

Notre Dame Baseball Gameday Notes – vs. Minnesota (March 4, 2006; Minneapolis, Minn.)

Today's Game – Notre Dame (2-3) looks to get back on the winning track while taking on the host Minnesota team that has started 0-4 (the Gophers lost to Arizona, 7-2, on Friday night) ... junior RHP **Jeff Samardzija** will make the start for the Irish while Minnesota will counter with junior RHP Cole DeVries ... ND now is 3-7 all-time at the Metrodome tournaments (also 0-3 in 1991, 2-1 in 2000, 1-2 in 2003).

The Series – ND holds a 23-18 series edge vs. Minnesota, with Saturday's game marking the third meeting between the teams in the past four seasons ... Minnesota beat ND at the 2003 DQ Classic (8-2) but the Irish returned the favor in a big way early in the next season, beating the Gophers 19-7 at the FAU Classic.

Old Regional Rivals – Notre Dame and Minnesota were the Midwest's baseball powers in the 1950s ... the Irish lost a three-game NCAA series at Minnesota in 1956 (4-3, 5-15, 1-10), with the Gophers going on to win the national title ... ND then advanced to the College World Series the following season (1957) ... the teams then met in four other NCAA tournaments: 1958 (11-7 ND win, at Western Michigan), 1959 (12-4 ND win, at home), 1960 (15-6 home win for the Gophers) and 1970 (6-2 ND win, at Ohio State).

The Last Meeting (ND 19, Minnesota 7; at 2004 FAU Classic) – Notre Dame's 19-hit explosion was paced by strong days from catcher **Sean Gaston** (5-for-6, 3 RBI, 3 R) and 3B **Matt Macri** (4-for-6, 6 RBI, 5 R, HR, 3B) ... **Dan Kapala** picked up the win in relief (3 IP, 3 H, R, 4 Ks) ... Minnesota opened the scoring with two runs in the 4th but ND answered with four runs of its own (sparked by Macri's two-run blast) ... the Gophers came right back with four runs in the top of the 5th before the Irish tied the game moments later and then erupted for seven in the 6th, including an RBI double from Gaston ... Tim Theis took the loss (0.2 IP, H, 3 R, BB), in relief of Matt Loberg.

Remember Me? – **Sean Gaston's** big game vs. Minnesota in 2004 made him the first ND freshman with a five-hit game since 1994 ... Gaston actually had opened his college career one day earlier by batting 4-for-5 vs. Florida Memorial and ultimately started 9-for-10 in college ABs before a flyout in his final time at the plate vs. Minnesota.

Early Highlight – Current senior CF **Alex Nettey** made a brief appearance at the 2003 DQ Classic but he played a key role in ND's 2-1, 13-inning win over #7 Wake Forest ... Nettey earlier had entered the game as a pinch-runner and dropped a one-out single into left field before ultimately scoring the winning run on Joe Thaman's single up the middle.

J.P. in the House – Former ND pitching standout J.P. Gagne, a native of nearby Bloomington, Minn., will be on hand at today's game to root on his alma mater ... Gagne – whose career honors included the rare double distinction of being an All-American and Academic All-American – joined Chris Michalak and Aaron Heilman (who both went on to pitch in the big leagues) as the only ND pitchers ever to post 20-plus wins (25) and 10-plus saves (21) in their college careers ... he set ND records for career pitching appearances (94) and saves in a season (13) ... Gagne is the grandson of legendary professional wrestler Vern Gagne and son of another former pro wrestler (and college football player), Greg Gagne.

Career stats in the Metrodome for the ND seniors ('03 and '06)

Alex Nettey	2-for-5 (.400), RBI, R, K
Steve Andres	1-for-8 (.125), RBI, 2 BB, SF, 3 Ks
Cody Rizzo	1-for-15 (.067), 7 Ks
Greg Lopez	0-for-7, 2 Ks
Matt Bransfield	0-for-2, 2 Ks

Notre Dame Career Stats vs. Minnesota ('03 at Metrodome; '04 at Florida Atlantic)

Sean Gaston	1 GP, 5-for-6 (.833), 3 RBI, 3 R, 2 2B, SB
Cody Rizzo	2 GP, 2-for-9 (.222), 3 R, HBP, 4 Ks
Greg Lopez	1 GP, 1-for-5 (.200), 2 RBI, SF, K
Steve Andres	2 GP, 0-for-4, BB, K
Jeff Samardzija	1 GP, R (as pinch-runner)
Matt Bransfield	1 GP
Mike Dury	1 GP, 1 IP, 2 H, K, WP, 5 BF, 15/21 pitches for strikes

Minnesota Career Stats vs. ND (from '04 game at FAU; except Bull, at Metrodome in '03, and Lesemen, both games).

Andy Hunter	2-for-4, 2 RBI, R, HR, 2B, BB
Mike Mee	2-for-4, 2 RBI, 2 R, HR
Sean Kommerstad	1-for-4
Kevin Carlson	1-for-1
Tony Lesemen	0-for-4, 2 Ks
John Arlt	0-for-1
Luke MacLean	0-for-1
Brian Bull	3.0 IP, 2 H, UER, BB, K, 11 BF
Josh Oslin	1.2 IP, 6 H, 6 R, 2 BB, 2 Ks, 2 HB, 2 WP, 15 BF, 36/66 pitches for strikes

MATURI ONE OF NINE ND ALUMS NOW SERVING AS DIVISION-I ADs – Minnesota athletic director **Joel Maturi** is a 1967 Notre Dame graduate and one of nine Notre Dame grads who currently serve as Division I ADs ... former ND football players **Gene Smith** (Ohio State), **Steve Orsini** (Central Florida) and **Larry Williams** (Portland) are among that group, as is former Irish hockey goaltender **Forrest Karr** (Alaska Fairbanks) ... four others who were not varsity monogram winners currently serve as D-I athletic directors: **Bubba Cunningham** (Tulsa), **Tom Bowen** (San Jose State), **Dan Coonan** (Santa Clara) and **Ken Kavanaugh** (Bradley) ... former ND baseball player **Rick Chryst** is commissioner of the Mid-American Conference while another former ND baseball player, **Mike Bobinski**, was the Xavier A.D. before being promoted to his current post as associate vice-president for development.

