

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL GAME NOTES – vs. MICHIGAN (APRIL 29, 2003)

The Notre Dame baseball team (34-9, 13-2 BIG EAST) - ranked as high as 13th in the national polls - is set to play its only game away from home in a 17-game stretch, with Tuesday night's 8th annual "Baseball Bash" vs. Michigan in Comstock Park, Mich. (just outside of Grand Rapids) at Fifth Third Ballpark (formerly Old Kent Park) ... the start time is set for 7:30 EDT (6:30 in South Bend) ... senior RHP **Peter Ogilvie** is slated to start his third straight Baseball Bash while freshman LHP **Tom Thornton** is the likely starter Wed. vs. Oakland (6:05, at Eck Stadium) ... the weekend rotation for the BIG EAST showdown vs. West Virginia includes sophomore RHPs **Chris Niesel** and **John Axford** in Saturday's doubleheader, with senior RHP **Ryan Kalita** slated to throw the series finale on Sunday ... ND entered last week ranked 27th in the nation for both team ERA (3.55; now down to 3.34, with the new rankings yet to be release) and fielding pct. (.970, now up to .972) ... all of ND's 2003 regular-season and postseason games again will be broadcast by South Bend-based WDND 1620 AM (and sister station, WNDV 1490) ... the broadcasts are available at www.und.com (College Sports Pass subscription required) ... und.com also provides GameTracker livestats on the website's main page, for all home games and select road games (including the Michigan game).

Peter Ogilvie – 2003 game-by-game (* indicates starts)

Date	Opponent	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	HR	WP	HB	Score	W-L	ERA
2/22	at Arizona State	5.0	4	5	1	2	2	1	0	0	3-16	L	1.80
3/1	at Minn. (M'dome)	4.0	6	5	5	2	3	1	0	0	2-8	L	6.00
3/12	at Jacksonville	5.0	9	5	5	2	2	1	1	0	6-9	--	7.07
4/15	Eastern Michigan	2.0	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	3-5	--	6.75
4/23	Cleveland State	4.1	4	1	1	1	8	0	0	0	13-1	W	5.75
Totals		20.1	25	17	13	7	17	0	3	0		1-2	5.75

(see PDF for Ogilvie game-by-game stats)

30 SOMETHING – Notre Dame (34-9) has reached 30 wins with single-digit losses for just the sixth time in team history, with only two previous ND teams - the 2001 squad (30-5-1, en route to claiming the No. 1 ranking) and the 1989 unit (30-8) - reaching 30 wins quicker than the current Irish squad (the 1990, '94 and '99 ND teams also went 30-9) ... the Irish program now is on the verge of its 15th consecutive season with 40-plus wins - the fourth-longest active 40-win streak in Division I baseball, behind Florida State (25; with a 38-7-1 record in '03), Wichita State (25; 31-19 in '03) and Clemson (17; 31-13 in '03).

ANOTHER TIGHT RACE FOR BIG EAST POSTSEASON – With three weeks of BIG EAST play remaining, the race for the regular-season title and four tournament spots is fairly wide open ... three teams - Notre Dame (13-2, two games cancelled vs. BC), Rutgers (13-3, one game lost vs. WVU) and West Virginia (12-3, games lost vs. RU and SHU) - are bunched atop the standings while five others are looking to battle for the fourth spot: Pittsburgh and Virginia Tech (both 10-7), St. John's (9-8) and Boston College (7-8) ... ND has series left vs. WVU (home) and at RU and VT ... Rutgers also is set to play at 9th-place UConn and at 10th-place Villanova ... WVU also has series left vs. VU (at home) and at BC ... Pittsburgh finishes at BC, at home vs. VT and at UConn ... VT's other series is this week vs. SJU (the Red Storm then play host to BC and close at SHU).

THE ND-UM SERIES - Notre Dame and Michigan are set to meet for the 116th time and for the ninth straight season (including a regular-season game and NCAA meeting in 1999) ... Michigan leads the all-time series 74-41 but ND has won six of the last nine (including the last five regular-season meetings) and three straight ... the most-common opponents in the ND baseball program include Northwestern (130 games), Michigan State (125), Wisconsin (119), Michigan (115) and Purdue (115, including ND win earlier this season) ... ND's first varsity baseball game was vs. Michigan on April 21, 1892 (6-4 ND win).

