

Notre Dame Baseball Gameday Notes - vs. Memphis (Feb. 25, 2006; Millington, Tenn.)

Today's Game – Notre Dame looks to move to 3-0 while sending sophomore LHP **Wade Korpi** to the mound ... the Irish opened with a 3-0 victory over Indiana State before coming back from a 1-0 midgame deficit to beat Air Force in the first game of the Service Academies Classic (8-2) ... ND now is 12-2 in four all-time trips to the S.A.C. and 39-13 in all-time games played in the state of Tennessee.

Irish Take Aim At 3-0 Start – ND typically faces some challenging early-season games while facing teams that already have been playing for several weeks ... in 18 previous seasons spanning the coaching tenures of Pat Murphy and Paul Mainieri, just three teams in that 18-year stretch have opened 3-0: 1989, 1992 (went to 5-0) and 2004 (7-0) ... the 113 previous seasons in ND baseball history have featured a 3-0 start 29 times, with 11 of those coming early in the 20th century (1896, 1901, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12, '13, '15 and '18), followed by eight more years with 3-0 starts from the 1920s-40s (1921, '22, '23, '29, '31, '36, '38 and '44), plus 1951, '53, '69, '62, '64 and '67) ... in addition to the three Murphy/Mainieri-era 3-0 starts, only three others seasons in the past 19 have featured a 2-0 start (1991, 1994, 2003 and '05) ... Mainieri's past four teams have combined to go 7-1 in the first two games of the '03-'06 seasons.

Quick Starter – Sophomore 2B **Ross Brezovsky** has hit a combined 9-for-26 (.346) in opening-week games during his two seasons with the Irish (8 RBI, 3 R, HR, 3 2B, BB, 4 Ks).

Dynamic Defense – ND's position players have made just one error while turning three double plays (all in the Indiana State game) and then throwing out three attempted basestealers in the Air Force game (all by senior **Cody Rizzo**).

Timely Hitting and Pitching – Here's a look at some key situational stats from after two games in the books:

* ND is batting just .270 as a team but .435 (10-for-23) with runners on base, led by **Greg Lopez** (2-for-3), **Matt Bransfield** (2-for-4) and **Steve Andres** (2-for-4) ... the Irish also are hitting .412 with runners in scoring position (Lopez 2-for-3, Bransfield 2-for-4).

* The ND pitchers have struggled vs. leadoff batters (allowing 9-of-18 to reach) but have buckled down with runners on base (2-for-24 opp. batting, .083), including just 1-for-11 opponent batting with runners in scoring position (.091) ... game-1 starter **Tom Thornton** did not allow a hit with runners on (0-for-8) and also held Indiana State to 1-for-8 batting with 2-outs ... game-2 starter **Jeff Samardzija** held Air Force to 1-for-9 batting with runners on (2-for-7 with 2-outs) ... RH batters are hitting just .207 vs. the Irish pitchers.

Early Long Balls – ND now has hit home runs in the first two games of a season five times in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era (Matt Bransfield homered vs. Indiana State and Ross Brezovsky vs. Air Force) ... Dan Leatherman homered in the 1998 opener vs. Florida State, as did Brant Ust and Jeff Wagner in the next game vs. N.C. State ... the '99 team received an opening-game HR from Brant Ust (vs. James Madison) and in game-2 from Ed Golom (vs. FIU) ... Matt Bok (vs. Missouri) and Andrew Bushey (vs. New Orleans) had the early HRs in 2002, as did Kris Billmaier in 2003 vs. both Dayton (opener) and Newman (2 HRs, in game-2).

Scoring Streak Reaches 212 – Notre Dame now is riding a 212-game scoring streak, has scored in 443 of the past 44 games and has been shut out a total of just six times in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era.

Wade Korpi Notes – Today's starter Wade Korpi was a top middle reliever and midweek starter in 2005, going 4-3 with a 5.47 ERA in 18 appearances (9 GS, 32 Ks, 33 BB, 73 H, 54.1 IP) ... Korpi played during the summer of 2005 with the Staunton (Va.) Braves of the Valley League and pitched vs. Louray Wranglers team that featured his former Santaluces HS and current ND teammate Joey Williamson ... four current Memphis players also were members of the 2005 Louray team (IF Jordan Tolliver), OF/RHP Josh Irvin, 1B Adam Amar and RHP Marcus Davis .. Korpi struck out eight batters in a five-inning stint vs. Central Michigan as a freshman ... he also allowed just a single earned run in 5.0 IP vs. #19 USC.

