

2006 SCHEDULE (33-9)

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

Minnesota Dairy Queen Classic (Metrodome)

Fri. 3	vs. #4 Nebraska	L, 1-11
Sat. 4	vs. Minnesota	L, 0-8
Sun. 5	vs. Arizona	L, 0-2 (10)

UTSA Express Classic (Wolff Stadium; San Antonio)

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

Irish Baseball Classic (Wolff Stadium; San Antonio)

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

at Povich Field (Bethesda, MD)

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	W, 8-2
Thur. 13	St. John's (DH)* (CSTV)	W, 9-2/13-7
Sat. 15	St. John's*	W, 7-5
Tues. 18	Toledo	W, 8-2
Wed. 19	IPFW (Comcast Local)	W, 4-3 (10)
Fri. 21	Rutgers*	W, 11-5
Sat. 22	Rutgers*	W, 15-3
Sun. 23	Rutgers*	W, 14-12
Tues. 25	Purdue (ESPN-U)	W, 2-1
Wed. 26	Bowling Green	L, 8-11
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)		

at Villanova Ballpark (Plymouth Meeting, PA)

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

2006 NOTRE DAME BASEBALL

(at Connecticut ... April 29-30 ... Eck Stadium)

ANOTHER SHOWDOWN SERIES – The Notre Dame baseball team (33-9, 14-1 BIG EAST) already has played four key BIG EAST series this season (sweeping each, vs. Pittsburgh, USF, St. John's and Rutgers) and another arrives this weekend as the Irish take their 1st-place record on the road to face 2nd-place Connecticut (28-13, 13-3) ... the teams will play a doubleheader on Sat., April 29 (starting at noon, both game 9-innings) and then a single game on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. ... ND's rotation (in order) will include Jeff Samardzija, Jeff Manship and Wade Korpi while UConn will counter with Tim Norton, Rich Sirois and Nick Tucci – for a blockbuster showdown that features six of the top-rated pitchers in the BIG EAST (Korpi, Manship and the three UConn starters comprise the league's top-5 overall ERA leaders while Samardzija is 16th in overall ERA and tied for 1st with five BIG EAST wins) ... ND's 12-game homestand ended with an 11-8 loss to Bowling Green that halted the team-record win streak at 23 games (longest in D-I this season and one of the longest in ND athletics history) ... hot-hitting senior 1B **Craig Cooper** earned national player-of-the-week honors after batting 10-for-19 with 13 RBI and 4 home runs in five wins last week (his 21-game hit streak tied the ND record but ended with an 0-for-4 game vs. Purdue).

AROUND THE HORN

- **SILVER STREAK** – The 23-game win streak bested the '91 team (18) for longest (single-season) and topped the 1906-07 teams (21) for best overall win streak at any time in ND history (also was the longest in D-I this season) ... ND owned a .353-.227 batting edge in the streak (2.81 ERA, .972 fielding/24 Es).

- **THREE-PRONGED ATTACK** – ND entered the week ranked 15th nationally in batting avg. (.329, now .327), 15th in ERA (3.33, now 3.39) and 17th in fielding pct. (.972, now .971), with Nebraska the only other team in top-20 for all three.

- **WILY VETERANS** – ND's 10 regular position players include 5 seniors, 2 juniors, 2 sophomore and freshman Jeremy Barnes, with that group combining to start 1,193 career games (4,431 ABs; 1,344 hits; 805 RBI; .303 bat. avg.).

- **HOME BOYS** – The Irish lost their home opener on March 21 but have lost just once more at Eck Stadium in the past five weeks (19-2), batting .339 (16 HRs) with a 3.55 staff ERA (just 4 HR allowed) in the 21 home games.

- **LOTS-O-LINEUPS** – ND's first 42 games have featured 36 different batting orders, including 32 different orders in the first 32 games.

- **IN THE CLUTCH** – The Irish are batting .345 with runners in scor. pos. (.309 in '05), led by Lopez (.426), Dressman (.420) and Rizzo (.364).

- **QUICK STARTERS** – ND owns a +26 scoring margin in the 1st inning this season (48-22), outhitting the opponents .370-.305 in the opening frame.

- **BIG INNINGS** – Notre Dame totaled just four "big innings" (5-plus runs) in the first 28 games of the '06 but has scored 5-plus in seven of the past 14 games.

- **HBP ... PDQ** – The Irish lead the BIG EAST with 66 times hit-by-pitch (302 over the past three seasons) and feature five players among the top-12 on the ND career HBP charts: Cody Rizzo (1st, 77; 3rd NCAA history), Brett Lilley (2nd, 40), Alex Nettey (3rd, 38), Greg Lopez (7th, 33) and Craig Cooper (12th, 25).

- **NO-FLY ZONE** – The ND pitchers have allowed just 8 home runs all season (4 at Eck Stadium) and had a 25-game stretch without an opp. HR (943 BF).

- **POWER SURGE** – The Irish managed just 10 home runs in the first 30 games of the season but awoke for 15 HRs in the recent homestand (12 GP).

- **LEADOFF LEADER** – Craig Cooper has reached base 24-of-33 times (72%) when leading off the game for the ND offense (4 HR, 6 2B) and recently compiled a 21-game hit streak.

- **KILLER B's** – The pattern of rotating heroes this season has included the likes of (Matt) Bransfield, (Ross) Brezovsky, (Jeremy) Barnes and Brett (Lilley).

- **SUPER AT SHORT** – Greg Lopez owns a 5.5-to-1 ratio of RBI (team-best 33) to errors (6), 3rd-best among shortstops from teams currently in the BA top-25.

CONNECTICUT HUSKIES

Location: Storrs, Connecticut
Founded/Enrollment: 1881/23,419
Colors: National Flag Blue and White
Field (Dim.): Christian Field (370-405-370)
2005 Records: 34-22 (11-12 BIG EAST/6th)
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 20/7
Head Coach: Jim Penders (UConn '94)
Record at UConn/Overall: 88-64 (3 yrs)
Assistants: Justin Blood, Bruce Elliott

Top Returning Players (2005 Stats):

Tim Norton, RHP, Sr. (3.07, 4-0, 49 Ks)
 Josh Farkes, OF, Jr. (.328, 4 HR, 26 RBI)
 Austin Wasserman, IF, Sr. (.314, 2 HR, 23 RBI)
 Britan Maler, OF, Sr. (.306, 1 HR, 26 RBI)
 Larry Day, C, Jr. (.298, 0 HR, 22 RBI)
 Rich Sirois, LHP, Jr. (3.69, 6-6, 49 Ks)
 David Erickson, RHP, So. (2.29, 1-1, 2 SV, 39 K)
 Pat Mahoney, IF, So. (.282, 1 HR, 19 RBI)
 Brendan McGinn, LHP, Sr. (4.73, 4-6, 48 Ks)

Top Players Lost (2005 Stats):

Tony Mallozzi, OF, Sr. (.361, 0 HR, 41 RBI)
 Jeff Hourigan, IF/OF, Sr. (.348, 9 HR, 44 RBI;
 5.02, 5-2, SV, 48 Ks)
 Russ D'Argento, OF, Sr. (.324, 5 HR, 44 RBI)
 Vin DiFazio, DH, Fr. (.306, 1 HR, 15 RBI)

Top Newcomers:

Dale Brannon, IF, Fr. (St. Petersburg, FL)
 Erik Turgeon, IF/RHP, Fr. (Palm Harbor, FL)
 Scott Beckwit, IF/OF, Fr. (Seminole, FL)
 John Folino, RHP, Fr. (Quincy, MA)

THE UCONN SERIES (ND leads 17-6)

At UConn: ND leads 6-4

At Notre Dame: ND leads 11-2

Series Wins: ND 6, UConn 1 (1 split)

One-Run Wins: ND 4, UConn 3

Current Streak: ND nine wins

Date	Site	Result	Score
4/6/96	ND (7)	W	7-6
4/6/96	ND	L	9-10
3/29/97	UConn (7)	W	7-2
4/3/99	ND (7)	W	11-7
4/3/99	ND	W	11-8
4/1/00	UConn (7)	W	8-3
4/1/00	UConn	L	1-8
4/2/00	UConn	W	9-2
5/5/01	ND (7)	W	6-1
5/5/01	ND	W	13-12
5/6/01	ND	L	12-19
3/23/02	UConn (7)	L	3-4
3/23/02	UConn (11)	L	8-9
3/24/02	UConn	L	6-13
4/26/03	ND (7)	W	3-2
4/26/03	ND	W	11-4
4/27/03	ND	W	6-3
5/9/04	UConn (7)	W	4-0
5/9/04	UConn	W	11-4
5/10/04	UConn	W	16-8
4/16/05	ND (7)	W	3-2
4/16/05	ND	W	7-1
4/17/05	ND	W	9-7

Series Scoring Total Avg.

Notre Dame	190	8.3
Connecticut	135	5.9

ND Most Runs (Gm): 16 (2004)

ND Widest Margin: 8 (16-8, 2004)

UConn Most Runs (Gm): 19 (2001)

UConn Widest Margin: 7 ('00, '01, '02)

High-Scoring Game: 31 (UConn 19-12 in '01)

Low-Scoring Game: 4 (ND 4-0; 2004)

Win Streaks: ND 9 ('03-active), UConn 4 ('01-'02)

EVERYBODY'S DOING IT ... – There's been plenty of streaking to talk about during the 2006 Notre Dame baseball season and yet another streak will be on the line this weekend, as the Irish have won nine straight games vs. UConn ... the Irish have compiled eight all-time winning streaks vs. BIG EAST teams of 7-plus games, including an active 7-game win streak vs. West Virginia (ND and WVU will not meet in the '06 regular season) ... ND's longest win streak vs. a BIG EAST team (23 games) ended last season with a loss to Georgetown ... ND has outscored UConn 70-31 during the current head-to-head win streak, which came on the heels of a four-game losing streak to the Huskies (one of ND's longest head-to-head loss streaks ever in BIG EAST play).