SCORING STREAK REACHES 215 – Notre Dame now is riding a 215-game scoring streak, has scored in 446 of the past 447 games and has been shut out a total of just six times in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era.

TIMELY HITTING AND PITCHING – Here's a look at some key situational stats from after five games in the books:

* ND is batting just .237 as a team but is hitting more than 100 points higher (.345) with runners on base, led by **Matt Bransfield** (6-for-12) ... the Irish also are hitting .333 with runners in scoring position (Bransfield 4-for-9).

* The Irish have reached on just 29% of leadoff plate appearances, led by **Ross Brezovsky** (3-of-7) and **Sean Gaston** (4-of-7) ... **Alex Netzey** is one of ND's top leadoff options but has reached just 2-of-10 times when leading off in '06.

* The ND pitchers have struggled vs. leadoff batters (allowing 23-of-44, or 52%, to reach) but have buckled down with runners on base (.225 opp. batting), including just .261 with runners in scoring position ... the opponents have cashed in 12 of their 23 leadoff baserunners (including 6-of-6 that scored in the Nebraska game).

* The opponents own a significant edge in two-out batting (.317, to .222 for ND), with 13 two-out RBI for the opponents and just five for ND (three of those came on Mike Dury's home run vs. Oklahoma).

* Other stats of note – the Irish have grounded into seven double plays and have stolen just two bases ... senior SS **Greg Lopez** has made just one error in 17 fielding chances (.944) ... the ND pitchers have totaled just 12 walks in 44 innings, for 2.46 BB per 9 IP (that would best the ND record of 2.48, set in 2001).

LOPEZ JOINS WEEKLY DIARY STAFF FOR COLLEGE BASEBALL INSIDER – Senior shortstop and second-year captain Greg Lopez is one of four players in all of Division I baseball who will be featured this season during a weekly diary feature on www.collegebaseballinsider.com ... check the CBI website and look for more on this diary series at und.com.

LANGFORD LOST FOR SEASON AFTER ELBOW SURGERY – Notre Dame sophomore Tony Langford – who was poised to be a valuable two-way player for the Irish in 2005 – will be lost for the season after undergoing reconstructive "Tommy John" elbow surgery on Feb. 22 ... Langford was in line to be on the top late-game righthanded relievers for the Irish and also figured to be heavily in the mix as a righthanded-hitting DH.

VETERAN UNIT – Notre Dame's 2006 opening-day lineup included six seniors, a junior and two sophomores ... it marks just the third time in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era (and only second time since his first season at ND, in '95) that the Irish have not featured at least one freshman position starter:

Notre Dame Freshman Starters in the Paul Mainieri Era

1995 – no freshman starters

1996 – Jeff Wagner (C) and Paul Turco (SS)

1997 – Brant Ust (2B) and Jeff Felker (1B), Jeff Perconte (RF platoon)

1998 – Alec Porzel (LF)

1999 – Steve Stanley (CF), Paul O'Toole (C) and Andrew Bushey (3B)

2000 – Brian Stavisky (RF)

2001 – Steve Sollmann (2B)

2002 – Matt Macri (SS, injured)

2003 – Craig Cooper (LF), Cody Rizzo (RF), Greg Lopez (3B), Steve Andres (DH)

2004 – none

2005 – Brett Lilley (2B/3B), Ross Brezovsky (3B/2B)

2006 – none

JEFF SAMARDZIJA CAREER STATS (RHP, Jr., 6-5/215; Valparaiso, IN ... 2004 Freshman All-American)

Year	ERA	W-L	App	GS	CG	SHO/CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	BF	B/Avg	WP	HBP
2004....	2.95	5-3	20	6	0	0/2	1	64.0	50	25	21	17	42	2	1	5		.209	3	3
2005....	3.89	8-1	15	10	1	0/1	0	78.2	85	39	34	30	56	10	3	3	360	.272	3	10
2006....	1.50	1-0	1	1	0	0/0	0	6.0	4	1	1	4	2	1	0	0	24	.211	0	1
TOTAL...	3.39	14-4	36	17	1	0/3	1	148.2	139	65	56	51	100	13	4	8		.244	6	14

OPENING WEEK – Jeff Samardzija held Air Force to one run in six innings, as the Irish topped the Falcons last week at the Service Academies Classic (8-2) ... Samardzija improved to 14-4 in his ND career, yielding only the single run (in the 4th) and four hits while walking four, with a pair of Ks ... he located 45 of his 76 pitches for strikes (59%) and worked out of several jams, allowing four leadoff batters to reach but holding Air Force to just 1-for-9 batting with runners on base (2-for-7 with 2-outs).

SAMARDZIJA'S 2005 SITUATIONAL PITCHING – Allowed 39% of leadoff batters to reach (4th-best on staff) while holding opponents to .263 batting with runners (also 4th) but .311 with 2 outs ... totaled 90 groundouts ... his 9-inning averages in '05 included 6.6 Ks, 3.3 walks, 9.9 hits allowed and 10.6 groundouts (average of 17.2 outs via Ks or GOs) ... LH batters hit .300 vs. him in '05 (.266 by RH batters).