Notre Dame Baseball 2006 Summer League Commitments (others are TBA)

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

GAME-1 RECAP – Notre Dame 3, Indiana State 0

Tom Thornton's seven shutout innings and a home run from Matt Bransfield highlighted a strong showing from the senior class, as ND won its season opener for the fifth straight season and improved to 8-1 in the past nine season-opening games ... Thornton picked up his 21st career victory, with the 6-foot-6 LHP registering a strong opening-week start for the third straight season (7 H, 0 BB, 5 Ks, 56 of 74 pitches for strikes) ... freshman RHP Kyle Weiland relieved Thornton to pick up the save (2 IP, 7 BF, 3 Ks, double-play ball) .. sophomore RHP Ryan Tatusko took the loss (3 R, 7 H, BB, 3 Ks)

All of ND's big hits came off the bats of seniors, a group which comprised two-thirds of the opening-day lineup ... DH Steve Andres sparked the three-run bottom of the 2nd by pulling a 1-1 pitch into the right-center gap for a leadoff double ... SS Greg Lopez then bunted the runner to third and Bransfield connected firmly on the next pitch from Tatusko for a home run over the leftfield fence.

Alex Nettey followed moments later with out, sending a gapper deep to left-center that tipped off the glove of his lunging counterpart, CF Cory Kral, for a first-pitch double ... another senior OF, Cody Rizzo, then delivered his own two-out hit, slapping a 1-0 pitch into shallow right field for an opposite-field RBI single.

NOTES – Thornton also had strong opening-week starts earlier in his career at USC (in '04) and at Central Florida ('05), with his combined stats in his past three opening-week starts now including a 1.00 ERA, 12 Ks, 5 walks and 16 hits allowed in 18 innings ... ND's previous opening-day shutout also came at USA Baseball Stadium (6-0 vs. Air Force, in 2000) ... after losing the first three season openers of the Paul Mainieri era, the Irish now are 8-4 in season openers during the past 12 seasons ... Notre Dame's new-look batting order included Gaston in the 2-hole, Cooper in the 3rd spot and Lopez batting 5th ... this marks just the third season in the Mainieri era (and second since his debut season, in '95) that the Irish have not featured at least one freshman starting position player ... Thornton dropped his impressive career walk average below 2.00 per 9 IP (1.99; 57 BB in 257.1 IP) ... Thornton has tied former teammate Chris Niesel (21-4) for 12th on the Notre Dame career victories list ... he has the sixth-most wins of any Mainieri-era pitcher, behind Aaron Heilman (43-7), Darin Schmalz (30-13), J.P. Gagne (25-16), Alex Shilliday (25-17) and Niesel ... ND now is 44-9 vs. fellow Indiana-based teams during the Mainieri era.

Indiana State (0-1-0)	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	–	0	7	0
Notre Dame (1-0-0)	0-3-0	0-0-0	0-0-X	–	0	7	1

Ryan Tatusko (L, 0-1), Adam Tyler (8) and Nevin Ashley.

Tom Thornton (W, 1-0), Kyle Weiland (SV, 1) and Sean Gaston.

Home Run: Matt Bransfield, ND (1 on in 2nd; 1st of season, 13th of career). **Doubles:** Steve Andres (ND), Alex Nettey (ND).

GAME-2 RECAP – Notre Dame 8, Air Force 2

Jeff Samardzija held AFA to one run in six innings of work and Ross Brezovsky's three-run shot capped off a six-run top of the 8th, as ND opened play at the Service Academies Classic with an 8-2 victory over the Falcons ... ND faced a 1-0 midgame deficit before surging to the lead with two runs in the 6th ... Steve Andres and fellow senior Greg Lopez provided the key RBI singles in the inning, plating Danny Dressman and Craig Cooper to claim the 2-1 lead.

Samardzija improved to 14-4 in his ND career, yielding only the single run (in the 4th) and four hits while walking four, with a pair of Ks ... the junior RHP located 45 of his 76 pitches for strikes (59%) and worked out of several jams, allowing four leadoff batters to reach but holding Air Force to just 1-for-9 batting with runners on base ... junior Mike Dury (IP, K) and sophomore David Gruener (2 IP, R, K) provided the lefthanded relief for the Irish.

Brezovsky (2-for-4) joined Lopez (2-for-4, 2 RBI, R) and Matt Bransfield (2 RBI, R, 2B) with multiple-RBI days, as eight Irish players combined on a 10-hit attack ... Dressman (2 R, single, 3 BB) had a productive day batting from the 2-hole and Cooper also scored twice (single, HBP) ... ND gave Samardzija all the run support he would need in the two-run top of the 6th ... Dressman coaxed a full-count walk, Cooper followed with a one-out single up the middle and Andres pulled the next pitch into right field to tie the game before Lopez added his own first-pitch RBI, going the other way with a single through the right side that brought Cooper home for the 2-1 lead.

