

**Notre Dame Baseball  
"By the Numbers"**

- 3,210**  
All-time varsity baseball games
- 1892**  
First varsity baseball season
- 1620**  
ESPN Radio WDND (AM) – and its sister station WNDV 1490 – are scheduled to broadcast all of the 2004 ND baseball season
- 2,166**  
Innings played in center field by Steve Stanley during 1999-2002 seasons (out of 2,191)
- 1,032**  
Combined college starts by the 2002 eight-member senior class
- 816**  
All-time letterwinners
- 731**  
Paul Mainieri's career coaching wins
- 478**  
Record-setting strikeout total by '99 staff
- 425**  
Aaron Heilman's record-setting career strikeout total
- .406**  
Dan Peltier's ND record for career batting avg.
- 315**  
David Sinnes' career K record (pre-Heilman)
- 279**  
All-time Notre Dame opponents
- 256**  
Steve Stanley's streak of consecutive games started, second in NCAA history
- 239**  
Alec Porzel's record total for games played (prior to Stanley's 256)
- 238**  
J.J. Brock's record total for games started (prior to Stanley's 256)
- 204**  
Pat Pesavento's record consec. starts (pre-Stanley)
- 118**  
Heilman's record season K total ('99, '00)
- 80**  
Winning seasons (out of 111)
- 73**  
Record-setting home run total by 1997 team
- 72.3**  
Team winning percentage in the 1990s
- 50**  
Victory total in 2002 College World Series season
- 49**  
Jeff Wagner's career home run record
- 43**  
States on all-time monogram winner list
- 36**  
Games needed by 2001 squad to reach 30 wins (team record)
- +36**  
Notre Dame's most games over .500 in a season (43-7-1; May 5, 2001)

**ACADEMICS** – The Notre Dame baseball squad posted a 3.15 team GPA in the '03 fall semester, led by 20 at 3.0-plus (12 at 3.4-plus). Irish players have earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors 19 times since '82, with an unmatched two honorees each of the last four years: 2B **Jeff Perconte** (3.76 GPA, econ./gov't; ND Law grad) and LHP **Mike Naumann** (3.92, pre-prof. science; three 4.0 semesters; Baylor Medical School) in 2000; Naumann (joining Perconte as elite 1st-teamer); and LF **Brian Stavisky** in '01; 3B **Andrew Bushey** (3.43, finance) and Stavisky (3.50, management) in '02; and current senior 2B **Steve Sollmann** (3.30, marketing) and RHP **J.P. Gagne** (3.40, finance) in '03. Top '04 candidates include Sollmann, junior RHP **Grant Johnson** (3.36, marketing) and four sophomores in the College of Arts and Letters: the DH/OF/C duo of **Matt Bransfield** (3.34) and **Steve Andres** (3.40), SS **Greg Lopez** (3.36) and LHP **Tom Thornton** (3.36).

**ALL-AMERICANS** – Notre Dame players have combined for 40 major All-America awards (27 in last six seasons). RHP **Aaron Heilman** owns 12, twice named third team All-America by *Collegiate Baseball* while earning '99 third-team honors from the American Baseball Coaches before earning All-America from *CB*, the *ABCA*, *Baseball America* and National College Baseball Writers in '00 and consensus honors in '01 (including *USA Today*). Sophomore 3B **Brant Ust** was an *ABCA*, *BA* and *NCBWA* third-team All-American in '98 while CF **Steve Stanley** earned '01 All-America from *USA Today* (2nd team) and *BA* (3rd team) and the consensus nod in '02. RHPs **Chris Niesel** and **J.P. Gagne** joined current senior 2B **Steve Sollmann** as *NCBWA* third team All-Americans in '03 (Niesel was 2nd team from *CB*, Sollmann from *ABCA*).

**ANSON** – Brothers **Sturgis** and **Cap Anson** helped popularize baseball at Notre Dame in 1866 (Cap later became one of pro baseball's most dynamic players). Notre Dame began playing off-campus competition in 1888 and the first varsity game was held April 21, 1892, a 6-4 home win over Michigan.

**AVOIDING 0-and-2** – The 9th-inning rally vs. Rice at the '02 College World Series helped avoid the only 0-2 effort at a postseason tournament in the nine-year tenure of coach Paul Mainieri (now nine conference tournaments, six regionals, a super regional and the CWS). The Irish have gone 0-2 at a postseason tournament just twice all-time (of 38): the '49 NCAA first round (vs. Wake Forest) and in '60 vs. Minnesota and Ohio State (district playoffs). ND avoided 0-2 in each of its last 31 postseason tournaments (since '60) and in 18 of last 19 regular-season tournaments (0-2 just three times in 24 under Mainieri). Notre Dame played 28 straight tourneys (regular-season and postseason) without starting 0-2, from '97-'02.

**ALUMNI AWARDS** – Four with ties to the Irish baseball program have been recent recipients of awards from the Notre Dame Alumni Association. Former 1B/OF **Jim Gillis** ('51; see p. 141) received the '03 Harvey Foster Award (given to athletes, or those in athletic endeavors, for distinguished civic/University activities). A longtime organizer for the ND Club of Los Angeles, Gillis served two terms on the Monogram Club board and is president and owner of Gillis Broadcasting (he served in the FBI, at the urging of the award's namesake Harvey Foster). Former SS/3B **Harry Durkin** ('53) received the '03 Richard Rosenthal Award (given to former Alumni Association board members for exemplary activity). The retired trial lawyer was president of the ND clubs of New Jersey and Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) before representing Region 17 on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors (he now serves as regional director of ND Senior Alumni). **Frank Eck** ('44) – benefactor of ND's baseball stadium (Eck Stadium) and several other campus facilities (see pp. 76-77) – received the '03 Sorin Award (given for distinguished service to the University). Former ND pitcher **Angelo Capozzi** ('54) received the '01 Dooley Award, recognizing his outstanding service to humankind with medical missions in underdeveloped countries (he co-founded Rotoplast International reconstructive surgery, in '92).



**ALUMNI** – Notre Dame's 816 baseball monogram winners include several who have gone on to successful administrative careers: executive director of the ND Alumni Association Chuck Lennon (C, '60-'61); former ND assistant V.P. for special events Jim Gibbons (P/OF, '52-'53); former U.S. Congressman from Ohio Ron Mottl (RHP, '55); Mid-American Conference commissioner Rick Chryst (OF, '81-'83); Xavier athletic director Mike Bobinski (P, '78-'79); Indiana governor Joe Kernan (C, '67-'68); Major League Baseball executive John McHale (1B, '43) and former ND athletic director Dick Rosenthal (1B, '52-'53). Lennon (left) and Kernan are pictured above at ND's 2002 College World Series ring ceremony.

**BIG EAST RECORD BOOK** (see p. 190) – In just eight seasons, Notre Dame has made its mark in the BIG EAST baseball record book. Notre Dame in '99 became the first team to win more than 18 BIG EAST games (20-5, plus 22-4 in '01) while the '01 squad smashed the record for consecutive BIG EAST wins (18). The '99 Irish pitching staff set a BIG EAST record with 199 strikeouts in conference play (bested by Virginia Tech's 205 in '02) while the '01 Irish totaled a record 17 triples. Five ND players (more than any other school) rank among the top 21 players for BIG EAST career batting average in conference games (min. 150 ABs): 2B/CF **Randall Brooks** (3rd, .418, 69-for-165, '96-'97), IF **Brant Ust** (5th, .413, 100-for-242, '97-'99), IF **J.J. Brock** (13th, .399, 89-for-223, '96-'98), C/DH **Jeff Wagner** (18th, .390, 98-for-251, '96-'99) and CF **Steve Stanley** (21st, .381, 110-for-399; 11th among players with 200-plus ABs). Wagner's 24 conference HRs trail only former Seton Hall great Mo Vaughn (26) in BIG EAST history and he is tied for 6th with 83 RBI. Ust (19) is 8th on the HR list while former Irish 1B **Jeff Felker** ('00) ranks 5th in BIG EAST doubles (26) and former Irish 3B **Andrew Bushey** ('02) is 10th (24). Former ND catcher **Paul O'Toole** ('02) is 2nd in games (99), 4th in RBI (86), 7th in hits (109), 8th in ABs (333) and 9th in runs (79).



**Capozzi**



**Durkin**

# 2004 Baseball



**BEATING NO. 1** – Notre Dame has defeated the nation's top-ranked team five times in the NCAAAs, including 10-4 and 3-1 wins at Florida State in the 2002 Super Regionals (pictured) and the College World Series rally vs. Rice (5-3). The Irish also registered a 6-3 win at Miami in the '92 Atlantic Regional and a 8-1 win at Clemson in the '94 East Regional plus two regular-season wins over No. 2 Miami (2-1 at UM in '92, 1-0 at ND in '99).

**BIG EAST RECORD BOOK, PART II** – Former Irish SS Alec Porzel ('01) is the only player in the BIG EAST career top-10 for RBI (1st, 102; 13 better than previous record), doubles (2nd, 33; one shy of record), home runs (6th, 20), hits (8th, 108) and runs (9th, 79), also tying a then-BIG EAST record with six hits in a 2000 game vs. Pittsburgh. One year later ('02), Irish CF **Steve Stanley** set BIG EAST career records for hits (152, 14 ahead of record), runs (110, 17 better than old record), games (102) and ABs (399), also tying former ND infielder **J.J. Brock** and fellow Irish OF **Brian Stavisky** for third in BIG EAST career triples (7). Current senior 2B **Steve Sollmann** could finish high on the hits (91) and runs scored (71) charts.

**BIG EAST RECORD BOOK, PART III** – Former Irish RHP **Aaron Heilman** ('98-'01) cemented his name in BIG EAST history, setting records for career BIG EAST wins (23-4, ahead of 17-4 by Providence's Todd Incantalupo) and strikeouts (199 in 188 IP, 9.53/9 IP; besting the 163 by Seton Hall's Jason Grilli). Heilman set BIG EAST records for complete games in

a season (8) and career (18, besting Incantalupo's 15) while his 2.45 BIG EAST ERA ranks 6th among pitchers with 80-plus IP (2nd among pitchers with 100-plus IP) – and second-best since 1990 (C.J. Nitkowski had a 1.93 at St. John's). Heilman tied the BIG EAST record for season wins (8-0) and now is 2nd in IP (188.1), 5th in appearances (35), 6th in starts (23) and 12th in saves (5) – also tying Grilli for Ks in a game (18, at WVU in '00). RHPs **Ryan Kalita** (7th, 2.45, '00-'03), **Darin Schmalz** (13th, 2.74; '96-'97) and **Danny Tamayo** (14th, 2.77; '00-'01) rank on the BIG EAST ERA list (min. 36 IP), with **J.P. Gagne** ('03) 1st in GP (38) and 8th in saves (7), **Alex Shilliday** ('99) 4th in wins (14) and **John Corbin** ('00) 6th in saves.

**BIG EAST RECORD BOOK, PART IV** – Notre Dame has led the BIG EAST in conference batting (.311 in '96, .327 in '97, .334 in '01) and ERA (3.46 in '01, 3.74 '02, 3.14 '03) three times each. **Jeff Wagner** (.488, '97), **Brant Ust** (.493, '98) and **Steve Stanley** (.431, '02) have won BIG EAST batting titles (**Aaron Heilman** had a league-best 1.40 ERA in '01).

**BLOODLINES** – As many as 26 current Notre Dame baseball players have family members who played college sports ... seven have fathers who played baseball: junior RHP **Chris Niesel** (Rudy Niesel, Spring Hill), junior IF **Matt Edwards** (Norm Edwards, Stetson), junior LHP **Scott Bickford** (Mark Bickford, Salisbury State), sophomore C **Nick Mainieri** (Paul Mainieri, New Orleans), freshman 1B/LHP **Mike Dury** (John Dury, N.C. State), freshman RHP **Jeff Manship** (John Manship, Arizona) and freshman RHP/1B **Chris Vasami** (Ralph Vasami, NYU) – plus freshman CF **Danny Dressman** (mom, former Diane Shillingburg, ND tennis) ... two have fathers who were multi-sport athletes: senior 2B **Steve Sollmann** (Rich Sollmann; football/track, Wooster) and junior RHP **Grant Johnson** (Gary Johnson; football/basketball, Kansas) ... two have fathers who played college football: junior 3B **Matt Macri** (Mike Macri, Simpson) and freshman LHP **Matt Whittington** (Mike Whittington, LB for Notre Dame's '77 national champs) ... other sports are represented by fathers of junior RHP **Tyler Jones** (Doug Jones, golf at Stephen F. Austin) and junior OF **Brent Weiss** (Paul Weiss, lacrosse All-American at Johns Hopkins) ... seven have brothers who have played college baseball: senior C **Javi Sanchez** (Juan Carlos Sanchez at St. Thomas, Fla.), Jones (David Jones, Texas Wesleyan), senior IF **Tim Murray** (Chris Murray, Niagara), Manship (Matt Manship, current sophomore RHP at Stanford), Vasami (Ralph Vasami, Pennsylvania), freshman RHP **Derik Olvey** (Josh Olvey, Wallace C.C.) and Sollmann (CF Scott Sollmann at ND, '94-'96), whose sister Stacey played soccer at West Virginia ... two others join Sollmann

with accomplished sisters: senior LHP **Joe Thaman** (Maryville softball player Kate Thaman) and freshman C **Sean Gaston** (DePauw softball player Heidi Gaston) ... **Brennan Grogan's** grandfather Robert Grogan was a four-sport athlete at Knox (football, basketball, golf, track, plus baseball at Indiana State) while fellow sophomore OF **Cody Rizzo's** grandfather - father Dean Van Ausdall played football at Los Angeles C.C. and Whittington's grandfather Arthur Whittington was a football/basketball player at University of the South ... sophomore DH **Steve Andres** has followed catcher William Andres ('16-'18) as the first known great-grandfather/great-grandson combo in ND baseball history, with freshman RHP **Jess Stewart** looking to follow RHP Jack Stewart as the program's second known grandfather/grandson letterwinners ... rounding out the connections are senior IF **Zach Sisko's** uncle Joe Sisko (Michigan basketball) and cousins of Jones (Charles Jones, BC football), sophomore CF **Craig Cooper** (Brendan O'Rourke, Manhattan baseball) and junior RHP **Martin Vergara** (Derek Martinez, Maine football) – plus 1928 ND football captain Fred Miller (great uncle of sophomore DH **Matt Bransfield**) ... Sollmann, Jones, Dury and Vasami have parents and siblings listed above.