Notre Dame Head-to-Head Winning Streaks vs. BIG EAST Teams

23	vs. Georgetown	April 20, 1996 – March 24, 2005	263-86
9	vs. Connecticut	April 26, 2003 – active	70-31
8	vs. Seton Hall	April 20, 2000 – April 29, 2003	63-22
8	vs. Rutgers	May 13, 2000 – May 4, 2002	56-26
8	vs. Pittsburgh	April 27, 1951 – April 27, 1997	79-35
7	vs. West Virginia	May 22, 2003 – active	39-11
7	vs. Pittsburgh	April 18, 1998 – May 6, 2000	57-20
7	vs. Boston College	March 23, 1996 – April 5, 1998	69-22

Notre Dame Career Stats vs. Connecticut

Player	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B/3B/HR	BB/K	RBI	SB	AVG
Lilley	3/3	10	3	6	0/0/0	2/1	0	0-0	.600
Lopez	9/9	28	10	15	3/1/0	0/3	9	0-1	.536
Gaston	3/3	11	2	5	0/0/1	1/2	2	2-2	.455
Bransfield	6/4	21	5	9	1/0/1	0/3	4	0-0	.429
Cooper	7/7	23	5	8	2/0/1	1/2	10	1-1	.348
Nettey	6/4	18	3	2	0/0/0	1/3	1	0-0	.111
Rizzo	9/8	28	6	7	1/0/1	0/6	5	2-3	.250
Brezovsky	3/3	9	1	1	0/0/0	1/1	0	0-0	.111
Andres	5/4	12	2	1	0/0/0	4/2	3	1-1	.083
Dressman	3/0	0	0	0	0/0/0	0/0	0	1-1	—

Player	G/GS	W-L (SV)	IP	H	R	ER	K/BB	WP/HB	ERA
Korpi	1/0	0-0 (0)	1.0	0	0	0	0/0	0/0	0.00
Manship	1/1	0-0 (0)	0.2	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0.00
Samardzija	2/0	1-0 (0)	9.1	7	4	3	5/1	0/0	2.89
Thornton	2/2	2-0 (0)	14.2	16	9	9	8/3	2/1	5.53

RECAPING THE 2005 SERIES (3-2/8, 7-1, 9-7, at ND) – **Dan Kapala** (8 IP, 2 R, 6 H, BB, 2 Ks) and **Tom Thornton** (9 IP, R, 6 H, 0 BB, 4 Ks) became the first ND pitchers since '01 (Aaron Heilman and Danny Tamayo) to throw complete-game wins in both ends of a BIG EAST doubleheader ... the Irish rallied for two runs in the bottom of the 8th to win the extra-inning opener before the nightcap gave **Paul Mainieri** his 800th career coaching victory ... Thornton became the first ND pitcher since Heilman to post 9-inning complete games in back-to-back weeks ... UConn tied the 7-inning opener in the 5th and surged ahead in the 8th but ND rallied behind pinch-hitter **Matt Bransfield's** leadoff single, **Ross Brezovsky's** sac. bunt, **Greg Lopez's** game-tying single, another single by **Sean Gaston** and **Alex Nettey's** game-ending sac. fly ... Lilley hit 6-for-7 in the doubleheader (2 R, BB) while Lopez was 4-for-7 (3 RBI, 3 R) and Gaston 4-for-8 (RBI) ... **Tim Norton** had no-decision in the opener (5.1 IP, R, 6 H, 4 BB, 4 Ks), with **Ted Garry** taking the loss (2 IP, 2 R, 4 H, 2 Ks) ... **Rich Sirois** lost game-2 (7 IP, 5 R, 12 H, 5 Ks) ... ND won the series finale behind **Jeff Samardzija's** long relief outing (6.1 IP, 4 R/3 ER, 5 H, BB, K) and **Cody Rizzo's** 3-for-3 day (2 -run HR, 3 R, HBP, 2 SB) ... UConn held leads of 3-0 and 4-3 but ND brought home 9 runs on 9 hits, with just 4 LOB ... the Irish hit .412 with 2-outs during the series (14-for-34, 8 RBI) ... starter **Jeff Manship** (3 BF) had to leave game-3 after an early linedrive glanced off his hand (UConn's **Larry Day**, a former summer-league teammate of Manship and Lopez, was the player who hit the ball that forced his former teammate from the game) ... ND led 8-4 before UConn scored three in the 8th ... **Brendan McGinn** took the loss (6.2 IP, 8 R/4 ER, 7 H, BB, K) ... ND's **Wade Korpi** faced one batter, allowing a single by pinch-hitter **Vin DiFazio**.

THE BAD, THE UGLY, THE GOOD (AND THE UNPRECEDENTED) – Notre Dame's previous two trips to UConn produced several noteworthy results ... in 2002, the Irish opened BIG EAST play at Christian Field but were swept (3-4, 8-9, 6-13) ... that '02 team ultimately started its season 9-10 and 0-4 in the BIG EAST but tallied to win the BIG EAST regular-season (18-8) and tournament titles en route to reaching the College World Series (ND's first CWS appearance since 1957) ... that remains one of just three times in ND's 11 BIG EAST seasons that the Irish have been swept in a 3-game series (also at Seton Hall in '97 and at St. John's in '05) ... the memories were brighter for the Irish on the 2004 trip to UConn, as ND turned in the sweep (4-0, 11-4, 16-8 at UConn in '04) ... **Steve Sollmann** (2-for-5 in doubleheader, 2 BB, HBP, RBI, R, 3 SB) returned to action for the '04 series after missing a month with a fractured jaw, while **Matt Macri** just missed hitting for the cycle in game-2 (4-for-5, HR, 2 2B, BB, 2 RBI, 4 R) ... **Chris Niesel** won game-1 (7 IP, 6 H, 6 Ks, BB) while **Jeff Hourigan** had the loss (7 IP, 7 H, 3 ER, 2 BB, 4 Ks) ... **Matt Edwards** hit 3-for-7 in the doubleheader (HR in game-2), with Grant Johnson picking up the win (5 IP, 3 R/1 ER, 4 H, 3 BB, 6 Ks) ... **Mike James** took the game-2 loss (5.1 IP, 10 H, 9 R/7 ER, 2 BB, K) ... ND erupted for 10 hits (3 HRs) and 10 runs in the 1st inning of the series finale ... **Matt Bransfield** (3-for-6, 5 RBI), **Craig Cooper** and Edwards all hit 1st-inning home runs (in a span of 4 ABs), with the early 10-hit explosion also including 2-run singles from Sollmann (3-for-5, 3 RBI, 3 R) and Cooper ... Bransfield added a 2-run double in the 2nd as ND extended to a 13-2 cushion ... the win allowed ND to become the first team ever to sweep three 3-game BIG EAST road series in the same season (also at WVU and GU) ... **Tim Norton's** relief pitching (6 IP, H) helped UConn post a midgame rally but Macri's 3-run blast capped the scoring ... **Tom Thornton** was not his sharpest but picked up the game-3 win (5.21 IP, 8 R, 10 H, 3 BB, HB, 4 Ks) ... **Brendan McGinn** took the loss (0.2 IP, 8 H, 9 R/5 ER. K).

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

Jeff Samardzija.....	199.1 innings
Craig Cooper.....	96 BB, 45 2B, 44 SB, 200 GP
Brett Lilley.....	99 GP
Alex Nettey.....	98 runs
Danny Dressman.....	98 hits
Tom Thornton.....	48 GS, 188 Ks, 301.2 IP
Greg Lopez.....	197 GS, 206 hits
Matt Bransfield.....	98 runs
Steve Andres.....	95 runs, 92 walks, 89 RBI
Cody Rizzo.....	192 GS, 182 hits
Jeff Manship.....	89 strikeouts
Ross Brezovsky.....	85 hits
Jeff Manship.....	81 strikeouts
Sean Gaston.....	100 hits
Wade Korpi.....	101 strikeouts
Paul Mainieri.....	521 wins (at ND)

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

ND scores in 1st inning.....	18-4
Opponent scores in 1st inning.....	10-2
ND scores first.....	21-4
ND leads after 7th inning.....	30-1
ND hits a home run.....	16-1
Opponent hits a home run.....	5-3
ND does not make an error.....	10-1
ND outhits the opponent.....	28-3
ND is outhit by the opponent.....	3-6
When collecting double-digit hits.....	24-3
When allowing 0-5 runs.....	28-3
One-run games.....	5-2
Extra-inning games.....	1-2

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 82% of its April games in those 12 seasons (232-52-1/+180; .818).

RADIO, LIVE-STATS, TEXT-MESSAGE UPDATES & HOTLINE – 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 link will be placed for the live stats at uconnhuskies.com) ... 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).

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 34 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 series at und.com.

SAMARDZIJA, MANSHIP NAMED TOP-50 DRAFT PROSPECTS – Notre Dame junior RHPs **Jeff Samardzija** (Valparaiso, Ind.) and **Jeff Manship** (San Antonio, Texas) have been attracting plenty of attention from professional scouts throughout the 2006 season and both recently were upgraded by *Baseball America* into top-50 status on the magazine's midseason list of college prospects who are eligible for the 2006 Major League Draft ... North Carolina is the only team with two starting pitchers rated higher than the Notre Dame duo while Missouri is the only other team with two starting pitchers among *BA*'s current top-50 prospects ... Samardzija had been slotted 94th in *BA*'s preseason list of the college game's top prospects, with the two-sport star making the third-biggest jump (54 spots) from the preseason to midseason list ... Manship was 75th on the preseason list of top college prospects, moving up 34 spots for the seventh-biggest jump among players on the current top-50 prospects list.