The Irish batted around in the six-run top of the eighth, with Bransfield (2-run double) and Brezovsky proving to be the "killer-B's" by bringing home five of the runs ... Dressman (bunt) and Lopez singled in the inning while Cooper reached on a HBP.

NOTES – The Irish opted to get some different players some game time, with Barnes starting at third, Dressman in center field and Dury at DH (senior Cody Rizzo moved behind the plate, resulting in Andres making a rare start in right field) ... sophomore 3B Brett Lilley, junior C Sean Gaston and senior CF Alex Nettey each were given a day off during the rare four-game trip ... the Irish pitching staff has allowed a total of just two runs in the first two games - matching the 2004 team for the fewest runs allowed in the first two games during the 12-year Paul Mainieri era (the '04 team played just 16 innings in the first two games, due to a rain-shortened game vs. USC) ... the first 11 years of the Mainieri era had seen the Irish yield an average of 14 runs in the first two games of the season ... every other Mainieri-era team, with the exception of 2000 (5) and '04 (2), had allowed at least 11 runs in the first two games ... ND is 12-2 all-time at the Service Academies Classic (previously playing in 1992, '97, '97 and '00) ... the ND pitchers also have combined to allow just a .226 opponent batting average through the first two games of the '06 season.

Notre Dame (2-0)	0-0-0	0-0-2	0-0-0	–	8	10	1
Air Force (5-4)	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-1-0	–	2	7	1

Jeff Samardzija (W, 1-0; 14-4 career), Mike Dury (7), David Gruener (8) and Cody Rizzo.

Mitch Brown (L, 2-2), Juan Perez (8), Paul Pratt (8) and Jon Polston.

HR: Ross Brezovsky, ND (2 on in 8th; 1st of season, 3rd of career). **2B:** Matt Bransfield (ND), Dustin Smith (AF), Price Paramore (AF).

Notre Dame 2006 Baseball Statistics

Record: 2-0 Home: 0-0 Away: 0-0 Neutral: 2-0 Conference: 0-0

Player	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	PO	A	E
6 Danny Dressman...	.500	1-1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	.500	3	0	0	0	.800	0	0	0-0	2	0	0
7 Ross Brezovsky...	.429	2-2	7	1	3	0	0	1	3	6	.857	0	0	0	0	.429	0	0	0-0	4	6	0
36 Steve Andres.....	.375	2-2	8	1	3	1	0	0	1	4	.500	0	0	2	0	.375	0	0	0-0	3	0	0
4 Greg Lopez.....	.333	2-2	6	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	.333	0	0	0	0	.333	0	1	0-0	6	4	1
16 Alex Nettey.....	.333	1-1	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	.667	0	0	0	0	.333	0	0	0-0	1	0	0
12 Matt Bransfield..	.286	2-2	7	2	2	1	0	1	4	6	.857	0	0	2	1	.286	0	0	0-0	3	1	0
17 Cody Rizzo.....	.286	2-2	7	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	.286	0	0	2	0	.286	0	0	0-1	8	3	0
9 Craig Cooper.....	.250	2-2	8	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	.250	0	1	0	0	.333	0	0	0-1	16	1	0
20 Jeremy Barnes....	.200	1-1	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	.200	0	0	0	0	.200	0	0	0-0	2	1	0
2 Brett Lilley.....	.000	1-1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	.000	0	0	0-0	1	3	0
44 Mike Dury.....	.000	1-1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	1	0-0	0	0	0
11 Sean Gaston.....	.000	1-1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1	0	0	0	.250	0	0	0-0	8	0	0

14 Eddy Mendiola....	.000	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0	1	0
45 Jeff Samardzija..	.000	1-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
29 David Gruener....	.000	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
30 Tom Thornton.....	.000	1-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0	0	1
33 Kyle Weiland.....	.000	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0	1	0
Totals.....	.270	2-2	63	11	17	3	0	2	11	26	.413	4	1	7	1	.324	0	2	0-2	54	21	2
Opponents.....	.226	2-2	62	2	14	2	0	0	2	16	.258	4	1	12	2	.284	0	0	2-5	51	18	1

Team Fielding Pct. - ND .974, Opp. .986.

LOB - Team (8), Opp (11). DPs turned - Team (3), Opp (1). IBB - Team (0), Opp (1). Picked off - R. Brezovsky 1.

