-77, 14 RBI, 12 R, HR, 3B, 3 2B, 7 BB, 6 HBP, 15 Ks, 2 SF, 10 Es) ... a .305 career hitter in all games vs. BIG EAST teams (72-for-236, 34 RBI, HR)

Post-Finals Stats (in May) – batting .283 (15-for-53) with 5 RBI, 4 R, 2B, 3 BB, 3 HBP, SAC, 9 Ks, 7 Es

For the Glove of the Game – his 43 error-free games in '05 include 15 to open season and 1 E in 19 games prior to Michigan game ... had Es in 7 of previous 9 games before playing error-free at the BET ... has only 4 multi-E games in '05 (none 3-plus) ... had 42 E-free games in '04 (85 in '04-'05)

Hitting Ball & Books – candidate for Academic All-America honors (3.36 GPA; anthropology/pre-professional science)

Lineup Notes – has 55 starts at SS (plus 3 at 3B, in midseason) while batting in the 9th (32), 8th (24) and 7th (2) spots

Milestone Watch – needs 6 more RBI for the 100th of his ND career, also 11 runs shy of 100

“Red Ratio” – owns -15 plate-discipline ratio (10 BB + 16 HBP – 41 Ks), with rest of team at +37

Home and Away – batting 24 points higher in home games (.289, 28-for-97, 16 RBI, 23 R, HR, 3B, 6 2B, 3 BB, 11 HBP, 21 Ks, 2 SAC, 13 Es) than in all '05 road games (.265, 26-for-98, 18 RBI, 10 R, HR, 7 BB, 5 HBP, 20 Ks, 3 SAC, 7 Es)

Monthly Checkup – hit .254 in month of April (17-for-67, 10 RBI, 15 R, HR, 3B, 2B, 2 BB, 11 HBP, 15 Ks, 5 Es)

Summer Ball – one of several ND players slated to play in Cape Cod League (Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox) during summer of '05 ... played for Delaware (Ohio) Cows of Great Lakes League in summer of '04

Top '05 Games – tied series finale vs. Villanova with 3-run HR in 9th (ended 7-7; 3-for-5, HBP) ... hit 3-for-5 as part of 21-1 win at Pittsburgh (3 RBI, R) ... helped upset #17 USC, 13-6 (2-for-4, RBI, 2 R, 2B, HBP) ... led 7-1 win over UConn (3-for-4, 2 RBI, 2 R, 2B) ... hit 3 doubles in gm-2 vs. Georgetown (2 RBI, R, BB) ... hit 3-for-3 in 11-10 loss to Dayton (4 RBI, R, SAC, SF) ... had 3 RBI in comeback win over Northern Illinois (1-for-3, R, SF).

ALEX NETTEY (OF, Jr., Bats: Right, 6-1/200 ... Dolton, IL)

Year	Avg	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.229	30-9	48	11	11	2	0	0	3	13	.271	3	1	9	1	.288	0	1	2-2	0
2004....	.194	27-9	36	9	7	3	0	0	5	10	.278	4	3	5	0	.326	0	0	1-1	0
2005....	.292	56-55	216	42	63	11	2	2	22	84	.389	13	14	29	5	.369	1	8	9-16	4
TOTAL...	.270	113-73	300	62	81	16	2	2	30	107	.357	20	18	43	6	.351	1	9	12-19	4

2005 Team Ranks – shares team lead in triples (2) while ranking 2nd in sac. bunts (8), 3rd in doubles (11), stolen bases (9) and total bases (84), 4th in hits (63), runs (42), HBP (14), games played (56) and started (55), and 5th in batting avg. (.292) ... also 4th on team with 15 multi-hit games (1 w/ 4 hits, 3 w/ 3 hits), plus 3 multi-RBI games (none with 3-plus RBI)

Situational Summary – ranks 4th on team with .308 batting vs. RHPs (.246 vs. LHPs) ... has advanced baserunners 54% of the time 5th-best on team) ... enters NCAA with a .400 leadoff on-base pct. while batting .301 with runners on, .278 with them in scoring position and .225 with 2 outs (5 RBI) ... 1-for-5 with the bases loaded ... has delivered the RBI 10-of-15 times (67%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

Among the BIG EAST Stat Leaders – finished 8th with 7 doubles in conference games.

Recent Trends –has gone hitless in just 3 of past 20 games ... 4 of his 11 doubles in '05 came in final 8 games of regular season (after shift out of leadoff spot) ... enters NCAAs riding 19-game errorless streak (63 fielding chances).

At the '05 BIG EAST Tournament – hit 2-for-12 (RBI, 2 R, HBP, K) in games vs. BC (1) and Pittsburgh (2)

In the NCAAs – has limited previous experience in the NCAAs (1 GS/5 GP, 0-for-3, 2 Ks) ... started elimination-game win over UC Irvine (6-5) at the '04 South Bend Regional (0-for-2, 2 Ks) and came off the bench in next win over Kent State ... saw action in 3 of 4 games at '03 Fullerton Regional (0-for-1).