EARLY RISERS – The only players with more noteworthy jumps in the *BA* prospect rankings than Samardzija are a pair of RHPs who were not included on *BA*'s preseason list of the top-100 prospects: Cal State Northridge's Chris Baker (now #32) and Villanova's Kevin Mulvey (#43) ... only three others made a bigger jump than Manship's (+34): Kent State SS Emmanuel Burris (+43; 77 to 34); ASU's Zinicola (+41; 85 to 44) and Hawaii RHP Steven Wright (+37; 82 to 45) ... there are four others who improved 20-plus spots (all are RHPs): San Diego's Josh Butler (+27; 66 to 39), Washington's Tim Lincecum (+25; 31 to 6), Missouri State's Brent Sinkbeil (+25; 42 to 17) and VCU's Harold Mozingo (+20; 55 to 35).

OTHERS OF NOTE – UNC's pair of high-rated pitching prospects include LHP Andrew Miller (1st) and RHP Daniel Bard (9th), who lost to ND in an elimination game at the 2005 NCAA Gainesville Regional ... Missouri's pair of starting pitchers on the top-50 prospects list include righthander Max Scherzer (5th) and lefthander Nathan Culp (49th) ... Arizona State is the only other team with two pitchers in the top-50: righthanded reliever Zach Zinicola (44th) and righthanded starter Pat Bresnehan (50th) ... two of ND's early-season losses came at the hands of pitchers who are rated near the top of the *BA* list: Nebraska RH starter Joba Chamberlain (8th) and Arizona RH closer Mark Melancon (14th), who logged 4.2 innings to help edge the Irish in a 2-0, 10-inning game (UA shortstop Jason Donald is the No. 24 prospect on the list).

AMIDST THE BEST OF THE BEST – Among the four teams that have two pitchers on the top-50 prospects list, the UNC pair owns the top combined ERA (2.62), record (14-2), innings (130.2), low opp. batting avg. (.196), low hits per 9 IP (6.41) and most Ks per 9 IP (10.33) ... the Missouri pitchers have the lowest walk avg. (1.56 BB/9 IP), lowest WHIP (9.27 walks and hits per 9 IP), top K/BB ratio (4.37) and fewest wild pitches (2) among the four pitcher tandems ... Notre Dame's Jeff Samardzija and Jeff Manship's combined stats include the fewest home runs allowed (tied with the ASU pair, plus 42 more innings pitched) and fewest hit batters (4) among the four pairs of pitchers ... Manship and Samardzija rank 2nd among the four pairs of elite pitching prospects in combined wins (11-2), innings pitched (116.2), low opp. batting avg. (.234), Ks per 9 IP (7.95) and low wild pitches (6) ... their other combined stats this season, spanning nine starts each, include: a 3.01 ERA, 101 hits allowed, 103 Ks, 42 walks, a 2.45 K/BB ratio and 9-inning averages of 7.79 hits and 3.24 walks (11.03 WHIP).

BIG EAST LEADERS – Jeff Manship, who was the nation's No. 3-rated freshman heading into the '04 season before seeing the start of his college career slowed by injury, has made an impressive comeback to elite national status and is on the short list of top candidates for BIG EAST pitcher-of-the-year honors, ranking 3rd among the league's regular pitchers in low opp. batting avg. (.200), 4th in ERA (2.25) and strikeouts (69, including a league-best 29 Ks "looking"), 5th in wins (5-1) and 11th with 60.0 innings ... in BIG EAST games only, Manship ranks 3rd among the conference's pitchers in ERA (2.83), 4th in wins (3-1) and opp. batting (.217), 7th in Ks (37) and 8th with 35.0 IP ... Jeff Samardzija currently checks in 3rd on the BIG EAST charts for overall wins (6-1) and 16th in ERA (3.81) while sharing the lead for most wins during BIG EAST games (5-0).

BY THE NUMBERS – Here's a look at the four pitching duos on *Baseball America*'s current list of the top-50 college prospects for the 2006 MLB Draft:

NOTRE DAME	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO/CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	B/Avg	WP	HBP
Jeff Manship	2.25	5-1	9	9	0	0/0	0	60.0	44	17	15	16	69	9	1	2	220	.200	2	2
Jeff Samardzija	3.81	6-1	9	9	0	0/0	0	56.2	57	26	24	26	34	17	1	1	211	.270	4	2
TOTALS	3.01	11-2	18	18	0	0/0	0	116.2	101	43	39	42	103	26	2	3	431	.234	6	4

9-Inning Averages: 7.79 H, 3.24 BB, 11.03 WHIP, 7.95 K (2.45 K/BB ratio)

NORTH CAROLINA	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO/CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	B/Avg	WP	HBP
Andrew Miller	1.56	9-0	10	10	0	0/3	0	69.1	46	21	12	20	73	2	0	1	248	.185	5	8
Daniel Bard	3.82	5-2	10	10	2	1/1	0	61.1	47	33	26	24	67	6	5	4	226	.208	7	11
TOTALS	2.62	14-2	20	20	2	1/4	0	130.2	93	54	38	44	150	8	5	5	474	.196	12	19

9-Inning Averages: 6.41 H, 3.03 BB, 9.44 WHIP, 10.33 K (3.41 K/BB ratio)

MISSOURI	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO/CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	B/Avg	WP	HBP
Max Scherzer	2.67	3-1	6	6	0	0/0	0	33.2	25	10	10	10	36	2	0	2	114	.219	0	2
Nathan Culp	2.96	7-4	11	11	1	1/1	0	76.0	69	32	25	9	47	7	1	7	286	.241	2	3
TOTALS	2.87	10-5	17	17	0	1/1	0	109.2	94	42	35	19	83	9	1	9	400	.235	2	5

9-inning Averages: 7.71 H, 1.56 BB, 9.27 WHIP, 6.81 K (4.37 K/BB ratio)

ARIZONA STATE	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO/CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	B/Avg	WP	HBP
Zach Zinicola	3.31	2-1	17	1	0	0/0	6	32.2	27	15	12	15	32	6	1	1	118	.229	3	6
Pat Bresnehan	4.71	3-2	12	8	0	0/0	0	42.0	47	30	22	25	31	10	0	2	166	.283	7	0
TOTALS	4.10	5-3	29	9	0	0/0	6	74.2	74	45	34	40	63	16	1	3	284	.261	10	6

9-Inning Averages: 8.92 H, 4.82 BB, 13.74 WHIP, 7.59 K (1.58 K/BB ratio)

LOPEZ AMONG NATION'S ELITE ALL-AROUND SHORTSTOPS – A glance at Notre Dame senior Greg Lopez's season statistics reveals the rare combination for his position of shortstop, as the two-time Irish captain has paired a high RBI total (team-best 33) with a low error total (6) while appearing in 38 games this season ... the resulting 5.5-to-1 ratio of RBI-to-Es is a tremendous mark for even the most elite of shortstops and a check of the other 24 teams currently among the top-25 in the *Baseball America* poll reveals that only one shortstop from those teams – Oklahoma's Freddy Rodriguez (11.5; 23/2) – entered the week with a better mark in the unique but telling stat of RBI-to-error ratio, with Lopez's .373 batting avg. nearly 60 points higher than that of Rodriguez (.315) .. Lopez's current RBI total (33) is 4th-most among the top-25 shortstops, behind only Mississippi's Zach Cozart (41), UNC's Josh Horton (35) and Florida State's Buster Posey (35) ... Lopez also owns the 2nd-lowest strikeout total (9) among the group (one more than Oregon State's Darwin Barney, who has 8 Ks) and boasts the fifth-best fielding pct. (.963) among the top-20 shortstops – behind Rodriguez (.986), N.C. State's Jonathan Diaz (.970), Fullerton's Blake Davis (.968) and South Carolina's Reese Havens (.964) – in addition to having the 4th-lowest error total (6; Rodriguez has 2, ASU's Matt Hall 4 and Davis 5), the 3rd-best batting avg. (.373; Mississippi State's Thomas Berkery is hitting .420 and Horton .394) and the 8th-best plate-discipline ratio (+1 for BB+HBP-Ks) ... Lopez – who is batting a team-best .426 with runners in scoring position – and Rodriguez are two of just four seniors among the shortstops for teams currently in the *BA* top-25 (as are Berkery and ODU's Jesse Schoendienst):

Starting Shortstops for Teams Currently in the *Baseball America* Top-25 Poll (stats as of April 24; Lopez as of April 25)

(first number indicates RBI/E ratio, followed by RBI and error totals ... other numbers indicate, in order, batting avg., hits, at-bats, fielding pct., slugging pct., extra-base hits, on-base %)

