

2006 NOTRE DAME BASEBALL

(vs. St. John's ... April 13 – 14)

2006 SCHEDULE (24-8)

FEBRUARY * – BIG EAST game

Thur. 23	vs. Indiana St. (Mill., TN)	W, 3-0
<i>Service Academies Classic (Millington, TN)</i>		
Fri. 24	vs. Air Force	W, 8-2
Sat. 25	vs. Memphis	L, 6-7 (10)
Sun. 26	vs. Oklahoma	L, 3-4

MARCH

<i>Minnesota Dairy Queen Classic (Metrodome)</i>		
Fri. 3	vs. #4 Nebraska	L, 1-11
Sat. 4	vs. Minnesota	L, 0-8
Sun. 5	vs. Arizona	L, 0-2 (10)

<i>UTSA Express Classic (Wolff Stadium; San Antonio)</i>		
Fri. 10	vs. #15 Texas A&M	W, 5-4
Sat. 11	vs. Iowa	W, 16-2
Sun. 12	vs. Illinois	W, 4-2
Mon. 13	vs. Iowa	W, 6-2

<i>Irish Baseball Classic (Wolff Stadium; San Antonio)</i>		
Thur. 16	vs. Iowa	W, 7-5
Fri. 17	vs. Southern Illinois	W, 12-2
Fri. 17	vs. Iowa	L, 8-10
Sat. 18	vs. Southern Illinois	W, 4-0
Tues. 21	Wright State	L, 2-4
Wed. 22	Central Michigan	W, 11-9

<i>at Povich Field (Bethesda, MD)</i>		
Sat. 25	vs. Georgetown*	L, 3-8; W, 12-2
Sun. 26	vs. Georgetown*	W, 6-3
Tues. 28	Valparaiso	W, 12-0
Wed. 29	Western Michigan	W, 2-0
Fri. 31	Pittsburgh*	W, 6-1

APRIL

Sat. 1	Pittsburgh*	W, 4-3
Sun. 2	Pittsburgh*	W, 9-8
Tues. 4	Chicago State	W, 6-4
Wed. 5	Ball State	W, 6-4
Fri. 7	at South Florida*	W, 9-5
Sat. 8	at South Florida*	W, 10-4
Sun. 9	at South Florida*	W, 10-1
Tues. 11	Oakland	W, 15-1
Wed. 12	Manchester	5:05 p.m.
Thur. 13	St. John's (DH)* (CSTV)	12:05 p.m.
Sat. 15	St. John's*	12:05 p.m.
Tues. 18	Toledo	5:05 p.m.
Wed. 19	IPFW (Comcast Local)	5:05 p.m.
Fri. 21	Rutgers*	6:05 p.m.
Sat. 22	Rutgers*	3:05 p.m.
Sun. 23	Rutgers*	12:05 p.m.
Tues. 25	Purdue (ESPN-U)	7:05 p.m.
Wed. 26	Bowling Green	5:05 p.m.
Sat. 29	at Connecticut (DH)*	noon
Sun. 30	at Connecticut*	11:00 a.m.

MAY

Tues. 2	Cleveland State	5:05 p.m.
Fri. 5	Louisville*	6:05 p.m.
Sat. 6	Louisville*	1:05 p.m.
Sun. 7	Louisville*	12:05 p.m.
Sat. 13	at Seton Hall (DH)*	noon
Sun. 14	at Seton Hall*	noon
Tues. 16	vs. Michigan (Comcast Local)	7:00 p.m.
(5th/3rd Park; Comstock Park, MI)		

<i>at Villanova Ballpark (Plymouth Meeting, PA)</i>		
Thur. 18	vs. Villanova*	4:00 p.m.
Fri. 19	vs. Villanova*	4:00 p.m.
Sat. 20	vs. Villanova*	noon
Tues.-23-	<i>BIG EAST Tourn.</i> (final on ESPN-U)	
Sat. 27	Br. House Net. Field (Clearwater, FL)	
Fri.-2-	<i>NCAA Regionals</i>	
Sun. 4	(Campus Sites)	
Fri.-9-	<i>NCAA Super Regionals</i>	
Sun. 11	(Campus Sites)	
Fri.-16-	<i>College World Series</i>	
Mon. 26	(Omaha, NE)	

SHOWDOWN AT THE ECK – Notre Dame (24-8, 8-1 BIG EAST) meets BIG EAST co-leader St. John's (20-8) this week at Eck Stadium (April 13 and 15), in a series that will place one team atop the league standings ... the Irish are at the early part of a 12-game homestand but will be completing a rare stretch of seven games in seven days ... the Irish are riding a 14-game winning streak and have gone 22-3 since a challenging first two weeks of the season (2-5) ... ND's series rotation is set to include junior RHPs Jeff Samardzija, senior LHP Tom Thornton and junior RHP Jeff Manship.

TV, RADIO, LIVE-STATS, TEXT-MESSAGE UPDATES & HOTLINE – CSTV will broadcast the April 13 doubleheader live (12:07 and 4:07), with live streaming on und.com for All-Access subscribers ... all of ND's 2006 regular-season and postseason games again will be broadcast by South Bend's ESPN Radio (now on 1490 AM) ... the broadcasts are available online at www.und.com (All-Access subscription) ... und.com provides links to livestats on the website's main page, for all home games and select road games ... a free text-message service, Irish Alert, now is available (see und.com for details) ... call the ND Sports Hotline at 574-631-3000 for schedule and results of all varsity sports (from main menu, select "4" and then select "1" for baseball information).

ECK-CELLENT – Notre Dame is one victory shy of the program's 300th win in 13 seasons at Eck Stadium (299-66-1), winning nearly 82% of the games in the home facility (.818) ... the only teams with more than three wins at Eck vs. ND include: St. John's (5-7), West Virginia (5-8), Miami, Fla. (4-1), Ball State (4-3) and Rutgers (4-8).

IRISH QUICK NOTES – Craig Cooper was named BIG EAST player of the week after batting 12-for-20 last week (10 R, 5 RBI, HR, 3B, 2 2B) ... Cooper and Brett Lilley both hit 9-for-13 in the 3-0 sweep at South Florida ... Cooper has reached 19-of-23 times when leading off the game for the Irish (13-for-17, 3 BB, HBP, 2 HR, 6 2B) – with his shift to leadoff helping spark the 22-3 record in the past six weeks ... the two-time BIG EAST batting champ's career BIG EAST batting avg. is .439, 2nd-best in the 22-year history of BIG EAST baseball (former Rutgers player Joe Cirrone hit .443) ... ND's recent streak of nine straight games with double-digit hits is unmatched in the program's recorded history ... the 32 games this season have featured 32 different batting orders and 25 different position combinations ... the ND staff's streak of not allowing a home run ended last Sunday at USF (first vs. the Irish in 25 games and 943 batters faced) ... the Irish pitchers have allowed just four home runs all season ... ND rapped out 49 hits in the sweep at USF, the most hits for the Irish in a BIG EAST series since 50 vs. Georgetown in '98 ... ND outhit USF .409-.231 in the series ... ND matched the seventh-best 30-game start (22-8) in the 114-year history of the program ... the 14-game win streak ranks 8th in ND history and includes three-game sweeps of teams picked to finish 2nd (Pittsburgh) and 3rd (USF) in the BIG EAST preseason poll ... ND had 15-plus hits in four straight games for the first time since 1988 ... the ND defense remains on pace to set the team record in fielding pct. (.973; 34 Es), with the 10 regular starters combining for just 23 Es at their normal positions (SS Greg Lopez has just 3 Es) ... the games at USF marked the eighth time that ND has swept a 3-game road series in 11 BIG EAST seasons ... ND has trailed just four times in the win streak, with three of those deficits each lasting a half-inning ... ND is outhitting the opponents .353-.208 in the win streak (Cooper .542; 2.36 staff ERA) ... Cooper (.529), Lilley (.452) and Lopez (.417) all are batting over .400 in BIG EAST play ... ND is 15-1 in its past 16 overall games vs. the BIG EAST ... Kyle Weiland already has tied Aaron Heilman's ND record for saves by a freshman (9) ND sold an Eck Stadium record 3,028 tickets for the Friday-night game vs. Pittsburgh ... that game saw the ND staff's shutout streak end at 22 innings (first earned run allowed in 33 IP) ... Paul Mainieri is 512-204-2 at ND, 843-483-3 overall in 24 seasons.

NEW FORMAT – Most BIG EAST series in 2006 have shifted to a three-day format (typically Fri.-Sat.-Sun.) ... all BIG EAST games will be nine innings this season, except in the instance where a doubleheader must be played on Sunday ... there also no longer is the option to use Monday as a makeup day for a weekend series.

**Notre Dame-St. John's Series
(ND Leads 16-10)**

At ND: ND leads 7-5

At SJU: ND leads 6-5

Series Won: ND 4, SJU 3 (1 split)

BE Tournament: ND leads 3-0

One-Run Wins: SJU 6, ND 4

Series Continuous Since: 1998

Date	Site	Result
4/4/96	ND (7)	W 7-3
5/17/96	BET-1	W 4-0
5/9/98	ND (7)	L 0-3
5/9/98	ND	W 2-1
5/10/98	ND	L 5-6
5/14/98	BET-1	W 3-2
5/15/99	SJU (7)	L 4-5
5/15/99	SJU	W 5-2
5/16/99	SJU	L 5-14
4/29/00	ND (7)	W 8-3
4/29/00	ND	L 4-6 1
4/30/00	ND	W 9-8
4/28/01	SJU (7)	W 3-2
4/28/01	SJU	W 5-0
4/29/01	SJU	W 7-3
4/16/02	ND (7)	W 4-1
4/16/02	ND	L 3-4
4/17/02	ND	W 5-2
4/6/03	SJU (7)	W 11-3
4/6/03	SJU	W 18-3
4/12/04	ND (7)	W 7-1
4/12/04	ND	L 1-2
5/28/04	BET-3	W 9-2
5/7/05	SJU	L 2-3
5/7/05	SJU	L 5-6
5/8/05	SJU	L 1-3

Series Scoring	Total	Avg.
Notre Dame	137	5.3
St. John's	88	3.4

ND Most Runs: 18 (2003)

SJU Widest Margin: 9 (14-5, 1999)

SJU Most Runs: 14 (1999)

High-Scoring Game: 21 (ND 18-3, '03)

ND Widest Margin: 15 (18-3, 2003)

Shutouts By: ND 2, SJU

ND Win Streak: 6 (2000-02)

Low-Scoring Game: 3 (ND 2-1, '98)

PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

Thur., April 13 (Game 1) – ND jr. RHP **Jeff Samardzija** (4.04 ERA, 4-1, 23 Ks, 20 BB, 40 H/.255 opp. avg., 42.1 IP, 7 GS) and SJU sr. RHP **Rob Delaney** (4.42, 2-3, 37 Ks, 16 BB, 38 H/.266, 36.2 IP, 7 GP/6 GS)

Thur., April 13 (Game 2) – ND sr. LHP **Tom Thornton** (2.83 ERA, 5-1, 37 Ks, 4 BB, 43 H/.247 opp. avg., 47.2 IP, 7 GS) and SJU jr. LHP **Luis Monell** (4.50, 2-1, 14 Ks, 12 BB, 15 H/.221, 18.0 IP, 7 GP/4 GS)

Sat., April 15 – ND jr. RHP **Jeff Manship** (1.96 ERA, 4-1, 54 Ks, 10 BB, 32 H/.187 opp. avg., 46 IP, 7 GS) and SJU fr. LHP **Scott Barnes** (3.32, 4-2, 49 Ks, 13 BB, 32 H/.204, 43.1 IP, 6 GS)

ND STARTING POSITION PLAYERS *leftlander hitter, ** switch hitter

Pos.	Player	Yr./Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2006 Statistics
C	#11 Sean Gaston*	Jr./6-0/175	Brownsburg, IN	.263, 15 RBI, 3B, 4 2B
1B	#9 Craig Cooper	Sr./6-2/210	Plainview, NY	.3442, 38 R, 14 RBI, 4 HR
2B	#7 Ross Brezovsky*	So./5-10/170	Naples, FL	.337, 2 HR, 19 RBI, 5 2B
SS	#4 Greg Lopez	Sr./6-0/190	Upper Arlington, OH	.324, 24 RBI, just 3 Es
3B	#2 Brett Lilley*	Fr./5-7/165	North Canton, OH	.323, 18 R, 10 RBI, 8 HBP
LF	#12 Matt Bransfield	Sr./6-1/200	Englewood, CO	.336, 4 HR, 24 RBI, 11 2B
CF	#16 Alex Nettey	Sr./6-1/200	Dolton, IL	.299, 23 R, 6 SB, 16 HBP
RF	#17 Cody Rizzo	Sr./6-1/195	Temecula, CA	.240, 22 RBI, 2 HR, 8 SB
IF/DH	#20 Jeremy Barnes	Fr./5-11/185	Garland, TX	.301, 21 RBI, 8 2B, 15 BB
OF	#8 Danny Dressman	Jr./5-9/180	San Jose, CA	.375, 19 RBI, 2 3B, 18 BB

TALE OF THE TAPE

	ND	SJU
2005 Final Records	38-24-1	41-18
Lettermen Ret./Lost	21/7	18/11
CURRENT (BIG EAST rank in parentheses)		
Batting Average	(3) .319	(2) .326
BIG EAST Batting Average	(1) .355	(4) .299
Runs Per Nine Innings	7.0	9.1
Home Runs	(8) 17	(3) 23
Slugging Percentage	(4) .433	(2) .478
Batters' BB+HBP-K Margin	+20	-10
On-Base Percentage	(2) .408	(3) .407
Stolen Bases	(3) 45-70	(4) 45-59
Stolen Base Percentage	.643	.763
Team ERA	(3) 3.18	(3) 3.38
BIG EAST ERA	(3) 3.39	(1) 2.47
Opponent Batting Average	(2) .235	(2) .252
Pitchers' K-BB Ratio	2.6	1.9
Pitchers' Ks Per 9 Innings	8.2	7.5
Pitchers' BB Per 9 Innings	3.0	3.9
Fielding Pct. (Errors)	(3) .973 (33)	(4) .957 (50)
Double Plays Turned	(7) 24	(7) 24
Record at Home	10-1	8-1
Record on Road (incl. neutral)	21-8	14-7
Record in One-Run Games	3-2	1-4
Record in Extra Innings	0-2	0-1

SERIES NOTES – SJU has won 4 of the last 5 in the series vs. ND (3 one-run wins and a two-run margin) ... SJU's 3-2, 6-5 wins in '05 represent one of just nine times that ND has been swept in a BIG EAST doubleheader (out of 91) ... SJU then won the 3-1 finale, joining Seton Hall ('96) and Connecticut ('02) as the only teams ever to sweep a three-game BIG EAST series from ND ... ND has lost just 13 all-time BIG EAST series (3 vs. SJU) ... the Irish had won 9-of-10 in the series before SJU's current run of wins.

Notre Dame Career Stats vs. St. John's

Player	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B/3B/HR	BB/K	RBI	SB	AVG
Andres	7/5	16	2	5	2/1/0	6/2	2	0-0	.500
Lilley	3/3	10	1	5	0/0/0	3/2	1	0-1	.500
Lopez	7/6	22	3	9	1/0/0	0/4	3	0-0	.409
Langford	1/1	3	1	1	0/0/0	0/1	1	0-0	.333
Rizzo	8/8	25	9	8	1/1/1	1/4	5	2-3	.320
Bransfield	7/6	19	2	6	0/1/0	4/4	5	0-0	.316
Nettey	5/3	11	2	3	1/0/0	1/3	0	2-2	.273
Cooper	7/7	20	6	5	0/0/0	5/2	2	2-2	.250
Brezovsky	3/3	9	0	0	0/0/0	0/4	0	0-0	.000
Others:	Gaston (2 GS, 0-for-5, BB, K), Dressman (2 GP, 0-for-1, RBI)								

Player	G/GS	W-L (SV)	IP	H	R	ER	K/BB	WP/HB	ERA
Samardzija	2/1	0-2 (0)	10.0	6	4	2	5/5	0/2	1.80
Manship	1/1	0-0 (0)	4.0	3	1	1	3/1	1/0	2.25
Kapala	1/1	0-1 (0)	8.0	7	3	3	3/3	0/1	3.38
Thornton	1/1	0-0 (0)	8.0	10	5	5	2/0	1/1	5.62
Others:	Dury (GP, 0.1 IP), Langford (GP, IP, H)								

ST. JOHN'S CAREER STATS VS. NOTRE DAME

Anthony Smith	4-for-11 (.364), 2 RBI, R, HR (vs. Kapala), K
Sam DeLuca	3-for-10 (.300), RBI, R, 2B, K
Chris Joachim	5-for-17 (.294), 4 RBI, 2 R, BB, 2 HBP, 3 Ks
Eddie Schultz	5-for-17 (.294), 2 RBI, R, 2B, 3 BB, K, CS
Will Vogl	0-for-10, RBI (SF), SB, 5 Ks
Ken Devenney	0-for-3, SAC
Gil Zayas	0-for-1
TEAM TOTALS	17-for-69 (.246), 10 RBI, 5 R, HR, 2 2B,
	4 BB, 11 Ks, 1-2 SB, SAC, SF
Ryan Delaney ('04 BET)	0-1, 1 GS, 1.0 IP, 5 H, 5 R/3 ER, BB

ND-SJU SERIES STATS (vs. Pitchers)

vs. Delaney (2004 BET)

Bransfield 1B-8/R Andres 2B-RC/2 RBI

vs. Samardzija ('05 and '04)

Vogl 0-for-2, K, GDP (KS ... 1-6-3 GDP)
DeLuca 0-for-1, HBP, R (1B-RS ... HBP/R)
Joachim 0-for-1, K (6-3 ... KS)
Schultz 1-for-3, RBI, BB, HBP
..... ('05: FF-2/BU ... HBP; '04: 6-3, BB, 1B-8/RBI/CS)
Smith 1-for-1 (1B-RS)
Devenney ('04) .. 0-for-2 (5-3, F-7, 1-4/SAC)

Totals 2-for-10 (.200), RBI, R, BB, 2 HBP, SAC, 2 Ks

vs. Thornton ('05; 6-5 SJU win)

Joachim 2-for-4, 2 RBI (1B-RC ... 5-4-3 GDP ... HBP ... 1B-RC/2 RBI)
Schultz 2-for-4, R, 2B (6-3 ... 1B-LL/R ... 1-3 ... 2B-LC)
Smith 2-for-4, RBI, R (FF-2 ... 1B-8/R ... P-6 ... 1B-RL/RBI)
Vogl 0-for-3, RBI, K, SB (E4F/SB ... F-9/SF/RBI ... KS)
DeLuca 1-for-3, RBI, 2B, K (4-3 ... 2B-9/RBI ... KS)
Zayas 0-for-1 (6-3)

Totals 7-for-19 (.368), 5 RBI, 2 R, 2B, SB, 2 Ks, SF

vs. Dury ('05)

Smith 3U

MAINIERI'S MILESTONES – Notre Dame 12th-year head coach Paul Mainieri posted his 500th victory with the Irish in the 6-3 win over Georgetown ... his 700th overall career coaching win also came vs. Georgetown, on March 29, 2003, at Eck Stadium (13-3).

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 from the start (although freshman Jeremy Barnes has emerged as a starter at multiple positions in '06):

Notre Dame Freshman Starters in the Paul Mainieri Era

'95 – no freshman starters
'96 – Jeff Wagner (C) and Paul Turco (SS)
'97 – Brant Ust (2B) and Jeff Felker (1B),
Jeff Perconte (RF platoon)
'98 – Alec Porzel (LF)
'99 – Steve Stanley (CF), Paul O'Toole (C)
and Andrew Bushey (3B)
'00 – Brian Stavisky (RF)
'01 – Steve Sollmann (2B)
'02 – Matt Macri (SS, injured)
'03 – Craig Cooper (LF), Cody Rizzo (RF),
Greg Lopez (3B), Steve Andres (DH)
'04 – none
'05 – Brett Lilley (2B/3B), Ross Brezovsky (3B/2B)
'06 – none (Jeremy Barnes now 24 GS)

LOPEZ JOINS WEEKLY DIARY STAFF FOR COLLEGE BASEBALL INSIDER

Notre Dame 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 heavily in the mix as a righthanded-hitting DH.

SCHEDULE CHANGES – There have been several minor changes to the Notre Dame 2006 baseball schedule, since its initial release on Dec. 10:

- Two home games have shifted their start times – April 22 vs. Rutgers at 3:05 and April 25 vs. Purdue at 7:05 (live ESPN-U telecast – while the April 13 doubleheader vs. St. John's will be telecast live by CSTV (with live streaming on und.com).

- The BIG EAST also has announced that the eight-team conference tournament will be held in the new venue of Bright House Networks Field (Clearwater, Fla.), the Philadelphia Phillies spring-training site and home field for their single-A affiliate.

- Also of note is the fact that South Bend/Notre Dame now observes Eastern time (including DST) all year-round ... that's a switch from past years when South Bend residents never changed their clocks (and were on EST year-round) ... thus, South Bend no longer will be on the equivalent of Central time from April through October, as it has been in recent years (South Bend's time zone now will be aligned with the east coast all 12 months).