Final Week of Regular Season – hit .333 in 6 GS (7-for-21, 2 RBI, 7 R, 3 2B, BB, HBP, 2 Ks, SB)

'05 BIG EAST Play –hit .242 in 24 GS (23-for-95, 6 RBI, 12 R, HR, 3B, 7 2B, 5 BB, 3 HBP, 15 Ks, 2 SB, 4 SAC, SF, 2 Es)

Post-Finals Stats (in May) – batting .267 (16-for-60) with 5 RBI, 12 R, 5 2B, 4 BB, 2 HBP, 9 Ks, 4 SAC, 3 SB

“Red Ratio” – owns -2 plate-discipline ratio (13 BB + 14 HBP – 29 Ks), with rest of team at +24

Lineup Notes – has made all 55 starts in CF, batting mostly leadoff (33; none in past 3 weeks), plus starts in 9th (6), 2nd (6), 5th (4), 7th (5) and 8th (1) spots

Home and Away – batting 61 points higher in '05 home games (.321/5th on team, 36-for-112, 14 RBI, 29 R, 2 HR, 6 2B, 6 BB, 8 HBP, 13 Ks, 4 SAC, 5 SB, 3 Es) than in all road games (.260, 27-for-104, 8 RBI, 14 R, 2 3B, 5 2B, 7 BB, 6 HBP, 16 Ks, 4 SAC, 4 SB, E)

Monthly Checkup – hit .274 in month of April (23-for-84, 6 RBI, 14 R, HR, 3B, 3 2B, 3 BB, 5 HBP, 11 Ks, 2 SB, 3 Es)

Summer Ball – slated to return to Fayetteville (N.C.) Swamp Dogs of Coastal Plains League during summer of '05

Top '05 Games – helped upset #17 USC with 2-for-4, 3-run game (13-6; RBI, 2B, BB) ... hit 2-for-4 vs. WVU as Irish clinched postseason berth (7-3; RBI, 2 R, 2B) ... snapped 1-for-18 slump vs. Purdue at Coveleski Stadium (4-for-6, HR, SB) ... hit 3-for-6 in series finale vs. Villanova (7-7) ... doubled and scored game-ending run vs. Florida A&M (4-3; 2-for-3) ... hit 3-for-4 vs. Oral Roberts (RBI, R, 2B) as all-tournament pick at Alamo City Irish Baseball Classic (.385, 5-for-13, 2 RBI, 2 R, 2B, 3 BB, HBP, 1-2 SB) ... had 2-run HR for only hit in game-2 vs. Georgetown (1-for-7, SAC) ...hit 3-for-4 vs. Bowling Green.

CODY RIZZO (OF, Jr., Bats: Right, 6-1/200 ... Temecula, CA)

Year	Avg	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.314	58-56	191	53	60	11	1	4	38	85	.445	11	28	33	0	.425	3	1	1-2	4
2004....	.263	52-51	175	39	46	5	1	4	29	65	.371	4	21	30	0	.348	4	1	5-6	5
2005....	.261	56-47	153	41	40	8	1	6	23	68	.444	22	20	33	6	.416	2	1	17-22	4
TOTAL...	.281	166-154	519	133	146	24	3	14	90	218	.420	37	69	96	6	.397	9	3	23-30	13

2005 Team Ranks – leads team with 17 stolen bases while ranking 2nd in HBP (20; 4th in ND history), 3rd in home runs (6), 4th in slugging pct. (.444), on-base pct. (.416), doubles (8), walks (22) and games played (56), and 5th in runs (41) and total bases (68) ... also owns 9 multi-hit games (2 w/ 3 hits) and 4 multi-RBI games (season-high 3-RBI game).

Situational Summary – 4th on team with .447 leadoff on-base pct., 5th in 2-out RBI (12) ... batting .256 with runners on base, .190 with them in scoring position and .246 with 2 outs (12 RBI) ... batting .292 vs. RHPs and .191 vs. LHPs ... 0-for-3 with the bases loaded ... has delivered the RBI 6-of-9 times (67%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs ... 1-for-2 as a pinch-hitter.

Among BIG EAST Stat Leaders – enters NCAAs ranked 7th among BIG EAST players with 17 stolen bases ... late surge landed him 15th among leaders in conference batting avg. (.352), also 3rd in on-base pct. (.514), 4th in slugging pct. (.648) and stolen bases (7), and 8th in home runs (4) – all for conference games ... the Pittsburgh duo of Jim Negrych (1.311) and Ben Copeland (1.205) were the only players with a higher OPS (on-base plus slugging) in BIG EAST games than his 1.162.

