

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL FROM A-Z

Notre Dame Baseball "By the Numbers"

- 3,047**
All-time varsity baseball games
- 1892**
First varsity baseball season
- 1580**
WJVA radio (AM) is scheduled to broadcast most of the 2001 season
- 792**
All-time letterwinners
- 587**
Paul Mainieri's career coaching wins
- 478**
Record-setting strikeout total by the 1999 staff
- 406**
Dan Peltier's record for career batting average
- 315**
David Sinnes' career strikeout record
- 314**
Aaron Heilman's career strikeout total, heading into the 2001 season
- 267**
All-time Notre Dame opponents
- 238**
J.J. Brock's record total for games played and started
- 204**
Pat Pesavento's record for consecutive starts
- 118**
Aaron Heilman's record season strikeout total (1999 and 2000)
- 77**
Winning seasons (out of 108)
- 73**
Record-setting home run total by the 1997 offense
- 72.3**
Team winning percentage in 1990s
- 49**
Jeff Wagner's career home run record
- 43**
States represented in all-time roster
- 39**
Games needed by '99 and 2000 squads to reach 30 wins (tying team record)
- 34**
States played in by Irish (since '57)

ACADEMICS – The Notre Dame baseball squad posted a 3.19 team grade-point average in the 2000 fall semester—the program's best semester in the seven-year tenure of head coach Paul Mainieri. Nine players turned in a Dean's List semester (3.4 or higher) in the fall of 2000, with 21 at 3.0 or higher. Irish baseball players have earned GTE Academic All-America honors 13 times since 1982, including a pair in 2000: 2B **Jeff Perconte** (3.76 cumulative GPA, double major in economics and government; now attending Notre Dame Law School) and current senior LHP **Mike Naumann** (3.92, pre-professional science; three 4.0 semesters; already accepted into and plans to attend Baylor Medical School). Notre Dame was one of seven Division I baseball teams with multiple Academic All-Americans in 2000 and only two of those schools—Notre Dame and North Carolina—participated in the 2000 NCAAAs. Top All-America candidates for 2001 include Naumann, junior 3B **Andrew Bushey** (3.33, finance) and sophomore RF **Brian Stavisky** (3.69, Mendoza College of Business).

ALL-AMERICANS – Notre Dame baseball players have combined for 16 major All-America awards (14 since '89, eight last three seasons). Junior pitcher **Aaron Heilman** owns six of those awards, as he was named third team All-America by *Collegiate Baseball* magazine as a freshman and sophomore while also earning 1999 third-team honors from the American Baseball Coaches Association before earning All-America from *Collegiate Baseball*, the ABCA and *Baseball America* as a junior (2000). Infielder **Brant Ust** was tabbed by the ABCA and *Baseball America* as a third-team All-American as a sophomore in 1998.

ALUMNI – Notre Dame's 792 baseball monogram winners include several who have gone on to successful administrative careers: executive director of the Notre Dame Alumni Association **Chuck Lennon** (catcher, 1960-61); recently-retired Notre Dame assistant vice president for special events **Jim Gibbons** (P/OF, '52-'53); commissioner of the Mid-American Conference **Rick Chryst** (OF, '81-'83); Xavier University athletic director **Mike Bobinski** (P, '78-'79); Indiana lieutenant governor **Joe Kernan** (C, '67-'68); Detroit Tigers executive **John McHale** (1B, '43) and former Notre Dame athletic director **Dick Rosenthal** (1B, '52-'53). Former Irish pitcher **Steve Whitmyer** ('83) is in his first season as the head baseball coach at Navy.



Mike Bobinski

ANSON – Brothers **Sturgis** and **Cap Anson** helped popularize baseball on the Notre Dame campus in 1866 (Cap later became one of pro baseball's most dynamic players in the late 1800s). Notre Dame began playing off-campus competition in 1888 and baseball became a varsity sport in 1892. The program's first varsity game was held April 21, 1892, a 6-4 home win over the University of Michigan.

BIG EAST RECORD BOOK – In five seasons as a member of the BIG EAST Conference, Notre Dame already has made its mark in the league's baseball record book. Notre Dame in 1999 became the first—and still only—BIG EAST team ever to win more than 18 conference games (20-5) while the '99 Irish pitching staff set a BIG EAST record with 199 strikeouts in conference play. Four former Notre Dame players rank among the top 17 players on the BIG EAST list for 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** (12th, .399, 89-for-223, '96-'98) and C/DH **Jeff Wagner** (17th, .390, 98-for-251, '96-'99). Ust is the only

player ranked in the BIG EAST career top 10 for conference batting average, home runs (6th, 19) and RBI (10th, 71). Wagner's 24 home runs in BIG EAST regular-season play trail only former Seton Hall great Mo Vaughn (26) in BIG EAST history and he is tied for third with 83 career RBI in BIG EAST play.

BIG EAST RECORD BOOK, PART II – Irish senior **Aaron Heilman** ranks 10th in BIG EAST history with a 2.84 ERA in BIG EAST regular-season play (min. 70 IP) and third in wins (15, two back of Providence great Todd Incantalupo) and Ks (143, one back of former Boston College pitcher Doug MacNeil, 21 behind Seton Hall recordholder Jason Grilli's '95-'97 total) and 10th in complete games (10, Incantalupo holds the record with 15). Former Irish pitcher **Darin Schmalz** ('96-'97, 2.74) ranks eighth on the ERA list and is tied for 10th with 10 career BIG EAST complete games, while **Alex Shilliday** ('96-'99) ranks fourth in conference wins (14), fifth in starts (22) and 10th in Ks (119). **John Corbin** saved seven BIG EAST games from 1999-2000 (fourth all-time) while Heilman is seventh on that list (five).

BROTHERS – Current Irish sophomore **Ryan Kalita** could follow in the footsteps of his brother **Tim** ('97-'99), by lettering with the Notre Dame baseball program, as could freshman **Steve Sollmann** (his brother **Scott** played for the Irish from '94-'96). At least 12 brother combinations are known to have lettered with Notre Dame baseball:

- Arthur (OF, '12) and Francis Carmody (2B, '15) of Shreveport, La.
- Francis (LH, '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) of Davenport, Iowa.
- Roy (OF, '39) and Raymond Pinelli (SS, '39-'41) of San Francisco, Calif.
- John (1B, '43) and Tom McHale ('48, OF) of Detroit, Mich.
- 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).
- Frank (OF/1B, '66-'68; .277, 2 HR) and Bill Orga (OF, '68-'70; .308, 3 HR, 36 RBI) of Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 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.
- Marty (RHP, '80; 4.11, 4-3) and Carl Vuono (1B/3B, '84; .297, 12 HR, 69 RBI) of Pittsburgh, Pa.