SAMARDZIJA 2005 GAME-BY-GAME

Date	Opponent (W-L; updated ERA)	GS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	WP	BK	HBP	DP	IBB	Score	
Feb. 18	vs. Florida A&M (W; 1.80)	*	5.0	4	1	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	18-3	
Feb. 27	vs. Dayton (6.00)	*	4.0	8	5	5	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10-11	
March 10	vs. SW Missouri (W; 5.02)	*	5.1	5	2	2	3	4	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	6-4	
March 19	vs. S. Dakota St. (6.00)	*	3.2	10	7	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	7-13	
March 26	Seton Hall (W; 5.04)	*	7.0	5	2	2	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8-2	
April 4	at Rutgers (6.04)	*	3.1	8	5	5	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10-11	
April 10	at Boston College (W; 4.98)		6.0	3	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3-0	
April 17	Connecticut (W; 4.87)		6.1	5	4	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9-7	
April 25	Villanova (5.11)		3.1	8	3	3	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7-7	
April 29	Cleveland State (4.41)		7.0	4	0	0	1	8	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7-6	
May 8	at St. John's (L; 4.53)		2.2	4	2	2	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1-3	
May 16	at Pittsburgh (W; 4.22)	*	6.0	2	1	1	3	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	21-1	
May 21	West Virginia (W; 4.18)	*	7.0	9	3	3	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7-3	
May 27	Pittsburgh, BET (W; 3.93)	*	6.2	9	3	3	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4-2	
June 4	Stetson, NCAAs (W; 3.93)	*	5.1	4	2	2	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7-4	
Totals (8-1; 3.89)			10	78.2	85	39	34	30	56	10	3	3	3	1	10	0	1	122-76

TRIPLE CLUTCH – Jeff Samardzija delivered three big-game victories in a span of 13 days during the '05 season, starting with the key win at Pittsburgh in that series finale (21-1) before winning the game that clinched a BIG EAST Tournament spot (7-3 vs. West Virginia) and beating Pitt again in the BET winners-bracket game (4-2) ... in the BET win, he limited Pittsburgh to one earned run and an unearned run on 6 hits and 3 walks in 6.2 innings, with 6 strikeouts ... his combined stats in the past three big-game starts include a 2.29 ERA and 3-0 record, plus 14 Ks, 6 walks and 17 hits allowed (.227 opp. avg.) in 19.2 innings ... situationally, those three starts have seen Samardzija limit the opponents to .158 batting with runners on and .167 with 2-outs (45% leadoff on-base pct.), with 9-inning averages of 6.4 Ks, 2.8 BB and 7.8 H (avg. of 6.2 IP in past three starts).

JUST THE STATS – Samardzija ranked as the ND staff's leader in wins (8-1; 4th in BIG EAST) and Ks (56), also ranking 3rd with 78.2 IP and 5th in ERA (3.89) ... situationally, he ranked 3rd on the staff in groundouts (90).

HOME BOY – Samardzija posted a 3-0 record, 3.23 ERA and 4-to-1 K-to-walk ratio (24/6) in 2005 home games at Eck Stadium (31 H/.261 opp. avg. in 30.2 IP) but was 5-1 with a 4.43 ERA on the road (30 Ks, 21 BB, 50 H/.289 in 36 IP)

"SHARK" HONES IN ON TWO-HITTERS – Samardzija showed his competitiveness by delivering in a pressure-packed situation for the 2005 series-finale win at Pittsburgh (6 IP, R, 2 H, 3 BB, 4 Ks, 89 pitches) in which he combined with two relievers on a 2-hitter ... the two-sport standout allowed three leadoff batters to reach but kept the Panthers hitless with runners on base (0-for-11; 0-for-4 in scoring position) and did not allow a 2-out hit (0-for-7) ... former ND pitcher Chris Niesel tossed a 1-hitter/near-no-hitter vs. West Virginia on May 3, 2003, and since that game the Irish staffs have totaled four 2-hit games (with no 1-hitters or no-hitters) ... Samardzija now has been a part of three of those 2-hitters, with the others coming in 2004 vs. Penn State in Round Rock, Texas (4-2; 4 IP, BB to save game) and Central Florida (4-0; 7 IP, 2 H, 2 BB) ... the other 2-hitter since Niesel's 1-hitter was vs. Butler late in the '03 season (4-1, 7-inning game; Peter Ogilvie 6 IP, R, 2H, 3 B, 6 Ks; Ryan Doherty retired final three batters).

NCAA ACTIVE VICTORY LEADERS (min. five years as D-I head coach; records at four-year colleges only)
 Note that years includes 2006; record updated for Mainieri, Lopez and Anderson (all others pre-2006)