At the '05 BIG EAST Tournament – hit 4-for-13 (2 RBI, 2 R, HR, HBP, 2 SB, 6 Ks, E) in games vs. BC (1) and Pittsburgh (2) ... stroked 2-out, 2-run HR for 3-0 lead in 1st inning of title game vs. Pitt (11-4).

Recent Trends – has hits in 11 of past 12 games (.357, 15-for-42, 7 RBI, 11 R, 4 HR, 2 2B, 2 BB, 5 HBP, 4 SB, 2 Es) ... hit just 2 HRs in first 49 games but now has 4 HRs (3 vs. Pitt) in past 10 ... had 7 HBPs in past 15 games (just 13 in first 44)

In the NCAAs – hit a combined .259 (7-for-27) in the '03 and '04 NCAA Regionals (8 GS, 5 RBI, 5 R, 2 HR, 3 BB, 2 Ks, 2 HBP) ... had homered just twice in '04 season prior to the South Bend Regional, when he batted 3-for-13 but hit a pair of HRs in the 4 GS (5 RBI, BB, HBP) ... went 2-for-3 in '04 elimination-game win over UC Irvine, with his 6th-inning leadoff blast (6-4) ultimately providing the winning margin ... tied game (6-6) vs. Arizona the next day, on 3-run shot to left field (UA won, 7-6) ... hit 4-for-14 at the '03 Fullerton Regional (3 R, 2 2B, 2 HBP, 2 Ks) ... batted 2-for-5 to help knock off Arizona in '03 Regional opener (he also made a memorable defensive play in that game, sprinting from RF to shallow CF for full-extension dive and catch) ... hit 2-for-4 vs. Titans in final game of '03 (R, 2B)

Final Week of Regular Season – 5th on team with .350 batting in 6 GS (7-20, 5 RBI, 7 R, 2 HR, 3 2B, 2 BB, 2 HBP, K, SB, E)

In '05 BIG EAST Play – ranked 2nd on team with .353 batting in 22 GP/18 GS (19-for-54, 11 RBI, 19 R, 4 HR, 4 2B, 5 BB, 13 HBP, 8 Ks, 7 SB, 2 Es) ... a .292 career hitter vs. BIG EAST teams (65-for-223, 39 RBI, 6 HR)

Post-Finals Stats (in May) – 3rd on team with .309 batting (17-55), plus 9 RBI, 13 R, 4 HR, 3 2B, 2 BB, 7 HBP, 9 Ks, 6 SB, 2 Es

“Red Ratio” – ranks 4th on team with +9 plate-discipline ratio (22 BB + 20 HBP – 33 Ks)

Lineup Notes – has 36 starts in RF while starting 11 recent games behind the plate (all-state catcher as a prep but previously just 4 starts at C with the Irish, in '03) ... has been batting mostly in the 5th, 6th and 7th spots (15 games each), plus 2 in 8th

Walking Tall – has overcome subpar batting season by getting on base via walks (22) and HBP (20; 4th in ND history) – for .416 on-base pct. (despite hitting just .261), also swiping 17 bases ... first two seasons featured total of just 15 walks and 6 SBs

Milestone Watch – enters NCAAs 10 RBI shy of 100 for his career

Plunksville – already ranks 4th in the NCAA record book with 69 career times hit-by-pitch (record is 92)

Home and Away – batting 47 points higher in 2005 road games (.280, 26-for-93, 16 RBI, 20 R, 4 HR, 3B, 4 2B, 12 BB, 10 HBP, 25 Ks, SAC, 7 SB, 3 Es) than in '05 home games (.233, 14-for-60, 7 RBI, 21 R, 2 HR, 4 2B, 10 BB, 10 HBP, 8 Ks, 10 SB, E)

Monthly Checkup – hit .205 in month of April (8-for-39, 5 RBI, 11 R, HR, 2 2B, 5 BB, 4 HBP, 10 Ks, 3-5 SB, E)

Summer Ball – slated to join teammate Matt Bransfield on Mat-Su Miners of Alaska League in summer of '05 (Matt Edwards played for Mat-Su in '04) ... saw '03 summer with Hays Larks (Jayhawk League) cut short due to injury, dnp in summer of '04.

Top '05 Games – his 5-for-8 series at Pittsburgh included reaching base 4 times and having a hand in 5 runs during 21-1 win (2-for-3, 3 RBI, 3 R, HR, BB, HBP) ... also homered the previous day in 8-5 loss (2-for-3, 2 R, HBP) ... helped secure postseason spot by batting 2-for-3 in final regular-season game vs. WVU (7-3; R, 2B, HBP) ... smacked 2-run HR and hit 3-for-3 to help complete sweep of UConn (3 R, HBP, 2 SB) ... hit 3-for-5 in 13-9 loss to Dayton (RBI, 2 R, HR, 2B, SB) ... helped Irish rally past Northern Illinois (2-for-2, RBI, 2 R, 3B, BB, HBP).