

Post Game Notes
Notre Dame vs. Cincinnati
April 25, 2010

- Senior David Mills' (Battle Creek, Mich.) walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth inning was the first for the Irish since Evan Sharpley ended Notre Dame's March 4, 2008 contest against Maine (in West Palm Beach, Fla.) with a solo home run in the bottom of the 10th. The walk-off jack was the first at home for Notre Dame since Alex Nettey smacked a two-run homer to beat St. John's, 7-5, on April 15, 2006, in the 17th win of Notre Dame's 23-game winning streak that season.
- With 1.2 scoreless innings in the first game of the doubleheader, Mills extended his scoreless streaks to seven outings and 9.2 innings. He also did not walk a batter and has now faced 63 consecutive batters without issuing a base on balls.
- Should Mills keep his walk-to-strikeout ratio from the plate (20 BB, 10 SO) at or above 2.00, he would be the first Irish player to accomplish the feat since A.J. Pollock recorded a 2.40 ratio (24 BB, 10 SO) in 2008 and just the third to do so in the last eight seasons (the other was Craig Cooper, who walked 38 times and struck out just 14 times in 2006). Mills has walked seven times since his last punchout.
- Senior Ryan Connolly (Binghamton, N.Y.) recorded a career-best five hits in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader. He ended the doubleheader reaching base in eight of his last nine plate appearances; Connolly's five consecutive hits in game two comprised a longer streak of reaching base in consecutive plate appearances than he had in his entire 47-game stretch of reaching base safely. The ending of that streak has only affected the left fielder positively, as he immediately started a new three-game streak and batted .615 (8-for-13) in the series.
- Connolly became the first Irish player to collect five hits in a game since A.J. Pollock on March 21, 2007 (5-for-6 against Western Michigan); he is the first to go a perfect 5-for-5 since Craig Cooper did so on April 29, 2006 at Connecticut. He becomes the 32nd different Notre Dame baseball player to amass at least five hits in a single game (34 total occurrences, as Tom Sheehan and Randall Brooks each accomplished the feat twice).
- Notre Dame held Cincinnati without a home run in the doubleheader, extending the Irish pitching staff's home run free stretch to 10 games and 405 batters. The streak is the longest since the 2006 Irish staff went 24 straight games without allowing a long ball. The final 11 of those games were the first 11 games the aforementioned 23-game winning streak that season. The 2006 team allowed just 18 home runs all year, the fewest since the 1990 squad yielded 15.
- Cincinnati's first run in game one came with two outs before the Bearcats plated their first ninth-inning run with one out, snapping the streak of two-out runs scored against the Irish at 17 consecutive runs.
- Sophomore Steve Sabatino (Lockport, Ill.) yielded just an earned run in 5.2 innings and senior Eric Maust (Alpharetta, Ga.) tossed 5.0 shutout frames in Saturday's doubleheader, continuing the recent stretch of solid starting pitching for the Fighting Irish. Over the last nine games, Notre Dame's starters have recorded a 2.78 ERA (14 ER in 45.1 IP), allowing four earned runs or less in all nine tilts. In the series, junior Brian Dupra (Rochester, N.Y.), Sabatino, and Maust combined to go 1-0 with a 1.50 ERA and 21 strikeouts in 18.0 innings. The Bearcats batted just .210 (13-for-62) against the trio.
- In addition to collecting seven hits in the doubleheader, Connolly was also hit by a pitch for the 14th time this season. The 14 HBP are the 13th most in a single season in Irish history; with one more, Connolly will tie Eric Danapilis (1993), Javi Sanchez (2004), and Alex Nettey (2005) for 10th place. Connolly has been plunked 24 times in his career and needs six more to crack the ND career top-10 in that category.
- Maust needed just 5.0 innings to tie his career high in strikeouts against Cincinnati, recording the sixth when Bearcat second baseman Jamel Scott bunted foul with two strikes (and nobody on base). He also fanned six versus West Virginia on April 20, 2008 and against Lehigh on March 6 of that same season.
- Maust once again faced tough luck and was not able to pick up the win, suffering from a blown save for the second time in three starts. His last victory came in his final start of 2009, a 6-5 win over Louisville in the BIG EAST Tournament.
- Maust held his opponent without a run in the start for the fifth time in his career and the first time this season.
- Mills and freshman second baseman Frank DeSico (Cleveland, Ohio) each avoided the "K" once again in the doubleheader; Mills has now gone 74 consecutive plate appearances without striking out, while DeSico has fanned just once in his last 74 trips to the plate.
- The Irish won a three-game series over Cincinnati for the first time ever, although this is only the fourth three-game set between the two teams. Cincinnati took two of three from Notre Dame in each of the past three seasons, twice at Cincinnati and once at Frank Eck Stadium. The teams have tended to play low-scoring contests lately, as they have combined for more than 10 runs in a game just once in the last four seasons (12 games).
- Senior Brayden Ashdown (Tucson, Ariz.) tied his career high with three hits in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader. He also collected three base hits against Bowling Green on April 29, 2009, versus Illinois State on May 12 of the same season (a game in which he homered and scored four runs), and at St. John's two days later.
- Connolly and Ashdown combined to go 11-for-16 (.688) in the doubleheader and 13-for-24 (.542) in the series.
- Notre Dame recorded 10 total sacrifices (seven sacrifice bunts, three sac flies) in the series, by far the most in a BIG EAST series this season (previous high was two). The Irish last had more sac bunts in a BIG EAST series against Pittsburgh in 2006 (nine from 3/31-4/2), last had more sac flies versus Georgetown in 2007 (four from 4/13-4/15), and last had more total sacrifices in the aforementioned Pittsburgh series (11). Notre Dame has a chance to break the school record of 41 sacrifice flies this season (26 to date).