Coach, Team	Yrs	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1. Augie Garrido, Texas	38	1,542	717	8	.682
2. Gene Stephenson, Wichita State	29	1,506	489	3	.755
3. Larry Hays, Texas Tech	36	1,424	777	2	.647
3. Chuck Hartman, Virginia Tech	47	1,424	783	8	.645
5. Mike Martin, Florida State	27	1,391	472	4	.746
6. Ron Polk, Mississippi State	33	1,275	624	2	.671
7. Mark Marquess, Stanford	30	1,224	590	5	.674
8. Jay Bergman, Central Florida	30	1,133	623	3	.645
9. Jim Morris, Miami (Fla.)	25	1,067	441	4	.707
10. Bob Warn, Indiana State	31	1,050	711	10	.596
11. Danny Price, Florida International	27	1,024	544	0	.653
12. Jim Gilligan, Lamar	30	999	624	7	.615
13. Pete Dunn, Stetson	27	964	579	3	.625
14. Dewey Kalmer, Bradley	38	948	834	5	.532
15. Jack Leggett, Clemson	27	932	533	0	.636
16. Steve Kittrell, South Alabama	24	895	505	1	.639
17. John Anderson, Minnesota	25	871	549	3	.660
18. Fred Hill, Rutgers	30	864	529	7	.620
19. Bob Todd, Ohio State	23	850	446	2	.656
20. Andy Lopez, Arizona	24	837	517	7	.618
21. Mike Fox, North Carolina	23	826	286	5	.742
22. PAUL MAINIERI, NOTRE DAME	24	821	478	3	.632
23. Pat Murphy, Arizona State	22	814	394	4	.673
24. Ray Tanner, South Carolina	19	808	348	3	.698
24. Keith Guttin, Missouri State	24	808	480	0	.627
26. Kevin Cooney, Florida Atlantic	23	788	453	9	.634
27. John Smith, Sacramento State	28	773	742	3	.510
28. Eddie Cardieri, South Florida	23	767	545	1	.585
28. Jim Brownlee, Illinois State	27	767	699	5	.523
30. Mike Gillespie, Southern California	20	738	438	2	.627
31. Danny Hall, Georgia Tech	19	737	347	0	.680
32. Steve Traylor, Wofford	26	726	600	3	.547
33. Gary Powers, Nevada	24	700	541	4	.564
34. Joe Hudak, Winthrop	23	698	470	5	.597
35. Rick Jones, Tulane	18	697	299	1	.700
36. Bill Brown, George Mason	25	676	591	5	.533
37. Jim Wells, Alabama	17	670	314	0	.681
38. Ron Atkins, Richmond	22	663	479	4	.580
39. Tony Robichaux, Louisiana-Lafayette	20	661	441	0	.600
40. Rod Delmonico, Tennessee	17	634	347	0	.646
41. Roger Cadore, Southern Univ.	22	632	335	1	.653
42. Gary Gilmore, Coastal Carolina	17	629	326	2	.658
43. Wayne Graham, Rice	15	627	257	0	.709
44. Willie McGowan, Alcorn State	35	611	587	7	.510
45. John Jancuska, Maryland Baltimore County	29	602	540	6	.527
46. Tony Rossi, Siena	37	594	676	5	.468
47. Sam Piraro, San Jose State	19	586	444	6	.569
48. Steve Peterson, Middle Tennessee	19	574	449	2	.561
49. Lelo Prado, Louisville	18	567	396	2	.589
50. Rich Hill, San Diego	19	562	403	3	.582
50. Elliott Avent, North Carolina State	18	562	425	0	.569

Notre Dame Baseball 2006 Summer League Commitments (others are TBA)

Brett Lilley (3B, So.)	Cape Cod League	Cotuit Kettleers
Joey Williamson (RHP, So.)	Alaska League	Anchorage Glacier Pilots
David Phelps (RHP, Fr.)	Alaska League	Mat-Su Miners (Palmer, AK)
David Gruener (LHP, So.)	Alaska League	Mat-Su Miners (Palmer, AK)
Ross Brezovsky (2B, So.)	Jayhawk League	Hays (KS) Larks
Sam Elam (LHP, Fr.)	Jayhawk League	Hays (KS) Larks
Wade Korpi	Valley League	Staunton (VA) Braves
Kyle Weiland (RHP, Fr.)	Great Lakes League	Delaware (OH) Cows
Jeremy Barnes (IF/RHP, Fr.)	Great Lakes League	Delaware (OH) Cows
Danny Dressman (OF, Jr.)	Northwoods League	Madison (WI) Mallards
Jess Stewart (RHP, Jr.)	Coastal Plains League	Wilson (NC) Tobs
Brett Graffy (RHP, Fr.)	Central Illinois Collegiate League	DuPage Dragons
Eddy Mendiola (3B/C, Fr.)	Florida Collegiate League	
Ryan Connolly (OF, Fr.)	New York Collegiate League	

STEVE ANDRES (LF/DH, Sr., Bats: Left, 5-10/200 ... Napa, CA ... 2004 NCAA Regional All-Tournament Team)

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003	.269	43/29	104	26	28	2	2	4	22	46	.442	19	9	27	3	.415	3	0	2-3	1
2004	.320	57/49	169	38	54	13	4	8	39	99	.586	44	6	44	0	.471	2	1	4-9	4
2005	.281	41/28	112	28	26	8	1	5	25	51	.455	21	7	22	0	.383	1	0	0-0	0
2006	.267	4/4	15	1	4	1	0	0	1	5	.333	1	0	3	0	.313	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	.280	145/110	400	93	112	24	7	17	87	201	.504	85	22	96	3	.427	6	1	6-12	5

vs. Nebraska – went 1-for-3 with a walk and strikeout, as 3-hole hitter.

Opening Week – hit 3-for-12 in Millington games (RBI, R, 2B, 2 Ks) ... 2-for-4 in opener vs. Indiana State (R).

Home & Away – hit 34 points higher in '05 home games (.250, 9 RBI, HR, 3B, 3 2B, 8 BB, 4 Ks) than in all road games (.216, 16 RBI, 4 HR, 5 2B, 12 BB, 6 HBP, 18 Ks) ... 4 of his 5 HRs, 16 of 25 RBI in '05 came on road ... 11 of his 17 career HRs have come outside of Eck Stadium ... hit well on the road in 2004 (.317, 3 HR, 21 RBI, 20 BB).