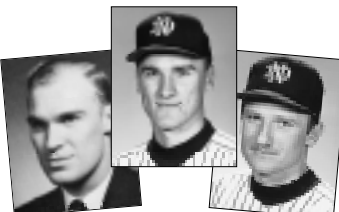
Alfred Bergman



Joseph Bergman



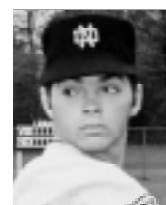
Ralph "Ray" Pinelli and Roy Pinelli



Tom, Dan and Ray Szajko



Frank Orga



Bill Orga

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL FROM A-Z

Camp Notre Dame

Notre Dame baseball continues to expand its offerings to young baseball players, providing an exciting way to learn the game of baseball in a university atmosphere. Day camps and residential camps are offered, including an advanced camp for players with varsity high school playing experience. The four camp sessions in 2001 include: a day camp for ages 8-12 (June 18-21), a developmental overnight camp for ages 10-15 (June 25-29) and two advanced overnight camps for ages 16-18 (July 16-19; July 23-26). For more information, call (219) 631-8788.

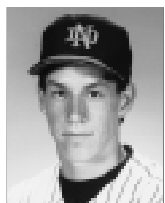


"BINK" – Former 1B **Joe Binkiewicz** is assured a place in Notre Dame lore with two amazing hitting records. In a game versus Evansville on April 6, 1991, he became the fifth Irish player to hit three home runs in a game before repeating the feat 12 days later against Michigan. In between those games, "Bink" hit a monstrous home run over the 40-foot centerfield wall at South Bend's Coveleski Stadium. The wall (405 feet from home plate) had never previously been cleared by any player since its opening in '88.

CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN – Former Notre Dame shortstop **Craig Counsell** and his father **John** are the only father/son combination to captain the same team sport at Notre Dame (John as a rightfielder in 1964, Craig in 1992).



John Counsell



Craig Counsell

COACHING CONNECTIONS – Several former Notre Dame baseball players currently are involved in college coaching, including: **J.J. Brock** (Ohio University graduate assistant), **Cory Mee** (Michigan State assistant), **Steve Whitmyer** (Navy head coach) and **Wally Widelksi** (Notre Dame volunteer assistant). Whitmyer—in his first year at Navy after a stint as an assistant at Virginia—will have the chance to coach versus his alma mater this season, when Notre Dame and Navy tangle at the Fresno State Classic (March 13).



Steve Whitmyer

THE COMMISH – Former Notre Dame baseball player **Rick Chryst** was named commissioner of the Mid-American Conference on May 11, 1999. Chryst spent the previous seven years at the Atlantic Coast Conference, last serving as assistant commissioner in charge of marketing, television, corporate programs, legal affairs, special events and outreach programs. He earlier had spent three years as an assistant commissioner with the Southwest Conference. Chryst—a native of Plateville, Wis.—was an all-conference outfielder for the 1983 Irish baseball team, graduated magna cum laude with an economics degree and received his law degree from Duke in 1989.

CONFERENCE WINNING PCT. – Over the course of its first five BIG EAST seasons (1996-2000), Notre Dame ranks first in the 11-member conference with:

a .705 overall winning percentage (215-90, Rutgers is second at .634), a .736 BIG EAST regular-season winning percentage (81-29, Rutgers is second at .713) and a .702 winning percentage in combined BIG EAST regular-season and tournament games (92-39, Rutgers is second at .690). St. John's owns the best BIG EAST Tournament winning pct. during the past five seasons (.600, 10-6), followed by Notre Dame at .524 (11-10). The double-elimination tournament has been the ultimate bugaboo for Notre Dame, with the same team providing the Irish losses during each of the first three seasons (WVU in '96, Villanova in '97, Rutgers in '98) before the Irish were beaten by complete game-efforts from Seton Hall and Providence in '99, followed by a pair of losses to Boston College in 2000.

CAPE COD ALL-STARS

Three Notre Dame baseball players made big names for themselves as participants in the 2000 Cape Cod League—the nation's premier wooden-bat summer league for college-age players. All three Irish players (pictured, from left)—centerfielder **Steve Stanley**, outfielder **Brian Stavisky** and catcher **Paul O'Toole**—were selected as starters for the 2000 Cape Cod League all-star game (only Georgia Tech, with three, could match the Irish). Stanley led the Cape with a .329 batting average as leadoff man for the Brewster Whitecaps, playing alongside Irish classmate O'Toole. Stanley also ranked second in the Cape for runs (31), third in on-base percentage (.429) and fourth in stolen bases (20-of-27, in 43 GP). O'Toole hit .273 and impressed observers with his wooden-bat power, tying for fifth in the league with four home runs, plus three triples, three doubles, 24 RBI, 26 runs, 18 walks, 27 Ks and 13-of-18 SBs (41 GP). Stavisky—who finished second in the Cape batting race (.324)—saw his Hyannis Mets fall to Brewster in the title game, 6-2, while O'Toole combined with Stanley to help the East all-stars rally past the West, 7-6. Stavisky hit three home runs in the Cape (one coming as co-MVP of the all-star game) while ranking fifth in the league in slugging (.453), fourth in RBI (26), second in doubles (14) and first in hits (55), plus 19 walks, 30 Ks and four SBs (44 GP). Several players from teams on Notre Dame's 2001 schedule were teammates of the Irish players in the Cape, including Fresno State 2B Tom Creighton (Brewster) and three players from Hyannis: Florida Atlantic RHP Dan Core, Virginia Tech RHP Jason Bush and Connecticut OF Mike Scott.



28

Players' home states during seven-year tenure of head coach Paul Mainieri

24

Notre Dame's record streak of games with one loss (23-1) during 1998 season

23

College World Series record set by Notre Dame for runs scored in an inning (1957)

21

Players who posted a GPA of 3.0-plus in 2000 fall semester

18

Strikeouts thrown by Aaron Heilman in 10-inning game at West Virginia (4/15/00)

17

First-round pick with which Ken Plesha (1965) and Brad Lidge (1998) were selected in the Major League Draft

15

States represented on 2001 roster

13

Former Irish players in pro baseball during 2000 season

12

Active streak of consecutive seasons with 40-plus wins

9

Preseason ranking for Notre Dame in 2001 *Baseball America* poll

7

Team single-game home run record (set in both 1998 and '99)

7

Aaron Heilman's rank on *Baseball America's* list of pro prospects for 2001

4.02

Team ERA in '98 (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)

3.19

Baseball team GPA in the 2000 fall semester

1.61

Aaron Heilman's NCAA-best season ERA (1998)

◆ Notre Dame has won nearly 75 percent of its BIG EAST regular-season games (81-29) since joining the league prior to the 1996 season (including a 53-16 record during the past three seasons).

