

Post Game Notes

Notre Dame vs. St. John's

April 30, 2010

- Senior Brayden Ashdown (Tucson, Ariz.) notched the first multi-home run game of his career and the first by a Notre Dame player since A.J. Pollock smacked two on May 16, 2009, also against St. John's; in fact, the last three two-HR games by Irish players have all come against the Red Storm, as Ryan Connolly also took St. John's deep twice on May 14 of last season. Ashdown becomes the seventh Irish player in the Dave Schrage era to homer twice in a game, joining Mike Dury (3/14/07), Casey Martin (3/21/08), Evan Sharpley (3/22/08), Jeremy Barnes (5/3/08), Connolly, and Pollock.
- Ashdown also tied a career high by driving in three in the game.
- The Irish have now won four straight games, nine of the last 12, and six of seven in the BIG EAST; the team ERA over the last 12 games is 2.57, including a 2.22 ERA by the bullpen. Notre Dame has won three straight games by at least seven runs (outscored the opposition 31-6), the first time the Irish have accomplished that feat since April 14-17, 2004, when the Irish defeated Oakland, 17-5, and Georgetown, 18-7 and 11-4.
- Paul Karmas' solo home run in the fifth inning ended Notre Dame's streak of not allowing a long ball at 12+ games and 487 batters. The stretch was the longest since the 2006 Irish squad went 24 consecutive contests without surrendering a circuit clout.
- The home run also ended the scoreless streak by Notre Dame's starting pitchers at 15.0 innings, as junior Brian Dupra (Rochester, N.Y.) had worked 4.1 shutout frames, allowing just two baserunners, up to that point.
- Dupra (8.0 IP, 5 ER) won his second consecutive start and still has not lost since March 26 against USF, a game in which he yielded just two earned runs in 6.0 innings. Dupra now sports a 2.82 ERA over his last four outings (also one relief appearance); in those games (covering 22.1 innings), Dupra has walked just three batters, lowering his career average to 1.91 walks per nine innings, eighth in ND history and just behind David Mills' (Battle Creek, Mich.) average of 1.83. Notre Dame has now won each of Dupra's last four starts.
- A pair of virtually meaningless runs for St. John's in the eighth ended the Notre Dame starting staff's streaks of 11 consecutive games allowing four earned runs or less and seven straight yielding three or fewer.
- Senior Ryan Connolly (Binghamton, N.Y.) notched his 15th HBP of the season when Bruce Kern plunked him with his first pitch of the night. He is now tied for 10th in Irish single-season history in that category with Eric Danapilis (1993), Javi Sanchez (2004), and Alex Nettey (2005). Connolly's next will tie him with Greg Lopez (2005) for ninth.
- In the process, Connolly reached base in his first plate appearance for the fourth consecutive game, already the fourth time this season he has reached base in his first plate appearance in at least three straight games. His on-base percentage in his first plate appearance this season (excluding sacrifice bunts) is now .585 (24-for-41). With the beaming, Connolly also assumed sole possession of the BIG EAST lead in HBP, breaking a tie with Scott Ferrara of St. John's and Jonathan Kosco of USF.
- Senior David Mills' (Battle Creek, Mich.) first-inning sacrifice fly extended his league-leading season total to seven, tying him for fifth in the ND single-season record books. (Teammate Mick Doyle set the Irish record with nine two seasons ago.) With his 45th career sacrifice (30 sacrifice bunts, 15 sacrifice flies), Mills also moved into a tie with Steve Stanley (1999-2002) for third on the school's list for career sacrifices.
- With two runs in the first inning and three in the second, Notre Dame scored in each of the first two innings for the fourth straight game—it was also the third straight in which Notre Dame plated at least two in each of those innings.
- Notre Dame has now won six of its last seven games over St. John's, averaging 11.0 runs per game over those seven contests. The nine-run victory for the Irish tied for the second largest for either team in the series, bested only by Notre Dame's 18-3 win over the Red Storm on April 6, 2003, in the second game of a doubleheader.
- The Irish win also snapped the Red Storm's eight-game winning streak. St. John's came into the contest scoring an average of 12.7 runs per game over its last six games, but managed just five in Friday night's game.
- Freshman Frank DeSico (Cleveland, Ohio) tied career highs with four hits (six at bats) and two RBI against the Red Storm. He made his 35th consecutive start at second base for the Irish.
- Notre Dame went error-free once again on Friday, the fifth time in the last six games and seventh time in the past nine games the Irish have not committed a miscue. Notre Dame's fielding percentage is .991 over the last nine games.
- Junior Greg Sherry (Mendham, N.J.) scored two more runs in Friday night's game, giving him six runs in his last four games; Sherry scored four runs in his first 26 games this season.
- Senior Casey Martin (Chesterton, Ind.) extended his hitting streak to nine games with a two-run double in Notre Dame's seven-run fifth inning. He finished 2-for-4 with two RBI, giving him nine multi-hit games in his last 13 contests.