2005 Team Ranks – finished 3rd on team in slugging pct. (.455), 4th in home runs (5) and 5th in walks (21).

Lineup Notes – has opened 2006 season batting twice each in 3-hole and cleanup spots (he hit in the 4th spot 27 times in his first three seasons) ... starting DH in '06, with a rare start in RF vs. Air Force ... his '05 starts included 18 in LF, 9 as DH, 1 at C (totaled 59 starts in LF from '03-'05) ... made 13 starts in '05 as cleanup batter, with other starts in the 3rd (8), 5th (4), 7th (2) and 8th (1) spots.

A Little Extra – totaled more extra-base hits (14; 5 HR, 3B, 8 2B) than singles (12) in the 2005 season ... his career totals include 64 singles and 48 extra-base hits (17 HR, 7 3B, 24 2B).

Plate Discipline – ranked 5th on 2005 team with a +6 plate-discipline ratio (19 BB + 6 HBP – 19 Ks), now +11 for career.

At the 2005 BIG EAST Tournament – hit team-best 4-for-9 in 3 GP/2 GS (4 RBI, HR, 2 2B, 2 R, HBP, 2 Ks), boosting his season batting avg. from .203 to .223 ... led off top of the 9th inning with pinch-hit single as Irish scored twice to claim 6-5 lead and win over BC in BET opener ... smacked 2-run HR the next day for 3-0 lead in winners-bracket game vs. Pitt (4-2) ... closed with pair of doubles (one a 2-run hit) and scored a run vs. the Panthers in 11-4 title game ... now is a .345 career hitter at the BET (10-for-29, 10 RBI, 7 R, HR, 3B, 5 2B, 5 BB, 2 HBP, 8 Ks, E), well above his overall .280 career batting avg.

In a Pinch – owns .407 career batting avg. as a pinch-hitter (11-for-27), including 3-for-6 in '05 (rest of team was 7-for-27/.259).

MATT BRANSFIELD (LF/DH, Sr., Bats: Right, 6-1/200 ... Englewood, CO ... 2004 BIG EAST RBI Champion)

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.310	33/17	71	13	22	3	0	0	10	25	.352	3	3	19	1	.354	2	1	0-0	0
2004....	.306	59/54	206	44	63	12	3	12	58	117	.568	22	9	30	0	.388	5	1	0-3	0
2005....	.313	32/29	96	14	30	6	0	0	16	36	.375	10	7	17	4	.409	2	2	1-1	1
2005....	.333	5/5	18	2	6	1	0	1	6	10	.556	0	0	6	1	.333	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL...	.309	129/105	391	73	121	22	3	13	90	188	.481	35	19	72	6	.385	9	4	1-4	1

vs. Nebraska – batted 0-for-2 (2 Ks) as cleanup batter while starting at first base.

Opening Week – hit 6-for-16 (.375) in Millington games (6 RBI, 2 R, HR, 4 Ks) ... smacked 2-run HR in opener vs. Indiana State, adding 2 RBI in win over Air Force (R) ... went 3-for-5 in loss to Memphis (2 RBI).

Home and Away – hit 77 points higher in '05 home games (.345, 19-for-55, 11 RBI, 6 R, 4 2B, 6 BB, 5 HBP, 7 Ks, SAC, SB, E) than on the road (.268, 11-for-41, 5 RBI, 8 R, 2 2B, 4 BB, 2 HBP, 10 Ks, SAC, 2 SF) ... had solid .306 batting avg. in 2004 road games (7 HR, 30 RBI).

2005 Team Ranks – finished 4th in batting avg. (.313) and on-base pct. (.409) ... missed 18 games after suffering broken hand in season opener.

Situational Summary – led 2005 team with .448 batting vs. LHPs (.254 vs. RHPs) ... also 2nd on team in leadoff on-base pct. (.542), and 4th in batting with runners on (.321) ... hit .286 in '05 with 2 outs, 2-for-8 (.250) with the bases loaded ... delivered RBI 7-of-10 times with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs.

In a Pinch – has batted at a .368 clip as a pinch-hitter during his ND career (7-for-19), including 2-for-3 in 2005 pinch-hit ABs (rest of team was 9-for-32/.281).

Plate Discipline – owns a -18 career plate-discipline ratio (35 BB + 19 HBP – 72 Ks), including +2 in 2005 and -6 in '06.

Lineup Notes – his 27 starts in '05 included 21 at DH (6 at C, 2 at 1B) ... made 10 starts in '05 batting cleanup, 12 in the 6-hole, 5 in 5-hole (also batted 7th in pair of postseason games) ... starting LF in Millington (4 GP) ... '06 starts include three cleanup, two in 6-hole.

Summer Ball – joined Cody Rizzo as member of Mat-Su Miners of Alaska League in summer of '05, earning all-league honors while leading team in slugging (.469) and doubles (12), 2nd in RBI (3), 3rd in batting (.312) and on-base (.409).

ROSS BREZOVSKY (2B, So., Bats: Left, 5-10/170 ... Naples, FL)

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2005....	.261	56/53	188	35	49	8	2	2	20	67	.356	17	4	42	11	.329	4	6	3-5	13
2005....	.250	5/5	16	1	4	0	0	1	3	7	.438	2	0	1	0	.333	0	1	0-0	1
TOTAL...	.260	61/58	204	36	50	8	2	3	23	74	.363	19	4	43	11	.329	4	7	3-5	14

vs. Nebraska – batted 1-for-4 (K) while hitting in the 7-hole

Opening Week – hit 3-for-12 in Millington games (3 RBI, R, HR, 2 BB, SAC), with 3-run HR vs. Air Force (2-for-4).

