

2006 SCHEDULE (19-8)

FEBRUARY * – BIG EAST game

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

MARCH

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

MAY

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

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 South Florida ... April 7 – 9)

KEY SERIES - Notre Dame (19-8, 5-1 BIG EAST) returns to the road for the fifth roadtrip (spanning six weekends) in seven weeks of play this season, with a series at South Florida (14-16, 5-4) ... the Irish are riding a nine-game winning streak and have gone 17-3 since a challenging first two weeks of the season (2-5) ... St. John's (6-0) leads the BIG EAST, followed by ND and West Virginia (both 5-1), UConn (6-3), Louisville (4-2) and USF ... the Irish will return to Eck Stadium next week for a 12-game homestand ... ND's weekend rotation is set to include junior RHPs Jeff Samardzija (April 6; 7:00 EDT) and Jeff Manship (April 8; noon), with senior LHP Tom Thornton pitching the middle game (April 7; 1:00).

IRISH QUICK NOTES – Notre Dame sold an Eck Stadium record 3,028 tickets for last Friday's game vs. Pittsburgh ... that game saw the ND staff's shutout streak end at 22 innings (first earned run allowed in 33 IP) ... Craig Cooper hit 7-for-12 vs. Pitt, owns a .461 career batting avg. vs. the Panthers (18-for-39, 10 RBI, 4 HR, 2 2B, 5 BB) and is 3rd in BIG EAST history with a .425 career batting avg. in conference games (77-for-181) ... Cooper has reached on 14-of-18 leadoff trips in the 1st inning this season and is batting .516 overall when leading off any inning (.583 on-base pct.) ... Jeremy Barnes already has made nine starts in the 3-hole (most by an ND freshman since Matt Macri's eight starts as the 3-hole hitter in '02) ... Barnes recently had an 8-game hitting streak and hit the 2-run, 9th-inning single that completed the sweep of Pitt (9-8) ... ND is 7-1 this season when hitting a home run, 0-3 when allowing a HR ... the ND pitchers have not allowed a HR in the past 23-plus games and are allowing just 0.11 HRs/gm, on pace to break the team record (0.16, in '75) ... the Irish are 14-2 this season when collecting double-digit hits ... David Gruener, Brett Graffy, David Phelps, Sam Elam and Mike Dury combined for the 3-hit shutout of Valparaiso (12-0; 9 Ks, 3 BB) while Wade Korpi went the distance in the 3-hitter vs. Western Michigan (2-0; career-best 11 Ks), ND's first back-to-back shutouts since '02 ... ND has lost just 13 series in 11 BIG EAST seasons, winning 68 (43 sweeps) ... the Irish outhit Pitt .358-.237 in the series ... junior RHP Jeff Manship has posted 8-plus Ks five times in '06 ... junior RHP Jeff Samardzija matched his career-high with 8 Ks vs. Pitt ... Greg Lopez (.458), Cooper (.429) and Barnes (.417) are batting above .400 in '06 BIG EAST play ... the recent 6-3 win over Georgetown was Paul Mainieri's 500th at ND (now 507-204-2; 838-483-3 overall in 24 seasons) ... the Mainieri era has included an average of 44-plus wins per season, eight NCAA trips, eight conference titles, 43 players drafted/signed as free-agents, 12 All-America seasons and nine Academic All-America honors (all 63 of his four-year players have graduated) ... the Irish played 17 of their first 20 on the road but now are playing 19 of 22 at home ... Cody Rizzo is 3rd in NCAA history with 75 career HBPs ... ND has opened on the road in nine of its 11 BIG EAST seasons (7-4 in BIG EAST openers) ... the Irish went 7-1 in San Antonio during Spring Break, sparked by a rally vs. #15 Texas A&M (5-4) ... ND suffered several tough early losses – including a pair of one-run games in Millington, Tenn., in which the Irish held late leads but gave up costly unearned runs (7-6 vs. Memphis, in 10; 4-3 vs. Oklahoma) and three games at Minnesota's DQ Classic in which ND batted a combined 3-for-23 with runners in scoring position ... two of the DQC losses came vs. pitchers ranked among the top-15 pro prospects in all of college baseball (Nebraska's Joba Chamberlain and Arizona's Mark Melancon) ... the Irish – picked in '06 to win the program's sixth BIG EAST regular-season title – won an unprecedented fourth straight BIG EAST tournament title in '05 and advanced to an NCAA Regional final for the sixth straight season (38-24-1) ... ND has posted 15-plus hits four times in '06 ... the Irish entered '06 with the nation's 7th-best win pct. of the 2000s (now .728; 296-110-2) ... the veteran Irish lineup returned 8-of-9 position starters.