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL FROM A-Z

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



Dick Nussbaum

- Lawrence (C, '32-'34) and Kevin O'Neill (RHP, '64; 4.01 ERA, 3-3 record).



Matt Nussbaum

- Jim (RHP/OF, '52-'53; 7-7, 65 K, .150, 9 RBI) and Brian Gibbons (C, '84; .222, 3 RBI).



Lawrence O'Neill

- John (RF, '62-'64; .290, 6 HR, 44 RBI) and Craig Counsell (IF, '89-'92; .306, 18 HR, 166 RBI).



Kevin O'Neill

- George (RHP, '66-'67; 3.68, 5-3) and George Restovich, Jr. (C/1B, '94-'96; .327, 22 HR, 155 RBI).

- Rich (C, '64-'66; .307, 7 HR, 35 RBI) and Rich Sauget, Jr. (RHP, '94-'96; 3.13 ERA, 3-3, 9 SV).



Jim and Brian Gibbons



George, Sr., and George Restovich, Jr.



Rich, Sr., and Rich Sauget, Jr.

DOUBLE-DOUBLE – The 1999 Irish baseball and softball teams combined for an .878 (36-5) winning percentage in BIG EAST regular-season play, the best combined winning percentage by one school since the league began sponsoring softball in '92. The softball team went 16-0 for the first undefeated season in BIG EAST history and the baseball team went 20-5 (no other BIG EAST baseball team ever has totaled more than 18 wins). Notre Dame became the first BIG EAST school ever to post the top regular-season winning percentages in baseball and softball in the same season.

THE ECK – Notre Dame has enjoyed great success at Frank Eck Stadium (see pp. 60-61), located on the southeast corner of campus. The Irish won more than 80 percent of their games at "The Eck" during the facility's first seven seasons (169-40, .809; 1994-2000), highlighted by a 25-2 mark in '97 and a 140-33 home record (.809) during the first six years under head coach Paul Mainieri. The Irish head into 2001 with victories in 96 of their last 118 games (.814) at Eck Stadium (since late in the '96 season), including a 43-9 mark in home BIG EAST games during that stretch.

EIGHT(EEN) Ks IS ENOUGH – Current Irish senior RHP **Aaron Heilman** (Logansport, Ind.) tied a BIG EAST record and came just shy of the Notre Dame record with an 18-strikeout effort in a 3-1, 10-inning win at West Virginia on April 15, 2000 (the game was scheduled for seven innings). Heilman seemingly became stronger as the game wore on, spotting his tough slider with regularity while delivering a fastball that still touched 91 miles-per-hour in the lategoing. He retired 15 straight batters from the 5th-10th innings and struck out 10 of the final 12 he faced, including seven straight before yielding a single with two outs in the 10th. Kevin Olkowski—who had two of his team's six hits—went down swinging on three pitches to end the game. Heilman's 18 Ks tied the BIG EAST record set by Seton Hall's Jason Grilli in a 7-2 win over Connecticut in '97 (Grilli went on to become the fourth pick in the '97 draft, by the San Francisco Giants). Frank Carpin is the only other Irish pitcher ever to record 18-plus Ks in a game, with 19 in a 10-inning win over Indiana on April 16, 1958 (12-10). Heilman's memorable day included just two walks, with 11 groundball outs and one flyout. All nine Mountaineers starters—plus reserve Matt McGee—were K victims.

FAN MAIL – At first, they began to trickle in but then there was no stopping them, as literally hundreds of e-mails, faxes and chatboard posts came flooding through the information high-

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



way in praise of the Notre Dame baseball team and the way it competed at the 2000 NCAA Starkville Regional. A large portion of the comments came from the rabid Bulldogs fans, who formally had inducted the names of Notre Dame players such as Stanley, Billmaier, Tamayo, Felker, Nussbaum, Porzel and Corbin into the storied history of Dudy-Noble Field. A common thread throughout all the e-mails originating from Mississippi was a desire for the Irish to make a return visit ... and it didn't take long to work out those logistics, as Notre Dame will open its 2001 season at Mississippi State's National Bank of Commerce Classic, on Feb. 17-18.

(ALMOST) FIFTY STATES – The Notre Dame list of all-time monogram winners includes players hailing from 43 home states. Current sophomore pitcher **Brandon Vilorio** (Wailuku, Hawaii) in 2000 became the first Irish baseball letterwinner from the island state while current freshman LHP **Cody Wilkins** (Hudson, N.C.) could become the first from the Tar Heel state. The only other states that have not produced Notre Dame baseball letterwinners include: Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Vermont.

FIRST-ROUNDERS – Notre Dame junior RHP **Brad Lidge** (right) 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 pick of the first round. Lidge is one of 17 Notre Dame players drafted in the first 10 rounds (since 1965), including nine during the tenure of seventh-year Irish head coach Paul Mainieri. **Ken Plesha**, a sophomore catcher in 1965, was Notre Dame's other first-round pick—also going with the 17th pick, to the Chicago White Sox.

FIVE HUNDRED WINS – Notre Dame's Paul Mainieri reached the 500-win milestone early in the 1999 season, when the Irish posted a 14-11 win at the University of New Orleans (255 of his 587 wins have come with the Irish). The milestone held special significance for Mainieri, who played on two Sun Belt Conference championship teams during his playing career at New Orleans.

FORTY-WIN SEASONS – Notre Dame has posted 12 straight seasons with 40-plus wins, including 48 wins in 1989 and '92, 46 victories in four seasons ('90, '93 '94, '00), 45 wins in '91 and 44 in '95. Notre Dame's active streak of seasons with 40-plus wins ranks fourth in Division I baseball, trailing only Florida State (23), Wichita State (23) and Clemson (15).



Brad Lidge

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL FROM A-Z

FOUR-TIME ALL-AMERICANS – Notre Dame senior RHP **Aaron Heilman** could post the fourth All-America season of his career, which would place him among an elite group of Notre Dame student-athletes (he already is the first Irish baseball player ever to be a three-year All-American). Just 16 previous Notre Dame student-athletes have been four-year All-Americans, with four coming from team-oriented sports: men's basketball player **Kevin O'Shea** ('47-'50) and women's soccer players **Holly Manthei** ('95-'98), **Jen Grubb** ('96-'99) and **Anne Makinen** (1997-2000). Others include cross country runners Oliver Hunter ('40-'43) and Mike McWilliams ('90-'93), plus men's fencers Mike Sullivan ('76-'79), Charles Higgs-Coulthard ('84-'87), Yehuda Kovacs ('86-'89), Leszek Nowosielski ('88-'91), Jeremy Siek ('94-'97) and Luke LaValle ('96-'99) and women's fencers Molly Sullivan ('85-'88), Myriah Brown ('96-'99), Sarah Walsh ('96-'99) and Magda Krol ('97-'00).