ND BASEBALL AND ECK STADIUM FEATURED IN EA SPORTS GAME

– The Notre Dame baseball program and Eck Stadium are prominent elements in the newly-released EA Sports home video game MVP 06 NCAA Baseball ... the revolutionary game features Notre Dame and 127 other Division I teams while Eck Stadium is one of 19 stadiums featured in the popular new release ... EA Sports – the makers of the highest-rated and top-selling baseball game of the past three years – has created a completely new baseball experience: MVP 06 NCAA® Baseball. Inspired by the spirit and emotion of collegiate athletics, MVP 06 NCAA Baseball is the first-ever college baseball game.

NOTES FROM THE 2005 ND-SJU GAMES (3-2, 6-5, 3-1)

- Dan Kapala suffered the tough-luck loss in game-1 (3 R, 7 H, 3 BB, 3 Ks) while Anthony Varvaro had the win (7 IP, 2 R/1 ER, 3 H, 5 BB, 6 Ks, HB).

- Notre Dame had tied game-1 in the top of the 4th (2-2), on RBI singles from Matt Bransfield and Cody Rizzo, but SJU's Anthony Smith struck the decisive blow moments later by sending his third home run of the season over the leftfield fence.

- Tom Thornton carried a 5-2 lead into the 8th inning of the nightcap but Chris Joachim stroked a 2-out, 2-run single into the right-center gap ... the Red Storm won the game with two outs in the 10th, vs. closer Ryan Doherty – as Greg Thomson was hit by a pitch, stole second and scored on Joachim's single to right-center.

- Thornton allowed 5 runs on 10 hits and no walks in 8.0-plus innings.

- The Irish had roughed up starter Jim Wladyka in game-2, pushing home five runs in the first six innings ... Bransfield's 2-run single gave ND a 3-0 lead in the 4th while a Tony Langford single and passed ball brought home two more in the 6th.

- Anthony Sullivan (7 IP, R, 3 H, 4 BB, 4 Ks) won game-3 and Craig Hansen had the save (2 IP, H, 2 BB, 2 Ks, bases-loaded DP) ... Jeff Manship started (4 IP, 3 H, R, BB, 3 Ks and Jeff Samardzija took the loss in relief (2.2 IP, 2 R, 4 H, 4 BB, 3 Ks)

- Brett Lilley (3-for-4) had all but one of ND hits in the series finale and drove in the lone run ... Joe Burke's windblown popup landed for a 2-run single in the 7th.

FLIRTING WITH THE NO-HITTER – Jeff Samardzija's first start of his freshman season (2004) saw him retire the first 14 batters he faced and take a no-hitter into the 7th before St. John's scored two unearned runs en route to the 2-1 win (7.1 IP, 2 H, BB, 2 Ks, 11 GOs, 26 BF, 85 pitches).

CONFERENCE COMMAND – Despite winning just 59% of its opening-week games in BIG EAST play (19-13), ND has won 72% of its total regular-season games in 10 years of BIG EAST play (.719; 200-78-1) – the best win pct. by any BIG EAST team since the Irish joined the league in 1996 ... ND has played 95 BIG EAST series and has lost the series just 13 times (68 series wins, 14 even series) ... the Irish have been swept in just nine of 91 all-time BIG EAST doubleheaders (50 ND sweeps, 32 splits) ... Paul Mainieri (.719) owns the best BIG EAST regular-season win pct. in the league's history.

IRISH POST 500th WIN OF MAINIERI ERA – The recent 6-3 win over Georgetown on March 26 was Paul Mainieri's 500th victory in 11-plus seasons at ND (now 512-204-2; 843-483-3 in 24 overall seasons) ... the Mainieri era has included an average of 44-plus wins per season, eight trips to the NCAAs, eight conference titles, 43 players who have been drafted or signed as free-agents, 12 All-America seasons and nine Academic All-America honors (all 63 of his four-year players have graduated and 11 who signed professionally as juniors have returned to complete or near completion of their undergraduate requirements).

HOMESTAND STATS – ND hit .341 in the 7-0 homestand from March 28-April 5, outscoring the opponents 45-20 (2 HR, 2 3B, 14 2B, 26 BB, 6 HBP, 23 Ks, 11 SB) ... top hitters in the homestand: Danny **Dressman** (.565, 13-for-23, 2 RBI, 8 R, 2B, 5 BB, K, 2 SAC, 2 SB), Craig **Cooper** (.500, 12-for-24, 4 RBI, 8 R, HR, 4 2B, 3 BB, 2 Ks, SB), Ross **Brezovsky** (.421, 8-for-19, 7 RBI, 5 R, HR, 3B, 2B, 3 BB, K, SF, SB) and Greg **Lopez** (.350, 7-for-20, 6 RBI, 3 R, 3B, HBO, 3 Ks, SAC, 2 SB) ... the ND staff turned in a 2.86 ERA during the 7-0 homestand (63 Ks, 18 BB, 45 H/.220, 6 HB, 4 WP in 63 IP) while the defense registered a .978 team fielding pct. (8 Es).

JEFF SAMARDZIJA CAREER STATS

Year	ERA	W-L	App	GS	CG	SHO/CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	BF	B/Avg	WP	HBP	SFA	SHA
2004....	2.95	5-3	20	6	0	0/2	1	64.0	50	25	21	17	42	2	1	5	0	.209	3	3	0	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	1	6
2006....	4.04	4-1	7	7	0	0/0	0	42.1	40	21	19	20	23	10	0	0	182	.255	4	2	0	3
TOTAL...	3.60	17-5	42	23	1	0/3	1	185.0	175	85	74	67	121	22	4	8		.247	10	15	1	12

JEFF SAMARDZIJA 2006 GAME-BY-GAME

Date	Opponent	GS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	WP	BK	HBP	IBB	Score
Feb 24, 2006	vs Air Force (W)	*	6.0	4	1	1	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	8-2
Mar 04, 2006	at Minnesota (L)	*	4.0	6	5	5	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0-8
Mar 10, 2006	vs Texas A&M	*	5.1	4	1	1	3	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5-4
Mar 16, 2006	vs Iowa	*	6.2	7	5	3	3	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	7-5
Mar 25, 2006	at Georgetown (W)	*	7.0	5	2	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12-2
Mar 31, 2006	Pittsburgh (W)	*	8.0	8	1	1	1	8	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	6-1
Mar 31, 2006	at South Florida (W)	*	5.1	6	6	6	5	5	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	9-6

JEFF SAMARDZIJA 2006 INNING-BY-INNING

Inning	ERA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF	B/Avg	2B	3B	HR	HB	WP
1st.....	5.14	7.0	4	4	4	8	2	22	32	.182	2	0	0	1	1
2nd.....	3.86	7.0	5	3	3	3	5	26	29	.192	1	0	0	0	1
3rd.....	1.29	7.0	7	1	1	2	5	27	30	.259	1	1	0	1	1
4th.....	1.29	7.0	4	1	1	2	4	23	25	.174	1	0	0	0	0
5th.....	6.00	6.0	6	4	4	3	3	21	26	.286	1	0	0	0	0
6th.....	5.79	4.2	8	4	3	1	2	21	22	.381	1	0	0	0	0
7th.....	10.12	2.2	5	4	3	1	1	13	14	.385	3	0	0	0	0
8th.....	0.00	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	4	4	.250	0	0	0	0	0

TOM THORNTON CAREER STATS

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	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	0	.251	4	8
2005....	4.69	6-6	16	16	4	0/0	0	96.0	115	57	50	19	40	21	0	8	418	.306	2	9
2006....	3.59	5-1	7	7	1	1/1	0	47.2	43	17	15	4	37	5	1	1	186	.247	0	4
TOTAL...	3.59	25-10	54	46	6	2/1	0	298.0	307	145	119	61	183	60	1	17	604	.272	9	27

TOM THORNTON 2006 GAME-BY-GAME

Date	Opponent	GS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	WP	BK	HBP	IBB	Score
Feb 23, 2006	vs Indiana State (win)	*	7.0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3-0
Mar 03, 2006	vs Nebraska (loss)	*	2.1	10	7	7	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1-11
Mar 12, 2006	vs Illinois (win)	*	7.2	5	2	2	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4-2
Mar 18, 2006	vs Southern Illinois (win)	*	9.0	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4-0
Mar 26, 2006	at Georgetown (win)	*	8.0	5	2	0	2	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6-3
Apr 02, 2006	Pittsburgh Panthers	*	7.2	7	5	5	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	9-8
Apr 08, 2006	Pittsburgh Panthers	*	6.0	6	1	1	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10-4

TOM THORNTON 2006 INNING-BY-INNING

Inning	ERA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF	B/Avg	2B	3B	HR	HB	WP
1st.....	5.14	7.0	10	4	4	1	6	27	30	.370	1	1	0	2	0
2nd.....	2.57	7.0	7	2	2	0	8	28	28	.250	1	0	0	0	0
3rd.....	7.11	6.1	8	5	5	1	5	26	28	.308	1	0	1	0	0
4th.....	0.00	6.0	2	0	0	0	3	19	19	.105	0	0	0	0	0
5th.....	0.00	6.0	6	0	0	1	4	24	25	.250	1	0	0	0	0
6th.....	0.00	6.0	1	0	0	1	6	17	19	.059	0	0	0	0	0
7th.....	0.00	5.0	2	0	0	0	4	16	16	.125	0	0	0	0	0
8th.....	10.80	3.1	6	4	4	0	1	12	16	.500	1	0	0	1	0
9th.....	0.00	1.0	1	2	0	0	0	5	5	.200	0	0	0	0	0

CAREER STARTS (including SJU game)

1. Tom Price.....56
2. Darin Schmalz.....53
3. Brian Piotrowicz.....52
4. Tom Thornton.....48
5. Chris Niesel.....47

CAREER INNINGS PITCHED

1. Aaron Heilman.....393.2
2. Tom Price.....390.0
3. Brian Piotrowicz.....337.2
4. Alan Walania.....324.0
5. Darin Schmalz.....298.2
6. Tom Thornton.....298.0
- J.P. Gagne.....298.0

CAREER WINS

1. Aaron Heilman.....43-7
2. Tom Price.....40-10
3. Chris Michalak.....34-13
4. David Sinnes.....32-8
5. Alan Walania.....30-12
- Darin Schmalz.....30-13
7. Brian Piotrowicz.....27-17
8. Tom Thornton.....25-10
- Pat Leahy.....25-7
- J.P. Gagne.....25-16
- Alex Shilliday.....25-17

CAREER WALK AVERAGE (per 9 IP)

1. Brandon Vilorio.....1.61
2. Alan Walania.....1.64
3. Tom Thornton.....1.85

CAREER INNINGS PITCHED

1. Aaron Heilman.....393.2
2. Tom Price.....390.0
3. Brian Piotrowicz.....337.2
4. Alan Walania.....324.0
5. Darin Schmalz.....298.2
6. Tom Thornton.....298.0
- J.P. Gagne.....298.0

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 ROSTER BREAKDOWN

Position Starters Returning (Avg/HR/RBI)

1B – Craig Cooper (Sr.; .325/7/58; 14 SB)
 3B – Brett Lilley* (So.; .355/0/28; 30 HBP)
 SS – Greg Lopez (Sr.; .274/2/34; 7 SAC)
 C – Sean Gaston* (Jr.; .293/1/28; 27 R)
 RF – Cody Rizzo (Sr.; .252/6/24; 17 SB)
 LF – Matt Bransfield (Sr.; .313/0/16; 6 2B)
 CF – Alex Nettey (Sr.; .288/2/24; 44 R)
 2B – Ross Brezovsky* (So.; .261/2/20; 35 R)
 DH/LF – Steve Andres* (Sr.; .232/5/25; 21 BB)

Position Starter Lost (Avg/HR/RBI)

1B – Matt Edwards (.353/14/68; 21 2B, 46 BB)

* Notes: stats for '05 season ... asterisks indicate lefthanded hitters ... no other position players lost from the 2005 team that had more than 5 at-bats ... Cooper started in the outfield during the 2003-05 seasons ... Bransfield was injured for part of '05 and previously has been a DH and reserve catcher with the Irish.

