## Notre Dame Baseball Gameday Notes - vs. Georgetown (March 26, 2006; Bethesda, Md)

TODAY'S GAME - The Irish (11-8) today will look to give 12th-year head coach Paul Mainieri (499-204-3) his 500th victory at Notre Dame (he is 830-483-3 in 24 total seasons as a college baseball coach), after splitting the doubleheader with Georgetown (3-8, 12-2) ... senior LHP Tom Thornton - a strong Academic All-America candidate who owns a 3.54 cumulative GPA as a double major in anthropology and film-television-and-theater - will take the mound today for the Irish, looking for his 23 rd career win at Notre Dame.

BIG EAST SERIES HISTORY - Notre Dame has played 93 previous BIG EAST series, winning 66 of them, losing 13 and seeing 14 others end 1-1.

FAVORITE MONTH - The Irish traditionally have overcome early struggles by winning $80 \%$ of their games in April during the Mainieri era (compared to winning just $55 \%$ of the Mainieri-era games in Feb. and $70 \%$ in March).

SHARK ATTACK - Junior RHP Jeff Samardzija traditionally has been a slow starter with the Irish, as the two-sport star does not have the benefit of playing summer or fall baseball ... Samardzija posted the win over GU (7 IP, 2 R, 5 H, 2 BB, $3 \mathrm{Ks}, 9 \mathrm{GOs}$ ) while improving to 2-1 for the season and 15-5 in his career ... he limited the Hoyas to 2-for-10 batting with runners on base and 0-for-7 with 2-outs ... Samardzija faced just two batters over the minimum (20; $2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{BB}, \mathrm{DP}$ ) in the first six innings ..

PLENTY-O-HITS - ND's output in the win over GU (15) represented the fourth time this season the Irish have totaled 15plus hits in a game (also 17 in the first game vs. SIU, 15 in the second game with lowa and 15 vs. CMU).

IRISH RARELY SWEPT IN A BIG EAST DOUBLE-DIP - The win over GU helped the Irish avoid a rare opponent sweep in BIG EAST doubleheader action ... ND now has played 91 all-time BIG EAST doubleheaders and been swept just nine times.

DOUBLE DINGERS - The win over GU saw Cody Rizzo and Jeremy Barnes both leave the yard, marking the first time this season that the Irish have hit multiple home runs in a game.

FINISHING WHAT YOU START - ND put 6-of-9 leadoff batters on base in the win over GU and batted . 368 (7-for-19) with runners in scoring position.

RIZZ TAKING CARE OF BIZ - Senior RF/C Cody Rizzo has batted in the 9-hole for most of the season and ranks just 8th on the team in batting avg. (.288) but he leads the team in RBI (19), just five shy of his RBI total from the entire 2005 season ... he also ranks $3^{\text {rd }}$ on the team with a .407 batting avg. when runners are in scoring position (11-for-27), nearly 120 points above his overall batting average and more than double his average in at-bats without RBI chances (.188) ... he played a lead role in the win over GU, factoring into half of the team's runs ( $4 \mathrm{RBI}, 3 \mathrm{R}$ ), with a solo home run, an RBI single and a two-run hit.

MAN IN THE MASK - Both of Cody Rizzo's home runs have come in games when he has started at catcher (in the first game vs. Iowa and the win over GU) and he is batting . 348 (8-for-23) with 10 RBI as the ND catcher ... he is hitting just .250 (9-for-36) when playing in the outfield, with one fewer RBI (9) than in his catcher starts (despite 13 more ABs).

BACKBREAKER - The Irish broke open the win over GU by totaling 10 runs in the 4th (4), 5th (4) and 6th (2) innings,
FRESHMAN FOCUS - Jeremy Barnes was a key factor in the win over GU (3-for-5, 3 RBI, 2 R, HR, 2B), batting in the leadoff spot for the second time this season ... Barnes had a double and run scored to open the scoring, a two-run blast in the 4th and an RBI single in the team's second consecutive four-run inning (the 5th) ... he continued to show his versatility by starting at first base for the second time in 2006, to go along with three starts each at third base and DH, two at second base and one at shortstop.

TRADING PLACES - Sophomore second baseman Ross Brezovsky's leadoff doubles sparked the four-run 4th and 5th innings in the win over GU.