**Scott (above) and Steve Sollmann**



## Notre Dame Baseball "By the Numbers"

- 36 Players' home states during 10-year tenure of head coach Paul Mainieri
- 34 States played in by Irish (since '57)
- 24 Notre Dame's record streak of games with one loss (23-1) during '98 and '01 seasons
- 23 College World Series record set by Notre Dame for runs scored in an inning (1957)
- 20 Players who posted 3.0-plus GPA in fall of '03
- 19 States represented on 2004 roster
- 18 Strikeouts thrown by Aaron Heilman in 10-inning game at West Virginia (4/15/00)
- 17 1st-round pick with which Ken Plesha ('65) and Brad Lidge ('98) were selected in Major League Draft
- 15 Active streak of consecutive seasons with 40-plus wins
- 14 Former Irish players in pro baseball in 2002
- 11 Consecutive times on-base by Brian Stavisky during 2002 season
- 10 Preseason ranking for Notre Dame in 2004 *Collegiate Baseball* poll
- 7 Team single-game home run record ('98 and '99)
- 4.02 Team ERA in 1998 (12th in nation)
- 4 Consecutive games in which Paul O'Toole homered to close '99 season
- 3.93 Team ERA in 2000 (16th in nation)
- 3.57 Team ERA in 2002 (13th in nation)
- 3.53 Team ERA in 2003 (18th in nation)
- 3.22 Team ERA in 2001 (5th in nation)
- 3.15 Baseball team GPA in 2002 fall semester
- 1.61 Aaron Heilman's NCAA-best season ERA (1998)
- 2 Teams that won more games than Notre Dame (99) in stretch spanning the 2001 and '02 seasons
- 1 Midseason national ranking earned by 2001 team
- 1 Notre Dame's position on Baseball America's rankings of the top 2002 freshman classes

**OH, BROTHER!** – Senior RHP Ryan Kalita followed his brother Tim ('97-'99), by lettering with Notre Dame baseball in 2002, a feat turned in the previous season by current senior 2B Steve Sollmann (his brother Scott was the Irish CF in '94-'96). At least 11 other brother combinations are known to have lettered with ND baseball:

- Arthur (OF, '12) and Francis Carmody (2B, '15) of Shreveport, La.
- Francis (LHP, '07-'09, 19-3 record) and Ray Scanlan (C, '08-'09) of Syracuse, N.Y.
- Samuel (SS, '13) and Harry Newning (3B, '13-'14) of Houston, Texas
- Alfred (SS/OF/P, '14-'15) and Joseph Bergman (OF/P, '23) of Peru, Ind.
- Roger (1B, '23-'25) and Cyril Nolan ('30); Davenport, Iowa
- Roy (OF, '39) and Ray Pinelli (SS, '39-'41); San Francisco
- John (1B, '43) and Tom McHale ('48, OF); Detroit
- South Bend's Tom (OF, '64-'65; .238, 2 HR, 12 RBI), Dan (OF, '79-'82; .317, 10 HR, 72 RBI) and Ray Szajko (IF, '87, .200, 5 RBI)
- Pittsburgh's Frank (OF/1B, '66-'68; .277, 2 HR) and Bill Orga (OF, '68-'70; .308, 3 HR, 36 RBI) and Marty (RHP, '80; 4.11, 4-3) and Carl Vuono (1B/3B, '84; .297, 12 HR, 69 RBI)
- Jack (OF, '75; .233, 7 RBI) and Casey Snyder (OF, '83-'84; .204, 21 RBI) of New Orleans
- Michael (RHP, '78-'81; 3.86, 19-7, 97 K) and John Deasey (IF/OF, '82-'83; .170, 8 RBI) of Edina, Minn.



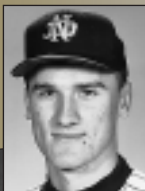
Alfred Bergman



Joseph Bergman



Ralph "Ray" Pinelli (left) and Roy Pinelli



(from left) Tom, Dan and Ray Szajko



**BIG SHADOWS** – Notre Dame's 2004 roster includes some big bodies, with nine 6-4 or taller: sophomore RHP Ryan Doherty (7-1, 220) and LHP Tom Thornton (6-6, 215), junior RHPs Grant Johnson (6-5, 215) and John Axford (6-5, 180), junior LHP Scott Bickford (6-5, 170), freshman 1B/LHP Mike Dury (6-5, 225), freshman RHP Dan Kapala (6-5, 210) and senior LHP Joe Thaman (6-4, 210).

**"BINK"** – Joe Binkiewicz is assured a place in ND lore with two amazing records. On April 6, 1991, vs. Evansville, he became the fifth Irish player to hit three home runs in a game, repeating the feat 12 days later vs. Michigan. In between, "Bink" hit a blast over the 40-foot centerfield wall at South Bend's Coveleski Stadium. The wall had never previously been cleared by any player since the facility opened in '88.

**BLUE-GOLD SERIES** – ND's '01 fall practice came to an exciting end in the Blue-Gold intrasquad series. The young Gold team won the first (7-4) and third (3-2) games while the Blue dominated game 2 (19-8). Current senior 2B Steve Sollmann hit .615 (8-for-13, HR, 3B, 3 2B) for the '01 Blue. Freshmen Chris Niesel (R, 3 H, 5 Ks) and John Axford (5 H, BB, 5 Ks) picked up the Gold wins in max. 5-inning stints while freshman SS Matt Macri hit 5-for-11 (3B, linedrive HR in game 3 before recording save with shutout 7th). The Gold also won in '02 (9-1, 7-6, 1-6), with Niesel winning the first game (5 IP, 3 H, R, 7 Ks) – while the Blue took the '03 series (9-7, 10-3, 1-5) behind Joe Thaman's game-one win (4 IP, 5 H, 3 Ks) and Javi Sanchez's 4-for-9 (5 RBI, 3B, 2B).

**BRAGGING RIGHTS** – Two Arizona Diamondbacks had a rooting interest in the '02 NCAA Regional game between Notre Dame and South Alabama, as Craig Counsell ('92) was a four-year starter with the Irish while Luis Gonzalez starred for the Jaguars. The two made a friendly wager and Gonzalez was forced to wear Notre Dame baseball apparel around New York City during a trip to the Big Apple.

**CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN** – Former Notre Dame rightfielder John Counsell ('64) and his son Craig ('92)



**CAMP NOTRE DAME** – Notre Dame continues to expand offerings to young baseball players for learning the game in a university setting. Sessions in '04 include: day camp, ages 8-12 (July 28 -July 1), developmental overnight camp, ages 10-15 (July 26-30) and advanced overnight camps, ages 16-18 (July 5-8, 19-22). Notre Dame also offers fall exposure camps for high school juniors and seniors and a winter preseason camp utilizing indoor facilities. For more info., call (574) 631-8788/6366.

are the only father/son combination to captain the same team sport at Notre Dame (pictured at right).



**CASTNER** – Paul Castner ranks as one of the most versatile athletes in Notre Dame history. The native of St. Paul, Minn., was an All-America football running back ('21, '22), one of the hockey team's most skilled players (he served as a player-coach) and an accomplished lefthander who tossed a nine-inning no-hitter vs. Purdue (he later played with the Chicago White Sox).

**CLASSY CLASSES** – Notre Dame's 2002 senior class (below) helped compile a four-year record of 188-67-1 (.736) from '99-'02, besting the class of '92 (187) for most wins ever by an ND class (the '03 seniors then finished 190-67-1/.738). The '03 and '02 classes compiled the fourth- and fifth-best four-year winning pct. in the program's last 88 seasons, behind the '93 (.758/185-59), '92 (.750/187-62-1) and '94 (.746/185-63) classes. The class of '92 was led by future two-time World Series champ Craig Counsell, plus IF Cory Mee, 1B Joe Binkiewicz and CF Dan Baultch (the '93 leaders included pitchers David Sinnes, Chris Michalak and Alan Walania, plus OFs Eric Danapolis and Edwin Hartwell). Here's a rundown of the impressive career stats racked up by the 2002 senior class: 1,283 games played (1,020 starts); a .317 combined batting avg. (1,170 hits); 601 RBI and 812 runs; 68 home runs, 41 triples and 222 doubles; 395 walks and 190 stolen bases; a 17-7 pitching record, 10 saves, 256.1 innings, 205 strikeouts and just 96 walks. Four of the '02 seniors – Steve Stanley, Andrew Bushey, Paul O'Toole and Matt Bok – went on to play professionally, just the fourth time since 1965 that an ND senior class has produced four-plus players who were drafted or signed as free agents (four in '90, five in '93 and '96; see p. 131). The drafting of Stanley, Bushey and O'Toole – the only ND classmates with 200-plus starts – marked just the third time that three-plus Irish seniors had been picked in the same draft ('93, '01).



Notre Dame's class of 2002 (from left): RHP Matt Buchmeier, DH Matt Bok, 3B Andrew Bushey, DH Ken Meyer, OF Matt Strickroth, C Paul O'Toole, CF Steve Stanley and RHP Drew Duff.



**COACHING CONNECTIONS** – Two of Paul Mainieri's former ND assistants – **Brian O'Connor** (Virginia) and **Cory Mee** (Toledo) – are first-year Division I head coaches in '04 while former ND pitcher **Steve Whitmyer** (fourth year at Navy) joins Mee as one of two former Irish players who are Div. I head coaches. Mee's staff includes former ND player **Mike Amrhein** (grad. assistant) while former Irish pitchers **Mike Rooney** (Arizona State) and **John Corbin** (Eastern Kentucky) also are college assistants.

**CONFERENCE COMMAND** – Through eight BIG EAST seasons, Notre Dame ranks first in the 11-member conference with: a .721 overall winning pct. (.359-139-1, Rutgers is second at .641), a .741 BIG EAST regular-season win pct. (.137-48, RU second at .697) and a .714 win pct. in combined BIG EAST regular-season and tournament games (155-62, RU second at .677). St. John's owns the best BIG EAST Tournament win pct. in the past seven seasons (.600, 10-6), followed by ND (.563, 18-14). Notre Dame has totaled 55 BIG EAST series wins, 10 series ties and just nine series losses – winning 30 of its last 39 BIG EAST series (five series ties) heading into '04. The Irish were swept in just three BIG EAST doubleheaders from '96-'01 – including 34 straight twin-bills without an opponent sweep – with an overall record of 42 BIG EAST doubleheader sweeps, 25 splits and just five opponent sweeps. Notre Dame has played 38 BIG EAST series at Eck Stadium, winning 31 (four ties), and have won 21 of their last 24 home BIG EAST series (two ties). ND's BIG EAST dominance from '99-'03 produced a 94-31 (.752) conference record, with **Paul Mainieri** owning the best BIG EAST regular-season winning pct. (.741) in the conference's history.

**COUNSELL, CRAIG** – Former Notre Dame infielder Craig Counsell has provided his share of World Series magic to two different Major League teams, as a member of the 1997 Florida Marlins and 2001 Arizona Diamondbacks teams that won the World Series in their first trips. In both instances, Counsell went from being an unheralded backup to one of the driving forces in title runs (see pp. 136-137).

**DIRECTORS, IN ATHLETICS** – Several former Notre Dame baseball players have gone on to serve as high-ranking administrators in collegiate athletics. Most recently, former all-conference outfielder **Rick Chryst** ('83) was named commissioner of the Mid-American Conference in 1999 after seven years as an Atlantic Coast Conference assistant commissioner in charge of marketing, legal affairs and special events and three years as a Southwest Conference assistant commissioner. The Plateville, Wis., native graduated from Notre Dame magna cum laude with an economics degree and received his law degree from Duke.

Former Notre Dame athletic director **Dick Rosenthal** (1987-95) – whose many accomplish-



**Rick Chryst**

**Mike Bobinski**



**Dick Rosenthal**



**CWS RECORD-HOLDER** – Former Notre Dame great **Jim Morris** – who was on hand to watch ND at the 2002 College World Series – left his mark on college baseball's premier event in 1957, setting a still-standing CWS record for batting average (.714, 10-for-14). Morris (center of photo) visited in the summer of 1999 for a formal presentation to Notre Dame of a portrait that shows Morris striking a stance at old Cartier Field (former home of Notre Dame baseball), with newspaper clippings included in the painting. The painting was donated by artist Catherine Morris Priest, daughter of the former Irish infielder. On hand for the presentation were **Chuck Lennon** (left) – a former Irish catcher and current executive director of the Notre Dame Alumni Association – and Irish head coach **Paul Mainieri**.



ments include hiring Paul Mainieri as the ND baseball coach in 1994 – was an All-America basketball player and a first baseman with the Irish baseball team in the early 1950s. Former ND righthander **Mike Bobinski** ('79) is in his sixth year as the associate vice president and A.D. at Xavier University, after working in the athletic departments at his alma mater and Navy.

**DANDY DEBUT** – **Chris Niesel** became the first Notre Dame freshman to post double-digit strikeouts in his debut, with 10 Ks in five innings vs. Southern Illinois at the '02 New Orleans Classic (followed by 9 Ks vs. Fairfield in Homestead, Fla., yielding 19 Ks and one walk in his first 12 innings). The Plantation, Fla., native headed into '03 with a 22-1 record in his previous 23 overall decisions (13-0 as senior at Aquinas High School, 4-0 with the '02 Irish and 3-1 with the Cape Cod League's Falmouth Commodores, plus Blue-Gold intrasquad series in the falls of '01 and '02). He then posted a 9-1 record with the Irish in '03, yielding a 31-2 combined mark in a span of 33 decisions.

**DOGPILES** – After coming up short in previous seasons, Notre Dame finally broke through with four major postseason celebrations in 2002 – winning the BIG EAST Tournament, the NCAA South Bend Regional and the Super Regional at Florida State (plus a 9th-inning rally vs. Rice in the College World Series). Just two of those celebrations featured the

traditional dogpile (the 3-2, 10-inn. BIG EAST title game vs. Rutgers and the 5-3 CWS elimination-game vs. Rice ended on Brian Stavisky hits; see "Drama").

**DRAFT PICKS** – Twenty-four Notre Dame players have been Major League draft picks in the Paul Mainieri era (since '95), including an unprecedented six in 2001: RHPs **Aaron Heilman** (1st round, N.Y. Mets) and **Danny Tamayo** (10th, K.C.), SS **Alec Porzel** (13th, Boston), OF **Brian Stavisky** (33rd, Chicago Cubs), C **Paul O'Toole** (47th, S.F.) and OF **Steve Stanley** (50th, Florida). The current junior class includes five '01 draftees – many falling far in the draft due to strong commitments to Notre Dame (undrafted RHP **Grant Johnson** was rated a 2nd-rounder): RHPs **John Axford** (7th rd, Seattle) and **Martin Vergara** (15th, Cleveland), SS **Matt Macri** (17th, Minnesota; rated a 1st-rounder) and RHPs **Tyler Jones** (30th, Atlanta) and **Chris Niesel** (50th, Florida). Four ND position players were drafted in '02: Oakland A's picks Stanley (2nd rd) and Stavisky (6th), plus senior 3B/C **Andrew Bushey** (Colorado, 15th rd) and O'Toole (Cubs, 21st). Stanley and Stavisky were the first ND teammates drafted in the first six rounds and were the highest-drafted outfielders from the same team in the '02 draft (no previous Irish team had four players drafted in first 21 rounds). Three ND seniors were picked in the same draft twice previously ('93, '01).