Player	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO/CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	B/Avg	WP	HBP	BK	SFA	SHA
30 Tom Thornton.....	0.00	1-0	1	1	0	0/1	0	7.0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	24	.208	0	0	0	0	0
33 Kyle Weiland.....	0.00	0-0	1	0	0	0/1	1	2.0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	7	.286	0	0	0	0	0
44 Mike Dury.....	0.00	0-0	1	0	0	0/0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	.000	0	0	0	0	0
45 Jeff Samardzija..	1.50	1-0	1	1	0	0/0	0	6.0	4	1	1	4	2	1	0	0	19	.211	0	1	0	0	0
29 David Gruener....	4.50	0-0	1	0	0	0/0	0	2.0	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	9	.333	1	0	0	0	0
Totals.....	1.00	2-0	2	2	0	1/1	1	18.0	14	2	2	4	12	2	0	0	62	.226	1	1	0	0	0
Opponents.....	5.29	0-2	2	2	0	0/0	0	17.0	17	11	10	4	7	3	0	2	63	.270	1	1	0	0	2

Pickoffs - Team (0), Opp (1). SBA/ATT - Cody Rizzo (1-4), J Samardzija (1-4), Tom Thornton (1-1), Sean Gaston (1-1).

STEVE ANDRES (LF/DH, Sr., 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	.281	41/28	112	28	26	8	1	5	25	51	.455	21	7	22	0	.383	1	0	0-0	0
2006	.375	2/2	8	1	3	1	0	0	1	4	.500	0	0	2	0	.375	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	.282	143/108	393	93	111	24	7	17	87	200	.509	84	22	95	3	.430	6	1	6-12	5

Opening Week – hit .296 in '03-'05 opening-week games (8-for-27, 2 HR, 12 R, 4 RBI, 3B, 2B, 4 BB, 7 Ks, 0-1 SB).

Home & Away – hit 34 points 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 (.216, 17-for-74, 16 RBI, 19 R, 4 HR, 5 2B, 12 BB, 6 HBP, 18 Ks) ... 4 of his 5 HRs, 16 of 25 RBI in '05 came on road ... 11 of his 17 career HRs have come outside of Eck Stadium ... hit well on the road in 2004 (.317, 3 HR, 21 RBI, 20 BB).

2005 Team Ranks – finished 3rd on team in slugging pct. (.455), 4th in home runs (5) and 5th in walks (21).

Lineup Notes – has opened 2006 season batting in cleanup spot (he hit in the 4th spot 27 times in his first three seasons) ... his '05 starts included 18 in LF, 9 as DH, 1 at C (totaled 59 starts in LF from '03-'05) ... made 13 starts in '05 as cleanup batter, with other starts in the 3rd (8), 5th (4), 7th (2) and 8th (1) spots.

A Little Extra – totaled more extra-base hits (14; 5 HR, 3B, 8 2B) than singles (12) in the 2005 season ... his career totals include 63 singles and 48 extra-base hits (17 HR, 7 3B, 24 2B).

Plate Discipline – ranked 5th on 2005 team with a +6 plate-discipline ratio (19 BB + 6 HBP – 19 Ks), +11 for career.

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 .279 career batting avg.

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

MATT BRANSFIELD (LF/DH, Sr., Bats: Right, 6-1/200 ... 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....	.313	32/29	96	14	30	6	0	0	16	36	.375	10	7	17	4	.409	2	2	1-1	1
2005....	.308	2/2	7	2	2	1	0	1	4	6	.857	0	0	2	1	.286	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL...	.308	126/102	380	73	117	22	3	13	88	184	.484	35	19	68	6	.386	9	4	1-4	1

Home and Away – hit 77 points higher in '05 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 (.268, 11-for-41, 5 RBI, 8 R, 2 2B, 4 BB, 2 HBP, 10 Ks, SAC, 2 SF) ... had solid .306 batting avg. in 2004 road games (7 HR, 30 RBI).

2005 Team Ranks – finished 4th in batting avg. (.313) and on-base pct. (.409) ... missed 18 games after suffering broken hand in season opener.

Situational Summary – led 2005 team with .448 batting vs. LHPs (.254 vs. RHPs) ... also 2nd on team in leadoff on-base pct. (.542), and 4th in batting with runners on (.321) ... hit .286 in '05 with 2 outs, 2-for-8 (.250) with the bases loaded ... delivered RBI 7-of-10 times with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

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 was 9-for-32/.281).