EARLY LEADS - The Irish now own a 19-5 scoring edge in the 1st inning, including GU's pair of runs in the series opener (ND totaled three 1st-inning runs in the two games).
PLAYING THE FIELD - Junior Danny Dressman (2-for-5, 2 RBI in win over GU) now is batting . 346 for the season, including .462 (18-for-39) when playing in the outfield (his other ABs have been as the DH).

MILESTONE WATCH - Greg Lopez scored his 100th career run with ND in the win over the Hoyas while Nettey (98 hits), and Rizzo (98) each are close to century-mark milestones ... Steve Andres drew two walks, giving him 90 BB in his Irish career.

BIG EAST OPENERS - Notre Dame now is 7-4 in BIG EAST openers, with nine of those games coming on the road ... ND now is 20-14 in games played during the first week of BIG EAST action.

READY TO ROLL - Senior 1B Craig Cooper made his 11th straight start as the Notre Dame leadoff batter (in the opener vs. GU) and reached in the 1st inning for the 10th time in those 11 games, drawing a leadoff walk before coming around to score ... Cooper has a team-best . 636 on-base pct. when leading off any inning (14-of-22).

ERRORLESS STREAK COMES TO AN END - Senior SS Greg Lopez made an error late in the loss to GU, ending his errorless streak that had spanned 14-plus games and 59 fielding chances ... he has made just two errors all season, with a .974 fielding pct.

## HBP HIGHWAY

* Sophomore 3B Brett Lilley was hit-by-pitch twice in the loss to GU, giving him seven HBPs this season and 37 in his career - third-most in ND history behind current senior rightfielder/catcher Cody Rizzo (73; 4th in NCAA history) and 1995 graduate Craig DeSensi (38).
* Senior CF Alex Nettey leads the BIG EAST with 11 HBPs this season (2 in the GU doubleheader), with his 30 career HBP ranking 7th in ND history (tied with senior SS Greg Lopez).


## RECORD WHEN ..

On Opponents's Field 1-2
Decided By 1-2 Runs 4-5
Trailing after the 6th 0-4
Trailing after the 7th 1-4
Trailing after the 8th 0-6
Leading after the 6th 10-3
Leading after the 7th 9-1
Leading after the 8th 11-1
Hit a home run
Opp. hit a home run
5-1
0-3
layed error-free
Scored in 1st inning 5-4
Outhit by opponent 0-5
Score first 8-4

## UPDATED BIG EAST STANDINGS

| St. John's | $2-0$ | $2-0$ at Villanova |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Louisville | $2-0$ | $2-0$ vs. Rutgers |
| West Virginia | $2-0$ | $2-0$ vs. Pittsburgh |
|  |  |  |
| South Florida | $4-1$ | $2-1$ vs. UConn ... 2-0 vs. Seton Hall |
| Connecticut | $3-2$ | $1-2$ at USF ... 2-0 vs. Cincinnati |
|  |  |  |
| Notre Dame | $1-1$ | $1-1$ at GU |
| Georgetown | $1-1$ | $1-1$ vs. ND |
|  |  |  |
| Pittsburgh | $2-3$ | $2-1$ at Seton Hall ... 0-2 at West Virginia |
| Seton Hall | $1-4$ | $1-2$ vs. Pittsburgh ... 0-2 at USF |
|  |  |  |
| Cincinnati | $0-2$ | $0-2$ at UConn <br> Rutgers |
| Villanova | $0-2$ | $0-2$ at Louisville |
| 0-2 vs. St. John's |  |  |

TOM THORNTON CAREER STATS (LHP, Sr., 6-6/220; Middleboro, MA ... 2nd Team All-BIG EAST in '05)

| Year | ERA | W-L | App | GS | CG | SHO/CBO | SV | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | 2B | 3B | HR | BF | B/Avg | WP | HBP |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2003. | 1.81 | 5-1 | 15 | 8 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 54.2 | 54 | 18 | 11 | 14 | 29 | 15 | 0 | 0 |  | . 269 | 3 | 6 |
| 2004. | 3.88 | 9-2 | 16 | 15 | 1 | 1/0 | 0 | 99.2 | 95 | 53 | 43 | 24 | 77 | 19 | 0 | 8 |  | . 251 | 4 | 8 |
| 2005. | 4.69 | 6-6 | 16 | 16 | 4 | 0/0 | 0 | 96.0 | 115 | 57 | 50 | 19 | 40 | 21 | 0 | 8 |  | . 306 | 2 | 9 |
| 2006. | 3.12 | 3-1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1/1 | 0 | 26.0 | 25 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 16 | 3 | 0 | 1 |  | . 258 | 0 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 3.68 | 3-10 | 51 | 43 | 6 | 2/1 | 0 | 276.1 | 289 | 137 | 113 | 58 | 162 | 58 | 0 | 17 |  | 275 | 9 | 24 |