FRESHMAN PHENOMS – Notre Dame has produced two BIG EAST rookies of the year-DH **Jeff Wagner** ('96) and infielder **Brant Ust** ('97)-while current freshman RHP **Aaron Edwards** has been tabbed by *Baseball America* as the 2001 preseason BIG EAST rookie of the year. 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-America pick by *Baseball America* and *Collegiate Baseball*. RHP **Aaron Heilman** was second team all-conference, a consensus '98 Freshman All-American and one of three players named co-national freshman of the year by *Collegiate Baseball*. Centerfielder **Steve Stanley** was named second team all-BIG EAST in '99, the only freshman to earn all-BIG EAST.

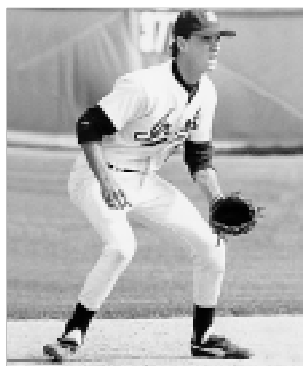
IRON MAN – Former Irish shortstop Pat Pesavento, who now resides in Winston-Salem, N.C., did not start the 19th game of his first season at Notre Dame, the second game of a cross-town doubleheader with Bethel College on April 3, 1986. He then started the final 31 games of '86, all 44 games of '87, each of the 61 games in '88 and all of the marathon 68-game season in '89. That makes 204 consecutive starts for Pesavento-an Irish record that may never be broken. For perspective, there are only 10 other Notre Dame players who have appeared in 204-plus games and only five who have started more than 204. Pesavento ranks first at Notre Dame for career hits (296) and runs (246), second in stolen bases (94) and at-bats (806), fourth in walks (143), sixth in games played (218) and sixth in batting average (.367). Pesavento also played football at Notre Dame in the fall of 1984 and '85, as a backup quarterback.

HOME RUNS – Notre Dame flirted with the team home run record from '97-'99, including a record 66 long balls in '97. The Irish posted another record of 73 home runs in '98 before surging late in '99 for 70, with 12 different players leaving the yard that season. Notre Dame totaled 259 home runs the past four seasons and averaged 63 in the first six seasons of the Paul Mainieri era (since '95). Mainieri's first six Irish teams have posted a combined .313 batting average (high of .334 in '97, tying team record) and a .477 combined slugging percentage (high of .529 in '97). Notre Dame entered 2000 looking to replace a pair of players who rank atop the Irish career HR charts: catcher/DH Jeff Wagner ('96-'99, 49) and infielder Brant Ust ('97-'99, 46). Both of those players made a run at Frank Jacobs' season record (20, '91) but came up short, with Wagner hitting 17 in '97 while Ust hit 18 in '98 and 17 in '99.



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

His classmate, catcher **Paul O'Toole**, became the seventh Notre Dame player to earn first-team Freshman All-America in the '90s, as one of three catchers named to the *Collegiate Baseball* team. Rightfielder **Brian Stavisky** was the only freshman position player to earn all-BIG EAST honors in 2000 (second team) before being named a Freshman All-American by *Baseball America* and *Collegiate Baseball* (his 14 home runs ranked fourth in the nation among all freshmen).



Pat Pesavento

GAME-ENDING HOME RUNS – Junior shortstop **Alec Porzel** has made a name for himself when it comes to game-ending home runs. In addition to his 10th-inning blast vs. Pittsburgh (11-8) on May 7, 2000, Porzel also beat the Panthers with a first-pitch, walkoff home run to cap the '99 Pittsburgh series (3-2, in the ninth). As a freshman, he ended the longest game in Eck Stadium history with a 15th-inning homer vs. West Virginia (5-3). Most recently, Porzel's first career grand slam broke an 7-7 tie in the eighth inning of the 15-7 BIG EAST Tournament win over Pittsburgh.

HERING – Frank Hering was the first baseball coach at Notre Dame (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 was adopted officially by Congress a few years later.

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

IN THE POLLS (also see pp. 7, 83) –

Baseball America Preseason Top 25

Team (W-L ... Final '00 Rank)

1. Georgia Tech	50-16	6
2. USC	44-20	5
3. LSU	52-17	1
4. Miami	41-19	13
5. Nebraska	51-17	8
6. Arizona State	44-15	12
7. Florida State	53-19	3
8. South Carolina	56-10	4
9. NOTRE DAME	46-18	NR
10. Clemson	51-18	7
11. Auburn	41-20	25
12. Rice	43-23	NR
13. Florida	43-23	20
14. Stanford	50-16	2
15. Cal State Fullerton	38-21	22
16. Georgia	32-26	NR
17. Central Florida	43-19	NR
18. Pepperdine	36-23	NR
19. Tulane	38-22	NR
20. Baylor	45-17	14
21. Mississippi State	41-20	15
22. Long Beach State	31-25	NR
23. East Carolina	46-18	NR
24. Minnesota	38-24	NR
25. So. Mississippi	32-26	NR

USA Today/ESPN Preseason Coaches Poll

Team (1st) ... W-L ... Voting Points

1. Georgia Tech (24)	50-16	987
2. LSU (8)	52-17	949
3. USC	44-20	947
4. Florida State	53-19	780
5. Clemson	51-18	770
6. Arizona State	44-15	763
7. Nebraska	51-17	742
8. Miami, Fla.	41-19-1	706
9. Stanford	50-16	680
10. South Carolina	56-10	668
11. Rice	43-23	612
12. Cal-State Fullerton	38-21	483
13. NOTRE DAME	46-18	482
14. Florida	44-23-1	477
15. Auburn	41-20	405
16. Baylor	45-17	373
17. Mississippi State	41-20	274
18. Georgia	32-26	268
19. Oklahoma	41-23	241
20. Texas	46-21	191
21. Central Florida	43-19	177
22. Long Beach State	31-25	171
23. Alabama	41-24	140
24. Stetson	48-16	115
25. Tulane	38-22-1	112

Others receiving votes: East Carolina (109), Evansville (70), Pepperdine (68), La-Lafayette (58), Wichita St. (56), Wake Forest (50), Tennessee (46), Minnesota (44), Fresno State (27), Virginia Tech (22), Florida Int'l (21), Penn St. (20), New Orleans (19), Texas A&M (19), Oklahoma St. (17), UCLA (16), Houston (15), Texas Tech (15), San Jose St. (14), Southern Mississippi (13), Purdue (12), North Carolina (11), Illinois (9), Ball State (8), Loyola Marymount (8), South Alabama (8), Rutgers (7), Creighton (6), Nevada (4), Kentucky (4), Ohio St. (4), Florida Atlantic (2), Kent St. (2), Arizona (1), Old Dominion (1), Georgia Southern (1), Seton Hall (1), Campbell (1), The Citadel (1), California (1).