**DOUBLE DOMINATION** – The slew of offensive records in Notre Dame's 25-1 win over South Alabama in the 2002 NCAA Regional (see Offensive Explosion note) makes that game one of the more unique in NCAA tournament history – but the game had an added dimension to make it stand alone in the 57-year history of the NCAA Baseball Championship: the pitching performance by then-freshman **Grant Johnson**. Johnson faced only 30 batters while allowing one hit and one walk (two hit batters), becoming just the 13th pitcher ever to post a no-hitter or 1-hitter in the NCAAs (fourth since '81). The 1-hitter – coupled with sophomore 2B **Steve Sollmann's** record day (6-for-7, 7 RBI, 6 R) – made the game doubly unique due to the combination of NCAA rarities on the mound and at the plate (both earned national player/pitcher of the week). No other team in NCAA Tournament history has produced a no-hitter/1-hitter and a player with six hits (or five-plus runs) during the same game. In fact, Oklahoma was the only school that could lay claim to players who were included – at some point – in the above pitching and offensive categories (1-hitter in '74; 5-run player in '86).

Johnson hit his first batter and gave up a double before facing just one batter over the minimum the rest of the way. The 97-pitch masterpiece included 64 strikes, with the 27 outs covering eight Ks, five infield popups and five groundball outs. Johnson



**Steve Sollmann (left) and Grant Johnson**

became the first ND freshman to post a nine-inning complete game since Dan Stavisky in 1995 and the first Irish pitcher to log a nine-inning 1-hitter since David Sinnes in a 1993 game vs. Evansville.

Sollmann became the first player ever to score six runs in an NCAA Tournament game while tying ND records for hits (6, tied NCAA record), RBI (7) and runs. His 13 total bases included rare back-to-back RBI triples (tying NCAA record for triples) and a three-run home run. See archived game recap at [www.und.com](http://www.und.com) for list of the six other players who have collected six hits in an NCAA Tournament game and the 12 who have posted no-hitters or 1-hitters in NCAA Tournament action (including future Major Leaguer Ron Darling, whose 1-hitter for the 1981 Yale squad was spoiled in a 1-0 loss to St. John's).

**Fathers and Sons**

Several father-son combinations have played for the Notre Dame baseball team, including 2000 graduate Matt Nussbaum (.274 career average, 5 HR, 70 RBI) and outfielder Dick Nussbaum ('71-'74; .277, 33 RBI).



Dick Nussbaum



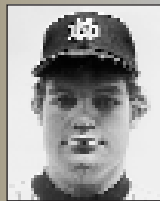
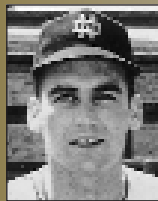
Matt Nussbaum

Others include:

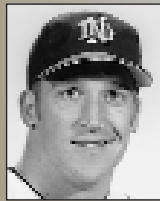
- Catcher Lawrence ('32-'34) and righthander Kevin O'Neill ('64; 4.01 ERA, 3-3 record).
- Righthander/outfielder Jim ('52-'53; 7-7, 65 K, .150, 9 RBI) and catcher Brian Gibbons ('84; .222, 3 RBI).
- Rightfielder John ('62-'64; .290, 6 HR, 44 RBI) and infielder Craig Counsell ('89-'92; .306, 18 HR, 166 RBI).
- Righthander George ('66-'67; 3.68, 5-3) and catcher/first baseman George Restovich, Jr. (1B, '94-'96; .327, 22 HR, 155 RBI).
- Catcher Rich ('64-'66; .307, 7 HR, 35 RBI) and righthander Rich Sauget, Jr. ('94-'96; 3.13 ERA, 3-3, 9 SV).



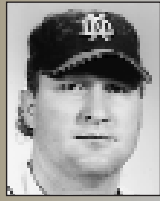
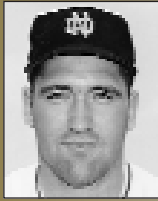
Lawrence and Kevin O'Neill



Jim and Brian Gibbons

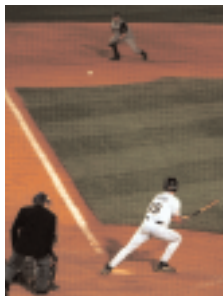


George, Sr., and George Restovich, Jr.



Rich, Sr., and Rich Sauget, Jr.

**DRAMA IS ...** – Notre Dame's **Brian Stavisky** delivered a pair of hits during the 2002 season that produced two of the more noteworthy victories in the program's history: a 10th-inning single (pictured) into the leftfield corner that drove home Steve Sollmann for a 3-2 win over Rutgers (ND's first BIG EAST Tournament title) and the 9th-inning home run that beat Rice in a College World Series elimination game (5-3).



**DUFFY, GENE** – Notre Dame's appearance in the 2002 World Series stirred memories for many Irish baseball fans. In particular, ND's return to Omaha provided several noteworthy connections to former Irish centerfielder Gene Duffy (the only non-surviving starter from ND's 1957 CWS squad). Duffy was a fan favorite – on the diamond and basketball hardwood – and many viewed ND's '02 centerfielder and spunky leader, Steve Stanley, as a second-coming of the dearly-departed Duffy. Yet another connection was



Duffy's postgraduate days working in coaching and administrative roles at Creighton (located minutes from Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium, site of the CWS) and with the former Big Eight Conference. He was credited with helping popularize Omaha as home of the CWS in the '60s, prior to his untimely death.

**THE ECK** – Notre Dame has enjoyed great success at Eck Stadium (see pp. 76-77), located on the southeast corner of campus. The Irish won more than 80 percent of their games at "The Eck" in the first 10 seasons (242-54, .818; '94-'03), with a 25-2 mark in '97. Notre Dame heads into 2004 with wins in 169 of its last 205 games (.824) at The Eck (since late '96).

**EIGHT(EEN) Ks IS ENOUGH** – Recent Notre Dame righthander **Aaron Heilman** tied a BIG EAST record and came just shy of the ND record with an 18-strikeout effort in a 3-1, 10-inning win at West Virginia on April 15, 2000 (scheduled for seven innings). Spotting his tough slider with regularity while delivering a fastball that still touched 91 mph in the lategoing, Heilman retired 15 straight from the 5th-10th innings and K'd 10 of the final 12 he faced – including seven straight before a single with two outs in the 10th (Kevin Olkowski went down swinging to end the game). The 18 Ks tied the BIG EAST record set by Seton Hall's Jason Grilli (the 4th pick of the '97 draft). **Frank Carpin** is the only other Irish pitcher to record 18-plus Ks in a game, with 19 in a 10-inning win over Indiana in 1958 (12-10). Heilman's day included just two walks, 11 groundball outs and one flyout. He struck out all nine Mountaineers starters – plus reserve Matt McGee.

**ERA ELITE** – Notre Dame has finished in the top-18 of the national charts for team earned-run average in four of the previous six seasons, owning the nation's best team ERA during portions of 2000 and '01. The 2000 staff surged atop the national ERA charts in late April (2.72) and finished 16th (3.93). The Irish then returned to the top spot among the 2001 team ERA leaders for three weeks in April, finishing fifth at 3.22

(best at ND since '92, third-best since '75). Notre Dame went on to finish 13th in the 2002 ERA rankings (3.57) and 18th in '03 (3.53), joining Texas and Rice as the only teams ranked among the nation's final top-20 ERA leaders every year from 2000-03. The Irish finished 12th in the final 1998 team ERA rankings (4.02).

**EXTRA INNINGS** – Prior to its heartbreaking 2001 NCAA Tournament loss to Florida International (7-6, 10 inn.), Notre Dame had gone unbeaten in its previous 10 extra-inning games (9-0-1) – including three consecutive extended games at the Fresno State Classic and clutch 11-inning wins at Mississippi State (4-2) and Rutgers (5-4). The Irish quickly rebounded from the FIU loss, winning a 10-inning game later that day vs. UC Santa Barbara (11-10), and went 4-1 in 2002 extra-inning games (ND headed into 2003 with a 14-2-1 mark in its previous 17 extra-inning games, dating back to '97, before going just 2-3 in 2003 extra-inning games).

**FAN MAIL** – At first, they trickled in ... but there was no stopping them, as hundreds of e-mails, faxes and chatboard posts came flooding through the information highway in praise of the Notre Dame baseball team and the way it competed at the 2000 NCAA Starkville Regional. A large portion came from rabid Bulldogs fans, who informally had inducted the names of Irish players such as Steve Stanley, Kris Billmaier, Danny Tamayo, Jeff Felker, Matt Nussbaum, Alec Porzel and John Corbin into the storied history of Dudy Noble Field. A common thread in all the e-mails was a desire for the Irish to make a return visit ... and it didn't take long, as Notre Dame opened 2001 at the Mississippi State Classic (with the Irish posting a pair of wins over the Bulldogs).

**(ALMOST) FIFTY STATES** – The Notre Dame list of all-time monogram winners includes players from 43 home states. Pitcher **Brandon Vilorio** (Wailuku, Hawaii) in 2000 became the first from the island state while current senior LHP **Cody Wilkins** (Hudson, N.C.) could become the first from the Tar Heel state. The only other states that have not produced ND baseball letterwinners include Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Vermont. The 10-year Paul Mainieri era has featured players from 36 states, including 19 on the '04 roster (see p. 18).

**FIRST-ROUNDERS** – Righthander **Brad Lidge** earned the 1998 BIG EAST pitcher-of-the-year award and several weeks later was selected in the Major League Draft by the Houston Astros, with the 17th overall pick. Lidge is one of 18 Notre Dame players drafted in the first 10 rounds (since '65), including 12 in the tenure of 10th-year Irish head coach Paul Mainieri. **Ken Plesha**, a sophomore catcher in 1965, was ND's first 1st-round pick (17th pick, Chicago White Sox) while RHP **Aaron Heilman** was the 18th overall selection in 2001 (N.Y. Mets).

**FORTY-WIN SEASONS** – Notre Dame has posted 15 straight seasons with 40-plus wins, led by the 50-18 season in 2002, 49 wins in '01, 48 in '89 and '92, 46 in four seasons ('90, '93 '94, '00), 45 in '91 and '03, and 44 in '95. That's the third-longest active 40-win streak in Division I baseball, behind Florida State and Wichita State (both with 26).

**.400 HITTERS** – Notre Dame players have combined to hit .400-plus 12 times since 1980, the most recent being CF **Steve Stanley** (.400 in 2001, .439 in '02). Three other outfielders have posted multiple .400-plus seasons: **Dan Peltier** (.414 in '88, .446 in '89), **Eric Danapilis** (.429 in '90, .438 in '93) and **Scott Sollmann** (.402 in '94, .406 in '95). Danapilis and teammate **Edwin Hartwell** battled atop the NCAA batting charts in 1993, with Hartwell ultimately claiming the ND season record that he still holds (.447).



### FLAG-RAISING/RING CEREMONY

– The 2002 Notre Dame baseball team was honored during a public ceremony at Frank Eck Stadium on Sept. 15, 2002, when the team members and coaches received their College World Series rings.

A College World Series flag also was unveiled beyond the rightfield fence and the special event included memorable audio clips from the season, with Hall of Famer Tommy Lasorda serving as a special guest speaker.

The ceremony concluded with a surprise presentation, as Irish head coach Paul Mainieri was awarded an honorary monogram from the Notre Dame National Monogram Club.

### FOUR-YEAR ALL-AMERICANS – Pitcher Aaron Heilman

– already the first Irish baseball player ever to be a three-year All-American – joined an elite group of Notre Dame student-athletes in 2001, as the school's 17th four-year All-American (now 21). Heilman is one of just five in that group from team-oriented sports, joining men's basketball player Kevin O'Shea ('50) and women's soccer's Holly Manthei ('98), Jen Grubb ('99) and Anne Makinen ('00). Others include cross country's Oliver Hunter ('43) and Mike McWilliams ('93) and distance runners Ryan Shay ('02) and Luke Watson ('03), plus men's fencers Mike Sullivan ('79), Charles Higgs-Coulthard ('87), Yehuda Kovacs ('89), Leszek Nowosielski ('91), Jeremy Siek ('97), Luke LaValle ('99), Ozren Debic ('03) and Jan Viviani ('03), and women's fencers Molly Sullivan ('88), Myriah Brown ('99), Sarah Walsh ('99) and Magda Krol ('00).

**FRESHMAN CLASS, No. 1** – Notre Dame's 2002 freshman class was ranked No. 1 in the nation by *Baseball America*, which ranked three of those '02 freshmen among its list of top pro prospects: SS Matt Macri (No. 2 prospect among all '02 freshmen) and RHPs Chris Niesel (11th) and Martin Vergara (19th). *BA* also rated Notre Dame's current freshmen as the sixth-best incoming class for the 2004 season.

**FRESHMAN PHENOMS** – Notre Dame has produced three BIG EAST rookies of the year: DH **Jeff Wagner** ('96), IF **Brant Ust** ('97) and 2B **Steve Sollmann** ('01). Wagner set the Irish freshman home run record (10) only to see Ust hit 11 in '97. Ust was the first freshman middle infielder ever named first team all-BIG EAST and was a consensus Freshman All-American. Sollmann made an impressive transition from the outfield and earned first team all-BIG EAST (as did Wagner and Ust) before being a consensus Freshman All-American. RHP **Aaron Heilman** was second team all-conference, a consensus Freshman All-American and one of three players named by Collegiate Baseball as 1998 co-national freshman of the year. CF **Steve Stanley** was second team all-BIG EAST in '99, the only freshman to earn all-BIG EAST. His classmate, catcher **Paul O'Toole**, became the seventh ND player to earn first team Freshman All-American in the 1990s. RF **Brian Stavisky** was the only freshman position player to earn all-BIG EAST in '00 (2nd team) before being named a consensus Freshman All-American (his 14 HRs ranked 4th in the nation among freshmen), an honor earned by RHP **Grant Johnson** in '02.

**GAME-ENDING HOME RUNS** – Former Irish short-stop **Alec Porzel** ('01) made a name for himself when it came to game-ending home runs. In addition to his 10th-inning blast vs. Pittsburgh (11-8) in 2000, Porzel

beat the Panthers with a first-pitch home run to cap the '99 series (9-8, in 9th). As a freshman, he ended the longest game in Eck Stadium history with a 15th-inning blast vs. West Virginia (5-3) – and his first career grand slam broke a 7-7 tie in the 8th inning of the 2000 BIG EAST Tournament comeback vs. Pittsburgh (15-7). Porzel's 2000 game-ending HR was one of three on three consecutive weekends, following **Jeff Felker**'s first-pitch shot vs. St. John's (9-8) and prior to **Brian Stavisky**'s two-run blast vs. Rutgers (4-3). Eleven months later, three players reached on 2-out, 2-strike pitches before **Ken Meyer** launched an 0-2 pitch over the leftfield fence to beat Central Michigan, 6-4 (ND assumed the No. 1 national ranking four days later). Four of ND's nine game-ending HRs in the Paul Mainieri era came in the above 12-month stretch (April 30, 2000 – April 19, 2001; see p. 33) – including one in '02, from current senior 1B **Joe Thaman** (vs. Arkansas-Little Rock, 7-5) and Stavisky on a dramatic two-run blast that capped a CWS rally vs. Rice (5-3).