RADIO, LIVE-STATS, TEXT-MESSAGES 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 (including the USF series) ... 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).

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.

THE SERIES – USF beat ND in the only previous game in the series, 6-1 on March 3, 2001, at Florida Power Park in St. Petersburg (spring training home of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays) ... top players for USF that day included RHP John Vique (CG, 5 H, 2 BB, 2 Ks) ... the game was tight before USF scored twice in the 8th and three more times in the 9th ... ND was ranked 10th in the nation at the time of the game ... ND's top hitter Brian Staivsky did not play due to injury while RHP Danny Tamayo had no decision (7 IP, R, 4 H, 2 BB, 4 Ks) ... J.P. Gagne took the loss (2 IP, 5 R, 7 H) ... USF became the 271st all-time opponent in ND baseball history.

COMMON OPPONENT – Notre Dame beat Illinois earlier this season in San Antonio (4-2) while USF went 1-3 vs. the Illini (4-2, 1-5, 3-7, 6-7) ... ND beat the Illinois ace, senior RHP Brian Blomquist (7 IP, 5 H, 4 R, BB, 5 Ks), while USF lost to Blomquist in the 5-1 game (6 IP, 4 H, 0 R, 0 BB, 3 Ks) ... USF opened BIG EAST play 2-1 vs. UConn, then swept Seton Hall and was swept by Cincinnati ... other noteworthy results for USF include a 2-1 series vs. Northwestern, a 6-5 loss to Florida and an 11-0 loss earlier this week to Central Florida.

PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

Fri., April 6 – ND jr. RHP **Jeff Samardzija** (3.16 ERA, 3-1, 18 Ks, 15 BB, 34 H/.252 opp. avg., 37 IP, 6 GS) and USF jr. RHP **Casey Hudspeth** (3.99, 3-3, 57 Ks, 20 BB, 47 H/.250, 49.2 IP, 8 GS)

Sat., April 7 – ND sr. LHP **Tom Thornton** (3.02 ERA, 4-1, 31 Ks, 3 BB, 37 H/.243 opp. avg., 41.2 IP, 6 GS) and USF soph. RHP **Daniel Thomas** (3.77, 1-3, 37 Ks, 26 BB, 54 H/.303, 45.1 IP, 8 GS)

Sun., April 8 – ND jr. RHP **Jeff Manship** (2.13 ERA, 3-1, 50 Ks, 9 BB, 28 H/.199 opp. avg., 38 IP, 6 GS) and USF soph. LHP **David Billardello** (3.83, 1-1, 31 Ks, 17 BB, 51 H/.287, 44.2 IP, 9 GP/7 GS)

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

Pos.	Player	Yr./Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2006 Statistics
C	#11 Sean Gaston*	Jr./6-0/175	Brownsburg, IN	.242, 12 RBI, 3B, 2 2B
1B	#9 Craig Cooper	Sr./6-2/210	Plainview, NY	.388, 27 R, 8 RBI, 2 HR
2B	#7 Ross Brezovsky*	So./5-10/170	Naples, FL	.346, 2 HR, 18 RBI, 5 2B
SS	#4 Greg Lopez	Sr./6-0/190	Upper Arlington, OH	.330, 24 RBI, just 3 Es
3B	#2 Brett Lilley*	Fr./5-7/165	North Canton, OH	.277, 13 R, 8 RBI, 8 HBP
LF	#12 Matt Bransfield	Sr./6-1/200	Englewood, CO	.333, 2 HR, 17 RBI, 11 2B
CF	#16 Alex Nettey	Sr./6-1/200	Dolton, IL	.257, 19 R, 6 SB, 14 HBP
RF	#17 Cody Rizzo	Sr./6-1/195	Temecula, CA	.241, 19 RBI, 2 HR, 7 SB
IF/DH#20	Jeremy Barnes	Fr./5-11/185	Garland, TX	.296, 14 RBI, 7 2B, 11 BB
OF/DH#8	Danny Dressman	Jr./5-9/180	San Jose, CA	.403, 17 RBI, 2 3B, 16 BB