FIVE-TIME HONOREE - Notre Dame senior LHP Tom Thornton (Middleboro, Mass.) now has been named the BIG EAST Conference baseball pitcher of the week five times in his career, after recording a five-hit shutout of Southern Illinois to cap ND's 7-1 record during Spring Break in San Antonio ... former Irish great Aaron Heilman (10) is the only player in BIG EAST history to total more pitcher-of-the-week honors than Thornton, who received the award twice as a sophomore, once as a junior and once previously this season.

ANOTHER NINE-INNING SOLO SHUTOUT - A look through recent boxscores revealed that there now have been 13 nine-inning solo shutouts by ND pitchers in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era - and Thornton is one of four who have posted multiple nine-inning solo shutouts in the Mainieri era (others to do so include Danny Tamayo with three and Heilman and Dan Stavisky with two each) ... during the past four seasons, Thornton is the only ND pitcher to post a 9-inning solo shutout - now a span of 253 games dating back to J.P. Gagne's three-hitter vs. BYU on April 1, 2002 (1-0) ... his first 9inning solo shutout came in the six-hitter at WVU on March 27, 2004 (4-0), with two walks, five strikeouts, nine groundball outs, three infield popups, 34 batters faced and 75 of 111 pitches for strikes (he allowed multiple baserunners in only the 5th inning).

REPEAT REPEATER - Thornton also joins Heilman (4 in 2000, 3 in '99, 2 in '01) and former Boston College RHP Chris Lambert (3 in '03, 2 in '04) as the only pitchers to earn repeat BIG EAST weekly honors in multiple seasons of their careers.

GOING FOR THREE? - With nine weeks still remaining in the 2006 regular season, Thornton has the chance to become the sixth different BIG EAST pitcher to earn three-plus BIG EAST pitcher-of-the-week honors in the same season ... others include Heilman (4 in '00, 3 in '99), Lambert (3 in '03), former West Virginia ace Chris Enochs (3 in '97) and former St. John's standouts Keith Stamler (3 in '99) and Anthony Varvaro (3 in '05).

TAMING THE SALUKIS - Thornton posted his 23rd career win and fifth complete game of the past two seasons in the victory over the Salukis ... the 6-foot-6 team co-captain did not walk a batter while holding SIU to five hits (. 167 batting avg.) in an economical 84-pitch outing that included 64 strikes and just 20 balls (an average of 2.2 pitches out of the strike zone per inning) ... he added a pair of strikeouts, faced just 31 batters (four over the minimum) and held SIU to 1-for-10 batting with runners on base plus just 1-for-9 with 2 -outs ... the quick outing included 12 groundball outs, three infield popups/foulouts and a runner caught stealing. He allowed just three runners to reach scoring position, including only one that advanced to third base.

IN THE ZONE - Thornton's strong pinpoint control to start the 2006 season has put him on pace to challenge Tom Price's Notre Dame records set in 1994 for strikeout-to-walk ratio (12.14; 85/7) and low walk average ( 0.49 per $9 \mathrm{IP} ; 7 / 127.2$ ) ... Thornton's current stats include a 16.0 K-to-walk ratio and 0.35 BB per 9 IP.

BEPOW \#4 - Thornton was named BIG EAST pitcher of the week earlier this season after beating Indiana State on Feb. 23, scattering five hits in his seven shutout innings while notching five strikeouts and no walks in action at USA Baseball Stadium in Millington, Tenn. ... that 76-pitch outing saw Thornton locate $74 \%$ of his pitches for strikes (56) while registering nine of his outs via groundballs ... he held the Sycamores to 0 -for- 8 batting with runners on base and allowed just one hit with 2-outs (1-for-8).