**GRADUATION RATE** – In addition to their on-field success, Paul Mainieri's Notre Dame baseball teams have combined for a 100-percent graduation rate (53-of-53), among players who completed their eligibility.

Eight other former Irish players who signed professionally after their junior seasons have returned to complete or near completion of degree requirements.

**HEILMAN** – Righthander Aaron Heilman – who made his Major League debut with the New York Mets in '03 – completed his college career ('98-'01) as one of the most accomplished student-athletes in Notre Dame history (see Four-Year All-Americans and 40-400 notes). His career included leading the nation in ERA as a freshman in '98 (1.61) before serving as one of the top pitchers on the U.S. National Team in the summer of '99. He was a finalist for several '01 national player-of-the-year awards while posting four ND career records (43 wins, 425 Ks, 393.2 innings, six double-digit K games) and five season records (15 wins, 118 Ks, 12 complete games, 15 consecutive wins, 15-0 season start). He set BIG EAST Conference records for career BIG EAST wins (23-4), Ks in BIG EAST play (199), complete games in a BIG EAST season (8) and career (18) – while tying the record for Ks in a BIG EAST game (18, 10-inning win at West Virginia in '01). His 2.49 career ERA ranked second in the ND record book and was the best in 40 years.

Heilman's many other noteworthy feats included posting the second-best career K-to-walk ratio in the ND record book (3.66), winning 25 of his final 26 decisions, posting a 24-3 record and 2.14 ERA in games away from home, and averaging 33 innings per home run allowed. A 54th-round New York Yankees draft pick after his senior year ('97) at Logansport (Ind.) High School, Heilman went on to be the 31st overall pick in the 2000 draft (Minnesota Twins compensatory "sandwich pick") and then was selected by the Mets with the 18th overall pick in '01 (after returning to Notre Dame for his senior season).

**HERING** – Frank Hering was Notre Dame's first baseball coach (1897-99) and the first paid football coach. More importantly, he unknowingly helped launch many a greeting card company by proposing an annual "Mother's Day" at his lodge in 1904. President Woodrow Wilson eventually made Mother's Day part of the nation's calendar, and it officially was adopted by Congress a few years later.

### 40-WIN, 400-K CLUB – Former Notre Dame righthander Aaron Heilman

became just the 14th known Division I player to reach 40 career wins and 400 strikeouts (the list included 16, at the end of 2002), with the 400th K coming in dramatic fashion as he closed the 2001 regular season with a pair of Ks vs. UConn to land on 400. Heilman was the fourth pitcher to reach both milestones since schedule limits were imposed in 1990. His .860 career winning percentage ranks fifth among the first 16 pitchers in the "40-400 club," behind ASU's Eddie Bane, Richard Wortham (Texas) and Hawaii's Derek Tatsuno, while Heilman's career ratio of 9.72 Ks per 9 IP ranks sixth behind Tatsuno, Bane, Auburn's John Powell, Nebraska's Shane Komine and Greg Swindell (Texas). Heilman, Tatsuno and Bane are the only ones from the elite group with a career win pct. of .850-plus and a strikeout ratio above 9.71/9 IP:

Shane Komine (Nebraska, '99-'02)	41-8 (.837)	510 Ks (431.0 IP)	10.65 Ks/9 IP
Kenny Baugh (Rice, '98-'01)	40-8 (.833)	419 Ks (435.2 IP)	8.66 Ks/9 IP
Aaron Heilman (Notre Dame, '98-'01)	43-7 (.860)	425 Ks (393.2 IP)	9.72 Ks/9 IP
Kip Bouknight (South Carolina, '98-'01)	43-10 (.811)	431 Ks (448.0 IP)	8.66 Ks/9 IP
John Powell (Auburn, '90-'94)	43-20 (.683)	602 Ks (477.0 IP)	11.36 Ks/9 IP
Doug Creek (Georgia Tech, '88-'91)	41-19 (.683)	458 Ks (472.0 IP)	8.73 Ks/9 IP
Kirk Dressendorfer (Texas, '88-'90)	45-8 (.849)	462 Ks (429.2 IP)	9.68 Ks/9 IP
Brian Barnes (Clemson, '86-'89)	44-10 (.815)	513 Ks (475.1 IP)	9.71 Ks/9 IP
Greg Swindell (Texas, '84-'86)	43-8 (.843)	501 Ks (440.0 IP)	10.25 Ks/9 IP
Mike Loynd (Florida State, '83-'86)	45-10 (.818)	417 Ks (395.1 IP)	9.49 Ks/9 IP
John Hoover (Fresno State, '81-'84)	44-17 (.721)	411 Ks (494.0 IP)	7.49 Ks/9 IP
Derek Tatsuno (Hawaii, '77-'79)	40-6 (.870)	541 Ks (402.1 IP)	12.10 Ks/9 IP
Richard Wortham (Texas, '73-'76)	50-7 (.877)	481 Ks (456.2 IP)	9.48 Ks/9 IP
Eddie Bane (Arizona State, '71-'73)	40-4 (.909)	505 Ks (379.1 IP)	11.98 Ks/9 IP
Greg Swan (Arizona State, '69-'72)	47-9 (.839)	459 Ks (457.2 IP)	9.03 Ks/9 IP
Rich Troedsen (Santa Clara, '69-'72)	40-12 (.769)	445 Ks (437.0 IP)	9.17 Ks/9 IP

**HOMESTANDERS** – Notre Dame’s ‘02 home record (26-3, .897) is the third-best home win pct. in the program’s history (min. 15 games), behind the ‘97 (25-2, Eck Stadium) and ‘80 teams (19-1, Jake Kline Field). ND’s all-time home record in 111 seasons is 1,085-335 (.764), well above its overall .623 win pct.

**INDOOR FACILITY** – Notre Dame benefits from one of the nation’s premier indoor college baseball facilities, at the hitting and pitching facility adjacent to Eck Stadium. The 2000 addition, donated by alumnus Eck, includes wall-to-wall artificial turf, three full-length batting tunnels, two regulation clay pitching mounds within the tunnels, a clay home plate area for catchers drills and an “Iron Mike” pitching machine (see p. 77).

**INFORMATION AGE** – Notre Dame baseball fans can follow the team on the official website (und.com). Real-time stats and audio broadcasts are available, as well as features, press releases, game stories, photos, archives and a wide variety of information.

**JAKE** – **Clarence Kline** needed only one name for those in college baseball to know the personality involved. “Jake” Kline began his ND career in 1915 and earned three monograms while hitting .300 each year and captaining the 1917 squad. He still shares the team record with three home runs in a game. Kline returned as freshman baseball coach in ‘31, after spending time in World War I and in various baseball leagues. In ‘34, he became the school’s 15th coach ... and the 16th would not be needed for 42 seasons. Jake retired in ‘75, after coaching more than 1,000 games and winning 558. He was voted into the College Baseball Hall of Fame in ‘68, and the former Cartier Field was renamed Jake Kline Field in ‘75. Kline was active in many ND functions until his death in ‘89, at age 94. When the baseball team moved to Eck Stadium in ‘94, Kline’s name moved as well. The official title of the surface is Kline Field at Eck Stadium.

**K-CREW** – Notre Dame pitchers posted the team strikeout record every season from ‘97-‘99: 399, 456 and 478 (before 454, 420, a record 483 and 479 from ‘00-‘03). The Irish averaged 453 Ks the past seven seasons (‘99-‘03), with the ‘99 staff averaging 8.38 Ks/9 IP – best at ND since ‘63. The 2000 staff set the ND record for K-to-walk ratio (2.50), bested by the 2.48 in ‘01. Top K-Crew members in the last seven seasons have included **Aaron Heilman** (425 Ks in 441 IP; team-record 118 Ks in ‘99, ‘00), 1st-rounder **Brad Lidge** (‘96-‘98, 143 Ks in 129.2 IP; 93 in ‘98), ‘99 grad. **Alex Shilliday** (4th in Irish history with 265 Ks) and lefty **Tim Kalita** (214 Ks in 214 IP, ‘97-‘99).

**IRON MEN** – Notre Dame centerfielder **Steve Stanley** missed just 25 innings during his four seasons and started all 256 games of his career – the second-longest streak of consecutive starts in NCAA Division I baseball history (Clemson SS Khalil Greene started 272, also from ‘99-‘02). Stanley bested the Irish record of 204 consecutive starts, set in the late 1980s by shortstop **Pat Pesavento**. Pesavento did not start the 19th game of his first season, the second game of a crosstown doubleheader with Bethel College on April 3, 1986. He started the final 31 games of ‘86, all 44 of ‘87, each of the 61 games in ‘88 and all of the marathon 68-game season in ‘89. Pesavento’s Notre Dame records for career hits (296) and runs (246) were broken by Stanley, with Pesavento currently ranking third in stolen bases (94), fourth in walks (143), fifth in at-bats (806), seventh in batting average (.367) and 10th in games played (218). He also played football at Notre Dame in the fall of 1984 and ‘85, as a backup quarterback.

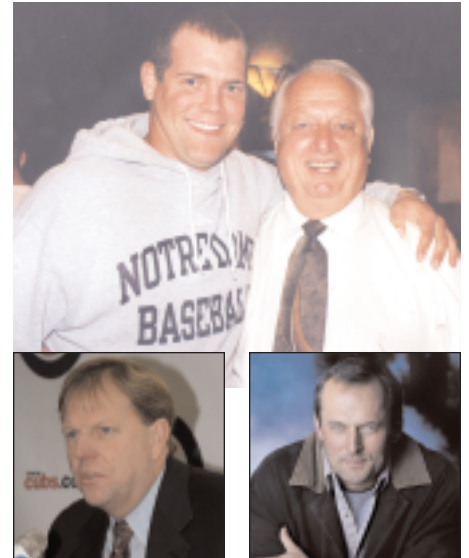
Infielder **Brant Ust** (‘97-‘99) started all 179 games in his career, good for the third-longest streak of consecutive starts in ND history. Stanley’s impressive streak included playing in 98.86 percent of the innings from ‘99-‘02 (2,166 of 2,191, all in CF), with a streak of 764.2 consecutive (2,294 outs) spanning 1999 (final 267.2) and 2000 (first 497). He played every inning in 249 of his 256 career games, with the only other players to patrol center field during that four-year stretch including catcher Paul O’Toole (2 innings), utility player Ben Cooke (5), LHP Mike Naumann (1) and walk-ons John Heintz (6) and George Howard (11).

**HOME RUNS** – Notre Dame flirted with the team home run record from ‘97-‘99, including a record 66 in ‘97. The Irish posted another record in ‘98 (73) before surging late in ‘99 for 70, with 12 different players leaving the yard. Notre Dame totaled 384 HRs from ‘97-‘03 and averaged 43 in the first eight seasons of the Paul Mainieri era (since ‘95). Mainieri’s first nine Irish teams averaged a .314 batting average (high of .334 in ‘97, tying team record) and a .479 slugging pct. (high of .529 in ‘97). Catcher/DH **Jeff Wagner** (‘96-‘99, 49) and IF **Brant Ust** (‘97-‘99, 46) made a run at Frank Jacobs’ season home run record (20, ‘91), with Wagner hitting 17 in ‘97 while Ust hit 18 in ‘98 and 17 in ‘99.



Notre Dame’s 1998 team amassed a school-record 73 home runs, including (from left): junior CF **Allen Greene** (7), senior SS **J.J. Brock** (13), sophomore 3B **Brant Ust** (18), junior C **Jeff Wagner** (14), freshman LF **Alec Porzel** (7) and senior 1B **Dan Leatherman** (8).

**KANALEY & O’CONNOR** – The most prestigious honor awarded to a Notre Dame student-athlete is named in memory of a former Notre Dame baseball player (see p. 192). The Byron Kanaley Award has been presented since 1927 to senior monogram athletes who have been most exemplary as students and leaders. The awards are named in honor of the Weedsport, N.Y., native and 1904 graduate who was an outfielder with the Notre Dame baseball program. Kanaley went on to a successful banking career in Chicago and served as a lay trustee of the University from 1915 until his death in 1960. Twelve Irish baseball players have received the award, including current Mid-American Conference commissioner **Rick Chryst** (‘83), 2000 recipient **Jeff Perconte** and 2001 honoree **Mike Naumann**. The quality of the 2000 ND baseball senior class was validated when Perconte received a Kanaley Award and catcher **Matt Nussbaum** the Francis Patrick O’Connor Award, presented to one male and one female student-athlete who embody team spirit, inspiration, caring, courage, honesty and patience. The award is named after a student-athlete (son of Bucky O’Connor, a 1940s guard on the ND football team) who died in ‘73 following his freshman year. Current senior 2B **Steve Sollmann** was a rare junior-year recipient of the O’Connor Award (in 2003).



**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS** – Baseball Hall of Famer **Tommy Lasorda** (top photo) – a longtime friend of Irish head coach Paul Mainieri and his father Demie – has developed a special relationship with Notre Dame, providing a rousing speech at the pep rally prior to the 2001 ND-Tennessee football game before serving as keynote speaker for the baseball team’s inaugural “Opening Night Dinner,” held Feb. 18, 2002, and moved to the Joyce Center Fieldhouse due to excessive ticket demand (nearly 1,000 attended). Lasorda later visited with the Irish during a team breakfast at the 2002 College World Series and fittingly returned to campus for a CWS ring ceremony at Eck Stadium, on the day of the 2002 ND-Michigan football game.

The popular Opening Night Dinner returned in ‘03, with nearly 1,000 fans again turning out as Chicago Cubs general manager **Jim Hendry** (above left) served as guest speaker. Hendry and Mainieri are longtime friends, dating back to their days on the staff at Miami’s Columbus High School, while former ND associate coach **Brian O’Connor** was a pitcher for Hendry at Creighton (including a trip to the ‘91 CWS).

Bestselling author **John Grisham** (above right) – whose love for baseball, particularly college and youth level, matches his passion for legal thrillers – promises to attract another big crowd in ‘04 (Feb. 5).