Home and Away – hit 34 points higher on the road (.278, 11 RBI, 18 R, HR, 3 3B, 4 2B, 4 BB, 4 HBP, 24 Ks, 2 SAC, SB, 9 Es) than at home (.244, 9 RBI, 17 R, HR, 3 2B, 13 BB, 14 Ks, 4 SAC, 2 SB, 4 Es) in '05 season.

2005 Team Ranks – finished as team co-leader with 2 triples, also ranking 4th in doubles (8) and 5th in sac. bunts (6) ... hit .320 in 2005 vs. LHPs (.239 vs. RHPs).

Plate Discipline – owned -21 plate-discipline ratio in '05 (17 BB + 4 HBP – 42 Ks), +1 in 2006.

Lineup Notes – his 53 starts in '05 included 15 at 3B, 34 at 2B and 3 at SS (plus a single start at LF) ... hit mostly at bottom of the order (24 in 8-hole, 13 in 9th and 12 in 7-hole), plus 4 as leadoff hitter (early-season) ... starting 2B in all five 2006 games while batting four times in 7-hole (one in 8th spot) ... he and SS Greg Lopez are only players to start all five games at same position (Matt Bransfield and Cody Rizzo are only others with 5 GS).

Summer Ball – joined classmate David Gruener as member of Hays (Kan.) Larks in Jayhawk League, during summer of '05 ... slated to return to Hays in summer of 2006.

**SEAN GASTON (C, Jr., Bats: Left, 6-0/175 ... Brownsburg, IN)
Cape Cod League 2005 All-Star (Cotuit Kettleers)**

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2004....	.316	23/12	57	11	18	3	0	0	11	21	.368	5	0	9	0	.365	1	0	4-4	1
2005....	.290	50/43	164	27	48	5	1	1	28	58	.354	5	4	17	4	.326	2	7	4-4	4
2006....	.273	4/4	11	2	3	0	0	0	0	3	.273	3	0	3	0	.429	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL...	.297	77/59	232	40	69	8	1	1	39	82	.353	13	4	29	4	.341	3	7	8-8	5

vs. Nebraska – went 1-for-2 (K) as 5-hole hitter

Opening Week – hit 2-for-9 in Millington (2 R, 3 BB, 2 Ks) ... ended hitless streak in game vs. Oklahoma (2-for-3, R).

Home and Away – hit 30 points higher in 2005 home games (.310, 14 RBI, 9 R, HR, 3 2B, 2 BB, 7 Ks, 3 SB) than in road games (.280/4th on team, 14 RBI, 18 R, 3B, 2 2B, 3 BB, 4 HBP, 10 Ks, 3 SAC, SB).

2005 Team Ranks – finished 3rd on 2005 team in sacrifice bunts (7), 4th in RBI (28) and 5th in batting avg. (.293) ... ranked 4th on 2005 team in 2-out RBI (15) and batting with runners in scoring position (.322), 5th in 2-out batting (.302) and 5th with .296 batting vs. RHPs (.282 vs. LHPs).

Lineup Notes – made all 43 of his starts at catcher while batting all over the lineup, with 12 starts in the 6-hole, 8 starts each in the 8- and 9-holes, plus starts in the 2nd (2), 4th (2), 5th (4) and 7th (7) spots ... started behind the plate in all 2006 games except vs. Air Force while batting twice in 5-hole (plus starts in 2nd and 6th spots).

Plate Discipline – had -8 plate-discipline ratio in '05 (5 BB + 3 HBP – 16 Ks), with -12 currently for career (even in '06).

Summer Ball – joined classmate Jeff Manship as member of Cape Cod League's Cotuit Kettleers in summer of '05, earning CCL all-star honors and being named Cotuit's team MVP while batting .298 (12 RBI, .328 on-base).

BRETT LILLEY (3B, So., Bats: Left, 5-7/165 ... North Canton, OH)**BIG EAST 2005 Freshman of the Year ... Freshman All-American**

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2005....	.355	63/63	214	56	76	5	0	0	28	81	.379	34	30	33	2	.502	1	9	9-18	14
2005....	.231	4/4	13	2	3	0	0	0	0	3	.231	1	2	3	0	.375	0	0	1-1	0
TOTAL...	.348	67/67	227	58	79	5	0	0	28	84	.370	35	32	36	2	.495	1	9	9-18	14

vs. Nebraska – hitless (0-for-3) from the 2-hole, with rare multiple-K game (2)

Opening Week – hit 3-for-10 in Millington (2 R, BB, 2 HBP, K) ... hit 2-for-3 vs. Memphis (HBP).

Home & Away – hit significantly higher (107 points) in '05 home games (.415/2nd on team, 15 RBI, 30 R, 2 2B, 18 BB, 10 HBP, 14 Ks, 7 SB) than in road games (.308/2nd on team, 16 RBI, 26 R, 3 2B, 16 BB, 20 HBP, 19 Ks, 2 SB).

2005 Team Ranks – led team in batting (.355), on-base (.502; 9th ND history), HBP (30; ND record) and sac. bunts (9), 2nd in hits (76), runs (56) and walks (34), 4th in RBI (28), SBs (9) and TBs (81) ... third ND freshman (second since '71) to lead ND in batting ... joined Matt Edwards as only players to start all 63 games ... 2nd on team with 20 multi-hit games (5-hit vs. Cincinnati, 1 w/ 4 hits, 5 w/ 3 hits) ... led team in 2-out batting (.439, 12 RBI) and batting with runners in scoring position (.448) ... also led team with .368 batting vs. RHPs (4th with .323 vs. LHPs), plus 3rd in leadoff OB pct. (.515) ... delivered RBI 11-of-15 times (73%/2nd on team) with runners on 3rd and fewer than 2 outs ... advanced runners team-best 66% of the time.