Plate Discipline – owns a -14 career plate-discipline ratio (35 BB + 19 HBP – 68 Ks), including +2 in 2005.

Lineup Notes – his 27 starts in '05 included 21 at DH (6 at C, 2 at 1B) ... made 10 starts in '05 batting cleanup, 12 in the 6-hole, 5 in 5-hole (also batted 7th in pair of postseason games).

Summer Ball – joined Cody Rizzo as member of Mat-Su Miners of Alaska League in summer of '05, earning all-league honors while leading team in slugging (.469) and doubles (12), 2nd in RBI (3), 3rd in batting (.312) and on-base (.409).

ROSS BREZOVSKY (2B, So., 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....	.261	56/53	188	35	49	8	2	2	20	67	.356	17	4	42	11	.329	4	6	3-5	13
2005....	.429	2/2	7	1	3	0	0	1	3	6	.857	0	0	0	0	.429	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL...	.267	58/55	195	36	52	8	2	3	23	73	.374	17	4	42	11	.332	4	6	3-5	13

Opening Week – had a solid start to his college career while playing in his home state of Florida during 2005 opening week, batting 6-for-16 (.375) with 5 RBI and 3 doubles (2 R, BB, 4 Ks)

Home and Away – hit 34 points higher on the road (.278, 30-for-108, 11 RBI, 18 R, HR, 3 3B, 4 2B, 4 BB, 4 HBP, 24 Ks, 2 SAC, SB, 9 Es) than at home (.244, 19-for-78, 9 RBI, 17 R, HR, 3 2B, 13 BB, 14 Ks, 4 SAC, 2 SB, 4 Es) in '05 season.

2005 Team Ranks – finished as team co-leader with 2 triples, also ranking 4th in doubles (8) and 5th in sac. bunts (6) ... hit .320 in 2005 vs. LHPs (.239 vs. RHPs).

Plate Discipline – owned -21 plate-discipline ratio in '05 (17 BB + 4 HBP – 42 Ks) ... yet to record a BB, HBP or K in '06

Lineup Notes – his 53 starts in '05 included 15 at 3B, 34 at 2B and 3 at SS (plus a single start at LF) ... hit mostly at bottom of the order (24 in 8-hole, 13 in 9th and 12 in 7-hole), plus 4 as leadoff hitter (early-season).

Summer Ball – joined classmate David Gruener as member of Hays (Kan.) Larks in Jayhawk League, during summer of '05 ... slated to return to Hays in summer of 2006.

CRAIG COOPER (1B/OF, Sr., Bats: R, 6-2/210 ... Plainview, NY)

2006 Preseason First Team All-BIG EAST Selection (*Baseball America*)

Second Team All-BIG EAST ('04; 3rd team in '05) ... Two-time BIG EAST Batting Champ

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....	.325	60/58	209	48	68	14	1	7	58	105	.502	33	14	22	6	.446	2	4	14-17	3
2005....	.250	2/2	8	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	.250	0	1	0	0	.333	0	0	0-1	0
TOTAL...	.331	166/137	514	114	170	33	4	17	121	262	.510	73	21	67	9	.443	4	10	36-48	6

Opening Week – hit .308 in opening-week games his first three seasons (8-for-26, 3 RBI, 3 R, 2B, 4 BB, 6 Ks, 4-6 SB).

Home and Away – had similar 2005 batting avg. in road games (team-best .312, 39-for-125, 25 RBI, 27 R, 4 HR, 9 2B, 19 BB, 4 HBP, 15 Ks, 6 SB, 3 SAC,E) and at home (.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).

Double Distinction – repeated as BIG EAST batting champ in '05 (.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 Marteese 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 – finished 2nd among ND players in six categories – slugging pct. (.502), RBI (58), home runs (7), doubles (14), stolen bases (14) and total bases (105) – also ranking 3rd in batting avg. (.325), on-base pct. (.446), runs (48), hits (68) and walks (33), 4th in hit-by-pitch (14) and games played (60), and 5th in HBPs (14) starts (58) ... shares team lead with 17 multiple-RBI games (2 w/ 5 RBI, 2 w/ 3 RBI), also 3rd with 16 multi-hit games (7 w/ 3 hits).

Among '05 BIG EAST Stat Leaders – 3rd among league's players in overall RBI (58) ... also surged to 7th among BE players with a .446 overall on-base pct. ... repeated as BIG EAST leader in conf. 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 league finished with higher OPS (on-base + slugging) in '05 BE games.