TALE OF THE TAPE

	ND	USF
2005 Final Records	38-24-1	33-31
Lettermen Ret./Lost	21/7	21/8

CURRENT (prior to April 7 game; BIG EAST rank in parentheses)

Batting Average	(3) .307	(6) .287
Runs Per Nine Innings	6.3	5.6
Home Runs	(9) 10	(9) 10
Slugging Percentage	(4) .409	(8) .383
Batters' BB+HBP-K Margin	+19	-54
On-Base Percentage	(4) .400	(8) .370
Stolen Bases	(4) 38-60	(12) 17-33
Stolen Base Percentage	.633	.515
Team ERA	(3) 3.36	(6) 4.39
Opponent Batting Average	(3) .238	(8) .279
Pitchers' K-BB Ratio	2.8	1.9
Pitchers' Ks Per 9 Innings	8.1	8.0
Pitchers' BB Per 9 Innings	2.9	4.3
Fielding Pct. (Errors)	(3) .972 (29)	(9) .957 (52)
Double Plays Turned	(9) 21	(2) 33
Record at Home	8-1	12-9
Record on Road (incl. neutral)	11-7	2-7
Record in One-Run Games	3-2	6-6
Record in Extra Innings	0-2	2-2

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

IRISH POST 500th WIN OF MAINIERI ERA – The recent 6-3 win over Georgetown was Paul Mainieri's 500th victory in 11-plus seasons at ND (now 507-204-2; 838-483-3 in 24 overall seasons) ... the Mainieri era has included an average of 44-plus wins per season, eight trips to the NCAAs, eight conference titles, 43 players who have been drafted or signed as free-agents, 12 All-America seasons and nine Academic All-America honors (all 63 of his four-year players have graduated and 11 who signed professionally as juniors have returned to complete or near completion of their undergraduate requirements).

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

FOUR ACES – ND enters the weekend as the only team with four pitchers among the top-15 on the BIG EAST overall ERA charts: junior RHP Jeff Manship (5th, 2.13), sophomore LHP Wade Korpi (9th, 2.73), senior LHP Tom Thornton (12th, 3.02) and junior RHP Jeff Samardzija (15th, 3.16) ... their combined stats in 23 starts this season now include a 2.99 ERA, nearly a 4-to-1 K-to-walk ratio (141/36), a .266 opponent batting avg. and 25 more innings pitched (147.1) than hits allowed (122).

WILY CLOSER – Freshman RHP **Kyle Weiland** has covered on all eight of save opportunities ... his eight saves already are just one shy of the ND freshman record (9), set by Aaron Heilman in 1998 (when he led the nation with a 1.31 ERA) ... the eight saves also rank 7th on the ND single-season list, five back of J.P. Gagne's team record set in 2003.

NO BIG-FLY ZONE – The ND staff has yielded just three home runs all season and has not allowed a home run in the past 22-plus games, spanning 857 batters faced.

WADING IN – Sophomore LHP Wade Korpi failed to pick up the win over Ball State, despite departing the game with a 3-1 lead in the sixth ... Korpi struck out eight BSU batters – pushing his season total to 44 in 32 innings (12.4 Ks per 9 IP) – while allowing three hits and three walks in 5.2 innings ... Korpi entered the night with the 9th-best season ERA among BIG EAST pitchers (2.73), dropping that number to 2.53 (his other season stats include a .240 opp. batting avg., 44 Ks, just 11 walks and 26 hits allowed in 32 IP) ... his past two starts include a 0.61 ERA in 14.2 innings (19 Ks, 5 BB, 6 H/.125).

AWESOME IN APRIL – ND has won just 67% of its pre-April games in the Mainieri era (182-90-1) but now has won nearly 82% of its April games in those 12 seasons (213-51-1).

DOUBLE TRIPLES – The Irish have posted early two-run triples in each of the past two games (by Ross Brezovsky vs. Chicago State and Greg Lopez vs. Ball State).

HOT HITTERS – Ross Brezovsky and Craig Cooper both enter the USF series riding eight-game hitting streaks.

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 (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

LOPEZ JOINS WEEKLY DIARY STAFF FOR COLLEGE BASEBALL INSIDER

Notre Dame senior shortstop and second-year captain Greg Lopez is one of four players in all of Division I baseball who will be featured this season during a weekly diary feature on www.collegebaseballinsider.com ... check the CBI website and look for more on this diary series at und.com.