Among 2005 BIG EAST Stat Leaders – led the league charts all season in on-base pct. (.502), also leading all BIG EAST freshmen in walks (34; 6th overall) and batting avg. (.355; 9th overall) ... ranked 6th among BE players with 56 runs scored ... in conference games only, he finished 7th (tops among freshmen) in walks (14) and on-base pct. (.460).

Plate Discipline – owned team-best +31 plate-discipline ratio in 2005 (34 BB + 30 HBP – 33 Ks), even in 2006.

Lineup Notes – made first 28 starts in '05 at 2B before starting final 35 games at 3B, with Irish going 24-10-1 in that stretch ... hit mostly in 2-hole (51), plus 11 starts at leadoff (including the late WVU series and one game at the BET) ... batted leadoff once and in 2-hole twice last week in Millington (dnp vs. Air Force).

Great Glove Man – had 51 error-free games in '05 (none so far in '06), including 21-game span without an E (96 fielding chances) from March 24-April 21 ... made single E in '05 BIG EAST reg.-season (24 GP, plus no Es in 3 GP at the BET).

In the Record Books – his 30 HBP in '05 set ND record (besting Cody Rizzo's 28 in '03) and rank 4th in NCAA record book while his .502 season OB pct. ranked 10th in ND history, just shy of the ND freshman record set by Eric Danapilis in '90 (.509) ... totaled 64 free passes (also 34 BB) to go along with his 76 hits in '05 (140 total times on base).

Summer Ball – slated to play with Cotuit Kettleers in Cape Cod League summer of '06.

GREG LOPEZ (SS, Sr. ... Bats: R, 6-0/190 ... Upper Arlington, OH)**Third Team All-BIG EAST in 2004 ... Academic All-America Candidate in 2006 ... Second-Year Team Captain**

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.250	50/40	132	17	33	1	0	0	26	34	.258	4	4	22	5	.289	2	8	1-5	8
2004....	.332	59/57	199	39	66	14	0	2	34	86	.432	14	9	32	0	.396	3	10	4-5	20
2005....	.274	63/62	208	35	57	7	1	2	34	72	.346	11	16	44	3	.347	7	7	0-2	23
2006....	.200	5/5	15	2	3	0	0	0	4	3	.200	0	0	2	4	.188	1	1	0-0	1
TOTAL...	.287	177/164	554	93	159	22	1	4	98	195	.352	29	29	100	12	.347	13	26	5-12	52

vs. Nebraska – batted 0-for-2 (K), as 6-hole hitter

Opening Week – hit 3-for-13 in Millington (4 RBI, 2 R, K, SF, SAC) ... went 2-for-4 vs. Air Force (2 RBI, R).

Home and Away – hit 28 points higher in 2005 home games (.289, 16 RBI, 23 R, HR, 3B, 6 2B, 3 BB, 11 HBP, 21 Ks, 2 SAC, 13 Es) than in road games (.261, 18 RBI, 12 R, HR, 2B, 8 BB, 5 HBP, 23 Ks, 5 SAC, 7 Es) ... had an impressive season hitting on the road in 2004 (.395, 22 RBI, 26 R).

2005 Team Ranks – one of three players to play all 63 games of '05 ... 3rd on team in RBI (34), HBP (16, 5th in ND history), sac. bunts (7) and starts (62), 5th in hits (57) and total bases (72) ... 3rd on '05 team in batting vs. LHPs (.333; .250 vs. RHPs).

For the Glove of the Game – his 47 error-free games in '05 included 15 to open season and 1 E in 19 games prior to Michigan game ... played error-free throughout 2005 postseason (7 GP) ... had only four multiple-error games in '05 (none 3-plus) ... totaled 42 E-free games in '04 (85 in '04-'05) ... made one error last week in Millington (none vs. Nebraska).

Hitting Ball & Books – candidate for Academic All-America honors (3.39 GPA; anthropology/pre-professional science)

Lineup Notes – had 59 starts in '05 at SS (plus 3 at 3B, in midseason) while batting in the 9th (35), 8th (24), 7th (2) and 2nd (1) spots ... opened 2006 as 5-hole hitter, after hitting mostly near bottom of order for most of his career ... made three starts last week in 5-hole, one as #6 batter.

Milestone Watch – needs two RBI for 100th of career, seven runs shy of 100 ... 3rd in ND history with 39 total sacrifices, eight shy of Cory Mee's record ... 9th in ND history for career fielding assists (416), 5th in sac. bunts (26), 8th HBPs (29).

Plate Discipline – owned a -17 plate-discipline ratio in 2005 (11 BB + 16 HBP – 44 Ks), now -42 for career (-2 in '06).

ALEX NETTEY (CF, Sr., Bats: Right, 6-1/200 ... Dolton, IL)

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.229	30/9	48	11	11	2	0	0	3	13	.271	3	1	9	1	.288	0	1	2-2	0
2004....	.194	27/9	36	9	7	3	0	0	5	10	.278	4	3	5	0	.326	0	0	1-1	0
2005....	.288	60/59	226	44	65	11	2	2	24	87	.381	14	15	29	5	.367	1	9	12-19	5
2005....	.250	4/4	16	2	4	1	0	0	1	5	.313	0	0	2	0	.250	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL...	.267	121/81	326	66	87	17	2	2	33	114	.350	21	19	45	6	.346	1	10	15-22	5

vs. Nebraska – hit 1-for-4 with an RBI single from leadoff spot (K).