- 11.5** (23 RBI/2 E) – **Freddy Rodriguez (Oklahoma, Sr.)**315 batting avg. (40-for-127), .986 fld, .378 slug (HR-3B-3 2B), .371 OB (10 BB, 2 HBP, 14 K; -2 PDR), 6 SAC, 2 SB, 38 GP/32 GS
- 5.5** (33/6) – **GREG LOPEZ (Notre Dame, Sr.)**373 (50-for-134), .963 fld, .433 slug (3B-6 2B), .405 OB (6 BB, 4 HBP, 9 K; +1), 4 SAC, 2 SB, 38 GS
- 5.1** (41/8) – **Zack Cozart (Ole Miss., So.)**335 (54-161), .958 fld, .522 slug (6 HR-1 3B- 10 2B), .373 OB (22 BB, 1 HBP, 15 K; -3), 2 SAC, 11 SB, 40 GS
- 5.0** (30/6) – **Reese Havens (So. Carolina, Fr.)**293 (43-147), .964 fld, .415 slug (2 HR-3B-10 2B), .389 OB (22 BB, 3 HBP, 21 K; +4), 4 SAC, 40 GS
- 4.0** (24/6) – **Jonathan Diaz (N.C. State, Jr.)**252 (35-139), .970 fld, .302 slug (HR-4 2B), .397 OB (27 BB, 9 HBP, 14 K; +22), 11 SAC, 5 SB, 44 GS
- 3.4** (17/5) – **Blake Davis (CS Fullerton, Jr.)**342 (52-152), .968 fld, .428 slug (HR-2 3B-6 2B), .415 OB (17 BB, 2 HBP, 18 K; +1), 8 SAC, 4 SB, 39 GS
- 3.2** (29/9) – **Ryan Wehrle (Nebraska, So.)**368 (53-144), .949 fld, .549 slug (4 HR-3B-12 2B), .440 OB (17 BB, 3 HBP, 24 K; -4), 3 SAC, 10 SB, 36 GS
- 3.0** (27/9) – **Thomas Berkery (Miss. St., Sr.)**420 (60-for-143), .958 fld, .566 slug (4 HR-7 2B), .508 OB (29 BB, 2 HBP, 25 K; +6), SAC, SB, 38 GS
- 2.9** (20/7) – **Greg Miclat (UVa, Fr.)**306 (45-for-147), .959 fld, .367 slug (3B- 7 2B), .404 OB (14 BB, 10 HBP, 32 K; -8), 6 SAC, 15 SB, 43 GP/40 GS
- 2.8** (28/10) – **Brian Friday (Rice, So.)**373 (63-for-169), .949 fld, .515 slug (2 HR-3B-16 2B), .442 OB (18 BB, 6 HBP, 30 K; -6), 4 SAC, 10 SB, 44 GS
- 2.7** (35/13) – **Josh Horton (UNC, So.)**394 (63-for-160), .930 fld, .513 slug (2 HR-3B-11 2B), .455 OB (20 BB, 2 HBP, 15 K; +7), 9 SB, 41 GS
- 2.6** (23/9) – **Brandon Crawford (UCLA, Fr.)**323 (52-for-161), .944 fld, .503 slug (4 HR- 4 3B- 9 2B), .382 OB (16 BB, 31 K; -15), 5 SB, 39 GS
- 2.3** (26/11) – **Greg Paiml (Alabama, Jr.)**288 (42-146), .947 fld, .432 slug (2 HR-4 3B-7 2B), .350 OB (13 BB, 2 HBP, 31 K; -16), 6 SAC, 3 SB, 43 GP/42 GS
- 2.2** (29/13) – **Dominic de la Osa (Vanderbilt, So.)**310 (49-158), .917 fld, .487 slug (5 HR-13 2B), .358 OB (7 BB, 6 HBP, 21 K; -8), SAC, 11 SB, 39 GP/38 GS
- 2.0** (35/17) – **Buster Posey (Florida St., Fr.)**350 (57-163), .907 fld, .491 slug (4 HR-3B-9 2B), .443 OB (27 BB, 2 HBP, 34 K; -8), SAC, 7 SB, 43 GS
- 1.9** (28/15) – **Oliver Marmol (Charleston, So.)**373 (57-153), .911 fld, .516 slug (2 HR-3 3B-10 2B), .468 OB (19 BB, 12 HBP, 13 K; +18), 11 SAC, 24 SB, 41 GS
- 1.8** (7/4) – **Matt Hall (Arizona State, Fr.)**306 (15-for-49), .941 fld, .510 slug (HR-2 3B-3 2B), .370 OB (4 BB, HBP, 14 K; -9), 3 SAC, 26 GP/17 GS
- 1.7** (15/9) – **Chais Fuller (Texas, Jr.)**257 (28-for-109), .943 fld, .294 slug (4 2B), .341 OB (11 BB, 4 HBP, 17 K; -2), 9 SAC, SB, 34 GP/31 GS
- 1.6** (14/9) – **Jesse Schoendienst (Old Dominion, Sr.)**314 (33-for-105), .938 fld, .476 slug (2 HR-3B-9 2B), .397 OB (8 BB, 9 HBP, 14 K; +3), 4 SAC, 2 SB, 34 GP/32 GS
- 1.5** (23/15) – **Michael Fisher (Georgia Tech, So.)**264 (37-140), .923 fld, .293 slug (4 2B), .348 OB (17 BB, 3 HBP, 31 K; -11), 4 SAC, 6 SB, 41 GS
- 1.5** (16/11) – **Matt Willard (Arkansas, So.)**307 (39-127), .929 fld, .354 slug (HR-3 2B), .371 OB (12 BB, 2 HBP, 30 K; -16), SAC, 7 SB, 37 GP/32 GS
- 1.3** (16/12) – **Ryan Wilkes (Kentucky, So.)**267 (32-for-120), .938 fld, .350 slug (HR- 7 2B), .378 OB (22 BB, 2 HBP, 29 K; -5), 5 SAC, SB, 36 GS
- 1.3** (18/14) – **Darwin Barney (Oregon St., So.)**338 (50-148), .924 fld, .412 slug (2 3B-7 2B), .429 OB (20 BB, 5 HBP, 8 K; +17), 6 SAC, 10 SB, 37 GS
- 1.1** (11/10) – **Travis Cougot (Houston, Fr.)**302 (29-96), .915 fld, .427 slug (2 HR- 2 3B- 2 2B), .350 OB (6 BB, 1 HBP, 21 K; -14), 5 SAC, SB, 36 GS
- 0.8** (13/16) – **Stan Widmann (Clemson, So.)**292 (42-for-144), .924 fld, .340 slug (3B-5 2B), .374 OB (17 BB, 2 HBP, 31 K; -12), SAC, 9 SB, 42 GS

COOPER EARNS NATIONAL AND BIG EAST PLAYER OF WEEK – Notre Dame senior 1B **Craig Cooper** (Plainview, N.Y.) –coming off an impressive week in which he batted over .500, had a slugging percentage of nearly 1.000, reached base 15 times over the course of five games, and tied the school record by extending his hitting streak to 21 – received national player-of-the-week honors from both *Collegiate Baseball* magazine and *Rosenblatt Report*, in addition to being named the BIG EAST Conference player of the week for the second time this season and the third time in his career ... the righthanded slugger has been named a national player of the week twice in his career and entered the week leading all BIG EAST players with a .441 overall batting average (now 2nd, at .426) while also pacing the conference with .517 batting in league play as he pursues an unprecedented third BIG EAST batting title.

DAMAGE REPORT – Craig Cooper's damage in last week's five victories included a .526 batting avg. (10-for-19), 13 RBI, 9 runs scored, a .952 slugging pct. (4 home runs, 2 doubles), a .654 on-base pct. (5 walks and a hit-by-pitch) and a lofty 1.606 OPS (on-base plus slugging) ... the only individual to repeat as BIG EAST player of the week this season, Cooper joins 1997 catcher Mike Amrhein as the only players in the history of ND baseball who are known to have pushed single-season hit streaks to 21 games ... Cooper's key role during last week's 5-0 showing included a 2-run HR in the 8-2 win over Toledo (1-for-3, 3 RBI, R, BB, HBP) before adding an RBI single in the 10-inning win over IPFW (4-3) ... he opened the Rutgers series 2-for-4 (4 RBI, 2 R), breaking a 2-2 tie with a 2-run blast in the 5th, walking in the 6th and hitting another 2-run HR in the 7th for his first career multi-HR game (11-5) ... he opened game-2 vs. RU with walk and run scored, later adding a single and run, another single and then an HBP/run (2-for-2, 3 R; 15-3) ... Cooper then started the game for the ND offense with a home run for the fourth time this season, in the RU series finale ... he added a walk/R in the 2nd inning of the series finale, a 2-run 2B/R in the 3rd and a 2-run 2B in the 4th (plus a single in the 8th) of that 14-12 slugfest (4-for-5, tied career-best with 5 RBI).

AMONG THE NCAA LEADERS – Craig Cooper entered this week ranked 8th in the nation with a .441 batting avg. (now .426) and 3rd in runs per game (1.47; now 1.39/50 total), also checking in at 26th on the slugging pct. charts (.735, now .708).

BEST THERE EVER WAS – Last week's impressive display in the three-game sweep of rival Rutgers (8-for-11/.727, 9 RBI, 8 R, 3 HR, 2 2B, 5 BB, HBP, 1.727 slug, .813 OB, 2.540 OPS) pushed Craig Cooper's career batting average in BIG EAST games to .445 (98-for-220), placing him ahead of former Rutgers player Joe Cirrone (.443; 51-for-115) as the top hitter in the 22-year history of BIG EAST baseball ... Cooper needs 13 more hits and 3 more HRs (currently 15) to crack those BIG EAST career top-10 lists (for league games) ... he also owns 16 doubles and 36 walks spanning 72 career games in BIG EAST regular-season play.

TRADING HRs FOR Ks – Craig Cooper's many impressive stats this season include totaling nearly as many home runs (9) as strikeouts (10) while grounding into just two double plays all season (none in past 24 games).

HITTING BASEBALLS AND TEXTBOOKS – Craig Cooper has rocketed to the top of most All-America projections and narrowly missed a chance at being considered for 2006 Academic All-America honors, with a 3.197 cumulative GPA as a political science major (min. 3.20) ... Cooper was one of 21 members of the 2006 ND baseball team to post a GPA of 3.0 or higher (3.40) during the 2005 fall semester ... six of his teammates – senior LHP **Tom Thornton**, senior SS **Greg Lopez**, senior LF/DH **Matt Bransfield**, junior C **Sean Gaston**, sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** and sophomore 2B **Ross Brezovsky** – are potential candidates for the official 2006 Academic All-America honors (as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America).