Teams in italics are on Notre Dame's 2001 schedule.

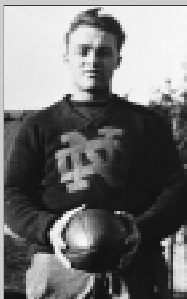
◆ Centerfielder Steve Stanley started all 125 of Notre Dame's games his first two seasons (61 in '99, 64 in 2000) and could push that streak past Brant Ust's (179, '97-'99) as the second-longest in Irish history.

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL FROM A-Z

Multi-Sport Athletes

Notre Dame's storied history includes many noteworthy multi-sport athletes, with nearly 100 pulling double duty on the athletic fields.

One of the best-known baseball/football players in Notre Dame history is **Johnny Mohardt**, who teamed with George Gipp in the backfield on Knute Rockne's 1920 national championship football team. He later captained the 1921 Irish baseball squad and played at the professional level in both baseball and football (his teammates included such legends as Red Grange and Ty Cobb).



Johnny Mohardt

Future Notre Dame athletic director **Dick Rosenthal** pulled off the basketball-baseball double from 1951-53, earning two baseball letters while fashioning an All-America hoops career. Joining him on the diamond and the court was **Jim Gibbons**, who went on to serve his alma mater as an assistant baseball coach and assistant vice president.

Former Washington Redskins safety **Pat Eilers** won a Notre Dame baseball monogram in '88 while **Frank Jacobs**—who graduated in 1991 as one of the top long-ball hitters in Irish history—was a starter at tight end on the '88 national championship team. **Irv Smith**, a starter at tight end in 1992, earned baseball letters in '90 and '91 and twice hit two home runs in a game.

Shortstop **Paul Failla**, a third-round California Angels pick in '94, played a noteworthy role as a backup QB on the '93 Irish football team. **Scott Sollmann** led the Irish with a .402 batting average in '94 and the former MVP of the Ohio state football championship game saw action with Irish football as a special teams player and reserve wideout ('94-'95).

Legendary Notre Dame quarterback **Joe Theismann** was a 39th-round draft choice of the Minnesota Twins in 1971. Theismann, who played six games for the Irish in 1970, played primarily in summer leagues and was considered a legitimate big-league prospect.

JAKE — Clarence Kline needed only one name for those associated with college baseball to know the personality involved. "Jake" Kline began his playing career for Notre Dame 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 the Irish 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 another 42 seasons. Jake retired in '75 at the age of 81, coaching in 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 remained in touch with Irish baseball and was active in many Notre Dame functions until his death in '89, at age 94. When the Irish baseball team moved to Eck Stadium in '94, Kline's name moved as well. The official title of the playing surface is Jake Kline Field at Frank Eck Stadium.

K CREW — The Notre Dame pitching staff posted the team strikeout record every season from '97-'99: 399 in '97, 456 in '98 and 478 in '99 (before 454 in 2000). The Irish have averaged 447 Ks the past four seasons (1,787 total), with the '99 staff averaging 8.38 Ks per nine innings—best by an Irish staff since '63 (the 2000 staff then set the Notre Dame record for K-to-walk ratio, at 2.50). Top contributors to the K crew in the last four seasons have included current senior Aaron Heilman (314 Ks in 279.2 IP with a team-record 118 in both '99 and 2000), first-round draft pick Brad Lidge ('96-'98, 143 Ks in 129.2 IP; 93 in '98), '99 graduate Alex Shilliday (third in Irish history with 265 career Ks) and lefty Tim Kalita (214 Ks in 214 IP, '97-'99).

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 and University trustee (see p. 109). The Byron V. 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 Notre Dame 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. Eleven Irish baseball players have received the award, including current Mid-American Conference commissioner Rick Chryst ('83) and 2000 recipient **Jeff Perconte**.



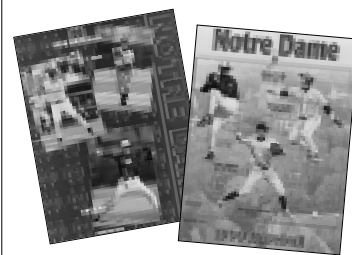
Matt Nussbaum

The well-rounded quality of Notre Dame baseball's 2000 senior class was validated at the season-ending All-Sports Banquet, which pays tribute to the 26 varsity sports teams while recognizing a variety of award winners. Irish baseball players were recipients of two of the most prestigious awards in 2000, with **Perconte** receiving one of five Kanaley Awards presented that night while catcher **Matt Nussbaum** received the Francis Patrick O'Connor Award, presented annually to one male and one female student-athlete at Notre Dame who best embody such virtues as team spirit, inspiration, caring, courage, honesty and patience. The award is named after a student-athlete who died in 1973 following his freshman year at Notre Dame (Pat O'Connor was the son of William "Bucky" O'Connor who played guard in football for Notre Dame in the 1940's).

MAJOR STUDIES — The academic achievement of the Notre Dame baseball team is all the more noteworthy when considering the challenging majors being pursued by many of the team members, most notably: senior

lefthander **Mike Naumann** (science pre-professional), junior DH **Ken Meyer** (civil engineering) and sophomore righthander **Brandon Vilorio** (electrical engineering).

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 (in conjunction with the College Baseball Writer's Association). The 1998 Notre Dame baseball media guide was judged second-best in the nation while the 1999 guide was rated third-best (the 2000 guide earned best-in-the-district honors).



MONOGRAM CLUB — Several former Irish baseball players have gone on to serve on the board of directors for the Notre Dame National Monogram Club. Former outfielder **Pat Eilers** ('89) completed his three-year stint on the board in 2000 while former leftfielder **Bob Senecal** ('56-'58) is a board member through 2002. Former Notre Dame pitcher **Robert "Buster" Lopes** ('83-'85) served his three-year term on the Monogram Club board from '96-'99.



Bob Senecal

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

NOTRE DAME												
WELCOME TO ECK STADIUM												
AT BAT	BALL	STRIKE	OUT	H/E								
22	3	2	2	E2								
					1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	RHS		HITS		ERR		
GUEST					100	001	010	102	5	1	9	
IRISH					100	020	1012	7	12	0		

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 and pass them on to spectators 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 during 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 as a senior in 1981 to lead the Irish with a .397 batting average, plus seven home runs and 42 RBI.



Jim Montagano

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL FROM A-Z

NCAA REGIONAL: Notre Dame's Frank Eck Stadium served as the site of the 1999 NCAA Baseball Championship South Bend Regional, a four-team, double-elimination event held May 28-30. Top seed Cal State Fullerton advanced from the regional, which also included the host Irish, Creighton and Michigan. The three-day event was well received by the local community, which produced a near-record crowd of more than 2,100 fans for Notre Dame's opening-round game versus 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, as opposed to the current nationwide regional format).