Opening Week – batted 3-for-12, with hits vs. Indiana State (R, 2B), Memphis (R) and Oklahoma (K), dnp vs. Air Force.

Home and Away – hit 67 points higher in '05 home games (.321/5th on team, 14 RBI, 29 R, 2 HR, 6 2B, 6 BB, 8 HBP, 13 Ks, 4 SAC, 5 SB, 3 Es) than in road games (.254, 10 RBI, 16 R, 2 3B, 5 2B, 8 BB, 7 HBP, 16 Ks, 5 SAC, 7 SB, 2 Es).

2005 Team Ranks – shared team lead in triples (2) and sac. bunts (9/4th in BIG EAST), 3rd in doubles (11), stolen bases (12) and total bases (86), 4th in hits (65), runs (44), HBP (15), games played (60) and started (59) ... also 4th on team with 15 multi-hit games ... ranked 4th on '05 team with .305 batting vs. RHPs (.237 vs. LHPs) ... advanced baserunners 55% of the time (5th-best on team) ... compiled a .418 leadoff on-base pct. while batting .273 with runners in scoring position and .219 with 2 outs (5 RBI).

Plate Discipline – finished with an even plate-discipline ratio in 2005 (14 BB + 15 HBP – 29 Ks) ... currently owns a -5 career plate-discipline ratio (-2 in 2006).

Lineup Notes – made all 59 starts in 2005 in CF, batting mostly leadoff (33), plus starts in 9th (6), 2nd (6), 5th (4), 7th (8) and 8th (2) spots ... batted twice in 2-hole last week (once in 8th spot), with all three starts in CF.

Summer Ball – played for Fayetteville (N.C.) Swamp Dogs of Coastal Plains League during summers of '04 and '05.

CODY RIZZO (RF/C, Sr., Bats: Right, 6-1/195 ... Temecula, CA)

Year	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	E
2003....	.314	58/56	191	53	60	11	1	4	38	85	.445	11	28	33	0	.425	3	1	1-2	4
2004....	.263	52/51	175	39	46	5	1	4	29	65	.371	4	21	30	0	.348	4	1	5-6	5
2005....	.252	60/50	163	41	41	8	1	6	24	68	.423	22	21	35	7	.404	2	1	17-23	6
2006....	.176	5/5	17	0	3	0	0	0	3	3	.176	0	0	3	2	.176	0	0	0-2	0
TOTAL...	.275	175/162	546	133	150	24	3	14	94	222	.407	37	70	101	9	.388	9	3	23-33	15

vs. Nebraska – went 0-for-3 while batting in the 8-hole (K).

Opening Week – batted 3-for-14, with hits vs. Indiana State (RBI, K), Air Force (K; starting C) and Memphis (2 RBI).

Home and Away – hit 29 points higher in 2005 road games (.262, 17 RBI, 20 R, 4 HR, 3B, 4 2B, 12 BB, 11 HBP, 27 Ks, SAC, 7 SB, 5 Es) than in '05 home games (.233, 7 RBI, 21 R, 2 HR, 4 2B, 10 BB, 10 HBP, 8 Ks, 10 SB, E).

2005 Team Ranks – led team with 17 stolen bases while ranking 2nd in HBP (21; 4th in ND history), 3rd in home runs (6), 4th in slugging pct. (.423), doubles (8) and walks (22), and 5th in runs (41) and on-base pct. (.404) ... finished 4th on '05 team with .436 leadoff on-base pct., 5th in 2-out RBI (13).

Among '05 BIG EAST Leaders – ranked 7th among BIG EAST players with 17 stolen bases ... late surge landed him 15th among leaders in conference batting avg. (.352), also 3rd in on-base pct. (.514), 4th in slugging pct. (.648) and stolen bases (7), and 8th in home runs (4) – all for conference games ... the Pittsburgh duo of Jim Negrych (1.311) and Ben Copeland (1.205) were the only players with a higher OPS (on-base plus slugging) in BIG EAST games than his 1.162.

Plate Discipline – ranked 4th on 2005 team with a +9 plate-discipline ratio (22 BB + 21 HBP – 33 Ks) ... currently owns a +6 career plate-discipline ratio (37 BB, 70 HBP, 101Ks), -3 in 2006.

Lineup Notes – made 36 starts in '05 in RF, 11 behind the plate (all-state catcher as a prep but previously just 4 starts at C with the Irish, in '03) ... hit mostly in the 5th, 6th and 7th spots (15 games each), plus 2 in 8th ... had made 94 career starts in RF (started at catcher last week vs. Air Force) ... batted in 9-hole during all four games in Millington.

Walking Tall – overcame subpar '05 batting by getting on base via walks (22) and HBP (21; 4th ND history) – for .404 on-base pct. (despite hitting just .252), also swiping 17 bases ... first two seasons featured total of just 15 walks and 6 SBs.

Milestone Watch – eight RBI shy of 100 for his career.

Plunksville – already ranks 4th in the NCAA record book with 70 career times hit-by-pitch (record is 92), needing four to tie former Texas player Jeff Ontiveros ('99-'02).

Summer Ball – joined ND teammate Matt Bransfield on Mat-Su Miners of Alaska League in summer of '05 ... saw '03 summer with Hays Larks (Jayhawk League) cut short due to injury (dnp in summer of '04).