OH-SO-CLOSE – Prior to this week's 0-for-4 game vs. Purdue that snapped his 21-game hitting streak, Craig Cooper had hits in 30 of his previous 31 games and possibly would have been riding a 31-game hit streak if he could have managed another at-bat or two versus Central Michigan on March 22 (when he went 0-for-1, walked three times and added a sacrifice fly) ... he now has collected at least one hit in 33 of his 36 games played during the 2006 season, with only two hitless games in which he had at least two ABs (also 0-for-4 vs. Memphis, in the third game of the season).

EXTENDED ROLL – Including the final 17 games of his junior season, Craig Cooper has collected hits in 48 of his past 53 games (43 of 46 in the regular season) ... he ended the 2005 regular season on a 10-game hitting streak, then hit safely in all three games of the '05 BIG EAST Tournament before enduring a two-game slump at the NCAA Gainesville Regional (he bounced back with hits in ND's final two games of the '05 NCAAs) ... the current stretch of collecting hits in 48 of his past 53 games played spans the only double-digit hitting streaks of Cooper's four-year ND career (13 and 21 games, plus the 9-game streak that ended with the 0-for-1 game vs. Central Michigan).

HOME & AWAY – Craig Cooper has compiled nearly identical batting marks at home (.421, 32-for-76) and on the road (.426, 29-for-68) this season.

LEADOFF LEADER – Craig Cooper has reached a team-best 59% when leading off any inning but his production is even more impressive when leading off for the Irish in the 1st inning ... Cooper has reached base 24-of-33 times (73%) when leading off the game for the ND offense, batting 18-for-27 (.667) in his 1st-inning leadoff plate appearances, including 4 leadoff home runs (1.333 slugging pct., 6 doubles, 4 walks, plus a time hit-by-pitch) ... his OPS (on-base plus slugging) is an off-the-charts 2.000 as the 1st-inning leadoff batter this season ... led by Cooper, the Irish are batting a robust .370 as a team this season in the 1st inning while outscoring their opponents 48-22 in the opening frame.

BIG EAST'S BEST – Craig Cooper currently leads all BIG EAST players with 50 runs scored and a 1.212 OPS (on-base plus slugging) while ranking 2nd in batting avg. (.426), slugging pct. (.708), on-base pct. (.514) and total bases (102), plus 3rd in home runs (9) and 4th in hits (61) ... Pitt's Jim Negrych owns the top batting avg. (.426) and OB pct. (.537) while Villanova's Jeremy Hunt leads the league in slugging (.722) ... in league games only, Cooper leads the BIG EAST in seven categories: .517 batting, .966 slugging, .600 on-base, 1.566 OPS, 24 runs, 7 HRs and 56 TBs (also 2nd with 30 hits and 20 RBI) ... Cooper could duplicate the sweep of the three offensive pct. titles that he posted during 2004 BIG EAST play (.470 batting, .545 OB, .712 slugging), when he became the only player ever to lead the conference in all three of those categories during the same season.

THE X FACTOR – Notre Dame is 29-4 with Cooper batting in the leadoff spot and just 4-5 when another player serves as the leadoff batter ... the Irish dropped four straight games when Cooper was out of the lineup (vs. top opponents Oklahoma, Nebraska, Minnesota and Arizona) but ND now is riding a 31-4 extended streak over the past seven weeks after Cooper's return to the lineup (he has played in all but two of those games).

LOFTY COMPANY – Craig Cooper's current .517 batting avg. in BIG EAST games puts him in range of the conference record, set more than 20 seasons ago by UConn's Dave Ford (.522/24-for-46, in '85) ... Cooper's overall stat line during 2006 BIG EAST games include 30 hits in 58 ABs, 20 RBI, 24 runs, a .966 slugging pct. (7 HR, 3B, 2 2B), a .600 on-base pct. (11 BB, HBP, just 3 Ks), a 1.566 OPS, 4 stolen bases and no errors ... he needs 25 hits in ND's final 12 BIG EAST games to break the league's record for most hits in one BIG EAST season (54, by Rutgers shortstop Darren Fenster in '99).

30-30 IN HIS SIGHTS – Craig Cooper's sophomore season in 2004 yielded 10 home runs and made him a legit candidate to become the program's third all-time player with 30-plus stolen bases and 30-plus home runs in his career (he currently ranks 9th in ND history with 44 SBs) ... his HR output dropped off to 7 in 2005 and Cooper did not have a long ball in his first 14 games of the 2006 season – before a power surge that includes 9 HRs in ND's 23-game win streak ... that recent HR spike has lifted his career total to 26, leaving Cooper 4 HRs shy of joining shortstop Alec Porzel (37 HR, 32 SB; '98-'01) and catcher Paul O'Toole (31 HR, 54 SB; '99-'02) in the exclusive 30-30 club.

SLAYER OF THE KNIGHTS – Craig Cooper has feasted on Rutgers pitching throughout his career, batting .500 (19-for-38) versus the Scarlet Knights with 12 RBI, 15 runs and 8 extra-base hits (3 HR, 5 2B, 8 BB, 5 SB, 5 Ks) in 13 games played ... ND's other veteran players had combined for just a .193 career batting avg. vs. RU (22-for-114) prior to last weekend's offensive explosion that saw the Irish bat .438 with 49 total hits vs. the Knights (Cooper batted 8-for-11 while the rest of the team was 41-for-101/.406).

TEAM RANKS – Cooper leads the Irish in 10 total categories: batting (.426), slugging (.708), on-base (.514), OPS (1.212), HRs (9), runs (50), hits (61), TBs (102), leadoff on-base pct. (.593) and batting vs. RHPs (.443) ... he also ranks 2nd on the team in doubles (12), walks (23) and stolen bases (8), plus 3rd in RBI (32), and 4th in batting with runners on base (.397), hit-by-pitch (5) and batting vs. LHPs (.368) ... he has struck out just 10 times all season (in 172 plate appearances, for nearly 18 PAs per K), owns the team's 2nd-best plate-discipline ratio (+18; 23 BB+5 HBP-10 Ks) and actually is batting 75 points higher this season vs. RHPs (.443) than LHPs (.368).

PAIR OF LONG HIT STREAKS – Craig Cooper's 13-game hit streak near the end of the 2005 season and his recent 21-game tear made him the third player in the 12-year Paul Mainieri era to post multiple hit streaks of 13-plus games ... centerfielder Steve Stanley had a 16-game hit streak in 2000 and hit safely in 13 straight games during the 2002 season while another former ND All-American, second baseman Steve Sollmann, had 13- and 15-game hit streaks during the 2003 season.

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.

NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT SHINES AGAIN – Craig Cooper previously earned a national honor at the end of the 2005 regular season, when the National Collegiate Baseball Writers of America named him their national hitter of the week ... Cooper batted 13-for-22 (.565) in that May 16-21, 2005, stretch that included one game at Pittsburgh, two versus #17 USC and a three-game series with West Virginia (13 RBI, 8 R, 2 HR, 3 2B, 2 BB, HBP, SB, 2 Ks), as the Irish closed 5-1 to roll into the postseason ... five other recent ND players have received national weekly honors ... RHP **Aaron Heilman** was named the *Collegiate Baseball* national pitcher of the week twice during his junior season in 2000, after a 12-K game in a 6-4 win over Georgia (March 9, at the Metrodome) and an 18-K game in a 3-1, 10-inning win at West Virginia (April 15) ... then-sophomore RF **Brian Stavisky** opened the '01 season by batting .692 (9-for-13) and reaching base 10 consecutive times at the Mississippi State Classic, earning the weekly hitter honor from the NCBWA and CB's national player-of-the-week award ... the 25-1 win over South Alabama in the '02 NAAs resulted in then-sophomore 2B **Steve Sollmann** (6-for-7, 7 RBI, 6 R, HR, 2 3B) and then-freshman RHP **Grant Johnson** (1-hitter, 8 Ks, BB, HBP, 30 BF) earning the respective player/hitter and pitcher-of-the-week awards from the NCBWA and CB ... more recently, current junior catcher **Sean Gaston** earned the NCBWA hitter-of-the-week honor after opening his career by batting 10-for-12 during 2004 games played in Boca Raton, Fla., vs. Winthrop, Florida Memorial and Minnesota (6 RBI, 7 R, 3 2B, 2 SB).

AWARDS PILE UP FOR IRISH – Notre Dame players have combined for more 2006 BIG EAST player-of-the-week awards (3) than any other team while the Irish have totaled five player or pitcher weekly awards from the BIG EAST this season (UConn and Cincinnati are next, with three each) ... Craig Cooper's first BIG EAST weekly award of the 2006 season came on April 10, after ND's 5-0 week that included wins over Chicago State and Ball State, plus the 3-0 sweep at South Florida (he hit 12-for-20 that week, with 5 RBI, 10 R, HR, 3B, 2 2B, 3 BB, 2 SB, K) ... junior OF **Danny Dressman** earned the March 13th honor after opening the Spring Break trip in San Antonio by batting 7-for-12 in wins over Texas A&M, Iowa and Illinois (8 RBI, 2 R) ... senior LHP **Tom Thornton** has been named BIG EAST pitcher of the week twice this season, after beating Indiana State on Feb. 23 (3-0, in Millington, Tenn.; 7 IP, 5 H, 0 BB, 5 Ks) and then hurling a 5-hit shutout vs. Southern Illinois on March 19, in San Antonio (2 Ks, 0 BB, 84 pitches).