NAMESAKE: Former Notre Dame student **Lou Sockalexis** never lettered in baseball at Notre Dame, but he had a lasting impact on Major League baseball. As 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 permanent nickname, the chosen name honored this favorite ex-player, and the Cleveland "Indians" name has stuck ever since, making Sockalexis the first true Cleveland Indian.



NAMESAKE, PART II: There is one known grandfather-grandson combination in Notre Dame baseball history. Third baseman **Dennis O'Keefe** captained the Notre Dame baseball team in the early 1930s while O'Keefe's grandson, **Pat O'Keefe**, lettered as an outfielder with the Notre Dame baseball program in 1996 and '97.



Dennis O'Keefe



Pat O'Keefe

NCAA STAT CHAMPIONS: Four Notre Dame players have ranked first in an official NCAA season statistic: **Shaun Fitzmaurice** (0.34 triples/gm, '64), **Dan Peltier** (32 doubles, '89) and **Scott Sollmann** (11 triples, '95) and **Aaron Heilman** (1.61 ERA, '98)

THE NINETIES: Notre Dame posted the seventh-highest winning percentage among Division I baseball teams during the 1990s (.724, 440-168), behind Wichita State, Miami (Fla.), Clemson, Florida State, LSU and Delaware.

OPPONENTS: Notre Dame has faced 267 different opponents entering its

109th year of varsity baseball. James Madison, Florida International, Missouri and Oakland were first-time opponents in 1999, followed by North Florida and Akron in 2000. Potential first-time opponents in 2001 include Bucknell, Florida Atlantic, New Mexico, Pacific, Sam Houston State and South Florida. Notre Dame's most common all-time opponents: Northwestern (130 games), Michigan State (125), Western Michigan (121), Wisconsin (118), Purdue (114) and Michigan (113). Noteworthy teams that Notre Dame has yet to face: Oklahoma State, Texas Tech and UC Santa Barbara.



NO-HITTERS ... AND NEAR-MISSES: Notre Dame pitchers have posted eight known no-hitters (including two by Norwood Gibson in the late 1800s), with the most recent by **Brian Piotrowicz** (2-0 vs. Ball State, May 11, 1988; 7 IP, 24 batters faced, 4 Ks, 3 BB) and lefthander **Don Wolfe** (10-0 vs. Butler, April 20, 1975; 7 IP, 12 Ks, 2 BB). One of the program's biggest pitching moments nearly happened on May 12, 1999, when three pitchers came within one strike of posting the first nine-inning, no-hitter by a Notre Dame staff in 61 years. A pair of seniors faced 13 batters over the first four innings, in that 1-0 victory over eventual national champ Miami (Miami's first shutout loss in 248 games). **Alex Shilliday** (left, in above photo) kept Miami off-balance early with his tricky changeup (4 Ks, 2 BB, runner caught stealing) before Irish pitching coach Brian O'Connor changed things up by sending lefty **Chris McKeown** (center) to the mound (2 IP, 4 Ks, 1 BB, pickoff throw to second base). All-American **Aaron Heilman** (right) closed the game with five strong innings (72 pitches, 7 Ks, 4 groundouts, 3 BB), allowing a two-out, 1-2 single by Mike Rodriguez in the ninth before striking out future USA teammate Manny Crespo with a 2-2 slider, ending the game.

PRESEASON POLLS: Notre Dame was a consensus top-14 team in three major preseason polls for 2001 (see p. 5): 9th in *Baseball America*, 14th by *Collegiate Baseball* and 13th in the *USA Today/ESPN* coaches poll. The ranking of No. 9 in the *Baseball America* poll represents Notre Dame's highest rank in the history of that poll (since '81), at any time during the season. The Irish have been ranked in the *Baseball America* top 10 once previously, as the 1992 squad was ranked as high as 10th in a two-week stretch in mid-February of that season. The No. 9 ranking also is the highest ever in the *Baseball America* poll for a BIG EAST team, with Rutgers holding the previous best mark after rising to 14th during the 2000 season (St. John's was ranked as high as 14th in '81, four years prior to the first season of BIG EAST-sponsored baseball). Notre Dame has been ranked in the *Baseball America* preseason top 25 five times previously: 15th in '91, 11th in '92, 15th in '93, 20th in '94 and 20th in 2000.

PROSPECTS: Notre Dame senior **Aaron Heilman** is listed seventh on *Baseball America's* annual list of the top professional prospects in college baseball (14th overall when including high school players, seventh among all pitchers). Heilman ranks fourth among college pitchers, behind his former Team USA teammates Mark Prior (transfer from USC to Vanderbilt, 2nd) and Josh Karp (UCLA, 3rd) and Middle Tennessee's Devon Brazleton (5th). Other top prospects: Georgia Tech 3B Mark Texiera (1st), LSU transfer (from Washington) OF Todd Linden (4th) and Auburn OF Gave Gross (6th). Heilman—who was tabbed by *BA* for having college baseball's "best pure slider" while ranking among the top three for control—joined Brazleton and Stetson LHP Lenny Dinardo (another former USA teammate) as the only pitchers tabbed preseason first team All-America by *Baseball America* and *Collegiate Baseball*.

PROSPECTS, PART II: Notre Dame rightfielder **Brian Stavisky** was listed by *Baseball America* as the No. 17 prospect-making Notre Dame and Georgia Tech (three) the only schools with multiple players in the top 28 of that list. Irish junior catcher **Paul O'Toole** checked in at 46th, with Notre Dame again joining Georgia Tech (four) as the only school with three-plus players in the top 55 (just four others had two).

◆ Notre Dame's 1-0 victory over Miami on May 12, 1999, saw the Irish pitching staff come within one strike of posting the first nine-inning, no-hitter versus the Hurricanes since 1958.