Top Returning Pitchers ('05 stats)

Tom Thornton* (Sr.; 4.69 ERA, 6-6, 40 Ks)
 Jeff Samardzija (Jr.; 3.89 ERA, 8-1, 56 Ks)
 Jeff Manship (Jr.; 3.97 ERA, 2-1, SV, 20 Ks)
 Mike Dury* (Jr.; 1.38 ERA, 1-0, 2 SV, 17 Ks)
 Wade Korpi* (So.; 5.47 ERA, 4-3, 32 Ks)

Top Pitcher Lost ('05 stats)

Ryan Doherty (3.79 ERA, 1-3, 7 SV, 44 Ks)

* Note: asterisks indicate LHPs

Key Freshmen (stats for 2005)

Kyle Weiland (RHP; Albuquerque, NM)
 First team all-state
 (5.20 ERA, 4-1, 2 SV, 53 Ks, 19 BB, 35 IP)

Jeremy Barnes (RHP/IF; Garland, TX)
 All-state shortstop
 (.430, 4 HR ... team-record 1.31 ERA in '04)

David Phelps (RHP; Hazelwood, MO)
 First team all-state
 (1.56 ERA, 6-2, 88 Ks, 18 BB, 25 H, 54 IP)

Sam Elam (LHP; Mesquite, TX)
 Led team to regional championship
 (2.50 ERA, 9-3, 72 Ks, 35 IP)

Eddy Mendiola (3B/C; Miami, FL)
 All-country honors
 (.390, 3 HR, 6 2B, 14 RBI, 20 BB, 14 SB)

TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADOFF (MAN) – Senior 1B **Craig Cooper** shifted into the leadoff spot starting with the Texas A&M game (that opened the Spring Break trip) and responded with a nine-game hit streak that ended in an 0-for-1 game vs. Central Michigan (3 BB, SF) ... Cooper has reached base on 19-of-23 first-inning plate appearances since taking over the lead-off spot (7 singles, 6 doubles, 3 walks, 2 home runs, HBP) ... he also has reached on a team-best 64% of his overall plate appearances when leading off any inning (28-of-44) ... Cooper's move to the leadoff spot sparked ND's 22-3 record during the past six weeks.

BACK-TO-BACK BATTING TITLES FOR COOPER – Current senior 1B **Craig Cooper** ended up batting .403 in 2005 BIG EAST games, placing him 16 points ahead of second-place finishers Doug Nelms of West Virginia and Dan McDonald of Seton Hall (both hit .386) ... Cooper also led the league in batting as a sophomore (.470, in '04) and joined former Boston College player Kevin Penwell ('95 and '96) as the only repeat batting champions in the 21-year history of BIG EAST baseball ... he now is making a bid for an unprecedented third BIG EAST batting title, currently leading the conference with a .529 avg. in BIG EAST games (18-for-34).

ONE OF THE BEST THERE EVER WAS – Craig Cooper's late-season surge in 2005 also moved him into third place on the list for career batting average in BIG EAST games, entering 2006 at .420 (68-for-162) – now up to .439 (86-for-196, with a BIG EAST-leading .529/18-for-34 in '06) ... the only player in BIG EAST history to hit at a higher clip in conference action for his career is former Rutgers player Joe Cirone (.443, 51-for-115; '97-'00) ... Cooper could join Cirone as the only players in the past 18 seasons to hit .420 or higher in their BIG EAST career.

AWESOME IN APRIL – ND has won just 67% of its pre-April games in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era (182-90-1/+92; .669) but now has won nearly 82% of its April games in those 12 seasons (223-51-1/+172; .813).

Here's a look at Notre Dame's record in various situations:

ND scores in 1st inning 15-4
 Opponent scores in 1st inning 4-2
 ND scores first 19-4
 ND leads after 7th inning 22-1

ND hits a home run 11-1
 Opponent hits a home run 1-3

ND does not make an error 8-1

ND outhits the opponent 22-3
 ND is outhit by the opponent 0-5
 When collecting double-digit hits 14-2

When allowing 0-5 runs 21-3
 One-run games 3-2
 Extra-inning games 0-2

VETERAN LINEUP	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B/3B/HR	RBI	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	OB%	SH	SB	E
Greg Lopez (Sr., SS)	.295	201/188	641	105	189	25/2/4	120	.359	33	31	106	.351	29	7-15	54
Cody Rizzo (Sr., RF/C)	.272	202/184	625	145	170	28/3/16	113	.403	47	75	118	.386	5	31-43	19
Craig Cooper (Sr., 1B)	.351	190/161	610	150	214	42/5/21	135	.539	87	23	74	.447	10	43-59	8
Matt Bransfield (Sr., LF)	.315	153/129	480	90	151	32/4/16	108	.498	43	21	89	.388	7	5-8	3
Alex Nettey (Sr., CF)	.275	148/104	397	87	109	18/2/3	41	.356	26	35	54	.370	14	21-31	6
Danny Dressman (Jr., OF)	.305	109/64	272	59	83	13/3/0	47	.375	41	4	45	.399	19	7-14	1
Sean Gaston (Jr., C)	.289	100/78	301	50	87	12/2/2	54	.362	20	4	33	.337	10	10-11	6
Brett Lilley (So., 3B)	.345	91/91	313	74	108	9/0/0	38	.374	47	38	44	.483	13	13-25	18
Ross Brezovsky (So., 2B)	.286	85/82	283	52	81	13/3/4	44	.396	29	7	55	.358	9	5-7	18
Jeremy Barnes (Fr., IF)	.301	27/24	103	21	31	8/1/1	21	.427	15	2	14	.400	0	5-8	3
Totals	.304	1,306/1,105	4,025	833	1,222	200/25/68	721	.416	388	240	633	.393	116	147-221	136

OUTFIELD VETERANS – Notre Dame's current four veteran outfielders – the senior trio of LF **Steve Andres**, CF **Alex Nettey** and RF **Cody Rizzo**, plus junior **Danny Dressman** – have combined to make 361 outfield starts in their Notre Dame careers ... that total does not include the 115 career outfield starts by senior Craig Cooper, who has shifted to first base in 2006:

Career OF Starts	LF	CF	RF	Total
Cody Rizzo	13	33	102	148
Craig Cooper (1B in '06)	50	8	57	115
Alex Nettey	4	93	2	99
Steve Andres	60	0	2	62
Danny Dressman	8	31	13	52
Totals	135	165	176	476

MILESTONE MARKERS – The following individuals are approaching (or recently reached) statistical milestones in their Notre Dame careers:

Tom Thornton ... 298.0 IP, 46 GS, 183 Ks
Steve Andres ... 95 runs, 92 walks, 89 RBI
Craig Cooper 43 SB, 87 BB, 150 R, 214 H
Matt Bransfield 90 runs, 108 RBI
Greg Lopez..... 189 H, 201 GP, 105 runs
Sean Gaston 87 hits
Alex Nettey 87 runs, 109 hits
Cody Rizzo 202 GP, 113 RBI
Brett Lilley..... 108 hits
Paul Mainieri..... 512 wins (at ND)

ADDITIONAL ND QUICK NOTES – The 15-1 win over Oakland included 4 HRs (Matt Bransfield 2, Sean Gaston, Alex Nettey) and a 9-run bottom of the 4th that was ND's most runs in an inning since scoring 10 in the 1st inning at UConn on May 10, 2004 ... ND matched its season-high hit total (17) in three straight games ... Notre Dame is one of three teams in the just-released NCAA rankings that are listed among the top-30 in team batting average (26th; .319, now .319), staff ERA (23rd; 3.29, now 3.18) and team fielding percentage (23rd; .971, now .957) ... fellow BIG EAST member West Virginia and Nebraska, a 2006 opponent of ND's, are the only other teams currently among the top-30 in all three of those categories ... Craig Cooper entered the week ranked 19th in the nation with a .429 batting avg. (now .442) ... ND also ranks 20th in win pct. (.733, now .750) ... the Irish pitchers are averaging 8.22 Ks per 9 IP (39th in nation, among 285 teams) ... Cooper also entered the week 5th in the nation for runs per game (1.42; total now of 38/1.44) ... Jeff Manship is 63rd in ERA (1.96), among roughly 3,000 Division I pitchers ... Kyle Weiland is 7th on the NCAA saves list (9) ... Wade Korpi is 7th in the nation with 12.65 Ks per 9 IP (Manship is 47th, at 10.6) ... Danny Dressman entered the week 2nd in the nation for sac. bunts (per game, 10 total) while Alex Nettey was 4th in times hit-by-pitch (per game, 15 total/now 16).