Situational Summary – finished 2nd on '05 team in batting with runners in scoring position (.434) ... also was 2nd on team in 2-out batting (.369) and 2-out RBI (17), 5th in leadoff on-base pct. (.419) ... hit .323 vs. RHPs and .333 vs. LHPs ... 2-for-8 (.250) with the bases loaded ... delivered RBI 22-of-30 times (73%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

Plate Discipline – ranked 2nd on 2005 team with +25 plate-discipline ratio (33 BB + 14 HBP – 22 Ks), after totaling just a +1 in his first two seasons combined ... currently owns a +27 career plate-discipline ratio (73 BB, 21 HBP, 67 Ks)

Lineup Notes – starts in '05 included 23 in RF, 20 in LF (15), plus starts at 1B (9), CF (4) and DH (2) ... made 12 starts in '05 as leadoff batter, also cleanup (23), 5th (8), 6th (7), 7th (3) and 3rd spots (5) ... has opened 2006 season as 3-hole hitter, a spot occupied for most of 2005 by the departed Matt Edwards.

Summer Ball – returned to Cape Cod League's Brewster Whitecaps in summer of 2005.

**SEAN GASTON (C, Jr., Bats: Left, 6-0/175 ... Brownsburg, IN)
Cape Cod League 2005 All-Star (Cotuit Kettleers)**

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	50/43	164	27	48	5	1	1	27	55	.355	5	4	16	4	.326	2	7	4-4	4
2006....	.000	1/1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1	0	0	0	.250	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL...	.295	74/56	224	38	66	8	1	1	38	76	.353	11	4	26	4	.335	3	7	8-8	5

Opening Week – did not play in '04 opening-week games batting 0-for-9 in '05 opening-week games (2 RBI, 3 R, BB, K).

Home and Away – hit 30 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 road games (.280/4th on team, 26-for-93, 14 RBI, 18 R, 3B, 2 2B, 3 BB, 4 HBP, 10 Ks, 3 SAC, SB, 3 Es)

2005 Team Ranks – finished 3rd on 2005 team in sacrifice bunts (7), 4th in RBI (28) and 5th in batting avg. (.293) ... ranked 4th on 2005 team in 2-out RBI (15) and batting with runners in scoring position (.322), 5th in 2-out batting (.302) and 5th with .296 batting vs. RHPs (.282 vs. LHPs).

Lineup Notes – made all 43 of his starts at catcher while batting all over the lineup, with 12 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

Plate Discipline – owned a -8 plate-discipline ratio in '05 (5 BB + 3 HBP – 16 Ks), with a -11 currently for his career.

Summer Ball – joined classmate Jeff Manship as member of Cape Cod League's Cotuit Kettleers in summer of '05, earning CCL all-star honors and being named Cotuit's team MVP while batting .298 (12 RBI, .328 on-base).

**BRETT LILLEY (3B, So., Bats: Left, 5-7/165 ... North Canton, OH)
BIG EAST 2005 Freshman of the Year ... Freshman All-American**

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2005....	.355	63/63	214	56	76	5	0	0	28	81	.379	34	30	33	2	.502	1	9	9-18	14
2005....	.000	1/1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL...	.349	64/64	218	56	76	5	0	0	28	81	.372	34	30	33	2	.502	1	9	9-18	14

Opening Week – hit 4-for-13 in games vs. Florida A&M and UCF that opened '05 season (3 R, BB, K, 0-1 SB, 4 HBP).

Home & Away – hit significantly higher (107 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 road games (.308/2nd on team, 37-for-120, 16 RBI, 26 R, 3 2B, 16 BB, 20 HBP, 19 Ks, 3 SAC, 2 SB, 6 Es).

At 2005 NCAA Gainesville Regional – joined RHP Dan Kapala as ND's selections for the all-regional team, after batting 5-for-12 (3 RBI, 2 R, 4 HBP, K, 2 Es).

2005 Team Ranks – led team in batting (.355), on-base pct. (.502; 9th in ND history), HBP (30; ND record) and sac. bunts (9), also 2nd in hits (76), runs (56) and walks (34), 4th in RBI (28), stolen bases (9) and total bases (81) ... third ND freshman (second since '71) ever to lead ND in batting ... joined Matt Edwards as only players to start all 63 games (Greg Lopez was only other with 63 GP) ... 2nd on team with 20 multi-hit games (5-hit vs. Cincinnati, 1 w/ 4 hits, 5 w/ 3 hits), 3rd with 9 multi-RBI games ... led team in 2-out batting (.439, 12 RBI) and batting with runners in scoring position (.448) ... also led team with .368 batting vs. RHPs (4th with .323 vs. LHPs), plus 3rd in leadoff on-base pct. (.515) ... 2-for-6 with the bases loaded ... delivered RBI 11-of-15 times (73%/2nd on team) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs ... 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. (.502), also leading all BIG EAST freshmen in walks (34; 6th overall) and batting avg. (.355; 9th overall) ... ranked 6th among BE players with 56 runs scored ... in conference games only, he finished 7th (tops among freshmen) in walks (14) and on-base pct. (.460).