RECAPPING THE 2002 ND-UM GAME - The Irish used clutch performances from a number of players to overcome an early 3-0 deficit en route to a 7-4 victory (ND's 13th straight) ... Michigan scored in the 1st and added two more in the 2nd vs. **Peter Ogilvie** but managed just one run the rest of the way vs. winner **Grant Johnson** (3 IP, 11 BF, H, 2 BB, Ks) and close **J.P. Gagne** (4 IP, R, 3 H, 4 Ks), who started the 2000 Baseball Bash ... several ND players helped overcome just the third career 0-for-5 game for **Steve Stanley** and a 1-for-5 night from the **Brian Stavisky** ... 3B **Andrew Bushey** – who logged his 21st consecutive game without an error - put the Irish on the board in the 4th inning with a 2-run double off the wall in left-center ... **Matt Bok** added the go-ahead single (4-3) in the three-run top of the 6th while **Javi Sanchez** became the first player from either team to hit a home run in the last three Baseball Bashes, launching a 2-run shot over the leftfield wall (for a 7-3 lead in the 8th) ... **Kris Billmaier** hit 2-for-5 with a pair of runs scored ... Michigan LHP Rich Hill struck out all six batters he faced in the first two innings but the Wolverines went on to use five more pitchers ... RHP Phil Tognetti (3 IP, 3 R, 4 H, 2 BB) was tagged with the loss.

STRONG IN ALL AREAS – Notre Dame is the only team that entered the week ranked among the BIG EAST's top three in overall team batting avg. (**3rd, .312**), ERA (**1st, 3.34**) and fielding pct. (**1st, .972**) ... the only other team that entered the week ranked in the top five of all those categories is Rutgers (5th in batting, 5th in ERA and 2nd in fielding) ... in conference games only, ND is ranked in the top four of all three categories (4th with .302 batting, 1st with 2.56 ERA and 1st with .971 fielding), with RU again the only other team in the top five of all three (3rd in batting, 5th in ERA, 4th in fielding).

BIG EAST LEADERS – Here's a look at where ND's position players rank among the BIG EAST overall stat leaders:

- **Steve Sollmann** (Jr., 2B) – 1st in runs (50) and stolen bases (25), 3rd in triples (4) and total bases (93), 4th in hits (65), 6th in on-base pct. (.464), 7th in batting average (.401) and 10th in slugging pct. (.574) ... joins WVU's Jake Serfass (.402 avg., .546 OB, .710 slug) and Jarod Rine (.406, .469, .641) and VT's Marc Tugwell (.414, .460, .615) as only players ranked among BIG EAST top-10 for batting avg., on-base and slugging.

- **Matt Edwards** (So., 1B) – 1st in RBI (53), 3rd in total bases (93), 4th in doubles (13), 6th in slugging (.604), 7th in hits (57) and 8th in home runs (7)

- **Brennan Grogan** (Fr., LF) – 1st in triples (5)

- **Matt Macri** (So., SS) – 3rd in triples (4)

- **Cody Rizzo** (Fr., RF) – 5th in runs (40)

- **Kris Billmaier** (Sr., CF) – 4th in doubles (13)

WEEK IN REVIEW – ND's 5-1 showing last week including scoring 65 runs (10.8 per game) and batting .344 in the six games, led by **Matt Bransfield** (.545, 6-for-11, 3 RBI, 5 R, 2 BB), **Matt Edwards** (.526, 10-for-19, 9 RBI, 2 R, 3 2B, 2 BB, SB) and **Steve Sollmann** (.462, RBI, 5 R, 2 2B, 2 BB, 2 SB) ... the Irish made just four errors during the week in 219 fielding chances, for a .982 fielding pct. ... the ND pitchers posted a 2.08 ERA for the week, with a .241 opponent batting average, 55 Ks and 20 BB.

DEFENSIVE-MINDED – Notre Dame's .972 season fielding pct. remains well on team-record pace (three previous teams posted a .965), with the Irish totaling just 47 errors in 43 games (1.1 Es per game) ... ND has posted 16 error-free games, 13 one-error games and just six games with three-plus Es ... prior to making two errors in both games of the Pittsburgh doubleheader, the Irish had totaled just three Es in the previous five games ... the current eight starting position players have combined to make less than one error per game (35 in 43 GP), with two of freshman RF Cody Rizzo's errors coming as the backup catcher (sophomore Matt Edwards has made three of his five Es at his new position of 1B) ... unearned runs have provided the margin of defeat for the Irish just twice this season, in the 14-8 loss to Arizona State (6 UER) and the 3-1 loss to Ball State (2 UER in the 9th).