LANGFORD LOST FOR SEASON AFTER ELBOW SURGERY

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

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

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

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

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

ND BASEBALL AND ECK STADIUM FEATURED IN EA SPORTS GAME

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

FIRST-INNING FOCUS – Notre Dame’s impressive 1st-inning stats this season include a 29-8 scoring margin, with 1st-inning runs in 14 of the 27 games ... the Irish recently had a 7-game scoring streak in the 1st inning, longest by an ND team in the past five seasons (the 2004 team scored in the 1st inning of six straight games, the ’05 team in five straight) ... ND is batting a robust .364 as a team in the 1st inning this season, led by:

Craig Cooper688 (11-for-16).. 2 RBI, 10 R, HR, 5 2B, 1.188 slug.
4 BB, HBP, K, SF, .727 on-base

Sean Gaston500 (4-for-8)..... 6 RBI, 2 R, 3B, 2B, 2 BB, SF

Ross Brezovsky... .429 (3-for-7)..... 5 RBI, 2 R, 3B, 2B, BB, HBP, 2 Ks, SF

Matt Bransfield300 (3-for-10).... 3 RBI, 2B, 2 BB, HBP, 3 Ks, SAC

JUMPING ON TOP – Notre Dame’s best 1st-inning scoring margin of the Mainieri era (since ’95) came in 2001 (+48; 59-11) ... the recent streak of scoring 1st-inning runs in seven straight games was longest by an ND team since that 2001 team scored in eight straight, from April 21-29 of that season ... ND’s current +21 scoring margin in the 1st inning (29-8) is more than double that of the 2005 team (+9; 58-49) and would rank 5th-best by an Irish team in the Mainieri era (on pace for +49 in 63 games, which would best the 2001 team’s +48 as best in the Mainieri era) ... the current 1st-inning scoring ratio of 3.6 trails only the ’01 team’s 5.4 in Mainieri’s 12 seasons ... ND has finished with a positive 1st-inning scoring margin every season of the Mainieri era except 1998 (-12), with an average margin of +18 and avg. ratio of 1.9 ... the most 1st-inning runs ever scored by a Mainieri-era offense at ND are 75 (in ’04; 1.19/gm) while the fewest allowed are 11 (in ’01; 0.18/gm) ... ND’s current averages are 1.07 runs/gm and 0.30 runs allowed/gm in the 1st ... here’s a look at the Mainieri-era teams and their 1st-inning production:

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

IS THE EIGHTH ENOUGH? – The Irish have put away several games this season in the 8th, owning a 29-10 scoring edge in the inning (+19, the team’s second-best margin in any inning) ... ND is batting .384 (43-for-12) in the 8th inning this season, with a .500 team slugging pct. in the inning (HR, 2 3B, 6 2B) and a .458 on-base pct. (11 BB, 6 HBP) ... six ND regulars are batting .400 or better in the 8th inning this season:

Craig Cooper556 (5-for-9)..... 2 RBI, 4 R, HBP

Greg Lopez..... .556 (5-for-9)..... 4 RBI, 3 R, 2B, SF, GDP

Danny Dressman... .500 (7-for-14)..... RBI, 7 R, 2 3B, 2B, 3 BB, 2 Ks

Matt Bransfield500 (4-for-8)..... 3 RBI, 3 R, 2B, 2 BB, 2 Ks, SAC

Jeremy Barnes429 (3-for-7)..... 2 RBI, 4 R, 2B, BB

Alex Nettey400 (4-for-10)..... 2 RBI, 3 R, 3 HBP, 2 Ks

TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADOFF (MAN) – Senior 1B **Craig Cooper** shifted into the leadoff spot starting with the Texas A&M game (that opened the Spring Break trip) and responded with a nine-game hit streak that ended in an 0-for-1 game vs. Central Michigan (3 BB, SF) ... Cooper has reached base on 14-of-18 first-inning plate appearances since taking over the leadoff spot (4 walks, 4 singles, 4 doubles, home run, HBP) ... he also has reached on a team-best 59% of his overall plate appearances when leading off any inning.

BACK-TO-BACK BATTING TITLES FOR COOPER – Current senior 1B/OF **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.