PREVIOUS HONORS - Thornton earned his first BIG EAST pitcher-of-the-week award (Feb. 23, 2004) as a sophomore, after the 3-1 win at USC (six-inning complete game due to rain; UER, $4 \mathrm{H}, 2 \mathrm{BB}, 4 \mathrm{Ks}$ ) ... he then became Notre Dame's fifth pitcher ever to repeat the BIG EAST honor in the same season (March 15), after shutting down hot-hitting Texas Tech with 8.0 one-hit innings at the Round Rock Classic ( $3 \mathrm{BB}, 7 \mathrm{Ks}$ ) ... his other previous BIG EAST weekly award came as a junior (April 11, 2005), in a 3-2 complete game versus Boston College, held in his home state (Brockton, Mass.; 9 IP, 8 R, R, $5 \mathrm{Ks}, 14$ groundouts, retired first 11 batters, 60 of 96 pitches for strikes).

ND's NINE-INNING SOLO SHUTOUTS IN THE MAINIERI ERA - Tom Thornton ('05 and '06) has joined Dan Stavisky ('96), Danny Tamayo (1 in '00, 2 in '01) and Aaron Heilman ('01) as the four pitchers who have posted multiple nine-inning solo shutouts during the 12-year Paul Mainieri era ... the 13 nine-inning solo shutouts in the Mainieri era also include the strong efforts of Darin Schmalz ('95), Gregg Henebry ('95), Christian Parker ('96) and J.P. Gagne ('02) ... Thornton and Henebry are the only LHPs on the list ... five on the below list have not walked a batter in their solo shutouts: Parker, Stavisky (2), Gagne and Thornton (vs. SIU) ... four on the list allowed just three combined hits/walks in their solo shutouts: Parker, Stavisky (vs. Pitt), Tamayo (vs. SJU) and Gagne ... the fewest batters faced in a Mainieri-era 9-inning solo shutout: Stavisky (28, vs. Pitt), Schmalz (30), Tamayo (30, vs. Mississippi State and SJU) and Gagne (30) ... the most Ks in a 9 -inning solo shutout during the Mainieri era: Parker (11), Stavisky (10, vs. Pitt), Heilman (9, vs. FAU), Tamayo (9, vs. SJU) and Heilman (8, vs. Pitt) ... here's the list of ND's 9-inning solo shutouts from 1995-2006:

* 3/11/95 ... ND 3, GW 0 (in San Antonio) - RHP Darin Schmalz (4 H, 1 BB, $5 \mathrm{Ks}, 30 \mathrm{BF}$, one runner past 2B)
* 4/22/95 ... ND 6, Illinois-Chicago 0 - LHP Gregg Henebry (3 H, BB, HB, $6 \mathrm{Ks}, 31 \mathrm{BF}$, no runners past 2B)
* 4/21/96 ... ND 7, at G'town 0 - RHP Christian Parker (3 H, 0 BB, $11 \mathrm{Ks}, 5.1$ no-hit start, no hit to OF until 2-outs in 9th)
* 4/30/96 ... ND 2, Pittsburgh 0 - RHP Dan Stavisky (3 H, 0 BB, $10 \mathrm{Ks}, 28$ BF)
* 5/17/96 ... ND 4, St. John's 0 (BET; Norwich, Conn.) - Stavisky (6 H, 0 BB, 4 Ks)
* 5/28/00 ... ND 7, at Miss. St. 0 (NCAA) - RHP Danny Tamayo (3 H, 1 BB, K, 10 GO, 30 BF, 105 pitch, no-hitter into 7th)
* 3/2/01 ... ND 3, Florida Atlantic 0 (in St. Petersburg) - RHP Aaron Heilman (5 H, 1 BB, 9 Ks, 11 GO, 4 IF popups/lineouts, rundown, $32 \mathrm{BF}, 111$ pitches)
* 3/12/01 ... ND 3, New Mexico 0 (in Fresno, Calif. - Tamayo (3 H, 2 BB, 5 Ks, 8 GO, 34 BF, 122 pitches)
* 3/23/01 ... ND 3, at Pittsburgh - Heilman (2 H, 4 BB, 2 HB, $8 \mathrm{Ks}, 16$ GO, 32 BF, 108 pitches, bloop 1B, 1B thru IF)
* 4/28/01 ... ND 5, at St. John's 0 - Tamayo ( $2 \mathrm{H}, 1 \mathrm{BB}, 9 \mathrm{Ks}, 14 \mathrm{GO}, 30 \mathrm{BF}, 75$ of 107 pitches for strikes, bunt 1B)
* 4/1/02 ... ND 1. BYU 0 - RHP J.P. Gagne ( $3 \mathrm{H}, 0 \mathrm{BB}, \mathrm{HB}, 7 \mathrm{Ks}, 8 \mathrm{GO}, 6$ IF popups, $30 \mathrm{BF}, 71$ of 108 pitches for strikes)
* 3/27/04 ... ND 4, at West Virginia 0 - LHP Tom Thornton ( $6 \mathrm{H}, 2 \mathrm{BB}, 5 \mathrm{Ks}, 9 \mathrm{GO}, 3 \mathrm{IF}$ popups, 34 BF, 75 of 111 pitches for strikes, multiple baserunners only in the 5th)
* 3/18/05 ... ND 4, Southern Illinois 0 (in San Antonio) - Thornton (5 H, 0 BB, 2 Ks, 12 GO, 3 IF popups/foulouts, 31 BF, 64 of 84 pitches for strikes, 3 runners in scoring position/1 reached 3B)