Plate Discipline – owned team-best +31 plate-discipline ratio in 2005 (34 BB + 30 HBP – 33 Ks)

Lineup Notes – made first 28 starts in '05 at 2B before starting final 35 games at 3B, with the Irish going 24-10-1 in that stretch ... hit mostly in the 2-hole (51), plus 11 starts at leadoff (including the late WVU series and one game at the BET).

Great Glove Man – had 51 error-free games in '05, including 21-game span without an error (96 fielding chances) from March 24-April 21 ... made just a single E in '05 BIG EAST regular-season (24 GP, plus no Es in 3 GP at the BET).

In the Record Books – his 30 HBP in '05 set ND record (besting Cody Rizzo's 28 in '03) and rank 4th in NCAA record book while his .502 season OB pct. ranks 10th in ND history, just shy of the ND freshman record set by Eric Danapilis in '90 (.509) ... totaled 64 free passes (also 34 BB) to go along with his 76 hits in '05 (140 total times on base).

Summer Ball – slated to play with Cotuit Kettleers in Cape Cod League summer of '06 ... played briefly with the Delaware (Ohio) Cows of the Great Lakes League before halting his 2005 summer season due to back injury.

GREG LOPEZ (SS, Sr. ... Bats: R, 6-0/190 ... Upper Arlington, OH)

Third Team All-BIG EAST in 2004 ... Academic All-America Candidate in 2006 ... Second-Year Team Captain

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....	.274	63/62	208	35	57	7	1	2	34	72	.346	11	16	44	3	.347	7	7	0-2	23
2006....	.333	2/2	6	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	.333	0	0	0	0	.333	0	1	0-0	1
TOTAL...	.290	174/161	545	92	158	22	1	4	96	194	.356	29	29	98	8	.351	12	26	5-12	52

Opening Week – hit a combined .364 (8-for-22) during 2003-05 opening-week games (3 RBI, 5 R, 3 Ks, 1-2 SB).**Home and Away** – hit 28 points higher in 2005 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 road games (.261, 29-for-111, 18 RBI, 12 R, HR, 2B, 8 BB, 5 HBP, 23 Ks, 5 SAC, 7 Es) ... had an impressive season hitting on the road in 2004 (.395, 22 RBI, 26 R).**2005 Team Ranks** – one of three players who appeared in all 63 games of '05 season ... ranks 3rd on team in RBI (34), HBP (16, 5th in ND history), sac. bunts (7) and games started (62), also 5th in hits (57) and total bases (72) ... his 8 multi-RBI games ranked 5th on team, as did his 13 multi-hit games (5 w/ 3 hits) ... ranked 3rd on team in batting vs. LHPs (.333; compared to .250 vs. RHPs).**At the '05 BIG EAST Tournament** – hit 4-for-10 (K, SAC) in games vs. BC (1) and Pittsburgh (2) ... owns a .400 career batting average at the BIG EAST Tournament (10-for-25, RBI, 2 E, 2 HBP, 3 Ks).**For the Glove of the Game** – his 47 error-free games in '05 included 15 to open season and 1 E in 19 games prior to Michigan game ... played error-free throughout 2005 postseason (7 GP) ... had only four multiple-error games in '05 (none 3-plus) ... totaled 42 E-free games in '04 (85 in '04-'05)**Hitting Ball & Books** – candidate for Academic All-America honors (3.39 GPA; anthropology/pre-professional science)**Lineup Notes** – had 59 starts in '05 at SS (plus 3 at 3B, in midseason) while batting in the 9th (35), 8th (24), 7th (2) and 2nd (1) spots ... has opened 2006 as 5-hole hitter, after hitting mostly near bottom of order for most of his career.**Milestone Watch** – needs four more RBI for the 100th of his ND career, also eight runs shy of 100 ... tied with Craig Counsell for 3rd in ND history with 38 total sacrifices, nine shy of Cory Mee's record ... also ranks 9th in ND history for career fielding assists (412), 5th in sac. bunts (26) and 8th in HBPs (29).**Plate Discipline** – owned a -17 plate-discipline ratio in 2005 (11 BB + 16 HBP – 44 Ks) ... now owns a -40 career plate-discipline ratio (29 BB, 29 HBP, 98 Ks).**Summer Ball** – one of several ND players who was slated to play in Cape Cod League (Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox) during summer of '05 (dnp due to injury) ... played for Delaware (Ohio) Cows of Great Lakes League in summer of '04.**ALEX NETTEY (CF, Sr., 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....	.288	60/59	226	44	65	11	2	2	24	87	.381	14	15	29	5	.367	1	9	12-19	5
2005....	.333	1/1	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	.667	0	0	0	0	.333	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL...	.268	118/78	313	65	84	17	2	2	32	112	.355	21	19	43	6	.350	1	10	15-22	5