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL FROM A-Z

Upset-Minded

The Irish baseball team has recorded several noteworthy upsets during the past 13 seasons:

- 1 and 2. In October, 1988, Notre Dame shocks powerhouse Miami, sweeping two games, including a win over All-America pitcher Joe Grahe.
- 3. In early 1989, Notre Dame posts a 9-2 win at eventual College World Series participant Texas.
- 4. Later that year, Notre Dame tops another eventual '89 College World Series team, beating Miami (4-2) despite the efforts of future major-leaguers Grahe and Alex Fernandez.
- 5. The Irish take down Texas in 1991 (13-4), in front of 4,736 hostile Longhorn fans, with David Sinnes tossing seven innings.
- 6. Thirteen games into a season-opening string of 27 road games, Notre Dame faces eventual 1991 national champ LSU and Pat Leahy delivers six perfect innings to front a 6-3 win in Baton Rouge.
- 7. Notre Dame travels to second-ranked Miami in 1992 and tops the Hurricanes, 2-1, behind the pitching of Al Walania on March 27.
- 8. On the brink of elimination from the '92 NCAAAs, Notre Dame—again behind Walania—rallies 3-0 down to beat Miami on its home field, in front of 4,073 frenzied fans (6-3).
- 9-10. Notre Dame opens 1993 with a stunning 11-4 win at Arizona State and upsets another perennial power six days later, 8-6 at Wichita State.
- 11. The Irish knock off another homestanding team in the 1993 NCAAAs, eliminating Florida State 4-3, with Tom Price allowing just four hits in his eight-inning outing.
- 12. Notre Dame's trend of beating home teams in the NCAAAs continues in '94 (8-1 at Clemson), led by three RBI from Matt Haas and Tim Krause's five-hit gem on the mound.
- 13. The first season of the Paul Mainieri era sees the Irish present the Miami native with a 5-2 win over the 'Canes, at Mark Light Stadium.
- 14. Notre Dame opens the 1998 season with a 10-1 win over Florida State at the ACC/Disney Blast in Orlando. Alex Shilliday allows one hit over the first five innings while Jeff Felker drives in three runs.
- 15. Notre Dame nearly hands Miami its first nine-inning no-hitter in 41 years, in a 1-0 win on May 12, 1999, at Eck Stadium (see p. 7).
- 16. Danny Tamayo (three-hit shutout) and Paul O'Toole (3-for-3, 5 RBI) help hand Mississippi State a rare NCAA Regional shutout (7-0), at Dudy-Noble Field on May 28, 2000 (see shutout note and pp. 66-67).

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

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR – Five Irish players have been named conference player or pitcher of the year (since '83). Third baseman **Brant Ust** (below right) and righthander **Brad Lidge** (left) were the fourth set of teammates to win the BIG EAST's top awards in the same season ('98). Ust became the third sophomore ever named BIG EAST player of the year, joining former Seton Hall great Mo Vaughn and Connecticut's Jason Grubowski. 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).



SCORING STREAKS – Notre Dame heads into 2001 on the verge of setting the school record for consecutive games with at least one run scored. The Irish scored in the final 58 games of the '99 and in all 64 games of 2000, yielding an active 122-game scoring streak that stretches back to a 12-0 loss at Florida International on Feb. 21, 1999. The record 133-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 their final game of the 1994 NCAA East Regional at Clemson, S.C.). The record streak ended with a shutout loss to another Texas team, 2-0 versus Texas Pan-American in a seven-inning game on March 10, 1997 (at Wolff Stadium in San Antonio). Just as impressive as those two streaks is the fact that Notre Dame has scored in 98.6 percent of its games in the Mainieri era (363 of 368), with the other three shutouts coming at Seton Hall (16-0; March 22, 1997), vs. St. John's (3-0; May 9, 1998) and vs. Rutgers in the BIG EAST Tournament (12-0; May 16, 1998). Prior to the Mainieri era, the longest Notre Dame scoring streaks were a 121-game stretch from April 23, 1930 to May 26, 1937, and a 103-game streak spanning May 25, 1907-May 17, 1912.

SERIES SUCCESS – In five BIG EAST seasons, Notre Dame owns 34 series wins, five series losses and five series ties. The Irish have won 17 of their last 19 BIG EAST series ('99 series tie at Rutgers, '99 series loss to St. John's) and 29 of the last 34 (three ties). Notre Dame has played 42 all-time BIG EAST doubleheaders, sweeping 22 (18 splits, just two opponent sweeps). The Irish have played 33 straight BIG EAST doubleheaders since last being swept (at Seton Hall; March 22, 1997). The only other DH sweep by a BIG EAST team over Notre Dame was by West Virginia in '96 (at Eck Stadium). The Irish have played 23 BIG EAST series at Eck, winning 19 (one tie) and have won their last nine home BIG EAST series, since dropping one to St. John's in '98.

SIX-HIT CYCLE – Junior SS **Alec Porzel** was more than just an observer in Notre Dame's wild 22-18 loss to Pittsburgh on May 7, 2000, at Eck Stadium—as Porzel turned in one of the most noteworthy accomplishments in Notre Dame baseball history by batting 6-for-6 and hitting for the cycle—including both a traditional and an inside-the-park home run. He became the first player to record

six hits in a game in the 108-year history of ND baseball and is the first Irish player to hit for the cycle since at least the mid-1980s (boxscore records are incomplete prior to '85)—with the addition of an inside-the-park HR making his day one of the more unique accomplishments in baseball. Porzel tied the BIG EAST single-game hit record and his 15 total bases came three shy of the BIG EAST record. He is just the second known Irish player to record five-plus hits in a losing effort. Porzel had registered four-plus hits just once previously and it marked just the second game in his Irish career that Porzel had been credited with two home runs. His previous 2-HR game also was unconventional, as he hit one on May 19, 1999, and one the next day—in a rain-suspended BIG EAST Tournament game vs. West Virginia. The six-hit game included: an RBI triple to right-center in the first (1 out, 0-2 pitch); a two-out, 2-1 hit to shallow left-center that kicked past the sliding centerfielder and rolled to the track for a third-inning HR; a two-out, first-pitch single to center in the fifth; and three straight leadoff hits in the seventh (full-count double to left-center), eighth (2-2 home

SHUTOUTS IN THE NCAAAs

– Righthanders **Chuck Symeon**'s and **Danny Tamayo**'s careers at Notre Dame are separated by more than 40 seasons, yet they are the only members of a very exclusive club—by virtue of tossing shutouts in NCAA Championship play (the only shutouts ever posted by Notre Dame in 57 all-time NCAA games). Despite being separated by two generations, Symeon and Tamayo have another thing in common—as both of their gems were covered by longtime *South Bend Tribune* writer Forrest "Woody" Miller (whose first year with the paper coincided with Symeon's big game). Symeon's shutout 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 raced to a 14-0 lead and won easily, 23-2) before returning the next day (June 10) to eliminate tournament favorite Texas, 9-0. The junior paced himself by holding back on his patented fastball while scattering five singles and five walks over the nine innings, with seven Ks, three double plays and a pickoff play (the Longhorns stranded five). Tamayo's NCAA shutout came at the 2000 Starkville Regional, with the Irish facing elimination in front of a raucous crowd of 10,000-plus fans rooting mostly for homestanding 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 seventh and faced just 30 batters, with one K, 10 groundouts and 15 flyouts in his longest career outing (his previous best was five innings, two weeks earlier vs. Rutgers).



NOTRE DAME BASEBALL FROM A-Z



run to left) and ninth (1-0 single through the left side).