ONE OF THE BEST THERE EVER WAS – Craig Cooper's late-season surge in 2005 also moved him into third place on the list for career batting average in BIG EAST games, entering 2006 at .420 (68-for-162) – now .425, 77-for-181 ... the only players in BIG EAST history to hit at a higher clip in conference action for their career are former Rutgers player Joe Cirone (.443, 51-for-115; '97-'00) and former Seton Hall standout Marteesee Robinson (.432, 83-for-192; '85-'87) ... Cooper could join Cirone as the only players in the past 18 seasons to hit .420 or higher in their BIG EAST career.

STRONG STARTERS – The ND pitchers have posted a scoreless first inning in 22 of 27 games this season.

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 win over Ball State (K) while improving to 5-0 in his Irish career ... Dury took the mound with two outs and two runners on base in the top of the seventh, inducing a rightside popup off the bat of Kyle Dygert to keep the deficit at 4-3 ... Dury has yet to allow an earned run (one unearned) in nine appearances and 9.2 innings this season (6 H/.188, 6 Ks, 3 BB), with a 1.26 career ERA in 50 IP (32 Ks, 14 BB, 45 H/.245).

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

ND scores in 1st inning	10-4
Opponent scores in 1st inning	3-2
ND scores first	14-4
ND leads after 7th inning	17-1
ND hits a home run	8-1
Opponent hits a home run	0-3
ND does not make an error	6-1
ND outhit the opponent	17-3
ND is outhit by the opponent	0-5
When collecting double-digit hits	14-2
When allowing 0-5 runs	16-3
One-run games	1-2
Extra-inning games	0-2

**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

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

Brett Lilley..... 99 hits
 Greg Lopez..... 197 GP, 103 runs
 Cody Rizzo 197 GP
 Steve Andres ... 94 runs, 92 walks, 89 RBI
 Tom Thornton 292 innings
 Paul Mainieri..... 507 wins (at ND)
 Craig Cooper 201 hits
 Matt Bransfield 101 RBI
 Alex Nettey 102 hits

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
 (.520 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)

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

Double-Digit Win Streaks in the Mainieri Era

17	2003 (March 24 – April 14); 2nd-longest in ND history (18, in '91)
16	2002 (April 11 – May 4); tied for 4th-longest in ND history
16	2001 (April 4-25); tied for 4th-longest in ND history
13	1998 (April 8-23)
12	2004 (April 29 – May-21)
11	2004 (March 24 – April 7)
11	1995 (April 13-23)
10	1999 (March 10-28)
10	1998 (March 26 – April 4)
10	1996 (March 24 – April 6)
9	2006 (March 25 – present)

BIG EAST Stat Leaders

Danny Dressman – 2nd in on-base pct. (.521), 3rd in sac. bunts (8) and 5th in batting avg. (.403)

Craig Cooper – 7th in batting avg. (.388) and on-base pct. (.475)

Ross Brezovsky – 21st in batting avg. (.346)

Matt Bransfield – 3rd in doubles (11) and 31st in batting avg. (.333)

Greg Lopez – 35th in batting avg. (.330)

Alex Nettey – 1st in HBP (14)

Brett Lilley – 6th in HBP (8)

Jeff Manship – 1st in strikeouts looking (18), 3rd in Ks (50), 4th in opp. batting avg. (.199) and 5th in ERA (2.13)

Kyle Weiland – 1st in saves (8) and 3rd in games finished (11)

Tom Thornton – 1st in low walks allowed (3), 4th in wins (4) and 11th in ERA (3.02)

Wade Korpi – 5th in Ks looking (15), 6th in Ks (44), 7th in ERA (2.53) and 8th in opp. batting avg. (.220),

Jeff Samardzija – 14th in ERA (3.16)

Team Offense

1st in HBPs (45)
 2nd in sac. bunts (37)
 3rd in batting avg. (.307) and stolen bases (39)
 4th in slugging pct. (.409) and on-base pct. (.400)
 6th in triples (6)
 8th in runs (162)
 9th in home runs (8)

Team Pitching

1st in saves (9), fewest home runs allowed (3) and fewest walks allowed (78)
 2nd in Ks looking (68), low hits allowed (212) and wins (19)
 3rd in ERA (3.36), opp. batting (.238) and strikeouts (217)

Team Fielding – 3rd with .972 fielding pct.