THREE-TIME HONOREE – Craig Cooper's three career BIG EAST player-of-the-week honors tie him for second-most in BIG EAST history (four former ND standouts also collected three weekly player honors from the BIG EAST) ... in addition to his pair of 2006 weekly honors noted above, Cooper previously was named BIG EAST player of the week for the final week of the 2005 regular season (the same stretch that earned the national honor cited above) ... former Boston College outfielder Jason Delaney holds the record for most career BIG EAST player-of-the-week honors (5), while former Virginia Tech 2B Marc Tugwell totaled three awards, as did four former ND greats: OF Brian Stavisky (4/24/00, 2/19/01, 4/2/01), SS Alec Porzel (5/0/00, 4/15/01, 5/7/01), 2B Steve Sollmann (2/24, 3/17 and 5/19 in '03) and SS/3B Matt Macri (4/21/03, 4/5/04, 5/17/04) ... Cooper is the only repeat honoree this season and could join Sollmann as the only position player in BIG EAST history to receive three weekly awards in the same season ... a total of 20 Notre Dame players - including current junior catcher Sean Gaston (3/1/04) and current senior SS Greg Lopez (4/19/04) - now have combined to earn 34 BIG EAST baseball player-of-the-week awards, since Notre Dame joined the BIG EAST in 1995-96 ... the ND program also has produced 31 total BIG EAST pitcher-of-the-week recipients in the past 11 years, including five honors for current senior LHP Tom Thornton (2nd-most all-time, behind 10 by former ND ace Aaron Heilman) ... ND's previous all-time BIG EAST player-of-the-week recipients include the five three-time honorees (Stavisky, Porzel, Sollmann, Macri and Cooper) - plus five two-time recipients: catcher Jeff Wagner (4/7/97, 5/5/97), SS/3B Brant Ust (4/3/98, 3/29/99), 1B Jeff Felker (4/15, 5/12), catcher Paul O'Toole (5/13/00, 4/1/02) and CF Steve Stanley (2/26, 4/23) ... the other seven ND position players who have received weekly BIG EAST honors include catcher Mike Amrhein (3/17/97), OF Allen Greene (4/28/97), SS J.J. Brock (3/16/98), catcher Mike Knecht (5/4/98), 3B/C Andrew Bushey (2/25/02), 1B Joe Thaman (5/13/02) and 3B Matt Edwards (4/7/03), plus Gaston and Lopez.

IN-STATE BATTLES – After the season-opening win over Indiana State and the recent wins over Valparaiso, Ball State, Manchester, IPFW and Purdue, Notre Dame now owns a 54-10 record (.841) vs. fellow Indiana-based schools during the Paul Mainieri era (since '95), with games versus: Valparaiso (11-1), Butler (7-0), Manchester (7-0), Purdue (7-2), IUPUI (5-0), Indiana Tech (4-1), Indiana (3-0), Indianapolis (2-0), IPFW (3-0), Indiana St. (2-1), Ball State (3-4) and Evansville (1-1).

ECK-CELLENT – Notre Dame recently posted the program's 300th win in 13 seasons at Eck Stadium (now 308-67-1), winning better than 82% of the games in the home facility ... the only teams with more than three wins at Eck vs. ND: St. John's (5-10), West Virginia (5-8), Miami, Fla. (4-1), Ball State (4-3) and Rutgers (4-11).

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).

23-GAME WIN STREAK OVERVIEW – The Irish hit .353 during their record-setting 23-game win streak from March 25-April 25, averaging 8.6 runs per game with a .499 team slugging pct. (20 HR, 6 3B, 44 2B), a .442 on-base pct. (106 BB, 31 HBP, 88 Ks), 30 stolen bases and 32 sac. bunts ... the ND pitchers owned a 2.81 staff ERA during the win streak (79 total runs allowed/3.43 per game), with a .227 opp. batting avg., a 3-to-1 K-to-walk ratio (192/62) and 36 more innings pitched (208) than hits allowed (172, with just 5 HR) ... ND had a .972 fielding pct. in the win streak (24 Es) ...

top hitters in the win streak included:

Craig Cooper..... .476, 40-for-84, 27 RBI, 9 HR, 3B, 8 2B, 32 R, 12 BB, 3HBP, 5 Ks, 6 SB
Greg Lopez..... .440, 33-for-75, 20 RBI, 17 R, 3B, 4 2B, 4 BB, 3 HBP, 4 K, 2 SAC, 2 SB
Brett Lilley..... .418, 28-for-67, 12 RBI, 15 R, 2 2B, 15 HR, 3 3B, 6 2B, 5 SAC, 2 SB

top pitchers in the win streak included:

Wade Korpi..... 0.26 ERA, 4-0, 5 GS, 34.2 IP, 44 Ks, 10 BB, 14 H/.125 opp. avg.
Jess Stewart 1.12, 3-0, 8 GP, 16 IP, 9 Ks, 3 BB 16 H/.262
Kyle Weiland 1.93, 2-0, 10 GP, 6 SV, 14 IP, 10 Ks, 5 BB, 13 H/.245, 10 Ks, 5 BB

The streak included 12 blowout wins (by 5-plus runs) and the Irish scored 14 times in the first inning ... ND totaled 0-1 errors in 18 of the games during the win streak ... the Irish outhit the opponents in 20 of the 23 games during the streak, reached on 48% of the time when leading off the inning and batted .366 with runners in scoring position ... ND dominated the middle innings during the win streak, with a 104-12 scoring edge from the 4th to the 6th innings (37-3, 37-2, 30-7) .. the win streak spanned 31 days and included and was part of 19 straight wins at Eck Stadium (18).

Longest Winning Streaks in Notre Dame Athletics History (for sports with team-based competition)

33 – Softball (March 28-May 10, 2001), ranked #8, ended with 2-1 loss to Seton Hall in BIG EAST Tournament opener
26 – Men’s Soccer (Sept. 20, 1977 - Oct. 3, 1978) ... first two seasons, several games vs. non-Div. I teams
24 – Women’s Soccer (Aug. 27-Nov. 24, 2000), earned #1 rank early in season, lost 2-1 to UNC in NCAA semifinals
23 – Baseball (March 25-April 26, 2006), ranked as high as #8, ended with 11-8 loss to Bowling Green
23 – Women’s Basketball (Nov. 11, 2000-Feb. 17, 2001), ranked #1, ended with 54-53 loss at #11 Rutgers
23 – Football (Sept. 10, 1988 - Nov. 25, 1989), ranked #1, lost 27-10 at #7 Miami in final game of regular season
22 – Men’s Basketball (final 11 games in 1932-33, first 11 in 1933-34)
22 – Men’s Basketball (1908-09)
21 – Football (Nov. 16, 1946 - Dec. 4, 1948)
20 – Softball (April 1-27, 2003)
20 – Women’s Basketball (Dec. 11, 1999-Feb. 26, 2000)
20 – Football (Oct. 5, 1929 - Oct. 10, 1931)
20 – Football (Oct. 4, 1919 - Oct. 8, 1921)

Other ND team-based sports top winning streaks (varsity seasons)

Volleyball – 17 (Oct. 24-Nov. 22, 1986)
Hockey – 14 (Dec. 11, 1987 - Feb. 13, 1988)
Women’s Lacrosse - 14 (April 22, 2003 - April 17, 2004)
Men’s Lacrosse - 9 (April 1-May 26, 2001 and March 18-May 1, 1992 and

Top Winning streaks for ND sports with individual-based competition

• Men’s Fencing has totaled 15 all-time win streaks of 20-plus dual matches (10 of 24 or better): 122 (‘75-‘80), 98 (‘84-‘88), 90 (‘00-‘04), 50 (‘90-‘93), 46 (‘89-‘90), 37 (‘97-‘98), 37 (‘93-‘95), 31 (‘67-‘68), 26 (‘73-‘74), 25 (‘57-‘59), 23 (‘99-‘00), 23 (‘81-‘82), 22 (‘83-‘84), 22 (‘04-‘05) and 21 (‘81).

• Women’s Fencing has seven all-time win streaks of 20-plus (five above 23): 75 (‘93-‘96), 42 (‘86-‘88), 41 (‘03-‘04), 38 (‘97-‘98), 35 (‘90-‘92), 26 (‘05-‘06) and 21 (‘89-‘90).

• Men’s Tennis had a 29-match win streak (May 5, 1965 - April 29, 1967) and a 23-match streak from March 28, 1971 - April 9, 1972.

• Women’s Swimming had a 16-match win streak from Nov. 4, 2000 - Oct. 30, 2002.

• Women’s Tennis: 20 (Sept. 9, 1979 - Oct. 4, 1980)

• Men’s Swimming: 11 Feb. 23, 1974 - Feb. 15, 1975

Note: no win streak data for teams that don’t typically compete head-to-head (cross country, track and field, golf, rowing)

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 was 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).

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, 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.

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.

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 **Sharp-ley** (Tom Sharp-ley, Spring Arbor) and freshman C **Mike Many** (Bob Many, Northern Illinois).

Longest Single-Season Win Streaks in Notre Dame History

23	2006 (March 25 – April 25) ... overall record was 21 from 1906-07
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)

SILVER STREAKS – Notre Dame now has totaled 11 double-digit win streaks in the Paul Mainieri era ... all but three (1997, 2000, '05) of the 12 Mainieri-era seasons have featured at least one double-digit winning streak (with two in both '98 and '04) ... the recent 23-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):

Double-Digit Win Streaks in the Mainieri Era

23	2006 (March 25 – April 25)
17	2003 (March 24 – April 14); 3rd-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
13	1998 (April 8-23)
12	2004 (April 29 – May-21)
11	2004 (March 24 – April 7) ... 1995 (April 13-23)
10	1999 (March 10-28) ... 1998 (March 26 – April 4) ... 1996 (March 24 – April 6)

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 .517 avg. in BIG EAST games (30-for-58).

IRISH TAKE 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 2005 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.