SUPER STAFF – The '92 Irish staff ranks as one of the most talented and deepest in team history: 6-7, 245-pound **Pat Leahy** ('90-'92; 25-7, 3.67, 192 Ks), lefties **Chris Michalak** ('90-'93; 34-13, 12 saves, 3.21, 263 Ks) and **Tom Price** ('91-'94; 40-8, 5 SV, 2.70, 276 Ks), and big-game performers **David Sinnes** ('90-'93; 32-8, 6 SV, 2.91, 315 Ks) and **Al Walania** ('90-'93; 30-12, 8 SV, 236 Ks). That fivesome combined for a 161-48 record, 31 saves, a 3.19 career 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 four pitchers with noteworthy careers: first-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 three-time All-American **Aaron Heilman** ('98- ; 28-7, 12 SV, 2.80, 314 Ks). That foursome's combined career totals: 77-30, 17 SV, 3.92 ERA and 936 Ks in 913.2 IP (9.22 per 9 IP).

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 Notre Dame athlete in 19 years to monogram in three sports the same year. A two-time football All-American ('66, '67), Hardy lettered on the '64-'65 basketball team and led the '67 baseball team with a .398 batting average.

3,000 GAMES – Notre Dame baseball has amassed 3,047 games in 108 varsity seasons, reaching the 3,000-game milestone in the opener of a March 25, 2000, doubleheader versus Villanova (photo above) at Richie Ashburn Field in downtown Philadelphia (Aaron Heilman tossed a one-hitter in the 4-0 win).

30-30 – Notre Dame senior shortstop **Alec Porzel** heads into 2001 on the verge of becoming the first Irish player ever to reach 30 home runs and 30 stolen bases in his career. Porzel totaled 29 HRs and 26 SBs in his first three seasons (in

176 GP), leaving him on the doorstep of the 30-30 plateau. Junior catcher **Paul O'Toole** (16 HR, 28 SB, 115 GP) likewise has a shot at the 30-30 distinction.

TOP-FIVE CONFERENCE – BIG EAST baseball heads into 2001 with a prestigious ranking from *Baseball America*, which rated the BIG EAST as the nation's fifth-best Division I baseball conference, behind traditional power conferences (SEC, ACC, Pac-10, Big 12). Four current BIG EAST teams participated in the 2000 NAAs: Notre Dame, Rutgers, Seton Hall and newcomer Virginia Tech (formerly of the Atlantic-10). Five other current BIG EAST teams advanced to the NAAs in the 1990s while the league consistently has produced high draft picks and NCAA statistical leaders (see p. 89).

TRAVEL – Notre Dame's schedule regularly takes the baseball team to top-notch facilities and noteworthy cities.

TEAM USA – Three Notre Dame baseball players have been members of the U.S. national team, including two recently. Outfielder **Shaun Fitzmaurice** (below left) was a member of the 1964 U.S. team that competed in the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan (baseball was an exhibition sport in '64). Infielder **Brant Ust** (center) 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 and his USA teammates were introduced in pregame ceremonies of Major League games at Arizona's BankOne Ballpark and New York's Shea Stadium. Ust was a regular at third base and finished as the USA's third-leading hitter (.378, 20 RBI). Righthander **Aaron Heilman** (right) played on the '99 Team USA squad that toured Japan and played a stateside schedule through 14 cities in 10 states. Heilman ranked as one of the top pitchers on the 11-man staff, with a 4-2 record and 3.84 ERA, plus two saves, 37 Ks, 12 walks and 41 hits allowed in 40 innings. Heilman and Ust both were the only players on their respective USA teams who hailed from a school in the Midwest or Northeast.



In Paul Mainieri's seven seasons, the Irish have visited: Fullerton and Long Beach, Calif.; Seattle, Wash. (Kingdome); San Antonio, Texas; four Florida cities (Miami, Orlando, Jacksonville and St. Petersburg); Atlanta, Ga.; New Orleans, La.; Boston, Mass.; Washington, D.C.; New York City; and Minneapolis, Minn. (Metrodome).

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS – That's nearly how long it took Notre Dame to win four straight games before emerging with the championship trophy at the '89 Midwestern Collegiate Conference Tournament. Due to rain delays and the immediacy of an automatic 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.).

YAZ – Yes, **Carl Yastrzemski** attended Notre Dame in the 1957-58 academic year (see p. 59) 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 – RHP Ray Zolnowski is the final player on Notre Dame baseball's list of 792 all-time letterwinners. The 800th letterwinner likely will play in 2001 or 2002.

Where Are They Now?

Former Notre Dame baseball players have gone on to success in a wide range of fields and recent Irish players from the Paul Mainieri era ('95-) are no exception, including 23 who moved on to professional baseball—led by two pitchers who have been named to Major League 40-man rosters for 2001 Spring Training: **Brad Lidge** (Houston Astros) and **Christian Parker** (New York Yankees).

Two others are involved in college coaching: shortstop **J.J. Brock**, (graduate assistant at Ohio University; spent two years in Arizona Diamondbacks organization); and pitcher **Wally Widelski** (volunteer assistant at Notre Dame; two seasons as Northern Illinois pitching coach).

Two others are involved in pro baseball: outfielder **Rowan Richards** (played in Texas Rangers organization; now Rangers assistant director of Florida minor-league operations); and catcher **Bob Lisanti** (player agent with Chicago-area-based RMG Sports Management, after playing in Chicago Cubs organization).

Several are pursuing business careers: pitcher **Craig Allen** (in-house trader with Chicago-based Marquette Partners, after playing in L.A. Dodgers organization); pitcher **Scott Cavey** (financial advisor with Paine Webber in Omaha, Neb.); and first baseman **Dan Leatherman** (accountant with Ernst and Young in San Francisco; two years in Minnesota Twins organization).

Others have moved on to careers in government and law: catcher **Matt Nussbaum** (special assistant in office of Indiana lieutenant governor and former Irish catcher Joe Kernan); outfielder **Pat O'Keefe** (student assistant in Michigan state attorney's office; enrolled in Detroit College of Law); **George Restovich** (lawyer with St. Louis prosecutor's office; graduate of St. Louis University Law School; played in Detroit Tigers system); and second baseman **Jeff Perconte** (Notre Dame Law School).

Former Irish pitcher **Mike Balicki** has spent several years in service work (now athletic director for the Seattle Archdiocese C.Y.O. programs) while first baseman **Craig DeSensi** is involved in medical sales in Indianapolis, outfielder **Randall Brooks** has opened a detailing shop with his father David Brooks, and pitcher **Darin Schmalz** is enrolled in the MBA program at DePaul.

Former baseball student manager **Mike Kuharich** is a vital member of the Seattle Mariners scouting operation, as coordinator of technical information.

◆ Notre Dame infielder Brant Ust ('98) and Irish righthanded pitcher Aaron Heilman ('99) were the only players from schools in the Midwest or Northeast on their respective USA national teams.