TALL TOM TERRIFIC - Senior LHP Tom Thornton in 2005 became the first pitcher in the Paul Mainieri era (since '95) to toss three consecutive 9-inning complete-game victories (vs. Boston College, UConn and Villanova) ... Thornton's season ERA dropped from 5.59 to 3.84 during that stretch of three straight 9 -inning CGs.

DON'T WALK - Thornton entered the 2005 postseason with just 2 walks in his previous 47.1 IP (avg. of 0.38 BB per 9 IP in those 7 GP) ... he did issue a pair of walks in the BET vs. Boston College (none in NCAAs vs. UNC) and ultimately totaled just 19 walks in 96 IP of the ' 05 season (1.78 BB per 9 IP ) ... his current career avg. of 1.89 walks per 9 IP ranks 6th in the ND record book (3rd-best in the Mainieri era):

## Fewest Walks Per 9 IP in a Career

1. Brandon Viloria (2000-03) 1.61
2. Alan Walania (1990-93) .................................1.64
3. Tom Price (1991-94) ......................................1.86
4. James Cross (1983, '86-'86) ..........................1.88

Chris Niesel (2002-04) ...................................1.88
6. Tom Thornton (2003- ) ................................ 1.89

ALSO IN THE RECORD BOOK - Thornton also ranks 8th in Notre Dame history with 43 career games started and stands 10th with 276.1 innings pitched.

## Notre Dame Career Victories

1. Aaron Heilman (1998-2001)..........................43-7
2. Tom Price (1991-94) .....................................40-10
3. Chris Michalak (1990-93) ...............................34-13
4. David Sinnes (1990-93) .................................32-8
5. Alan Walania (1990-93) ................................30-12

Darin Schmalz (1994-97) ...............................30-13
7. Brian Piotrowicz (1987-90).............................27-17
8. Pat Leahy (1990-92) ......................................25-7
J.P. Gagne (2000-03).....................................25-16

Alex Shilliday (1996-99) .................................25-17
11. Herb Kelly (1912-14) ....................................22-2

Tom Thornton (2003- ) ...............................22-10

GAMES THIS WEEK (Wright State, CMU, Georgtown doubleheader)


## GEORGETOWN DOUBLEHEADER



LOB - Team (13), Opp (17). DPs turned - Team (2), Opp (2).

| Player | ERA | W-L | APP | GS | CG | SHO/CBO | SV | IP | H |  | R | ER | BB | SO | 2B | 3B | HR | AB | B/Avg | WP |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 24 Sam Elam | 0.00 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 1.2 | 1 | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | . 167 | 0 |
| 29 David Gruener | 0.00 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 1.0 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | . 000 | 0 |
| 21 Brett Graffy. | 0.00 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 1.0 | 2 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | . 400 | 0 |
| 45 Jeff Samardzija. | 2.57 | 1-0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 7.0 | 5 | 2 |  | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 25 | . 200 | 0 |
| 34 Jeff Manship. | 6.00 | 0-1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 6.0 | 8 | 4 |  | 4 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 | . 333 | 0 |
| 32 Jess Stewart. | 99.00 | 0-0 | 1 | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | 0/0 | 0 | 0.1 | 6 | 4 |  | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | . 857 | 0 |
| Totals | 5.29 | 1-1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 17.0 | 22 | 10 |  | 10 | 7 | 15 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 70 | . 314 | 0 |
| Opponents | 6.50 | 1-1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 18.0 | 19 | 15 |  | 13 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 67 | . 284 | 1 |
| PB - Team (0), Opp | . SBA | T | eff | ans | $p$ | (1-1), | Sean | Gaston | (1 | -1) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