VETERAN LINEUP	Avg	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B/3B/HR	RBI	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	OB%	SH	SB	E
Cody Rizzo (Sr., RF/C)	.277	212/192	656	159	182	31/3/17	124	.412	49	77	119	.389	6	32-44	19
Greg Lopez (Sr., SS)	.306	210/197	673	116	206	28/2/4	127	.371	35	33	107	.362	30	7-15	57
Craig Cooper (Sr., 1B)	.352	200/171	650	162	229	45/5/26	153	.557	96	25	77	.451	10	44-61	8
Matt Bransfield (Sr., LF)	.324	163/139	516	98	167	37/4/17	116	.510	49	22	91	.397	8	5-9	4
Alex Nettey (Sr., CF)	.273	158/114	429	98	117	18/3/4	48	.357	30	38	57	.371	18	21-31	7
Danny Dressman (Jr., OF)	.311	119/74	315	65	98	15/3/0	57	.378	48	5	47	.406	20	8-16	2
Sean Gaston (Jr., C)	.302	110/86	331	57	100	14/2/2	61	.375	25	4	34	.353	10	10-12	6
Brett Lilley (So., 3B)	.350	99/99	343	81	120	9/0/0	47	.376	52	40	47	.483	17	13-26	20
Ross Brezovsky (So., 2B)	.277	91/88	307	61	85	15/4/4	47	.391	33	9	59	.358	9	5-7	21
Jeremy Barnes (Fr., IF)	.285	37/34	144	26	41	8/1/1	25	.375	21	3	23	.385	2	7-11	5
TOTALS	.303	1,399/1,193	4,431	923	1,344	220/27/76	805	.416	438	256	662	.393	130	152-232	151

OUTFIELD OLD-TIMERS – 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 379 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) or the 30 LF starts this season by senior **Matt Bransfield**, who served mostly as a DH in 2003-06):

Career OF Starts	LF	CF	RF	Total
Cody Rizzo	13	33	106	152
Craig Cooper (1B in '06)	50	8	57	115
Alex Nettey	4	103	2	109
Steve Andres	60	0	2	62
Danny Dressman	10	31	19	60
Totals	137	175	186	498

IRISH QUICK NOTES – Craig Cooper and Brett Lilley both hit 9-for-13 in the 3-0 sweep at South Florida ... ND’s recent streak of nine straight games with double-digit hits is unmatched in the program’s recorded history ... the ND staff’s streak of not allowing a home run ended in the Sunday game at USF (first vs. the Irish in 25 games and 943 batters faced) ... 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 ... ND recently 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. (.972; 44 Es), with the 10 regular starters combining for just 30 Es at their normal positions (SS Greg Lopez has just 6 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 14 times in the win streak, with seven of those deficits each lasting a half-inning, three lasting 1.5 (only two have gone longer than 3.5 innings, none longer than 4.5) ... ND is 21-1 in its past 22 overall games vs. the BIG EAST ... Kyle Weiland (10-of-11) already has bested Aaron Heilman’s ND record for saves by a freshman (9, in ‘98) ... ND sold an Eck Stadium record 3,028 tickets for the Friday-night game vs. Pittsburgh – then bested that with 3,052 for the St. John’s doubleheader and 3,101 for the third game of the SJU series (capped by 3,507 in the opener vs. Rutgers, then more than 3,200 in both the second and third games of that series) ... the opener vs. Pitt saw the ND staff’s shutout streak end at 22 innings (first earned run allowed in 33 IP) ... Paul Mainieri is 520-204-2 at ND, 851-483-3 overall in 24 seasons ... 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 (matched by a 9-run explosion in the 6th inning of game-2 vs. Rutgers ... ND recently matched its season-high hit total (17) in three straight games.

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.

Baseball SID Contact Pete LaFleur
 Sports Information Office... (574) 631-7516
 LaFleur’s E-mail lafleur.4@nd.edu
 Sports Information Fax (574) 631-7941
 ND Sports Hotline (574) 631-3000
 Website www.und.com

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)

HBP HIGHWAY RETURNS – The ND batters were hit-by-pitch just six times in the first seven games of '06 but now are averaging 1.6 HBPs per game (66 in 42 GP) ... senior CF **Alex Nettey** leads all BIG EAST players with 19 HBPs (5th in nation this season and 5th in ND history; with his 38 career HBPs now 3rd all-time among ND players) ... senior RF/C **Cody Rizzo** (7 HBP in '06) ranks 3rd in NCAA history with 77 career HBPs ... sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (10 HBP in '06) already is 2nd in ND history with 40 career HBPs ... senior SS **Greg Lopez** (33), senior 1B **Craig Cooper** (25) and senior LF/DH **Steve Andres** (24) rank 7th, 12th and 13th on the ND career HBP list ... ND's six fourth-year senior position players have combined for 219 career HBPs (22 for LF **Matt Bransfield**).

NCAA RECORD BOOK CAREER HIT-BY-PITCH

- 92 – Tony Hurtado (San Francisco; '97-'00); 221 GP (2.40 gms/HBP)
- 81 – Gabe Somarriba (Florida Atlantic; '99-'02); 226 GP (2.79 gms/HBP)
- 77* – Cody Rizzo (Notre Dame; '03-) ; 212 GP (2.75 gms/HBP)**
- 74 – Jeff Ontiveros (Texas; 1999-2002); 258 GP (3.49 gms/HBP)

NCAA RECORD BOOK PLAYER SEASON HIT-BY-PITCH

- 33 Andrew Slater (Richmond, '97)
- 32 Gary Morris (Elon, '05)
- 32 Steve Dembrowski (F. Dickinson, '79)
- 30 Brett Lilley (Notre Dame, '05)**
- 29 Ryder Mathias (Wake Forest, '05)
- 29 Chris Nelson (Southern Utah, '02)
- 29 Jonah Martin (Arizona State, '00)
- 29 Corky Miller (Nevada, '98)
- 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	42	66 (1.57)

Notes: ND is on pace for 101 HBPs this season (in 64 GP) ... the Irish have averaged 1.80 HBPs per game during the past three seasons (302, in 168 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.

Notre Dame Career Hit-By-Pitch

- 1. Cody Rizzo (2003-) 77**
- 2. Brett Lilley (2005-) 40**
- 3. Alex Nettey (2003-) 38**
 Craig DeSensi (1992-95)..... 38
- Dan Bautch (1990-92) 36
 Greg Layson (1991-94) 36
- 7. Greg Lopez (2003-) 33**
 Ed Lund (1988-90) 32
 Eric Danapilis (1990-93)..... 32
- Paul O'Toole (1999-2002) 28
- Javi Sanchez (2001-04)..... 27
- 12. Craig Cooper (2003-) 25**
- 13. Steve Andres (2003-) 24**
- Matt Bransfield (2003-) 22**

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 Vioria (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 2005 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) ... 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 ... the 2005 team’s overall clutch-hitting score was 908 but the 2006 team has gone well beyond that, checking in at 974 thanks to a big jump in leadoff on-base pct. (.406 to .436) and batting with runners in scoring position (.309 to .345) ... junior OF **Danny Dressman** leads the ’06 team with a 1,261 clutch-hitting score – nearly double his 673 in ’05, with huge jumps in all three categories (up 227 points in leadoff OB, 134 in batting with RISP and 182 in 2-out hitting) ... Cooper’s CH score (1,059) is a bit below his ’05 number but he has made a 174-point jump in leadoff OB (.419 to .593) ... senior SS **Greg Lopez** owns a 1,094 CH score that is 308 points higher than his 2005 mark, mostly due to a 184-point rise in his batting with RISP (team-best .426).

CLUTCH-HITTING CHART (pre-IPFW; team rank in parentheses)

	<i>Leadoff On-Base Pct.</i>	<i>Batting w/ RISP</i>	<i>2-Out Batting</i>	<i>Clutch Hit Tot.</i>
Danny Dressman	.409 (.307 adjusted)	(2) .420	(1) .432	1,261
(2005)	(13) .182 (.137)	(8) .286	(9) .250	673
Greg Lopez	(5) .412 (.309)	(1) .426	(3) .359	1,094
(2005)	(8) .353 (.265)	(10) .242	(7) .279	786
Craig Cooper	(1) .593 (.445)	.325	.289	1,059
(2005)	(5) .419 (.314)	(2) .434	(2) .369	1,117
Brett Lilley	(3) .464 (.348)	.333	(2) .371	1,052
(2005)	(3) .515 (.386)	(1) .448	(1) .439	1,273
Matt Bransfield	.389 (.292)	(3) .368	(4) .346	1,006
(2005)	(2) .542 (.407)	(6) .314	(6) .286	1,007
Jeremy Barnes	(4) .441 (.331)	(5) .356	.279	966
Cody Rizzo	.353 (.265)	(4) .364	.283	912
(2005)	(4) .436 (.327)	(12) .190	(10) .246	763
Sean Gaston	(5) .400 (.300)	.308	.289	897
(2005)	(7) .357 (.268)	(4) .322	(5) .302	892
Ross Brezovsky	.382 (.287)	.292	(5) .316	895
(2005)	(10) .298 (.224)	(7) .288	(10) .246	758
Alex Nettey	.405 (.304)	.286	.283	873
(2005)	(6) .418 (.314)	(9) .273	(12) .219	806
Steve Andres	(2) .500 (.375)	.105	.111	597
(2005)	(11) .286 (.215)	(11) .220	(8) .275	710
TEAM	.436 (.327)	.345	.302	974
(2005)	.406 (.311)	.309	.294	908

LORDS OF DISCIPLINE – The 2006 Notre Dame offense owns a +56 plate-discipline ratio (walks + hit-by-pitch - strikeouts) that is more than triple the 2005 team's PDR (+17) and is on pace for +85 over 64 games ... the Irish batters have boosted their walks (3.5/gm in '05 to 4.2/gm in '06) while hitting at a .327 clip (32 points higher than in '05) ... the ND offense also is averaging nearly one fewer K per game this season (4.4) than in 2005 (5.2) ... the biggest improvements in PDR have been seen by junior OF Danny **Dressman** (up 25; from -6 to +19), sophomore 2B Ross **Brezovsky** (24; from -20 to +4), senior SS Greg **Lopez** (18; from -17 to +1), senior CF Alex **Nettey** (16; from -2 to +14) and junior C Sean **Gaston** (14; from -7 to +7) ... Dressman is on pace to finish at +29, which would match Brett Lilley's team-best +29 in from the 2005 season:

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)	25	4	10	+19
(2005)	5	1	12	-6
Craig Cooper ('06)	23	5	10	+18
(2005)	32	14	22	+24
Brett Lilley ('06)	18	10	14	+14
(2005)	34	27	32	+29
Alex Nettey ('06)	9	19	14	+14
(2005)	13	14	29	-2
Sean Gaston ('06)	15	0	8	+7
(2005)	5	4	16	-7
Ross Brezovsky ('06)	16	5	17	+4
(2005)	16	4	40	-20
Greg Lopez ('06)	6	4	9	+1
(2005)	10	16	43	-17
Jeremy Barnes ('06)	21	3	23	+1
Cody Rizzo ('06)	12	7	21	-2
(2005)	22	21	35	+8
Steve Andres ('06)	8	2	14	-4
(2005)	21	6	20	+7
Matt Bransfield ('06)	14	3	25	-8
(2005)	10	7	14	+3
TEAM TOTALS	175	66	185	+56
(2005)	220	125	328	+17

* Lilley, Cooper and Matt Edwards (+17) were a combined +70 in '05 (rest of team -53)

IRISH POST 500th WIN OF MAINIERI ERA – The 6-3 win over Georgetown on March 26 was Paul Mainieri's 500th victory in 11-plus seasons at ND (now 521-205-2/.718; 852-484-3/.638 in 24 overall seasons) ... the Mainieri era has included an average of 44-plus wins per season, eight trips to the NAAs, 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).

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

- 21 – Craig Cooper (2006; Sr., 1B)**
 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 (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
SJU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Nettey
SJU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Gaston	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
SJU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
TOL	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
IPFW	Cooper	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Lopez	Gaston	Nettey	Mendiola	Rizzo
RU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Brezovsky	Bransfield	Gaston	Lopez	Nettey
RU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
RU	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
PUR	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Lopez	Rizzo
BG	Cooper	Lilley	Dressman	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Brezovsky	Nettey	Rizzo

Batting Order and Position Combination Notes

- The first 32 games featured **32 different batting orders** (now 36 in 42) ... ND is 29-4 with Cooper at 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
- The first 32 games featured **25 different position combinations** (excluding pitchers), now **28** different position combos in 42 GP.
- **11** different ND players have hit as the **DH** this season: Steve Andres, Mike Dury, Jeremy Barnes, Eddy Mendiola, Brett Lilley, Sean Gaston, Danny Dressman, Evan Sharpley, Ross Brezovsky, Matt Bransfield and Greg Lopez.
- The Irish are **31-3 when Barnes has started**, including a 20-1 combined record when he has started in the middle infield (11-0 at 2B, 4-1 at SS) or at third base (5-0), plus 2-1 with him at first base and 9-1 as the DH ... ND is **12-3 when Rizzo has started at catcher** (he has caught **5 games by Manship**, 4 by Gruener, 3 by Samardzija, 2 by Phelps and just a single game by Korpi).
- The **DH** spot has managed to hit **just .225** this season (31-for-138), with most of the hits coming from Bransfield (9-for-17, .529) or Barnes (9-for-34, .265) ... those two are batting a combined .353 as the DH while the other nine who have DH'd are a combined 13-for-87 (.149) ... **Dressman is hitting .407 as an outfielder** (26-for-43, 27 RBI, 26 R) but is 0-for-16 as the DH (0 RBI, R) while Gaston is 2-for-15 as the DH (.153), Andres 3-for-19 (.158), Dury 2-for-12 (.167) and Brezovsky 4-for-16 (.250) ... **Barnes is batting just 3-for-22 (.136)** when playing as the ND shortstop this season, compared to **.312** (38-for-122) at **all other positions**.

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	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	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
PITT	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Manship
PITT	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	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	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	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
SJU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Brezovsky	Samardzija
SJU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Bransfield	Thornton
SJU	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Manship
TOL	Gaston	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Barnes	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Bransfield	Korpi
IPFW	Rizzo	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Mendiola	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Gaston	Gruener
RU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Brezovsky	Samardzija
RU	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Barnes	Manship
RU	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Dressman	Nettey	Rizzo	Bransfield	Thornton
PUR	Gaston	Cooper	Barnes	Lopez	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Rizzo	Dressman	Korpi
BG	Rizzo	Cooper	Brezovsky	Barnes	Lilley	Bransfield	Nettey	Dressman	Gaston	Gruener

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..	39	.	.	2	.	.	.	32	.	.	.	5	.	.	1	14	10	14	.	.	.
4 Greg Lopez.....	38	.	.	.	.	.	37	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	4	2	.	31	1
6 Danny Dressman...	38	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	2	23	.	4	.	19	15	2	1	.	.	.	1
16 Alex Nettey.....	37	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	37	.	.	.	3	.	.	1	.	7	15	5	6
2 Brett Lilley.....	36	.	.	.	.	35	.	.	.	.	.	1	4	22	7	.	.	.	3	.	.
9 Craig Cooper.....	36	.	.	36	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	33	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
7 Ross Brezovsky...	35	.	.	.	31	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	2	13	6	13	1	.
17 Cody Rizzo.....	35	.	15	.	.	.	.	.	3	17	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	34
20 Jeremy Barnes....	34	.	.	3	11	5	5	.	.	.	.	10	2	.	12	14	5	.	1	.	.
11 Sean Gaston.....	31	.	27	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	1	2	6	8	6	7	.	.
36 Steve Andres.....	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	.	6	.	.	2	3	1	4	.	.	.
44 Mike Dury.....	5	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	2	.
14 Eddy Mendiola....	3	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	.

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%t 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; double major in anthropology and film-television-and-theater), sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (3.64; accounting), senior SS **Greg Lopez** (3.39; pre-professional studies and anthropology), senior LF/DH **Matt Bransfield** (3.36; sociology), junior catcher **Sean Gaston** (3.36; political science and history) and sophomore 2B **Ross Brezovsky** (3.26; economics) ... 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.

HOMESTAND #1 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 that first homestand included:

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
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 first 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).

ND 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 HB, 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, 3-0 record (9 GP/6 GS, 42 Ks, 20 BB, 26 H)

Eddie Smith (DuPage Dragons; Central Illinois Collegiate League) – stole 4

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 3.54 bullpen ERA, a .252 opponent batting avg., a 2-to-1 K-to-walk ratio (106/51) and 9 more innings pitched (132.1) than hits allowed (124) ... the relievers have allowed nearly one-half (28-of-67; 42%) of inherited baserunners to score and have struggled vs. first batters faced, allowing a .337 batting avg. (25-for-74) with 15 runs scored, 6 walks and 4 hit-batters among those 92 first batters (14 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)
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
Dury.....	2.60	2-0	16	0	17.1	11	6/5	4	11	3	0	0	60	.183	1	2	5-17	2-11, BB, R, 4K, SAC, SF
Elam.....	2.70	0-0	8	0	10.0	6	4/3	6	15	1	0	0	36	.167	0	3	1-4	2-6, BB, HB, 3 R, K
Weiland....	2.93	2-3	19	11-12	27.2	25	11/9	14	23	1	1	1	99	.253	4	4	6-7	7-17, BB, HB, 4R, 2K
Stewart....	3.00	4-1	14	1-1	30.0	34	15/10	8	18	5	1	1	119	.286	1	2	9-19	4-10, 2R, 2 SAC, SF
Graffy....	3.14	1-0	6	0	14.1	15	5/5	2	6	3	1	0	52	.288	1	0	0-2	3-6, R
Phelps....	3.27	1-0	6	0	11.0	10	7/4	6	10	1	0	0	43	.233	1	2	3-4	2-5, BB, R, K
Williamson.	7.82	0-0	15	0	12.2	15	16/11	6	15	2	0	1	48	.313	1	4	3-11	2-12, BB, 2HB, 3R, 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.....	3.54	10-4	82	12-13	132.1	124	69/52	51	106	18	4	3	492	.252	11	19	28-67	25-74/.337, 15 R (42%) 6 BB, 4 HB, 14 K

IRS Pct.: Williamson 27%, Dury 29%, Stewart 47%, Weiland 86%
 First Batter Batting Avg.: Williamson .167, Weiland .400

GIVING BACK THE INHERITANCE – Junior RHP **Joey Williamson** has taken the mound with 11 batters on base this season and has allowed just three of them to score (27%) ... Williamson has been particularly strong versus his first batters faced, allowing just 2-for-12 batting with six strikeouts in those situations (BB, 2 HBP, 3 R).

SUPER SAVER – Closer **Kyle Weiland** (11) already has bested Aaron Heilman's ND record for saves by a freshman (9, in '98) ... Weiland converted each of his first nine save chances (now 11-of-12) and is tied for third on the ND season saves list, behind J.P. Gagne (13, in '03) and Ryan Doherty (12, in '04) ... he typically has done better at the end of his outings, allowing 6-of-7 inherited runners to score while first batters faced are hitting 7-for-16 (.438) vs. him (BB, HBP, 4 R, 2 Ks) ... after the first batters in his outings, Weiland has held opposing hitters to a combined .215 batting avg. (17-for-79).

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 key comeback 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 ... his 2006 season stats include a 2.06 ERA in 16 appearances and 17.1 innings (11 H/.183 opp. avg., 11 Ks, 4 BB), with a 1.87 career ERA in 57.2 IP (38 Ks, 15 BB, 50 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).

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.

SCORING STREAK ENDS AT 215 – The second-longest scoring streak in Notre Dame baseball history (215 games, dating back to 2002) ended in the early-season loss to the host team Minnesota at the Dairy Queen Classic (8-0; followed by a 2-0 loss to Arizona) ... 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).