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 QUICK FACTS

Location Notre Dame, IN 46556
Founded 1842
First Season of Baseball 1892
Undergraduate Enrollment 8,311

Nickname Fighting Irish
Colors Gold and Blue
Conference BIG EAST
Athletic Director Kevin White

Stadium (cap.) Eck Stadium (2,500)
Surface, Dim..... Grass, 331-401--331

Head Coach Paul Mainieri (Fla. Int'l '80)
Career Record 829-482-3 (24th season)
Record at ND..... 498-203-2 (12th season)

Asst. Coach Terry Rooney (Radford '96)
Asst. Coach Cliff Godwin (ECU '01)
Vol. Asst.... John Gumpf (CS San Bernadino '97)

Letterwinners Ret./Lost 21/7
Position Starters Ret./Lost 8/1
Letterwinning Pitchers Ret./Lost..... 10/5
Total Returners 21 (13 pos./10 pitchers)
Newcomers..... 11

2005 Record 38-24-1
2004 BIG EAST Record/Finish.. 14-9-1/3rd
Postseason..... 2-2 NCAA Gainesville Reg.

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FAR & WIDE – Notre Dame’s nine position player starters hail from seven states, including two outfielders from **California** (senior LF/DH Steve Andres and RF Cody Rizzo) and two leftside infielders from **Ohio** (senior SS Greg Lopez and sophomore 3B Brett Lilley), plus one each from **New York** (senior 1B Craig Cooper), **Colorado** (senior LF/DH Matt Bransfield), **Indiana** (junior C Sean Gaston), **Florida** (sophomore 3B Ross Brezovsky) and **Illinois** (senior CF Alex Nettey)

STATE ROLL CALL – The Notre Dame list of all-time monogram winners includes players from 44 home states ... pitchers Brandon Vilorio (Wailuku, Hawaii) in 2000 and Cody Wilkins (Hudson, N.C.) in 2004 became the first players from their respective states ever to monogram with the Irish baseball program ... the only states that have not produced ND baseball letterwinners include Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Vermont ... the 12-year Paul Mainieri era has featured players from 36 states, including 15 states on the 2006 roster (see list below):

Florida (4) – Ross Brezovsky (Naples), Wade Korpi (Lake Worth), Eddy Mendiola (Miami), Joey Williamson (Lantana)

Indiana (4) – Mike Dury (Indianapolis), Sean Gaston (Brownsburg), Jeff Samardzija (Valparaiso), John Seabaugh (Granger)

Texas (4) – Jeremy Barnes (Garland), Sam elam (Mesquite), Tony Langford (Fort Worth), Jeff Manship (San Antonio)

California (3) – Steve Andres (Napa), Danny Dressman (San Jose), Cody Rizzo (Temecula)

Illinois (3) – Brett Graffy (Homer Glen), Mike Many (Naperville), Alex Nettey (Dolton)

Michigan (2) – Dan Kapala (Royal Oak), Evan Sharpley (Marshall)

New York (2) – Ryan Connolly (Binghamton), Craig Cooper (Plainview)

Ohio (2) – Brett Lilley (North Canton), Greg Lopez (Upper Arlington)

Washington (2) – David Gruener (Gig Harbor), Eddie Smith (Olympia)

Colorado (1) – Matt Bransfield (Englewood)

Massachusetts (1) – Tom Thornton (Middleboro)

Missouri (1) – David Phelps (Hazelton)

New Jersey (1) – Chris Soriano (Randolph)

New Mexico (1) – Kyle Weiland (Albuquerque)

Virginia (1) – Jess Stewart (Manassas)

CLUTCH HITTING KEY COMPONENT – Three stats that measure clutch offensive production – leadoff on-base pct., batting with runners in scoring position and 2-out batting – show that clutch hitting can overcome a team’s dropoff in power numbers ... using a formula that combines those three situational hitting numbers, Brett Lilley was the 2005 team’s runaway team leader with a “clutch hitting” score of 1.402 ... that number can be skewed a bit by the on-base pct. (which has the benefit of including walks and HBPs and thus is higher than the batting avg. stats) ... using an adjustment whereby the leadoff on-base pct. is multiplied by 75%, Lilley still checked in as ND’s all-around leader in clutch hitting with a 1.273 score (.515 leadoff on-base/.386 adjusted, .448 RISP, .439 with 2-outs) ... Lilley led the ’05 team in 2-out batting and batting with RISP while ranking 3rd in leadoff OB (better than his overall team-leading .502 OB pct.) ... current senior 1B Craig Cooper was 2nd overall with a 1.117 clutch-hitting score in ’05 that included the team’s 2nd-best batting averages with 2 outs (.439) and with runners in scoring position (.448) ... departed 1B Matt Edwards was the 2005 team’s runaway leader with a .581 leadoff on-base pct. ... as a team, the most consistent part of ND’s 2005 clutch offense was leadoff on-base pct. (.406/.311 adjusted), followed by batting with RISP (.309) while the 2-out batting lagged behind at .294:

CLUTCH-HITTING CHART (team rank listed before each stat)

	<i>Leadoff On-Base Pct.</i>	<i>Batting w/ RISP</i>	<i>2-Out Batting</i>	<i>Clutch Hit Tot.</i>
Danny Dressman (4)	.471 (.353 adjusted)	(3) .412	(1) .429	1,194
(2005)	(13) .182 (.137)	(8) .286	(9) .250	673
Ross Brezovsky	.370 (.277)	(5) .359	(1) .429	1,165
(2005)	(10) .298 (.224)	(7) .288	(10) .246	758
Craig Cooper	(1) .636 (.477)	.333	.323	1,133
(2005)	(5) .419 (.314)	(2) .434	(2) .369	1,117
Greg Lopez	.333 (.249)	(1) .442	(3) .345	1,036
(2005)	(8) .353 (.265)	(10) .242	(7) .279	786
Jeremy Barnes	(3) .480 (.360)	(2) .429	.194	983
Matt Bransfield	(5) .435 (.326)	.319	(4) .333	978
(2005)	(2) .542 (.407)	(6) .314	(6) .286	1,007
Brett Lilley	.417 (.313)	.290	(4) .333	936
(2005)	(3) .515 (.386)	(1) .448	(1) .439	1,273
Alex Nettey	.346 (.259)	(4) .364	.290	913
(2005)	(6) .418 (.314)	(9) .273	(12) .219	806
Cody Rizzo	.308 (.231)	.357	.243	831
(2005)	(4) .436 (.327)	(12) .190	(10) .246	763
Sean Gaston	.375 (.281)	.250	.185	716
(2005)	(7) .357 (.268)	(4) .322	(5) .302	892
Steve Andres	(2) .500 (.375)	.118	.118	611
(2005)	(11) .286 (.215)	(11) .220	(8) .275	710
TEAM	.428 (.321)	.353	.292	966
(2005)	.406 (.311)	.309	.294	908

PLATE-DISCIPLINE CHART

<i>Player</i>	<i>Walks</i>	<i>Hit-By-Pitch</i>	<i>Strikeouts</i>	<i>Plate Discipline (BB+HBP-Ks)</i>
Danny Dressman ('06) (2005)	18 5	3 1	8 12	+13 -6
Craig Cooper ('06) (2005)	14 32	3 14	7 22	+10 +24
Brett Lilley ('06) (2005)	13 34	8 27	11 32	+10 +29
Alex Nettey ('06) (2005)	5 13	16 14	11 29	+10 -2
Sean Gaston ('06) (2005)	10 5	0 4	7 16	+3 -7
Jeremy Barnes ('06)	15	2	14	+3
Ross Brezovsky ('06) (2005)	12 16	3 4	13 40	+2 -20
Steve Andres ('06) (2005)	8 21	2 6	12 20	-2 +7
Greg Lopez ('06) (2005)	4 10	2 16	8 43	-3 -17
Cody Rizzo ('06) (2005)	10 22	5 21	20 35	-5 +8
Matt Bransfield ('06) (2005)	8 10	2 7	23 14	-13 +3
TEAM TOTALS (2005)	123 220	50 125	153 328	+20 +17

Note: Lilley, Cooper and Matt Edwards (+17) were a combined +70 in the 2005 plate-discipline ratio (the rest of the team was -53)

Double-Digit Hit Streaks in the Paul Mainieri era (since '95)

21 – Mike Amhein (1997; Sr., C)
 18 – Jeff Felker (1999; Jr., 1B)
 16 – Steve Stanley (2000; So., CF)
15 – Alex Nettey (2005; Jr., CF)
 15 – Steve Sollmann (2003; Jr., 2B)
 15 – Jeff Wagner (1997; Sr., C/DH)
 15 – Brant Ust (1997; Fr., 2B/SS)
14 – Steve Andres (2004; So., LF)
 14 – Brian Stavisky (2000; Fr., RF)
 14 – Matt Nussbaum (1999; Jr., LF)
13 – CRAIG COOPER (2006; Sr., LF)
13 – Craig Cooper (2005; Jr., LF)
 13 – Steve Sollmann (2003; Jr., 2B)
 13 – Steve Stanley (2002; Sr., CF)
 13 – Andrew Bushey (2001; Jr., 3B)
 13 – Allen Greene (1997; So., LF)
 12 – Javi Sanchez (2002; SS, So.)
 12 – Steve Stanley (1999; CF, Fr.)
 12 – Jeff Wagner (1998; Jr., C)
11 – Danny Dressman (2006; Jr., OF)
11 – Ross Brezovsky (2006; So., 2B)
 11 – Steve Stanley (2002; CF, Sr.)
 11 – Brian Stavisky (2002; Jr., LF)
 11 – Allen Greene (1998; Jr., CF)
 11 – Scott Sollmann (1996; Jr., CF)
 10 – Matt Edwards (2005; Sr., 1B)
 10 – Matt Macri (2004; Jr., 3B)
 10 – Matt Edwards (2004; Jr., 1B)
 10 – Matt Edwards (2003; So., 3B)
 10 – Steve Stanley (2002; Sr., CF)
 10 – Steve Sollmann (2002; So., 2B)
 10 – Steve Stanley (2001; Jr., CF)
 10 – Ken Meyer (2001; Jr., DH)
 10 – Steve Sollmann (2001; Fr., 2B)
 10 – Steve Stanley (2000; So., CF)
 10 – Brian Stavisky (2000; Fr., RF)
 10 – Steve Stanley (1999; Fr., CF)
 10 – Brant Ust (1998; So., 3B)
 10 – J.J. Brock (1997; Sr., 3B)
 10 – Randall Brooks (1996; Jr., 2B)
 10 – J.J. Brock (1996; Jr., 3B)

Most Double-Digit Hit Streaks in the Mainieri Era

8 – Steve Stanley
 4 – Steve Sollmann
 3 – Brian Stavisky, Matt Edwards
 2 – Brant Ust, Allen Greene,
 Jeff Wagner, J.J. Brock, Craig Cooper

Note: Craig Cooper's earlier 9-game hitting streak ended this season after going 0-for-1 with 3 walks and a sac. fly vs. Central Michigan on March 22.