Pat Pesavento

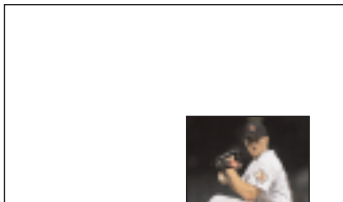


# 2004 Baseball

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

Former Notre Dame pitcher Brad Lidge ranked as one of MLB's top rookies in his first full season with the Houston Astros (3.60 ERA and 97 Ks in 85 IP, 6-3 record, save, 78 GP, 60 H, 42 BB) and was the winning pitcher in the historic no-hitter vs. the New York Yankees on June 11, 2003 (2 IP, 2 Ks; 8-1). It was the first no-hitter vs. the Yankees since 1958 (spanning 6,980 games) and first suffered by the Yankees at home since '52.

Lidge is one of three Notre Dame pitchers from the Paul Mainieri era who have gone on to pitch in the Major Leagues (also **Aaron Heilman** with the New York Mets and **Christian Parker** with the Yankees) while two early-'90s Notre Dame players – IF **Craig Counsell** (left) and LHP **Chris Michalak** – have played for multiple big-league teams (see pp. 131-137).



**Brad Lidge (far left) celebrates the Astros' no-hitter at Yankee Stadium.**



**Vince Naimoli (left) with Paul Mainieri**



**Heilman**



**Parker**



**(from left) Mike Crowley, Larry Dolan and Joe Garagiola, Jr.**



**(from left) Tommy Hawkins, John McHale and Brian O'Gara**

**MAJOR STUDIES** – The Notre Dame baseball team's academic achievement is all the more noteworthy when considering some of the challenging majors, notably: 2001 graduate and Academic All-America left-hander **Mike Naumann** (science pre-professional), 2002 graduate **Ken Meyer** (civil engineering) and righthander **Brandon Vilorio** (graduated in '03 with 3.63 GPA as electrical engineering major).

**MEDIA GUIDE AWARDS** – The Notre Dame baseball media guide recently has ranked among the best in the nation, according to annual judging coordinated by the College Sports Information Directors of America and the College Baseball Writers Association. The 1998 media guide was judged second-best in the nation while the 1999 guide was rated third-best and the 2001 guide placed second (the 2000 guide earned best-in-the-district, with the '02 and '03 guides placing ninth nationally).

**MILESTONES** – Paul Mainieri – who heads into '04 with 731 career college coaching wins (399 at ND) – reached the 600-win milestone in memorable fashion, vs. Portland in the title game of the '01 Fresno State Classic (9-8) on St. Patrick's Day, with the Irish decked out in special green jerseys for the first time in the program's history. He had reached 500 wins early in '99, after a 14-11 win at the University of New Orleans (where he played on two Sun Belt Conference championship teams) – with his 700th win coming early in 2003 (6-2 vs. Georgetown).



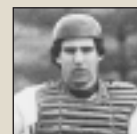
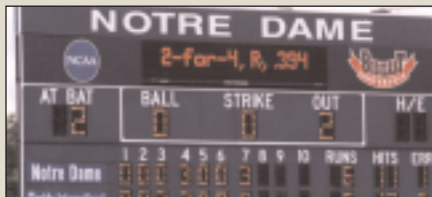
**Rick Pullano**

Monogram Club board of directors, with former center-fielder **Dick Nussbaum** ('74) and infielder **Rick Pullano** ('79) beginning three-year terms in 2002. Former outfielder **Pat Eilers** ('89) completed his three-year stint in 2000 while former leftfielder **Bob Senecal** ('56-'58) served as a board member through '02 (plus one year as an advisor). Former pitcher **Robert "Buster" Lopes** ('83-'85) served on the board from '96-'99.

**NAMESAKE** – Notre Dame student **Lou Sockalexis** never lettered in baseball at Notre Dame, but he had a lasting impact on Major League Baseball. One of the finest Native American athletes in the nation in the early 1900s, Sockalexis played for the Cleveland team known as the Spiders. He overcame heckling of fans to have a successful rookie season. When it was decided in 1915 to give the franchise a nickname, the chosen name honored this favorite ex-player, and the Cleveland "Indians" remains, making Sockalexis the first true Cleveland Indian.

**MESSAGE BOARD** – The scoreboard at Eck Stadium will never be the same, thanks to the recent addition of a state-of-the-art message board – through the generous gift of former Notre Dame catcher **Jim Montagano** and his parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Montagano** of Elkhart, Ind. The Amber AF-4110 Galaxy 64-shade Message Center measures 24 by 144 feet, provides up to three lines of text and can process imported graphics and in-game statistics through a multitude of animated patterns.

The board also can display a running clock and can be used as a marquee to promote events. Montagano remains one of the top offensive catchers in Notre Dame history, batting .325 with 10 home runs and 72 RBI in the 1978, '79 and '81 seasons. He missed all of his junior season due to a freak batting practice injury that fractured his cheekbone but he returned in '81 to lead the Irish with a .397 batting average, plus seven home runs and 42 RBI.





MULTI-SPORT ATHLETES

Notre Dame's history includes many multi-sport athletes. One of the best-known baseball/football players is **Johnny Mohardt**, who teamed with George Gipp in the backfield on Knute Rockne's 1920 national championship team, captained the '21 baseball squad and played professionally in both sports (his teammates included such legends as Red Grange and Ty Cobb).



Johnny Mohardt

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

Former Washington Redskins safety **Pat Eilers** won an ND baseball monogram in '88 while **Frank Jacobs** ('91)—one of the top long-ball hitters in Irish history — started at tight end for the '88 national championship football team. **Irv Smith**, a starting tight end in '92, earned baseball letters in '90 and '91. Shortstop **Paul Failla**, a third-round California Angels draft pick ('94), was a backup QB on the '93 football team while **Scott Sollmann** led the '94 Irish with .402 batting and saw football action as a special teams player and reserve wideout ('94-'95).

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

**NAMESAKES, PART II** – There is one known letterwinning grandfather/grandson combination in Notre Dame baseball history: 3B **Dennis O'Keefe** (captain of the 1931 team) and OF **Pat O'Keefe** (lettered in '96 and '97). Current freshman RHP **Jess Stewart** could follow in the footsteps of pitcher **Jack Stewart** ('45) as the Notre Dame program's second grandfather/grandson combination. The unique connections extend one more generation for sophomore DH **Steve Andres**, a fourth-generation ND student, whose great-grandfather **William Andres** was an ND catcher ('16-'18, alongside future Irish coach Jake Kline) and was a right end on the 1917 football team.



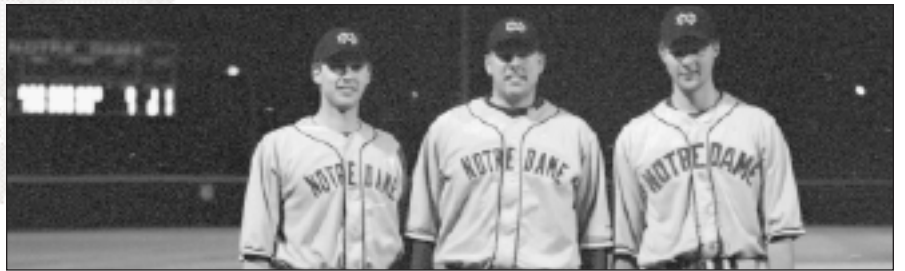
Dennis and Pat O'Keefe



Jack and Jess Stewart



William and Steve Andres



**NO-HITTERS ... AND NEAR-MISSES** – Notre Dame pitchers have posted nine known no-hitters (two by **Norwood Gibson** in the late 1800s), with the most recent solo no-hitters by **Brian Piotrowicz** (2-0 vs. Ball State, May 11, 1988; 7 IP, 24 batters faced, 4 Ks, 3 BB) and LHP **Don Wolfe** (10-0 vs. Butler, April 20, 1975; 7 IP, 12 Ks, 2 BB). ND's last 9-inning no-hitter came in '49, when **Bob Nemes**, **Dick Smullen** and **Tony Lipton** each logged three innings in a 12-0 win over Pensacola. **Mike Mandjiak** is the last to toss a solo 9-inning no-hitter, a 5-0 game vs. the University of Chicago in 1938 (see p. 187). One of the program's biggest moments nearly happened May 12, 1999, when three pitchers came within one strike of the program's first 9-inning no-hitter in 61 years. A pair of seniors faced 13 batters over the first four innings in that 1-0 win over eventual national champion Miami (UM's first shutout loss in 248 games). **Alex Shilliday** (left) kept Miami off-balance with his changeup (4 Ks, 2 BB, runner caught stealing) before lefty **Chris McKeown** (center) took the mound (2 IP, 4 Ks, 1 BB, pickoff throw to second base). All-American **Aaron Heilman** (right) closed with five strong innings (72 pitches, 7 Ks, 4 groundouts, 3 BB), allowing a two-out, 1-2 single by Mike Rodriguez in the 9th before striking out future USA teammate Manny Crespo with a 2-2 slider to end the game.

**NATIONAL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK** – ND's **Brian Stavisky** opened '01 by batting .692 (9-for-13) and reaching base 10 consecutive times at the Mississippi State Classic. He was recognized by *Collegiate Baseball* as national player of the week while the National Collegiate Baseball Writers named him national "hitter of the week." His 10 consecutive times on base included hits in his final two ABs vs. New Orleans and a 3-for-3 effort (2 BB) later that day vs. host Mississippi State (plus hits in his first three ABs vs. MSU the next day). RHP **Aaron Heilman** was named by *CB* as the national pitcher of the week twice in 2000, after 12 Ks in a 6-4 win over Georgia on March 5 and 18 Ks at West Virginia on April 15 (3-1, 10-inn.). The 25-1 win over South Alabama in the '02 NCAAAs resulted in current senior 2B **Steve Sollmann** and junior RHP **Grant Johnson** earning national player and pitcher-of-the-week honors (see "Double Domination").

**NCAA STAT CHAMPIONS** – Five Notre Dame players have ranked first in an official NCAA season statistic: **Shaun Fitzmaurice** (0.34 triples/gm, '64), **Dan Peltier** (32 doubles, '89), **Scott Sollmann** (11 triples, '95), **Aaron Heilman** (1.61 ERA, '98; also sixth in 2001, at 1.74) and **Steve Stanley** ("hardest to strike out" in '02, with 24.64 ABs per K; 271/11).

**NINETIES** – Notre Dame posted the seventh-highest winning pct. among Division I baseball teams in the 1990s (.724, 440-168), behind Wichita State, Miami, Clemson, Florida State, LSU and Delaware. The Irish won 72.9% of their games from '90-'03 (627-233-1).

**NUMBER ONE** – The '01 Notre Dame baseball team claimed the first No. 1 ranking in the program's history, in the April 23 Collegiate Baseball poll (the Irish were No. 1 in the CB and Baseball America polls the next week). An unprecedented four Notre Dame teams were ranked No. 1 in '00-'01 (also women's soccer, men's fencing, women's basketball).

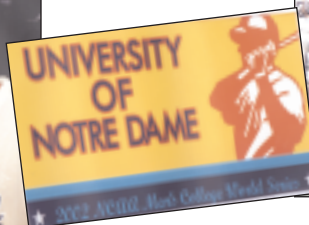
**OFFENSIVE MACHINE** – Notre Dame has posted several noteworthy pitching feats but the batters took their place in the sun during a 16-day stretch in 2002 – winning 23-1 win over Detroit (7 inn.) and 25-1 over top seed South Alabama, in the NCAA Regionals (both at Eck Stadium). It marks the only time in the program's 111-year history that a team had posted multiple wins by 20-plus runs while it had been 101 years since an ND team had topped 23 runs more than once (the 1901 team also had games with 23 and 25 runs).

The Detroit game featured ND's 10 first-inning runs, with senior 3B **Andrew Bushey** collecting five of his team-record-tying seven RBI in the inning. Junior LF **Brian Stavisky** (5-for-5, 5 R) joined Bushey (4-for-6) in leading a 28-hit attack (plus six walks).

That game was overshadowed in the win over South Alabama. Sophomore 2B **Steve Sollmann** (see "Double Domination") set or tied several NCAA and ND records (6-for-7, 7 RBI, 6 R, HR, 2 3B) and the team-record 32 hits were one shy of the NCAA Tournament record – with ND's 59 total bases (5 HR, 3 3B, 6 2B) blowing away that NCAA record (51). The Irish started 13-for-18, with top performers also including senior C **Paul O'Toole** (5-for-5; second time ND teammates had 5-plus hits in same game, first since 1903), senior CF **Steve Stanley** (4-for-5, 4 R), four with three hits and freshman reserve **Brent Weiss** (repeated grand slam from Detroit game). The 25 runs ranked sixth in Notre Dame history (most since '82) while the 24-run margin has been bested just once in the program's 3,242 all-time games.

**OHIO** – Several Ohio natives have played key roles for Notre Dame baseball, with the 2002 College World Series team featuring five starters from Ohio, led by four seniors – DH **Matt Bok** (Akron), 3B/C **Andrew Bushey** (Boardman, near Youngstown), C/3B **Paul O'Toole** (Cleveland suburb of Lakewood) and CF **Steve Stanley** (Upper Arlington, near Columbus) – plus sophomore 2B **Steve Sollmann** (Cincinnati). Another Upper Arlington native, sophomore infielder **Greg Lopez**, joined the Irish in '03.

**OPPONENTS** – Notre Dame has faced 279 opponents entering its 112th year of varsity baseball. Recent first-time opponents have included James Madison, Florida International, Missouri and Oakland in '99, North Florida and Akron in 2000, six more in '01 (Florida Atlantic, New Mexico, Pacific, Sam Houston State, South Florida, UC Santa Barbara), Fairfield, Sacred Heart, Arkansas-Little Rock, Rochester College and Rice in '02 – and Newman, Jacksonville and IPFW in '03. The Irish could add San Diego State, Texas Tech and Winthrop to that list in '04. ND's most common all-time opponents include: Northwestern (130 games), Michigan State (125), Western Michigan (123), Wisconsin (119), Michigan (117) and Purdue (115). Noteworthy teams that ND has yet to face (pre-'04) include Oklahoma State and Texas Tech.



**OMAHA** – Notre Dame's historic 2002 baseball season saw the Irish return to Omaha, Neb., for the College World Series – the program's first CWS appearance since 1957. The Irish were a fan favorite and helped attract record-setting crowds to Rosenblatt Stadium, with a stunning 5-3 comeback victory versus Rice sandwiched around a pair of narrow defeats vs. Stanford (4-3, 5-3).

**PELTIER** – Notre Dame outfielder Dan Peltier ('87-'89) was an academic and athletic All-American, with his .406 career batting average still ranking first in Irish history (he ranks second with 60 doubles and 202 RBI). Peltier played in the Major Leagues with the Texas Rangers and San Francisco Giants.