Opening Week – hit 4-for-7 in limited duty during 2003-05 opening-week games (RBI, 2 R, 2B, 1-2 SB).**Home and Away** – hit 67 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 road games (.254, 29-for-114, 10 RBI, 16 R, 2 3B, 5 2B, 8 BB, 7 HBP, 16 Ks, 5 SAC, 7 SB, 2 Es).**2005 Team Ranks** – shared team lead in triples (2) and sac. bunts (9/4th in BIG EAST), 3rd in doubles (11), stolen bases (12) and total bases (86), 4th in hits (65), runs (44), HBP (15), games played (60) and started (59) ... also 4th on team with 15 multi-hit games ... ranked 4th on '05 team with .305 batting vs. RHPs (.237 vs. LHPs) ... advanced baserunners 55% of the time (5th-best on team) ... compiled a .418 leadoff on-base pct. while batting .273 with runners in scoring position and .219 with 2 outs (5 RBI).**Plate Discipline** – finished with an even plate-discipline ratio in 2005 (14 BB + 15 HBP – 29 Ks) ... currently owns a -3 career plate-discipline ratio (21 BB, 19 HBP, 43 Ks).**Lineup Notes** – made all 59 starts in 2005 in CF, batting mostly leadoff (33), plus starts in 9th (6), 2nd (6), 5th (4), 7th (8) and 8th (2) spots.**Summer Ball** – played for Fayetteville (N.C.) Swamp Dogs of Coastal Plains League during summers of '04 and '05.

CODY RIZZO (RF/C, Sr., Bats: Right, 6-1/195 ... 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....	.252	60/50	163	41	41	8	1	6	24	68	.423	22	21	35	7	.404	2	1	17-23	6
2006....	.286	2/2	7	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	.286	0	0	2	7	.286	0	0	0-1	0
TOTAL...	.278	172/159	536	133	149	24	3	14	92	221	.412	37	70	100	7	.393	9	3	23-31	15

Opening Week – compiled .423 batting avg. in '03-'05 opening-week games (11-26, 8 RBI, 4 R, HR, 2B, 4 BB, 7 Ks, 1-1 SB).

Home and Away – hit 29 points higher in 2005 road games (.262, 27-for-103, 17 RBI, 20 R, 4 HR, 3B, 4 2B, 12 BB, 11 HBP, 27 Ks, SAC, 7 SB, 5 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).

2005 Team Ranks – led team with 17 stolen bases while ranking 2nd in HBP (21; 4th in ND history), 3rd in home runs (6), 4th in slugging pct. (.423), doubles (8) and walks (22), and 5th in runs (41) and on-base pct. (.404).

Situational Summary – finished 4th on '05 team with .436 leadoff on-base pct., 5th in 2-out RBI (13) ... hit .190 with runners in scoring position and .246 with 2 outs (12 RBI) ... batted .281 vs. RHPs and .184 vs. LHPs ... 0-for-4 with the bases loaded ... delivered RBI 6-of-10 times (60%) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs ... 1-for-2 as a pinch-hitter.

Among BIG EAST Stat Leaders – 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.

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).

Plate Discipline – ranked 4th on 2005 team with a +9 plate-discipline ratio (22 BB + 21 HBP – 33 Ks) ... currently owns a +7 career plate-discipline ratio (37 BB, 70 HBP, 100 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 ... made 91 starts in RF during his first three seasons.

Walking Tall – overcame subpar 2005 batting season by getting on base via walks (22) and HBP (21; 4th in ND history) – for .404 on-base pct. (despite hitting just .252), also swiping 17 bases ... first two seasons featured total of just 15 walks and 6 SBs.

Milestone Watch – eight RBI shy of 100 for his career.

Plunksville – already ranks 4th in the NCAA record book with 70 career times hit-by-pitch (record is 92), needing four to tie former Texas player Jeff Ontiveros ('99-'02).

Summer Ball – joined ND 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).