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 STARTS – By Batting Order

Opp.	Leadoff	2-hole	3-hole	Cleanup	5-hole	6-hole	7-hole	8-hole	9-hole
Ind.St.	Lilley	Gaston	Cooper	Andres	Lopez	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Rizzo
AFA	Barnes	Dressman	Cooper	Andres	Lopez	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Dury	Rizzo
MEM	Nettey	Lilley	Cooper	Bransfield	Lopez	Gaston	Barnes	Brezovsky	Rizzo
OKLA	Nettey	Lilley	Andres	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Brezovsky	Dury	Rizzo
NEB	Nettey	Lilley	Andres	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Brezovsky	Rizzo	Dressman
MINN	Lilley	Dressman	Gaston	Bransfield	Andres	Dury	Brezovsky	Lopez	Nettey
ARIZ	Lilley	Dressman	Bransfield	Nettey	Barnes	Mendiola	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
A&M	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Gaston	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez
IOWA	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Bransfield	Barnes	Andres	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
ILL	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Gaston	Barnes	Andres	Brezovsky	Nettey	Rizzo
IOWA	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Gaston	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
IOWA	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
SIU	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Gaston	Nettey	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
IOWA	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Sharpley	Lopez	Rizzo
SIU	Cooper	Dressman	Lilley	Bransfield	Gaston	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
Wr.St.	Cooper	Dressman	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lilley	Lopez	Rizzo
CMU	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
GU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
GU	Barnes	Lilley	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
GU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Gaston	Brezovsky	Lopez	Rizzo
VALPO	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Dury	Lopez	Rizzo
WMU	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Dressman	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Rizzo
PITT	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Bransfield	Dressman	Nettey	Gaston	Lopez	Rizzo
PITT	Cooper	Lilley	Barnes	Dressman	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Nettey
PITT	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Gaston	Lilley	Lopez	Nettey
Chi St.	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Gaston	Brezovsky	Andres	Nettey	Mendiola	Rizzo
BSU	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lilley	Lopez	Rizzo
USF	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Nettey
USF	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Rizzo
USF	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
OAK	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
MAN	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Andres	Dury	Nettey	Rizzo

Batting Order Notes

- The first 32 games have featured **32 different batting orders** ... ND is 20-3 with Craig Cooper in the leadoff spot (4-5 with others).
- The top four spots thus far have included:
four different **leadoff** batters (Brett Lilley, Jeremy Barnes, Alex Nettey and Craig Cooper)
three players in the **2-hole** (Sean Gaston, Danny Dressman and Lilley)
seven in the ever-important **#3 spot** (Cooper, Steve Andres, Gaston, Matt Bransfield, Lilley, Barnes, Dressman)
and seven cleanup batters as well (Andres, Bransfield, Nettey, Gaston, Barnes, Dressman and Ross Brezovsky)
... for comparison, ND's entire '05 season featured five leadoff batters, five in the 2-hole, just three who batted 3rd and seven at cleanup

Player	GS	p	c	1b	2b	3b	ss	lf	cf	rf	of	dh	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
12 Matt Bransfield..	29	.	.	2	.	.	.	25	.	.	.	2	.	.	1	13	6	9	.	.	.
4 Greg Lopez.....	29	.	.	.	.	.	.	28	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	3	2	.	23	1
7 Ross Brezovsky...	29	.	.	.	27	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	1	11	4	12	1	.
2 Brett Lilley.....	28	.	.	.	.	27	.	.	.	.	.	1	4	14	7	.	.	.	3	.	.
6 Danny Dressman...	28	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	2	17	.	4	.	17	7	2	1	.	.	.	1
16 Alex Nettey.....	27	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	27	.	.	.	3	.	.	1	.	7	8	4	4
17 Cody Rizzo.....	27	.	11	.	.	.	.	.	3	13	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	26
9 Craig Cooper.....	26	.	.	26	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	23	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
11 Sean Gaston.....	23	.	21	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	1	2	6	5	4	5	.	.
20 Jeremy Barnes....	24	.	.	3	5	4	4	.	.	.	.	8	2	.	10	6	5	.	1	.	.
36 Steve Andres.....	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	.	6	.	.	2	3	1	4	.	.	.
44 Mike Dury.....	5	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	2	.
14 Eddy Mendiola....	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 STARTS – By Position

Opp.	Catcher	1st Base	2nd Base	Shortstop	3rd Base	Left Field	Center Field	Right Field	DH	Pitcher
Ind.St.	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Andres	Thornton
AFA	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Bransfield	Dressman	Andres	Dury	Samardzija
MEM	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Barnes	Korpi
OKLA	Gaston	Dury	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Andres	Manship
NEB	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Andres	Thornton
MINN	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Andres	Dury	Samardzija
ARIZ	Rizzo	Barnes	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Mendiola	Manship
A&M	<i>Gaston</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Brezovsky</i>	<i>Lopez</i>	<i>Lilley</i>	<i>Bransfield</i>	<i>Nettey</i>	<i>Dressman</i>	<i>Barnes</i>	Samardzija
IOWA	Rizzo	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Andres	Manship
ILL	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Barnes	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Andres	Thornton
IOWA	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Bransfield	Dressman	Rizzo	Lilley	Korpi
IOWA	Rizzo	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Gaston	Samardzija
SIU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Manship
IOWA	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Sharpley	Phelps
SIU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Thornton
Wr.St.	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Korpi
CMU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Barnes	Phelps
GU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Manship
GU	Rizzo	Barnes	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Andres	Samardzija
GU	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Rizzo	Dressman	Barnes	Thornton
VALPO	Rizzo	Barnes	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Dury	Gruener
WMU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Rizzo	Dressman	Brezovsky	Thornton
PITT	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Bransfield	Samardzija
<i>PITT</i>	<i>Gaston</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Brezovsky</i>	<i>Lopez</i>	<i>Lilley</i>	<i>Bransfield</i>	<i>Nettey</i>	<i>Dressman</i>	<i>Barnes</i>	Manship
<i>PITT</i>	<i>Gaston</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Brezovsky</i>	<i>Lopez</i>	<i>Lilley</i>	<i>Bransfield</i>	<i>Nettey</i>	<i>Dressman</i>	<i>Barnes</i>	Thornton
Chi St.	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Barnes	Mendiola	Andres	Nettey	Dressman	Gaston	Gruener
BSU	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Korpi
USF	<i>Gaston</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Brezovsky</i>	<i>Lopez</i>	<i>Lilley</i>	<i>Bransfield</i>	<i>Nettey</i>	<i>Dressman</i>	<i>Barnes</i>	Samardzija
USF	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Rizzo	Dressman	Brezovsky	Thornton
USF	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Barnes	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Lopez	Manship
OAK	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Bransfield	Korpi
MAN	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Barnes	Lilley	Andres	Nettey	Dressman	Dury	Phelps

Position Notes

- The first 32 games have featured **25** different **position combinations** (excluding pitchers).
- One combo has been used a total of four times (C-Gaston, 1B-Cooper, 2B-Brezovsky, SS-Lopez, 3B-Lilley, LF-Bransfield, CF-Nettey, RF-Dressman, DH-Barnes)
- One has been used three times (same as above but Rizzo in RF and Dressman the DH)
- Two others have been used twice, with 21 of the position combos each used only once so far.
- 11 different ND players have hit as the DH this season: Steve Andres, Mike Dury, Jeremy Barnes, Eddy Mendiola, Brett Lilley, Sean Gason, Danny Dressman, Evan Sharpley, Ross Brezovsky, Matt Bransfield and Greg Lopez.
- The Irish are **22-2 in games when Barnes has started**, including a 13-0 combined record when he has started in the middle infield (5-0 at 2B, 4-0 at SS) or at third base (4-0), plus 2-1 with him at first base and 7-1 as the DH.
- Notre Dame is **9-2** in the 11 games when **Rizzo has started at catcher** (he is batting .278/10-for-36 with 10 RBI and both of his HRs in '06 when starting at catcher, just .214 with 11 RBI as an OF starter)

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- The Notre Dame baseball team traditionally has matched its stellar play on the field with strong performances in the classroom and that continued to be the case in the 2005 fall semester – as the 32 players combined for a 3.17 team GPA during the semester.

- The NCAA's recently-released Graduation Success Rate (GSR) data also reinforced the Notre Dame baseball program's elite academic standing, as the Irish were one of 17 teams among 268 in Division I – but one of only two teams from that group that also currently are in the national top-25 polls – to compile a 100% graduation rate, during a four-year sample of classes entering from 1995-98.

- The Irish also own a 100% graduation rate (63-of-63) among four-year players throughout the tenure of head coach Paul Mainieri ('95-present), with 12 others who signed professionally prior to their senior season returning to complete or near completion of their degree requirements.

- Twenty-one of the ND baseball players posted a GPA of 3.0-plus during the 2005 fall semester, with 11 checking in at 3.4 or higher ... the ND players also have combined for an impressive 3.10 cumulative team GPA over the course of their college careers.

- Notre Dame boasts several strong Academic All-America candidates in 2006, most notably: senior LHP **Tom Thornton** (3.54 cumulative GPA; as a double major in anthropology and film-television-and-theater), sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (3.64; business), senior SS **Greg Lopez** (3.39; pre-professional studies and anthropology), senior LF/DH **Matt Bransfield** (3.36; sociology) and junior catcher **Sean Gaston** (3.36; political science and history) ... Notre Dame's unmatched Academic All-America history includes 20 honorees since 1992.

- The senior class led the way for the Irish during the 2005 fall semester, averaging a 3.54 semester GPA that included seven players above a 3.4 and all eight posting a semester GPA of 3.05 or higher.

FIRST-INNING FOCUS – Notre Dame's impressive 1st-inning stats this season include a 40-11 scoring margin, with 1st-inning runs in 19 of the 32 games ... the Irish recently had a 7-game scoring streak in the 1st inning, longest by an ND team in the past five seasons (the 2004 team scored in the 1st inning of six straight games, the '05 team in five straight) ... ND is batting a robust .391 as a team in the 1st inning this season (18 extra-base hits, 4 HRs), led by:

Craig Cooper762 (16-for-21).. 3 RBI, 14 R, 2 HR, 6 2B, 1.333 slug.
4 BB, HBP, K, SF, .778 on-base

Sean Gaston500 (5-for-10).... 7 RBI, 3 R, HR, 3B, 2B, 2 BB, K, SF
Ross Brezovsky.. .444 (4-for-9)..... 7 RBI, 2 R, 3B, 2B, 2 BB, 2 HP, 2 K, SF

STRONG STARTERS – The ND pitchers have posted a scoreless first inning in 26 of 32 games this season.