**PLAYERS OF THE YEAR** – Notre Dame players have been named conference player or pitcher of the year 10 times (since '83). Third baseman **Brant Ust** and righthander **Brad Lidge** were the fourth set of teammates to win the BIG EAST's top awards in the same season ('98), with RHP **Aaron Heilman** and CF **Steve Stanley** ('01) becoming the sixth pair to earn the top BIG EAST honors. Heilman also earned the honor in 2000 (as did **Chris Niesel** in '03), with Stanley becoming the BIG EAST's first repeat player of the year ('02). Ust was the third sophomore named BIG EAST player of the year, joining former Seton Hall great Mo Vaughn and UConn's Jason Grabowski. Three Irish players received player-of-the-year honors from the Midwestern Collegiate Conference (no pitcher award): OFs **Dan Peltier** ('89) and **Eric Danapilis** ('93) and LHP **Tom Price** ('94).

**PRIMETIME PLAYERS** – Several Notre Dame players have cranked up their production in NCAA Tournament play, including OF **Kris Billmaier** ('03) and current senior second baseman **Steve Sollmann**. Billmaier owned just a .271 career batting average in regular-season games but he proved to be a clutch performer in the NCAAs, batting .448 (39-for-87) in 19 games spanning the 2000-03 NCAA Regionals, the '02 Super Regional at Florida State and the '02 College World Series (his other career NCAA Tournament stats included 20 RBI, 9 runs, 8 doubles, a triple and 9 walks). Sollmann hit .370 overall during his first three seasons, including .487 in 18 NCAA games (38-for-78, 17 RBI, 21 R, HR, 3 3B, 2B, 7 BB, 8 SB). Dating back to 1989 (when Notre Dame made its first NCAA appearance since 1970), Sollmann and Billmaier rank second and third on Irish list for career NCAA Tournament batting average (min. 20 ABs), with infielder **Matt Haas** sparking for .514 batting in the '92-'94 Regionals (19-for-37, 15 RBI, 6 R, HR, 2B, 3 BB).

**PRESEASON POLLS** – The 2004 Notre Dame baseball team received the program's highest preseason ranking from Collegiate Baseball magazine (10th) in the 46-year history of that poll while landing in Baseball America's preseason top 25 (19th) for the fifth straight season (one of just seven schools to hold that distinction). The Irish also were 13th in the College Baseball Writers season poll and 17th in the coaches poll – becoming one of 15 teams in the top 20 of all four 2004 preseason polls ... here are the complete preseason polls (ND '04 opponents in italics):

**College Baseball Writers**

- Team ('03 record)**
1. Rice (58-12)
  2. LSU (45-22)
  3. Stanford (51-18)
  4. Georgia Tech (44-18)
  5. Miami (Fla.) (45-17)
  6. Texas (50-20)
  7. Cal State Fullerton (50-16)
  8. Long Beach State (41-20)
  9. South Carolina (45-22)
  10. Tulane (44-19)
  11. Arizona St. (54-14)
  12. Wichita St. (49-27)
  13. **Notre Dame** (45-18)
  14. Clemson (39-22)
  15. Baylor (45-23)
  16. Florida State (54-13)
  17. North Carolina (42-23)
  18. Washington (42-18)
  19. Mississippi (35-27)
  20. Arizona (35-23)
  21. Nebraska (47-18)
  22. N.C. State (45-18)
  23. Texas A&M (45-19)
  24. Florida (37-21)
  25. Fla. Atlantic (47-16)

Also receiving votes: Ohio State (44-21), UNLV (47-17), UC Riverside (41-17), Stetson (41-24), Winthrop (35-22), Southern Mississippi (47-16), VCU (46-13), Mississippi State (42-20), Southern (44-7), Oklahoma State (34-24), Auburn, Minnesota, USC, California, Alabama, Houston, Kansas, Rutgers, Texas-Arlington, Oklahoma, TCU, Pepperdine, Coastal Carolina, Richmond, New Orleans, Arkansas, Princeton, Vanderbilt, Illinois-Chicago, Tennessee, Missouri.

**Collegiate Baseball**

- School ('03 W-L; Pts; Final '03 Rank)**
1. Rice (58-12; 495; 1)
  2. Miami, Fla. (45-17-1; 495; 5)
  3. LSU (45-22-1; 491; 7)
  4. Georgia Tech. (44-18; 489; 14)
  5. Texas (50-20; 486; 4)
  6. Stanford (51-18; 484; 2)
  7. Arizona St. (54-14; 481; 10)
  8. CS Fullerton (50-16; 477; 3)
  9. Wichita State (49-27; 475; -)
  10. **Notre Dame** (45-18; 470; 28)
  11. Baylor (45-23; 468; 13)
  12. Long Beach St. (41-20; 464; 11)
  13. Tulane (44-19; 462; -)
  14. South Carolina (45-22; 458; 6)
  15. Florida (37-21-1; 457; -)
  16. USC (28-28; 456; -)
  17. Clemson (39-22; 450; -)
  18. Auburn (42-21; 449; 20)
  19. Fla. Atlantic (47-16; 446; 23)
  20. Nebraska (47-18; 445; 15)
  21. No. Carolina (42-23; 443; 19)
  22. Arizona (35-23; 441; -)
  23. Washington (42-18; 438; 27)
  24. Florida St. (54-13-1; 437; 9)
  25. Minnesota (40-22; 432; -)

Rest of top 40: 26. UNLV, 27. Mississippi, 28. Winthrop, 29. North Carolina State, 30. Mississippi State, 31. Ohio State, 32. Texas A&M, 33. Oklahoma State, 34. UC Riverside, 35. Alabama (28-24), 36. VCU, 37. Southern Mississippi, 38. Tennessee, 39. San Diego (32-30), 40. Stetson.

**USA Today Coaches' Poll**

- School (1st-pl.; '03 W-L-T; voting pts.; final '03 poll)**
1. Rice (39; 58-12; 997; 1)
  2. Miami (1; 45-17-1; 917; 5)
  3. LSU (45-22-1; 896; 6)
  4. Stanford (51-18; 846; 2)
  5. CS Fullerton (50-16; 818; 3)
  6. Texas (50-20; 805; 4)
  7. Georgia Tech (44-18; 765; 16)
  8. South Carolina (45-22; 634; 7)
  9. Long Beach St. (41-20; 624; 10)
  10. Arizona State (54-14; 555; 9)
  11. Baylor (45-23; 510; 13)
  12. Tulane (44-19; 487; -)
  13. Clemson (39-22; 481; -)
  14. Wichita State (49-27; 427; -)
  15. Auburn (42-21; 384; 17)
  16. No. Carolina (42-23; 353; 21)
  17. **Notre Dame** (45-18; 339; -)
  18. Florida State (54-13-1; 337; 8)
  19. Arizona (35-23; 264; -)
  20. Florida (37-21-1; 234; -)
  21. Nebraska (47-18; 227; 14)
  22. USC (28-28; 183; -)
  23. Mississippi (35-27; 153; -)
  24. Fla. Atlantic (47-16; 146; 25)
  25. N.C. State (45-18; 131; 12)

Others rec. votes: Texas A&M, Wash. (42-18), Ohio St., Miss. St., UNLV, Minn., SW Missouri (40-26), So. Miss., Houston (37-30), Ala. (38-24), VCU, Ark. (35-22), Mich. (30-27), Richmond (48-15; 6), USD, Stetson, ECU (34-27-1), Virginia (29-25), UNO (23-32), UNC-Greensboro (39-21), Winthrop, UNC-Wilmington (40-23), So. Ala. (42-19), UC Riverside, Coastal Carolina (45-18), Fresno St. (30-29), Lamar (40-18), Louisville (34-23), Ohio (35-23), Okla. St., TX Tech (30-25), WVU (36-19).

**Baseball America**

- Team ('03 W-L; '03 Final)**
1. Rice (58-12; 1)
  2. LSU (45-22; 5)
  3. Miami (45-17; 8)
  4. Cal St. Fullerton (50-16; 3)
  5. Georgia Tech (44-18; 17)
  6. Stanford (51-18; 2)
  7. South Carolina (45-22; 10)
  8. Texas (50-20; 4)
  9. Long Beach St. (41-20; 9)
  10. Tulane (44-19; NR)
  11. Clemson (39-22; NR)
  12. Auburn (42-21; 3)
  13. Baylor (45-23; 11)
  14. Wichita St. (49-27; NR)
  15. No. Carolina (42-23; 19)
  16. Arizona (35-23; NR)
  17. Mississippi (35-27; NR)
  18. Arizona St. (54-14; NR)
  19. **Notre Dame** (45-18; NR)
  20. Florida (37-21; NR)
  21. Texas A&M (45-19; 14)
  22. Florida State (54-13; 6)
  23. Fla. Atlantic (47-16; 23)
  24. Nebraska (47-18; 13)
  25. N.C. State (45-18; 12)

Rest of top 50: California (28-27), USC, Southern Mississippi, Minnesota, Mississippi State, Ohio State, Coastal Carolina, Pepperdine (36-25), Washington, Alabama (38-24), Oklahoma State, Boston College (33-21), UC Riverside, Vanderbilt, UNC Greensboro, Southern Alabama (42-19), Eastern Carolina, Richmond, Wake Forest (29-24), Tennessee (31-24), Florida International (36-23), Lamar (40-18), Stetson, San Diego.

**REUNION** – Notre Dame’s 1957 College World Series team held its first-ever reunion in the fall of ‘01 – on campus during the weekend of the ND-Michigan State football game. For many, it marked the first time they had seen one another since the ‘57 CWS. The reunion proved to be a good omen for the Notre Dame baseball program, which eight months later made its first return to Omaha since that ‘57 season. The reunion coincided with ND’s annual alumni game and the ‘57 players had a chance to socialize with the ‘02 squad during an informal dinner. Key players from the 1957 team were selected for a videotape interview session that documented their historic season. All of the starting position players were on hand for the reunion aside from outfielder Gene Duffy, who passed away shortly after his graduation in 1959.

**RUDY, RUDY, RUDY!** – After Notre Dame’s 2002 Super Regional upset at top-ranked Florida State, Paul Mainieri was busy checking his voicemail, jotting down names and numbers, and then erasing the messages to free up his voicemail. Calls rolled in from all corners of baseball and elsewhere and one unique call came from Rudy Ruettiger, the former ND football walk-on and namesake of the movie “Rudy,” who told Mainieri he was inspired by the team’s triumph. Two other Rudy’s had a connection to the upset of FSU. Freshman **Chris Niesel** won the decisive third game, with his father Rudy (an FSU graduate) looking on, while 2002 senior DH **Ken Meyer** – who hit 2-for-3 in the first win over FSU – also is the son of a father by the same name (Rudy Meyer passed away in 1998).

**SCORING STREAKS** – Notre Dame saw its team-record scoring streak end May 15, 2002 (11-0 vs. Rutgers). The Irish scored in the final 57 games of ‘99, every game of 2000 (64) and ‘01 (63), and in the first 46 of ‘02 – for a 230-game scoring streak that stretched back to a 12-0 loss at Florida International (Feb. 21, 1999). The previous record 132-game scoring streak began with the first game of the Paul Mainieri era, a 10-6 loss to Texas at the Anaheim Classic, on Feb. 24, 1995 (the Irish were shut out by Auburn, 8-0, in the ‘94 NCAAs at Clemson). That streak ended vs. Texas Pan-American (2-0) in a seven-inning game on March 10, 1997 (in San Antonio). Notre Dame has scored in 98.9 pct. of its games in the Mainieri era (554 of 560), with other

**PRO PARKS** – Notre Dame has played at several pro ballparks in the 10-year Paul Mainieri era, including: two college games and the 2001 exhibition vs. the Tampa Bay Devil Rays at their spring training site, Florida Power Park (pictured: ND’s Joe Thaman with Vinny Castilla) plus 2002 and ‘04 games in Texas at Dell Diamond (home of double-A Astros affiliate Round Rock Express) and Wolff Stadium (double-A San Antonio Missions, a Seattle Mariners affiliate after long stint with L.A. Dodgers).

Previous Irish teams have played at two Major League parks, competing in ‘95 and ‘96 tournaments at the Seattle Kingdome while facing the University of Pittsburgh at Three Rivers Stadium in ‘98. The Irish have played BIG EAST Tournament games at three minor-league parks Dodd Stadium (Norwich, Conn.), Waterfront Stadium (Trenton, N.J.) and Somerset Ballpark (Bridgeport, N.J.) while ND and Michigan annually play at Old Kent Park (now Fifth Third Bank Ballpark), near Grand Rapids. The Irish also played at the ‘98 ACC Blast in Orlando (at Atlanta Braves’ spring training facility, Disney Wide World of Sports complex) and in the 2000 Hormel Foods Classic at the Minnesota Metrodome (the Irish returned to the Metrodome in ‘03).



shutouts at Seton Hall (16-0; 3/22/97), vs. St. John’s (3-0; 5/9/98) and vs. Rutgers in the BIG EAST Tournament (12-0; 5/16/98). The longest pre-Mainieri ND scoring streaks were 121 (April 23, 1930-May 26, 1937) and 103 games (May 25, 1907-May 17, 1912).

**SHUTOUT STREAK** – A pair of then-sophomores, **Peter Ogilvie** and **Matt Laird** (vs. Cleveland St.), and then-seniors **Aaron Heilman** and **Danny Tamayo** (DH at Pittsburgh) equaled an 85-year-old Notre Dame team record by combining to post three consecutive shutouts (all 3-0; March 21 and 23, 2001).

**SHUTOUTS IN THE NCAAs** – **Chuck Symeon** and **Danny Tamayo**’s careers at Notre Dame are separated by more than 40 seasons, yet they are the only members of an exclusive club – by virtue of tossing shutouts in NCAA Championship play (two of just three shutouts ever posted by ND in 66 all-time NCAA games). Symeon’s win capped his string of 14 shutout innings at the 1957 College World Series, as he opened the Colorado State game with four no-hit innings (the Irish won 23-2) before returning the next day (June 10) to eliminate favorite Texas, 9-0. The junior paced himself by holding back his patented fastball while scattering five singles and five walks, with seven Ks, three double

plays and a pickoff. Tamayo’s shutout came at the 2000 Starkville Regional, with the Irish facing elimination in front of a raucous crowd of 10,000-plus rooting mostly for home-standing Mississippi State. Tamayo – who had completed a successful return from “Tommy John” reconstructive surgery but had pitched sparingly in 2000 – shackled the potent Bulldogs with his tough changeup and his 105-pitch gem marked the first time since ‘83 that Mississippi State was blanked in an NCAA regional (ending a 59-game regional scoring streak). Tamayo took a no-hitter into the 7th and faced just 30 batters, with one strikeout, 10 groundouts and 15 flyouts in his longest career out-pitch (besting 5 IP, two weeks earlier vs. Rutgers).

**SIGNEES** – The Notre Dame baseball program inked six highly-regarded high school seniors to national letters of intent during the 2003 early signing period. The fall signees include righthanded pitchers **Tony Langford** (Fort Worth, Texas/Country Day HS) and **Joey Williamson** (Lantana, Fla./Santalucas), lefthanders **David Gruener** (Gig Harbor, Wash./Life Christian HS) and **Wade Korpi** (Lake Worth, Fla./Santalucas HS), and the lefthanded-hitting infield duo of **Ross Brezovsky** (Naples, Fla./Collier HS) and **Brett Lilley** (North Canton, Ohio/Canton Central Catholic and Hoover HS).