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 STARTS

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

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	Barnes	Gaston	Bransfield	Nettey	Brezovsky	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

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...	25	.	.	2	.	.	.	22	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	13	4	7	.	.	.
4 Greg Lopez.....	25	.	.	.	.	.	25	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	.	19	.	1
7 Ross Brezovsky...	24	.	.	.	23	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	8	3	12	1	.	.
2 Brett Lilley.....	24	.	.	.	.	23	.	.	.	.	1	.	4	10	7	.	.	.	3	.	.
6 Danny Dressman...	23	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	2	13	.	4	.	16	3	2	1	.	.	.	1
16 Alex Nettey.....	23	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	23	.	.	.	3	.	.	1	.	7	6	3	3
17 Cody Rizzo.....	23	.	9	.	.	.	.	.	2	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	22
9 Craig Cooper.....	21	.	.	21	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	18	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
11 Sean Gaston.....	20	.	18	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	1	2	6	5	3	3	.	.
20 Jeremy Barnes....	19	.	.	3	4	3	2	.	.	.	7	.	2	.	9	2	5	.	1	.	.
36 Steve Andres.....	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	6	.	.	2	3	1	3	.	.	.
44 Mike Dury.....	4	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	2	.
14 Eddy Mendiola....	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Colorado (1) – Matt Bransfield (Englewood)

Massachusetts (1) – Tom Thornton (Middleboro)

Missouri (1) – David Phelps (Hazelton)

New Jersey (1) – Chris Soriano (Randolph)

New Mexico (1) – Kyle Weiland (Albuquerque)

Virginia (1) – Jess Stewart (Manassas)

OUTFIELD VETERANS – Notre Dame's current four veteran outfielders – the senior trio of LF **Steve Andres**, CF **Alex Nettey** and RF **Cody Rizzo**, plus junior **Danny Dressman** – have combined to make 351 outfield starts in their Notre Dame careers ... that total does not include the 115 career outfield starts by senior Craig Cooper, who has shifted to first base in 2006:

Career OF Starts	LF	CF	RF	Total
Cody Rizzo	13	32	102	147
Craig Cooper (1B in '06)	50	8	57	115
Alex Nettey	4	89	2	95
Steve Andres	59	0	2	61
Danny Dressman	7	31	10	48
Totals	133	159	174	466

HBP HIGHWAY RETURNS – The ND batters were hit-by-pitch just six times in the first seven games of the 2006 season but now are averaging nearly 2.0 HBPs per game (45 in 27 GP) ... senior CF **Alex Nettey** leads all BIG EAST players with 14 HBPs (6th in ND history with 33 career HBPs) ... senior RF/C **Cody Rizzo** (5 HBP in '06) ranks 3rd in NCAA history with 75 career HBPs ... sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (8 HBP in '06) already is 2nd in ND history with 38 career HBPs ... senior SS **Greg Lopez** (31) and senior 1B **Craig Cooper** (23) rank 8th and 12th on the ND career HBP list.

NCAA RECORD BOOK CAREER HIT-BY-PITCH

- 92 – Tony Hurtado (San Fran.; '97-'00); 221 GP (2.40 gms/HBP)
- 81 – Gabe Somarriba (FL Atlantic; '99-'02); 226 GP (2.79 gms/HBP)
- 75* – Cody Rizzo (Notre Dame; '03-); 197 GP (2.63 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

Team	Yr.	Gms	HBP (per gm)
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	27	45 (1.67)

Notes: ND is on pace for 105 HBPs this season (in 63 GP), which would rank 9 in NCAA history ... the Irish have averaged 1.84 HBPs per game during the past three seasons (281, in 153 games from '04-'06) ... the 2005 Notre Dame team owns the 2nd-best HBP per game among teams on the above list ... ND (106 in '04; 130 in '05) and Long Beach State (124 in '98, 114 in '99) are the only teams to post 106-plus HBPs in multiple seasons

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

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

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

IRISH MAKE SEVENTH 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) ... the Irish are part of an elite group of 12 teams that have appeared in the NCAAs every year since 1999, with the 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.