JUMPING ON TOP – Notre Dame's best 1st-inning scoring margin of the Mainieri era (since '95) came in 2001 (+48; 59-11) ... the recent streak of scoring 1st-inning runs in seven straight games (March 21-29) was longest by an ND team since that 2001 team scored in eight straight, from April 21-29 of that season ... ND's current +29 scoring margin in the 1st inning (40-11) is more than triple that of the '05 team (+9; 58-49) and would rank 5th-best by an Irish team in the Mainieri era (on pace for +58 in 64 games, which would best the 2001 team's +48 as best in the Mainieri era) ... the current 1st-inning scoring ratio of 3.6 trails only the '01 team's 5.4 in Mainieri's 12 seasons ... ND has finished with a positive 1st-inning scoring margin every season of the Mainieri era except 1998 (-12), with an average margin of +18 and avg. ratio of 1.9 ... the most 1st-inning runs ever scored by a Mainieri-era offense at ND are 75 (in '04; 1.19/gm) while the fewest allowed are 11 (in '01; 0.18/gm) ... ND's current averages are 1.25 runs/gm and 0.34 runs allowed/gm in the 1st ... here's a look at the Mainieri-era teams and their 1st-inning production:

Year	1st-Inn.		Ratio	Final Record
	Runs	Margin		
1995	65-27	+38	2.4	40-21
1996	70-37	+33	1.9	44-18
1997	65-60	+5	1.3	41-19
1998	29-41	-12	0.7	41-18
1999	50-45	+5	1.1	43-18
2000	35-32	+3	1.1	46-18
2001	59-11	+48	5.4	49-13-1
2002	65-49	+16	1.3	50-18
2003	40-35	+5	1.1	45-18
2004	75-29	+46	2.6	51-12
2005	58-49	+9	1.2	38-14-1
2006	40-11	+29	3.6	(24-8)
Avg.		+18	1.9	

IS THE EIGHTH ENOUGH? – The Irish have put away several games this season in the 8th, owning a 32-14 scoring edge in the inning (+18) ... ND is batting .383 (51-for-133) in the 8th inning this season, with a .489 team slugging pct. in the inning (HR, 2 3B, 7 2B) and a .455 on-base pct. (13 BB, 6 HBP) ... seven ND regulars are batting .400 or better in the 8th inning this season:

Greg Lopez..... .556 (5-for-9)..... 4 RBI, 3 R, 2B, SF, GDP
Craig Cooper545 (6-for-11) 2 RBI, 5 R, HBP
Danny Dressman... .500 (8-for-16)..... RBI, 8 R, 2 3B, 2B, 3 BB, 2 Ks
Alex Nettey455 (5-for-11) 3 RBI, 3 R, 3 HBP, 2 Ks
Jeremy Barnes444 (4-for-9)..... 3 RBI, 5 R, 2 2B, 2 BB
Matt Bransfield444 (4-for-9)..... 3 RBI, 3 R, 2B, 2 BB, 3 Ks, SAC
Brett Lilley..... .400 (4-for-10)..... 2 RBI, 2 BB, HBP, 2 K, SAC, GDP

Longest Win Streaks in Notre Dame History

18	1991 (April 7-28, 1991)
17	2003 (March 24 – April 14)
17	1907 (April 20 – May 21)
16	2002 (April 11 – May 4)
16	2001 (April 4-25)
16	1988 (April 24 – May 20)
15	1910 (May 4 – June 7)
14	2006 (March 25 – present)

SILVER STREAKS – A win on Friday at South Florida would give Notre Dame the 11th double-digit win streak of the Paul Mainieri era ... all but three (1997, 2000, '05) of the 11 previous Mainieri-era seasons have featured at least one double-digit winning streak (with two in both '98 and '04) ... the current nine-game win streak began on March 25, within a day of the starting point in four of the 10 previous double-digit streaks (March 24 in '96, '03 and '04; March 26 in '98) ... the current win streak is the longest since ND won 12 straight from April 29-May 19 of the 2004 season:

Double-Digit Win Streaks in the Mainieri Era

17	2003 (March 24 – April 14); 2nd-longest in ND history (18, in '91)
16	2002 (April 11 – May 4); tied for 4th-longest in ND history
16	2001 (April 4-25); tied for 4th-longest in ND history
14	2006 (March 25 – present)
13	1998 (April 8-23)
12	2004 (April 29 – May-21)
11	2004 (March 24 – April 7)
11	1995 (April 13-23)
10	1999 (March 10-28)
10	1998 (March 26 – April 4)
10	1996 (March 24 – April 6)

BIG EAST Stat Leaders

Team Offense

- 1st in HBPs (47)
- 2nd in sac. bunts (36) and on-base pct.(.410)
- 3rd in batting avg. (.322), slugging pct. (.434) and stolen bases (46)
- 4th in runs (214)
- 5th in triples (8)
- 6th in home runs (17)
- 7th in doubles (56)

Team Pitching

- 1st in saves (10), fewest home runs allowed (4) and fewest walks allowed (94)
- 2nd in ERA (3.22), opp. batting (.236), Ks looking (81), low hits allowed (248) and wins (24)
- strikeouts (261)
- 5th – pickoffs (9)

Team Fielding – 3rd with .972 fielding pct. and basestealers thrown out (18)

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON – Six current Irish players are second-generation college baseball players: senior IF Eddie **Smith** (Ed Smith, Gonzaga), junior LHP/1B Mike **Dury** (John Dury, N.C. State), junior RHP Jeff **Manship** (John Manship, Arizona), freshman IF Evan **Sharpley** (Tom Sharpley, Spring Arbor) and freshman C **Mike Many** (Bob Many, Northern Illinois).

MANSHIP, SAMARDZIJA AMONG NATION'S TOP PROSPECTS

• *Baseball America* recently released its annual list of college baseball's top-100 prospects for the 2006 Major League baseball draft and Notre Dame was one of six teams in the nation to feature two starting pitchers among those top-100 prospects – as **Jeff Manship** is slotted at No. 75 on that list while fellow junior right-hander **Jeff Samardzija** is listed 94th ... the other teams with two starting pitchers among the top-100 prospects are UNC, Missouri, Cal Poly, Washington and San Diego.

• *BA's* college preview listed ND senior 1B **Craig Cooper** and sophomore B **Brett Lilley** on its preseason all-BIG EAST team ... *BA* also cites three ND players – Lilley, SS **Greg Lopez** and junior catcher **Sean Gaston** – as the BIG EAST's best defensive players at their respective positions while tabbing Lilley as the BIG EAST batter with the "best strike-zone discipline," Samardzija as the BIG EAST's best athlete, Manship as the league's pitcher with the best breaking ball and senior lefthander **Tom Thornton** as the BIG EAST pitcher with the best control.

• *BA's* prospect rankings list Manship fourth and Samardzija sixth among the BIG EAST's top prospects while Cooper is listed 44th among the nation's top senior prospects.

LIDGE NAMED TO WBC TEAM – Former Notre Dame ace pitcher and current Houston Astros all-star closer **Brad Lidge** ('96-'98) was one of 16 college baseball products who were named to the United States original 30-man roster for the upcoming World Baseball Classic, a 16-nation tournament held from March 3-20 at venues in Japan, Puerto Rico and the United States ... former Notre Dame standout and current Arizona Diamondbacks infielder **Craig Counsell** ('92) was not named to the team but is one of 22 players who remain on the provisional roster – with the official U.S. 30-man roster not to be submitted to WBC organizers until March 2 ... all 10 of the relief pitchers originally named to the team are former college baseball players, as is Astros starting pitcher Roger Clemens (Texas) and five position players ... Lidge saved the 2-0 win over Canada and was the pitcher of record in the 4-3 win over eventual champion Japan.

OPENING-DAY HOME RUNS – Current seniors **Steve Andres** and **Matt Bransfield** are two of 13 Notre Dame players in the Pat Murphy/Paul Mainieri era (since '89) to hit a home run on opening day, with Andres doing so in 2005 vs. Florida A&M (at UCF) and Bransfield in the 2006 opener vs. Indiana State (in Millington) ... Matt Edwards also homered in the 2005 game vs. FAMU, one of two openers since '89 in which the Irish have hit multiple HRs (Craig DeSensi, Paul Failla and Eric Danapilis all homered in the 1993 opener, a 11-4 win at Arizona State) ... ND players have homered in each of the past five season openers – also Matt Bok in '02 (vs. Missouri, at UNO), Kris Billmaier in '03 (vs. Dayton, at ASU) and Edwards in '04 (vs. San Diego State, at USC) ... Edwards is the only player from the Murphy/Mainieri era to hit multiple opening-day HRs in his career ... the program's 13 opening-day HRs in the past 18 seasons have come from six seniors, five juniors and two sophomores (none since '93); three first basemen, two catchers, two DHs, two shortstops and two leftfielder (also a CF and RF).

SCORING STREAK ENDS AT 215 – The second-longest scoring streak in Notre Dame baseball history (215 games, dating back to 2002) ended in the recent 8-0 loss to the host team Minnesota at the Dairy Queen Classic ... a 2002 shutout loss to Rutgers ended ND's record scoring streak (231) but the Irish then scored in 215 straight before the loss to the Gophers ... ND now has been shut out just eight times in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era (never more than twice in the same season).

FOUR-PEAT NO EASY FEAT – Oral Roberts (8) is the only team in the nation with a longer active streak of conference tournament titles than Notre Dame's four straight BIG EAST Tournament titles ... Rice won nine straight Western Athletic Conference automatic bids from 1997-2005 (the WAC does not sponsor a tournament and awards its bid to the regular-season champ) ... ORU and Rice are the only teams – among 30 Division I conferences – that are riding a streak of more than four consecutive conference automatic bids ... ND also owns the record for consecutive wins in BIG EAST tournament play (7, still active).

HBP HIGHWAY RETURNS – The ND batters were hit-by-pitch just six times in the first seven games of the 2006 season but now are averaging nearly 1.5 HBPs per game (47 in 32 GP) ... senior CF **Alex Nettey** leads all BIG EAST players with 15 HBPs (6th in ND history with 34 career HBPs) ... senior RF/C **Cody Rizzo** (5 HBP in '06) ranks 3rd in NCAA history with 75 career HBPs ... sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (8 HBP in '06) already is 2nd in ND history with 38 career HBPs ... senior SS **Greg Lopez** (31) and senior 1B **Craig Cooper** (23) rank 8th and 12th on the ND career HBP list.