The 6-foot, 175-pound Langford is an accomplished two-way player who could see time in the infield, batting .338 (24 R) as a junior to go along with 2.25 ERA (6-2, 67 Ks, 47 IP). The 5-11, 180-pound Korpi and 6-2, 185-pound Williamson are the first high school teammates to sign with the Irish in the 10-year Paul Mainieri era. Korpi posted a 1.06 ERA and 14.5 Ks per 9 IP in ‘03 while Williamson checked in with a 1.35 ERA and 18.0 Ks/9 IP. Four of the signees – the 5-10, 160-pound Brezovsky (.425 as junior), 6-1, 200 Gruener (1.75 summer ERA) and prep teammates Korpi and Williamson – have been included on the Perfect Game/Baseball America list of the nation’s top prospects, with Williamson also starring for the 2002 U.S. Youth National Team. Williamson (31st), Korpi (45th) and Brezovsky (65th) were ranked by PG/BA (Oct. ‘03) among the top players in talent-rich Florida, with Gruener 9th among players from Washington and Langford 71st in Texas.



**PROSPECTS, I** – The Oct. ‘03 Perfect Game/Baseball America list of the nation’s top college prospects for the 2004 Major League draft included five Notre Dame players among the top 135 prospects, matching Georgia Tech, Miami and Stanford for the most prospects in the top 135. The Irish also matched defending national champion Rice and Georgia Tech with four players among the top 45 on that list: junior RHPs **Grant Johnson** (24th), **Chris Niesel** (39th) and **John Axford** (44th, prior to his season-ending elbow surgery) and 3B/SS **Matt Macri** (33rd) – with senior 2B **Steve Sollmann** checking in at No. 133. In most seasons, Notre Dame would boast the nation’s highest-rated pitching trio – if not for Rice’s elite group of Jeff Niemann, Wade Townsend and Phil Humber (each is projected as a first-rounder).

**PROSPECTS, II** – The annual Baseball America preview issue also ranks prospects by class (namely the non-juniors) and several Irish players showed up on those lists. In addition to those mentioned above, freshman RHP **Jeff Manship** was rated the nation’s No. 3 freshman prospect (fellow RHP **Derik Olvey** was 22nd) while sophomore RHP **Ryan Doherty** was the No. 47 sophomore prospect (15th among RHPs). Senior 2B **Steve Sollmann** checked in as the No. 10 senior prospect, second among senior middle infielders.

**PROSPECTS, III** – Plenty of Notre Dame’s 2004 opposing players were included on Baseball America’s list of the top 200 prospects (24 total, see p. 94).



(from left) Chris Niesel, Grant Johnson, and John Axford are three of the nation’s highest-rated prospects.



**REGIONALS** – Notre Dame's Eck Stadium was the site of NCAA Regional action in 1999, 2001 and again in '02 – making Notre Dame one of just nine schools to host three-plus regionals from '99-'02. Top seed Cal State Fullerton advanced from the '99 Regional, which included the Irish, Creighton and Michigan. The event was well received by the community, with a near-record crowd of more than 2,100 for the opening-round game vs. Creighton (pictured). Notre Dame previously had played host to NCAA baseball action in the 1949 and '59 seasons (when the opening games were comprised of geographically-based district playoffs). Eck Stadium welcomed UC Santa Barbara, Florida International and Wisconsin- Milwaukee to tangle with Notre Dame in 2001 Regional action, with the Irish then winning the 2002 Notre Dame Regional that featured South Alabama, Ohio State and Kent State.



**SIX-HIT CYCLE** – **Alec Porzel** was more than just an observer in the 22-18 loss to Pittsburgh on May 7, 2000, at Eck Stadium – batting 6-for-6 and hitting for the cycle, including a traditional and an inside-the-park home run. He was the first player with six hits in 108 years of ND baseball and first to hit for the cycle since at least the mid-1980s (boxscores incomplete) – with the addition of an inside-the-park HR making his day more unique. Porzel tied the BIG EAST hit record and his 15 total bases were three shy of the BIG EAST record. The six-hit game included: RBI triple to right-center in the 1st (1 out, 0-2 pitch); a two-out, 2-1 hit to shallow left-center that kicked past the sliding CF and rolled to the track for a 3rd-inning HR; a 2-out, first-pitch single to center in the 5th; and three straight lead-off hits in the 7th (full-count 2B to LC), 8th (2-2 home run to left) and 9th (1-0 single to left side).

**STANLEY** – Centerfielder **Steve Stanley** concluded his stellar Notre Dame career in '02, ranking third in NCAA Division I history for career hits (385) and second in consecutive starts (256). The 5-8, 155-pound speedster also set Notre Dame records for runs (256), stolen bases (116), at-bats (1,003), games played and started (both 256), also ranking second in total bases (461) and sac. bunts (30), third in batting (.384), seventh in walks (126), ninth in triples (12), 11th in on-base pct. (.449) and 13th in doubles (47) – good for the top 10 in 13 of 20 career categories in the ND record book (second only to **Eric Danapilis'** 15).

Stanley also set BIG EAST career records for hits (154), runs (110), games played (102) and at-bats (99) in BIG EAST regular-season games and was one of four players in the nation to earn consensus first team All-America honors in 2002. The first repeat winner of the BIG EAST player-of-the-year award and the second to add BIG EAST Tournament MVP in the same season, he was rated by Baseball America as the "Roy Jones of college baseball" (best pound-for-pound). He went on to be the fourth-highest drafted player in ND baseball history, as a second-round pick of the Oakland A's.

**STREAK BUSTERS** – Notre Dame's 10-4 opening win in the 2002 NCAA Super Regionals halted Florida State's 25-game winning streak, an Atlantic Coast Conference record and one of the longest streaks in Division I baseball history. Ending noteworthy streaks has become a tradition for Notre Dame teams:

- Nov. 17, 1957 – Dick Lynch's TD provides the only scoring as the Notre Dame football team wins at 2nd-ranked Oklahoma (7-0), ending the Sooners' 47-game win streak (still the NCAA record).

- Jan. 19, 1974 – Dwight Clay's jumper provides the winning points as the ND basketball team halts UCLA's 88-game win streak (still NCAA record) in a 71-70 thriller.

- Oct. 2, 1994 – ND women's soccer plays to a 0-0 tie vs. perennial power North Carolina in St. Louis, stopping UNC's 92-game win streak (still NCAA record) ...

one year later, the Irish claim the national title with College Cup wins over UNC and Portland.

- Jan. 15, 2001 – Notre Dame women's basketball stuns Connecticut, 92-76, to halt UConn's 30-game win streak and help vault ND on to the national title.

- June 7, 2002 – ND baseball ends top-ranked Florida State's 25-game win streak (10-4, at Howser Stadium), in first game of NCAA Super Regional series.

**SUPER STAFF** – The '92 staff ranks as one of the most talented in ND history: 6-7, 245-pound **Pat Leahy** ('90-'92; 25-7, 3.67, 192 Ks), lefties **Chris Michalak** ('90-'93; 34-13, 12 SV, 3.21, 263 Ks) and **Tom Price** ('91-'94; 40-8, 5 SV, 2.70, 276 Ks), and big-gamers **David Sinnes** ('90-'93; 32-8, 6 SV, 2.91, 315 Ks) and **Al Walania** ('90-'93; 30-12, 8 SV, 236 Ks) ... combining for a 161-48 record, 31 saves, a 3.19 ERA and 1,282 Ks in 1,627 IP (7.09 per 9 IP).

**SUPER STAFF, No. 2** – The Irish produced another strong staff in '98, with the 4.02 ERA ranking 12th in the nation. The '98 staff included: 1st-round draft pick **Brad Lidge** ('96-'98; 13-5, SV, 4.86, 143 Ks), lefty **Tim Kalita** ('97-'99; 11-1, 4.00, 214 Ks), four-year regular **Alex Shilliday** ('96-'99; 25-17, 4.41, 265 Ks) and four-year All-American **Aaron Heilman** ('98-'01; 43-7, 12 SV, 2.49, 425 Ks) ... combining for a 92-30 record, 17 saves, 3.62 ERA and 1,047 Ks in 1,027.2 IP.

**30-30** – Shortstop **Alec Porzel** become the first Irish player ever to reach 30 career home runs (vs. Detroit in '01) and 30 stolen bases, totaling 37 HRs and 32 SBs from 1998-2001 (in 239 games played). Catcher **Paul O'Toole** (31 HR, 54 SB, 239 GP) joined Porzel in the unique 30-30 distinction, blasting his 30th home run midway through the 2002 season.

**THREE-SPORT ATHLETE** – **Kevin Hardy** is one of the most versatile athletes in recent Notre Dame history. As a sophomore ('64-'65), he became the first ND athlete in 19 years to monogram in three sports in the same academic year. A two-time football All-American ('66, '67), Hardy lettered on the '64-'65 basketball team and led the '67 baseball team with .398 batting.

**3,000 GAMES** – Notre Dame has amassed 3,242 all-time varsity baseball games, reaching the 3,000 milestone in the opener of a March 25, 2000, double-header vs. Villanova at Richie Ashburn Field in downtown Philadelphia (an Aaron Heilman 1-hit, 4-0 win).



*The 3,000th game in Notre Dame baseball history was played vs. Villanova (in Philadelphia) on March 25, 2000.*

**SUMMER STARS** – Three Notre Dame players made big names for themselves as participants in the 2000 Cape Cod League, the nation's premier wood-bat summer league. (pictured, from left) Centerfielder **Steve Stanley**, outfielder **Brian Stavisky** and catcher **Paul O'Toole** were starters for the 2000 CCL all-star game (only Georgia Tech, with three, could match the Irish). Stanley led the league with .329 batting (2nd with 31 runs, 20 SBs) as leadoff man for the Brewster Whitecaps, alongside O'Toole (who tied for 5th in the league with 4 HRs). Stavisky, the all-star MVP, was second in the CCL batting race (.324, also 4th with 26 RBI, plus 3 HRs) and saw his Hyannis Mets fall to Brewster in the title game, 6-2.



Stavisky was an all-star with Hyannis in '01, as was Irish second baseman **Steve Sollmann** with the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox, while Stanley was named a '01 summer All-American with the Delaware (Ohio) Cows of the Great Lakes League. Several ND players led the Hays (Kan.) Larks to the title game of the '00 and '01 National Baseball Congress (NBC) World Series in Wichita: 3B **Andrew Bushey** and RHPs **Matt Buchmeier** and **Drew Duff** (in '00), and pitcher **J.P. Gagne** and 1B **Joe Thaman** (in '01). Gagne returned to the NBC World Series in '02, as a key starter with the Alaska Goldpanners team that claimed the national title (2.98 ERA, 34 Ks, 13 BB and 46 hits allowed in nine appearances, seven starts and 51.1 IP).

Four freshman pitchers on ND's 2002 squad were invited to pitch in the CCL during the summer of '02 (**Grant Johnson** was slated to pitch for Brewster but was named to Team USA). **John Axford** pitched for Hyannis while **Chris Niesel** (3.42, 3-1, 25 Ks, 7 BB, 18 H, 23.2) and **Martin Vergara** were members of the Falmouth Commodores. Several were top performers in the summer of '03: current junior 3B **Matt Macri** (2nd in CCL with 7 HRs for Brewster), Niesel (5th in CCL with 7 saves for Falmouth), sophomore OF **Craig Cooper** (.337, 38 RBI, 5 HR, 24 SB; Hays Larks), sophomore RHP **Ryan Doherty** (0.46, 3 SV, 28 Ks, 19.2 IP; Delaware Cows) and sophomore DH **Matt Bransfield** (.381, 12 HR, 36 RBI; Colorado Sox).

**TOP-FIVE CONFERENCE** – BIG EAST baseball headed into 2001 with a prestigious ranking from *Baseball America*, which rated the BIG EAST as the nation's fifth-best baseball conference, behind traditional powers (SEC, ACC, Pac-10, Big 12). Four current BIG EAST teams participated in the 2000 NCAAAs: Notre Dame, Rutgers, Seton Hall and Virginia Tech. Five others advanced to the NCAAAs in the '90s while the league consistently has produced high draft picks and NCAA statistical leaders (see p. 108). BA ranked the BIG EAST seventh for 2003, behind the above four conferences plus Conference USA and the Big West.

**TOURNAMENT TOUGH** – Notre Dame is 71-26-1 (.730) at regular-season tournaments in the Mainieri era, including a '98 win over Florida State, wins in 2000 over Wake Forest, Georgia and Illinois (2), and 2001 wins over Mississippi State (2), Fresno State and Illinois. The Irish headed into '03 with a 29-8-1 mark in their previous 38 regular-season tournament games, after a 9-7 loss to Minnesota ('00). ND has not had a losing record in 15 of its last 17 regular-season tournaments (50-14-1) – since a 1-2 showing at the ACC Disney Blast early in '98 (the Irish then did not have a losing tournament until the '02 UNO Classic).

**TRAVEL** – Notre Dame regularly travels to top-notch facilities and noteworthy cities. In Paul Mainieri's 10 seasons, the Irish have visited: Fullerton, Long Beach and Los Angeles, Calif., Seattle (Kingdome), San Antonio and Round Rock, Texas, six Florida cities (Miami, Orlando, Jacksonville, St. Petersburg,

Tallahassee and Boca Raton), Atlanta, New Orleans, Boston, Washington, D.C., New York City, Minneapolis (Metrodome) and Tempe, Ariz.

**TWO-YEAR TEAR** – Notre Dame's combined victory total from the 2001 (49-13-1) and 2002 (50-18) seasons represented the third-most wins (99) in Division I baseball during that two-year span, trailing only Florida State (107) and South Carolina (106).

**TURNAROUND** – Notre Dame's turning point in 2002 came March 28 in the second game at West Virginia, a 10-6 comeback that sparked a 41-7 record the rest of the way. The Irish lost the opener to fall to 9-10 overall (0-4 BIG EAST) and things did not look good in the nightcap, with WVU leading 5-0 in the first inning while ND cleanup hitter **Brian Stavisky** was in the hospital after being plunked with a pitch earlier in the day. With 2-hole hitter **Steve Sollmann** hampered by a quad pull, the Irish rallied behind senior pitcher **Drew Duff** and freshman **Martin Vergara** – with big hits from senior CF **Steve Stanley** (3-for-6, 3 RBI, 2 R), senior C **Paul O'Toole** (3-run HR) and sophomore SS **Javier Sanchez** (2-run, go-ahead 2B in 10th).