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

- 21 – Mike Amhein (1997; Sr., C)
- 18 – Jeff Felker (1999; Jr., 1B)
- 16 – Steve Stanley (2000; So., CF)
- 15 – Alex Nettey (2005; Jr., CF)**
- 15 – Steve Sollmann (2003; Jr., 2B)
- 15 – Jeff Wagner (1997; Sr., C/DH)
- 15 – Brant Ust (1997; Fr., 2B/SS)
- 14 – Steve Andres (2004; So., LF)**
- 14 – Brian Stavisky (2000; Fr., RF)
- 14 – Matt Nussbaum (1999; Jr., LF)
- 13 – Craig Cooper (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 – 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

Note: Craig Cooper's 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.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

PLATE-DISCIPLINE CHART

<i>Player</i>	<i>Walks</i>	<i>Hit-By-Pitch</i>	<i>Strikeouts</i>	<i>Plate Discipline (BB+HBP-Ks)</i>
Danny Dressman ('06) (2005)	16 5	3 1	6 12	+13 -6
Craig Cooper ('06) (2005)	12 32	3 14	7 22	+8 +24
Brett Lilley ('06) (2005)	9 34	8 27	9 32	+8 +29
Alex Nettey ('06) (2005)	3 13	14 14	11 29	+6 -2
Sean Gaston ('06) (2005)	10 5	0 4	5 16	+5 -7
Jeremy Barnes ('06)	11	2	11	+2
Ross Brezovsky ('06) (2005)	9 16	2 4	9 40	+2 -20
Steve Andres ('06) (2005)	8 21	1 6	10 20	-1 +7
Greg Lopez ('06) (2005)	2 10	2 16	8 43	-4 -17
Cody Rizzo ('06) (2005)	8 22	5 21	18 35	-5 +8
Matt Bransfield ('06) (2005)	8 10	2 7	19 14	-9 +3
TEAM TOTALS (2005)	100 220	45 125	126 328	+19 +17

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

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

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

	<i>Leadoff On-Base Pct.</i>	<i>Batting w/ RISP</i>	<i>2-Out Batting</i>	<i>Clutch Hit Tot.</i>
Danny Dressman (2)	.500 (.375 adjusted)	(1) .462	(1) .471	1,308
(2005)	(13) .182 (.137)	(8) .286	(9) .250	673
Craig Cooper	(1) .583 (.437)	.286	.333	1,056
(2005)	(5) .419 (.314)	(2) .434	(2) .369	1,117
Ross Brezovsky	.364 (.273)	.355	(2) .400	1,028
(2005)	(10) .298 (.224)	(7) .288	(10) .246	758
Greg Lopez	.261 (.196)	(3) .432	(3) .364	992
(2005)	(8) .353 (.265)	(10) .242	(7) .279	786
Matt Bransfield	(4) .455 (.341)	.300	(4) .324	965
(2005)	(2) .542 (.407)	(6) .314	(6) .286	1,007
Jeremy Barnes	(5) .400 (.300)	(2) .414	.217	931
Brett Lilley	.381 (.286)	.259	.280	825
(2005)	(3) .515 (.386)	(1) .448	(1) .439	1,273
Cody Rizzo	.333 (.250)	(5) .333	.219	802
(2005)	(4) .436 (.327)	(12) .190	(10) .246	763
Alex Nettey	.333 (.250)	(4) .316	(5) .231	797
(2005)	(6) .418 (.314)	(9) .273	(12) .219	806
Steve Andres	(3) .500 (.375)	.154	.143	671
(2005)	(11) .286 (.215)	(11) .220	(8) .275	710
Sean Gaston	.348 (.261)	.227	.143	631
(2005)	(7) .357 (.268)	(4) .322	(5) .302	892
TEAM	.403 (.302)	.337	.283	922
(2005)	.406 (.311)	.309	.294	908

**MANSHIP, SAMARDZIJA
AMONG NATION'S TOP PROSPECTS**

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

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

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

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

IN-STATE BATTLES – After the season-opening win over Indiana State and the recent win over Valparaiso, Notre Dame now owns a 45-9 record (.833) vs. fellow Indiana-based schools during the Paul Mainieri era (since '95), with games versus: Valparaiso (11-1), Butler (7-0), Purdue (6-2), IUPUI (5-0), Indiana Tech (4-1), Indiana (3-0), Indianapolis (2-0), IPFW (2-0), Indiana State (2-1), Ball State (2-3), and Evansville (1-1) ... the Irish have other 2006 games scheduled vs. Ball State and IPFW.

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

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

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

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

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

Notre Dame Baseball 2005 Summer-League Statistics

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