NCAA RECORD BOOK CAREER HIT-BY-PITCH

1. 92 – Tony Hurtado (San Fran.; '97-'00); 221 GP (2.40 gms/HBP)
2. 81 – Gabe Somarriba (FL Atlantic; '99-'02); 226 GP (2.79 gms/HBP)
3. **75* – Cody Rizzo (Notre Dame; '03-); 202 GP (2.69 gms/HBP)**
4. 74 – Jeff Ontiveros (Texas; 1999-2002); 258 GP (3.49 gms/HBP)

NCAA RECORD BOOK PLAYER SEASON HIT-BY-PITCH

1. 33 Andrew Slater (Richmond, '97)
2. 32 Gary Morris (Elon, '05)
- 32 Steve Dembrowski (F. Dickinson, '79)
4. **30 Brett Lilley (Notre Dame, '05)**
5. 29 Ryder Mathias (Wake Forest, '05)
- 29 Chris Nelson (Southern Utah, '02)
- 29 Jonah Martin (Arizona State, '00)
- 29 Corky Miller (Nevada, '98)
10. 28 **Cody Rizzo (Notre Dame, '03)**

Note: Lilley and Rizzo are the only players from the same school on the above top-10 list (28-plus HBPs in a season)

NCAA RECORD BOOK TEAM SEASON HIT-BY-PITCH

<u>Team</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Gms</u>	<u>HBP (per gm)</u>
1. Notre Dame	'05	63	130 (2.06)
2. Nevada	'97	60	125 (2.08)
3. Long Beach St.	'98	67	124 (1.85)
Coll. Charleston	'04	63	122 (1.94)
5. Cal St. Fullerton	'03	66	117 (1.77)
6. Arizona State	'00	59	115 (1.95)
Long Beach St.	'99	60	114 (1.90)
8. Notre Dame	'04	63	106 (1.68)
– Notre Dame	'06	32	49 (1.53)

Notes: ND is on pace for 98 HBPs this season (in 64 GP) ... the Irish have averaged 1.84 HBPs per game during the past three seasons (281, in 153 games from '04-'06) ... the 2005 Notre Dame team owns the 2nd-best HBP per game among teams on the above list ... ND (106 in '04; 130 in '05) and Long Beach State (124 in '98, 114 in '99) are the only teams ever to post 106-plus HBPs in multiple seasons.

IRISH TAKING AIM AT EIGHTH STRAIGHT NCAA TRIP – Notre Dame, which bounced back from a 14-14 start to the 2005 season by going 22-8-1 in the second half, made its seventh straight appearance in the NCAAs and eighth of the Paul Mainieri era (since '95) during that '05 season ... the Irish are part of an elite group of 12 teams that have appeared in the NCAAs every year since 1999, with others including: recent NCAA champions Miami, LSU, Texas, Rice and Cal State Fullerton, plus Florida State, Stanford, Clemson, Tulane, East Carolina and Oral Roberts ... ND is part of an even smaller list of seven teams that have advanced to at least the NCAA Regional final every year since 2000 (six straight), with the other five teams including LSU, Miami, Rice, South Carolina, Stanford and Texas.

BULLPEN BOOST – Notre Dame lost two of its top relief pitchers (junior RHP Dan Kapala/shoulder and sophomore RHP Tony Langford/elbow) before the 2006 season even began but the Irish relievers have responded with a solid season that now includes a 3.48 bullpen ERA, a .246 opponent batting avg., nearly a 2-to-1 K-to-walk ratio (82/43) and 10 more innings pitched (95.2) than hits allowed (86) ... the ND relievers have allowed one-third (16-of-48) of inherited baserunners to score but have struggled vs. first batters faced, allowing a .385 batting avg. (20-for-52) with 10 runs scored, 5 walks and 3 hit-batters among those 70 first batters (10 Ks):

BULLPEN CHART (IRS indicates inherited runners scored; FB is first batter faced)

Player	ERA	W-L	APP	SV	IP	H	R/ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	B/Avg	WP	HB	IRS	FB (H-AB)
Dury.....	0.00	2-0	10	0	12.0	6	1/0	3	6	2	0	0	39	.154	1	1	4-11	1-7, BB, K, SAC, SF
Elam.....	0.90	0-0	7	0	10.0	5	2/1	4	15	1	0	0	35	.143	0	3	0-3	2-6, HB, 2 R, K
Gruener....	2.25	0-0	7	0	8.0	5	2/2	3	6	1	1	0	29	.172	1	0	0-2	2-6, BB
Phelps.....	2.45	1-0	5	0	7.1	6	6/5	5	9	1	0	0	28	.214	1	2	2-3	2-4, BB, R, K
Graffy.....	2.61	1-0	5	0	10.1	9	9/3	2	3	1	1	0	36	.250	0	0	0-2	2-5, R
Weiland....	3.72	0-3	14	9-9	19.1	17	17/9	13	17	1	1	1	67	.254	3	3	2-3	5-11, BB, HB, 3R, K
Stewart....	4.32	2-1	10	1-1	16.2	22	22/12	5	11	4	1	0	70	.314	1	2	6-14	3-7, R, 2 SAC, SF
Williamson.	8.44	0-0	12	0	10.2	13	13/13	6	13	2	0	0	40	.325	0	4	1-9	2-10, BB, HB, 2R, 6K
Korpi.....	20.25	0-0	1	0	1.1	3	3/3	2	2	1	0	0	6	.500	1	0	1-1	1-1
Totals.....	3.48	6-4	70	10-10	95.2	86	50/37	43	82	14	4	1	350	.246	8	15	16-48	20-52/.385, 10 R 5 BB, 3 HB, 10 K

GIVING BACK THE INHERITANCE – Junior RHP **Joey Williamson** has taken the mound with nine batters on base this season and has allowed just one of them to score (vs. Wright State), stranding five inherited baserunners since that game ... Williamson has been particularly strong versus his first batter faced, allowing just 2-for-10 batting with six strikeouts in those situations (BB, HBP, 2 R).

SUPER SAVER – Closer **Kyle Weiland** saved three straight games last week and already has tied Aaron Heilman's ND record for saves by a freshman (9, in '98) ... Weiland has converted all nine of his save chances and ranks fifth on the ND season saves list, behind J.P. Gagne (13, in '03), Ryan Doherty (12, in '04), John Corbin (11, in '00) and Mike Coffey (10, in '98).

DURY DOES IT – Junior LHP **Mike Dury** was the third of four Irish relievers and retired five of the six batters he faced in the recent win over Ball State (K) while improving to 5-0 in his Irish career ... Dury took the mound with two outs and two runners on base in the top of the seventh, inducing a rightside popup off the bat of Kyle Dygert to keep the deficit at 4-3 ... Dury has yet to allow an earned run (one unearned) in 10 appearances and 12 innings this season (6 H/.154 opp. avg., 6 Ks, 3 BB), with a 1.20 career ERA in 52.1 IP (33 Ks, 14 BB, 45 H/.236) ... he is close to reaching the minimum innings pitched (60) required for inclusion on the ND career ERA list and ultimately could break a record that has stood for 45 years (All-American Nick Palihnich's 2.36 career ERA, from 1959-61).

IN-STATE BATTLES – After the season-opening win over Indiana State and the recent wins over Valparaiso and Ball State, Notre Dame now owns a 46-9 record (.836) vs. fellow Indiana-based schools during the Paul Mainieri era (since '95), with games versus: Valparaiso (11-1), Butler (7-0), Purdue (6-2), IUPUI (5-0), Indiana Tech (4-1), Indiana (3-0), Indianapolis (2-0), IPFW (2-0), Indiana State (2-1), Ball State (3-3) and Evansville (1-1) ... the Irish also have a 2006 game scheduled vs. IPFW.

FOR OPENERS – Following the 3-0 win over Indiana State, ND now is 8-1 in its past nine season openers, with five straight wins (29-9 margin in the past three openers).

PLAYING THE FIELD – Notre Dame faced three Big 12 Conference teams earlier this season (Oklahoma, Nebraska and Texas A&M), continuing a long trend that has seen the Irish face teams from all over the nation ... Big 12 team Oklahoma State is one of just a handful of teams from the nation's top conferences that Notre Dame never has faced (as are Kansas, also of the Big 12, and ACC team Maryland) ... ND baseball has faced 285 opponents in its 115-year history, including 177 of 283 teams (63%) that played on the Div. I level in 2005 (many of the teams ND has not faced are from the smaller conferences) ... other teams of note that ND has yet to face include emerging programs such as the College of Charleston, Virginia Commonwealth, Coastal Carolina, Louisiana-Lafayette, East Carolina and Southern Mississippi – plus west-coast teams such as Cal Poly, San Jose State, UNLV and Utah.

Notre Dame Baseball 2006 Summer-League Commitments (others 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 League (DuPage Dragons)
Eddy Mendiola (3B/C, Fr.) – Florida Collegiate League
Ryan Connolly (OF, Fr.) – New York Collegiate League

Notre Dame Baseball 2005 Summer-League Statistics

Sean Gaston (Cotuit Kettleers; Cape Cod League) – named to league all-star team, also named first team all-league and team MVP ... hit .298 with 12 RBI and .328 on-base pct. (4 extra-base hits)
Jeff Manship (Cotuit Kettleers; Cape Cod League) – his win in final week clinched playoff spot (3-3, 2.88 ERA, 45 Ks, 15 BB, 44 H, 50 IP, 9 GS)
Craig Cooper (Brewster Whitecaps; Cape Cod League) – hit .217 with 11 R, 6 2B, 17 BB, 4 SB
Matt Bransfield (Mat-Su Miners; Alaska League) – named to league all-star team while leading team in slugging (.469) and doubles (12), ranking 2nd in RBI (23), and 3rd in both batting (.312) and on-base pct. (.409)
Cody Rizzo (Mat-Su Miners; Alaska League) – 2nd on team with 9 times hit-by-pitch (hit .188, 6 BB, HR, 12 R, 5 RBI)
Alex Nettey (Fayetteville, NC Swampdogs; Coastal Plains League) – hit .236 as starting CF (3 BB, 9 HBP, 8 R, 12 RBI, 8 SB)
Danny Dressman (Madison, WI Mallards; Northwoods League) – team's top defensive outfielder, making just one error in 54 GP (hit .297, 18 R, 17 RBI, 3 2B, 12 BB, 6 SB)
Ross Brezovsky (Hays, KS Larks; Jayhawk League) – hit .256 with 18 runs scored (8 RBI, 3 2B, 15 BB, 12 K, 31 G)
David Gruener (Hays, KS Larks; Jayhawk League) – had 9 starts in 11 appearances (5-2, 59 Ks, 23 BB, 44 H, 52 IP)
Wade Korpi (Staunton, VA, Braves; Valley League) – went 3-3 with 4.67 ERA in 12 appearances (46 Ks, 34.2 IP, 4 GS, 18 BB, 36 H, .265 opp. avg.)
Joey Williamson (Luray, VA, Wranglers; Valley League) – posted 2.06 ERA, and 3-0 record (9 GP/6 GS, 42 Ks, 20 BB, 26 H)
Eddie Smith (DuPage Dragons; Central Illinois Collegiate League) – stole 4 bases on 5 attempts (.156, 8 R, 5 RBI, .315 OBP, .938 FLD)