**TWENTY-FOUR HOURS** – That's nearly how long it took Notre Dame to win the final four games at the '89 Midwestern Collegiate Conference Tournament. Due to rain delays and the immediacy of an NCAA bid, the Irish defeated Dayton, 20-4, in a game that started at 1:37 and ended at 4:21 a.m. ... but that was just the beginning. The Irish grabbed what rest they could while beating Evansville (11-2) and Detroit (4-1) before

pounding Detroit, 21-10, for the program's first NCAA bid since 1970 (the final game ended at 11:47 p.m.).

**WIN STREAKS** – Notre Dame's 17-game winning streak in 2003 (March 24-April 14) is the longest of the nine-year Paul Mainieri era and tied for second-longest in the program's 111-year history, behind an 18-game streak in 1991 and matching a 17-game streak in 1907. The '91 squad is the only other ND team in the last 85 seasons to win more than 16 consecutive games.

**WOODY** – Longtime *South Bend Tribune* reporter and baseball beat writer **Forrest "Woody" Miller** was on the other side of several interview requests at the 2002 College World Series, due to his unique perspective of covering both of Notre Dame's trips to the CWS. Miller was just getting settled in at the Tribune in 1957 when the Irish advanced to Omaha for the CWS – and he was back in Omaha 45 years later to report on the thrilling end to Notre Dame's historic 2002 season.

**YAZ** – Yes, **Carl Yastrzemski** attended Notre Dame in the 1957-58 academic year (see p. 73) and would have been on the varsity as a sophomore if he had not signed a six-figure pro contract with the Boston Red Sox. "Yaz" continued to attend classes at Notre Dame and graduated from Merrimack College.

**ZOLNOWSKI** – Righthander **Ray Zolnowski** is the final player on ND baseball's list of 816 all-time letterwinners. The 800th letterwinner played in '02 and (alphabetically) that recipient was RHP **Ryan Kalita**.

**TEAM USA (and more)** – Four Notre Dame baseball players (three in last six years) have been members of the U.S. National Team. Outfielder **Shaun Fitzmaurice** was a member of the 1964 U.S. Olympic team that competed in Tokyo (baseball was an exhibition sport in '64). Infielder **Brant Ust** was named to the elite 22-man U.S. team that posted a 32-10 record in the summer of '98, advancing from a qualifying tournament in Nicaragua to the World Junior Championship in Italy. Ust – a regular at third base who finished as the USA's third-leading hitter (.378, 20 RBI) – and his USA teammates were introduced in pregame ceremonies of Major League games at Arizona's BankOne Ballpark and New York's Shea Stadium.

Righthander **Aaron Heilman** played on the '99 Team USA squad that toured Japan and 10 U.S. states. Heilman ranked as one of the staff's top pitchers (4-2, 2 saves, 3.84 ERA, 37 Ks, 12 BB, 41 H in 40 innings). Heilman and Ust were the only players on their respective USA teams who hailed from a school in the Midwest or Northeast.

Current junior righthander **Grant Johnson** then toured with Team USA in the summer of '02 (international tournament in the Netherlands and World Championship in Italy), helping post a team record for staff ERA (1.48) with a solid showing in five outings (3 GS, 1.80, 2-1, 25 Ks, 13 BB, 11 H in 20 IP).

Three current juniors were top players on junior national teams. Third baseman/shortstop Matt Macri was one of two members of the 2000 U.S. Junior National Team who was named all-tournament at the Junior Pan Am Games (Sonora, Mexico), hitting .353 for that bronze-medal team (7 RBI, 9 GP). Johnson helped the '01 U.S. Juniors post a best-ever silver-medal finish at the '01 Pan Am Games in Cuba, winning both his outings vs. Panama (2 H; 10-1) and Columbia (2 H; 17-1). Fellow righthander **John Axford** crossed paths with Johnson in Joplin, Mo., when he won a game vs. the U.S. as a member of Canada's Youth National Team (he saved a game vs. a professional rookie-level team in Florida and posted a 1-1 record with Team Canada in the Dominican Republic, vs. teams from the Dominican Summer League).

Current sophomore outfielder **Cody Rizzo** played for the U.S. Youth National Team in 2000, helping that team beat Cuba (2-1) en route to winning the 2000 Pan Am Championship (Monterrey, Mexico).

Finally, current freshman righthander **Jeff Manship** was one the top pitchers for the 2003 U.S. Junior National Team, with his two starts at the Junior Pan Am Cup (0.84, 1-0, 20 Ks, 5 BB, 6 H, 10.2 IP) highlighted by a 15-strikeout, 7-inning outing vs. homestanding Curacao (10-1; 9-inning game). He earlier served as a middle reliever with the 2001 U.S. Youth National Team that won the World Championship in Vera Cruz, Mexico.



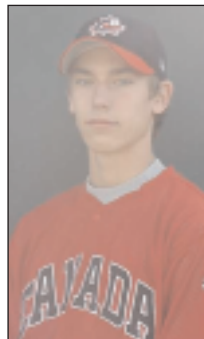
Johnson



Heilman



Macri



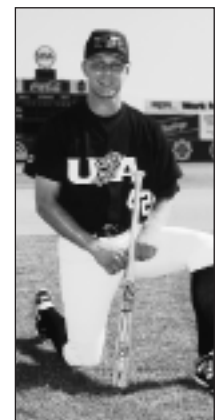
Axford



Manship



Fitzmaurice



Ust



The first nine years of the Paul Mainieri era at Notre Dame ('95-'03) included many noteworthy individuals who have gone on to distinguish themselves after completing their Irish baseball careers. Included among the 61 former Mainieri players listed below are: three pitchers who have reached the Major Leagues, 11 other pro baseball players (plus 21 former pro players), seven lawyers/current law students, three medical-school students, three engineers, five involved in medical supplies sales, eight college/high school coaches, three commodity brokers, a prospective dentist, a sports agent, a contractor and a town mayor – plus others involved in areas such as youth services, accounting, sales, athletic administration, technology, advertising, graphic design, banking and consulting. Here's the list (as of Jan., 2003):

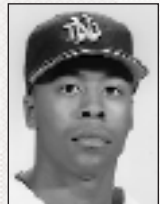
Player (Years)	Postgraduate Endeavors
Craig Allen ('94-'96)	In-house trader with Marquette Partners (Chicago); played two seasons in Los Angeles Dodgers organization
Mike Amrhein ('94-'97)	Grad. asst coach at Toledo (head coach is Cory Mee, ND '92); teacher/coach in Chicago area (winters '99-'02); six seasons in Cubs org.
Mike Balicki ('95-'97)	Third-year CYO athletic director in Seattle; former counselor at facility for abused and neglected children/special-education teacher
Kris Billmaier ('00-'03)	Began professional career in 2003 as member of Detroit Tigers affiliate in Gulf Coast League
Matt Bok ('00-'02)	Played two seasons in Los Angeles Dodgers organization ('02-'03)
J.J. Brock ('95-'98)	Math teacher/baseball coach at Sierra HS (Colo. Springs); asst. coach at St. Mary's (CA; '02-'03); three seasons in Diamondbacks org.
Randall Brooks ('95-'97)	Pharmaceutical sales rep. with GlaxoSmithKline in Chicago; previous private business ventures included a detail shop
Matt Buchmeier ('99-'02)	Accountant with KB Parrish (Indianapolis); pursuing master's degree in accounting from Indiana University
Andrew Bushey ('99-'02)	Currently taking science pre-professional courses, will apply to dental schools; played in Colorado Rockies org. ('03)
Mike Carlin ('98-'01)	Award-winning salesman for Stryker (medical device company); recently promoted to sales rep. position in Atlanta
Scott Cavey ('97-'00)	Edward Jones investment rep. (Omaha); previously with Paine-Webber
Ben Cooke ('99-'02)	Third-year law student at the Univ. of Dayton; has accepted position as attorney with Fulbright & Jaworski (San Antonio)
John Corbin ('98-'00)	Second-year pitching coach/recruiting coordinator at Eastern Kentucky; played three seasons in Cubs organization
Pat Davis ('96-'98)	Baseball coach/athletic director at Texas Military Institute (San Antonio); plans to pursue master's in education
Craig DeSensi ('92-'95)	Involved in sales of spinal implants for Medtronic Sofamor Danek (Louisville), attends surgeries to oversee equipment
Drew Duff ('99-'02)	Sales rep. for HBR Johnson Distributing (Chicago)
Jeff Felker ('97-'00)	Account exec., KK&A Integrated Retail Marketing (Chicago), clients include Mayta, Amana; one season in Cubs org.
Todd Frye ('97-'98)	Vice president in business strategies group at ABN AMRO Services (Chicago); nearing MBA from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management
J.P. Gagne ('00-'03)	Entering second season in Colorado Rockies organization (13th-round draft pick in '03)
Allen Greene ('96-'98)	First year working in ND Athletic's Compliance Office; worked for Shamrock Net Design ('01-'03); three seasons in Yankees org.
Aaron Heilman ('98-'01)	Made Major League debut with New York Mets in 2003; entering fourth season of professional baseball (1st-round pick in '01)
Gregg Henebry ('94-'97)	Senior account executive with NetTek Technology Consultants (private systems integration firm in Boston)
Mike Holba ('02)	Assistant media buyer with Carat USA (N.Y.C.); buys and maintains spots exclusively for Pfizer consumer/pharmaceutical
Ryan Kalita ('02-'03)	Entering second season in Chicago Cubs organization
Tim Kalita ('97-'99)	Entering sixth season in Detroit Tigers organization, reaching triple-A Toledo in past two seasons
Mike Knecht ('98)	Technology consultant/solution architect for Oracle Corp. (LA); ND Club of Orange County VP for communications
Tim Kraus ('92-'95)	Equity trader with Gartmore Global Investments (Philadelphia); played three seasons in Chicago White Sox org.
Matt Laird ('00-'03)	Entering second season in Chicago Cubs organization; Arizona League ERA leader in '03 (Relief Man of the Month)
Dan Leatherman ('97-'98)	Works at CF Swingtown Baseball Acad. (Chicago); worked at Ernst & Young (San Fran.); two seasons in Twins org.
Brad Lidge ('97-'98)	One of National League's top rookies as bullpen stopper with '03 Houston Astros; entering seventh season of pro ball
Bob Lisanti ('92-'94, '96)	Sports agent with Chicago-based RMG Sports Management; played four seasons in Cubs org. (reaching triple-A)
Chris McKeown ('97-'99)	Finance manager for national account sales with Cardinal Health (Gurnee, IL); received '03 Finance Leadership Award
Ken Meyer ('99-'02)	Structural engineer for CON/SPAN Bridge Systems (Dayton); pursuing masters in structural engineering from the University of Cincinnati
Larry Mohs ('94-'95, '97)	Manager of trading operations for Ziff Brothers Investments (N.Y.C.); earned MBA in finance (Montclair State), pursuing Ph.D. in business administration (Touro University International)
Mike Naumann ('98-'01)	Third-year student at Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, Texas); member of UT-Houston rec. sports flag-football champs
Matt Nussbaum ('99-'00)	Third-year ND Law School student; will be assoc. with Jones Day (Chicago), then clerk for fed. Judge Edward Harrington (Boston)
Peter Ogilvie ('01-'03)	Graphic designer for Consolidated Foam, Inc. (Lincolnshire, IL)
Tom O'Hagan ('97, '98)	Attending New York Medical College; earned master's in education from ND's ACE program; ran L.A. Marathon for charity
Pat O'Keefe ('96-'97)	Assistant county prosecutor for Kent County Prosecutor's Office (Grand Rapids, MI); Detroit College of Law graduate ('03)
Paul O'Toole ('99-'02)	Entering third season in Chicago Cubs organization
Christian Parker ('95-'96)	Entering ninth season in pro baseball; has re-signed with Montreal Expos organization; pitched for N.Y. Yankees in '01
Jeff Perconte ('97-'00)	On leave from Winston & Strawn (Chicago), as clerk for federal Judge Timothy Corrigan (Jacksonville, FL); graduate of Notre Dame Law School
Alec Porzel ('98-'01)	Information management/internet publishing for Aspen Pub./CCH Tax and Legal; one season in Red Sox org.
George Restovich ('94-'96)	Attorney for Blumenfeld, Kaplan & Sandweiss (St. Louis); graduated from St. Louis University Law School ('00); serves as Under-18 summer select coach; played one season in Tigers organization
Rowan Richards ('93-'96)	Futures trader with Marquette Partners (Chicago); played four seasons in Texas Rangers organization
Rich Sauget ('94-'96)	Mayor of hometown (Sauget, IL); former field manager/personnel director for Gateway (IL) Grizzlies; played three seasons in Chicago White Sox org.
Darin Schmalz ('94-'97)	Associate Director with Bank One in Chicago (middle market capital markets); received MBA from DePaul ('01); spent one season in Los Angeles Dodgers organization
Justin Scholl ('95-'97)	Controller for in-store marketing firm Encore Services (Columbus, OH)
Alex Shilliday ('96-'99)	Attorney with Gibson, McClure, Wallace and Daniels (Dallas); SMU Law School grad.; involved in ND Club of Dallas
Scott Sollmann ('94-'96)	First year at Northern Kentucky's Chase Law School; former law clerk, probation officer; six minor-league seasons with four organization
Steve Stanley ('99-'02)	Entering third season in Oakland Athletics organization; named an all-star in double-A Texas League ('03)
Brian Stavisky ('00-'02)	Entering third season in Oakland Athletics organization; single-A Midwest League all-star ('03)
Dan Stavisky ('95-'98)	Cash commodity merchandiser for grain products, now working for Scoular Comp. (Orchard Park, N.Y.)
Matt Strickroth ('99-'02)	Sales rep. for Physician Sales and Service (Orange County, CA); part-time baseball coach (Santa Margarita HS)
Steve Szczepanski ('98)	Network engineer, Northrop Grumman (Rolling Meadows, IL); also involved with Major League Beginnings instructional camps; serves as pitching coach at Glenbard West HS
Danny Tamayo ('98, '00-'01)	Entering fourth season in Kansas City organization; named an all-star in double-A Texas League ('03)
Ryan Topham ('93-'95)	Second-year medical-school student at Texas Health Center (San Antonio); Paine Webber financial advisor ('97-'99); played three seasons in Chicago White Sox organization
Brant Ust ('97-'99)	Entering sixth season in Detroit Tigers organization, reaching triple-A Toledo in past two seasons
Brandon Vioria ('00-'03)	Engineer with Lockheed Martin's Knolls Atomic Power Lab (Schenectady, NY); pursuing electrical engineering masters from Georgia Tech
Jeff Wagner ('96-'99)	V.P. with Wagner Companies in Louisville (electrical/data telecom contractors; vehicle wash sales/service); four seasons in Anaheim Angels organization
Wally Widelski ('95-'97)	Pitching coach for Gary Raincats; ND vounteer. assistant ('01-'03); asst at NIU ('98-'99), Bethel ('00); sports management master's (NIU)



**Ben Cooke**



**Brad Lidge**



**Rowan Richards**



**Ryan Topham**