CONFERENCE COMMAND – The Irish now own a 91-26 (.778) record in seven-plus seasons of BIG EAST play, with Paul Mainieri owning the best BIG EAST winning pct. in the league's history ... ND's 70 all-time BIG EAST series now have included 55 series wins, eight even series and just seven series wins by the opponent ... the Irish are 57-7 in April during the past three seasons and 39-4 in their last 43 home games ... since starting 0-4 in 2002 BIG EAST play, ND has gone 31-6 in its last 37 BIG EAST games ... ND is nearing a +100 victory margin over the past three seasons (133-40-1).

HR BINGES – Notre Dame launched six home runs in the season-opening trip to Arizona State (4 total GP, vs. Dayton, Newman and ASU twice) but then totaled just two HRs in the next 19 games (not counting a Steve Sollmann inside-the-park variety) ... the home run drought ended in a three-game stretch with multiple HRs vs. Valparaiso (2) and in both games at St. John's (3 and 2), with the Irish then totaling just four HRs in the last nine games ... the ND pitchers gave up home runs in four straight early-season games (six total in that stretch) but then surrendered just six HRs in the next 24 games – with eight more opponent homers in a recent eight-game stretch.

QUICK NOTES ON THE ND HITTERS (in probable batting order)

(1) Steve Sollmann (Jr., 2B; Cincinnati, OH ... preseason All-American; all-BIG EAST in '01, '02)

Yr.	Avg.	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI	TB/SLG	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	E (FLD%)
'01	.362	61/61	221	52	80	9-2-5	36	108/.489	30	4	29	0	.440	4	6	23-34	21 (.928)
'02	.362	59/57	213	53	77	8-4-2	47	99/.465	22	3	18	3	.420	5	6	6-6	8 (.969)
'03	.401	41/41	162	50	65	11-4-3	29	93/.574	20	0	12	1	.464	1	4	25-32	5 (.975)
Tot.	.372	152/150	596	155	222	28-10-10	112	300/.503	72	7	59	4	.439	10	16	54-72	34 (.955)

- Riding 14-game hit streak (23 of last 24), the longest by an ND player since Steve Stanley's 16-game tear in 2000 ... batting .442 during the hitting streak (23-for-52, 5 RBI, 19 R, 3B, 6 2B, 8 BB, 3 Ks).
- Entered last week ranked **19th in nation with 0.62 stolen bases** per game (now 0.61, new rankings TBA) ... also ranks 7th among BIG EAST players in batting avg., plus 1st in runs and SBs, 3rd in TBs and 3Bs, 4th in hits, 6th in on-base and 10th in slugging.
- Went **21 games** (80 chances) **without an error**, before Sunday E vs. UConn (just five Es in last 58 GP with ND).
- Has gone **hitless in consecutive games just once** in '03 (in Villanova doubleheader), **hits in 37 of 43** games.
- Owns **23 multi-hit** games in 2003 (five 3-hit games, plus 4-for-4 in game 2 vs. Georgetown).
- Already tied for 6th in ND history **with 54 career stolen bases** (25 in '03), 14 behind Dan Bautch (68; '90-'92).
- Picked up 200th career hit at St. John's (now 222; ND record for hits by junior is Steve Stanley's 267).
- Has totaled nearly twice as many **walks (20) than Ks (12)** in 2003.
- Shifted to **leadoff spot** on Spring Break trip, after batting in No. 2 spot for most of his ND career.
- Twice **BIG EAST player of the week** (8-for-17 in week one, then 11-for-23 in first six games of Spring Break trip)
- Hit **3-run inside-the-park HR** in 3-2 win over Eastern Illinois
- Rated BIG EAST's **top defensive 2B** for 2003 (per *Baseball America*)

(2) Brennan Grogan (Fr., CF; Tequesta, FL)

Yr.	Avg.	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI	TB/SLG	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	E (FLD%)
'03	.311	39/37	132	33	41	2-5-0	21	53/.402	10	2	8	3	.366	1	10	12-15	1 (.976)

- Batting 5-for-11 in last four games (7 R, 2 RBI), after 2-for-19 slump.
- Leads BIG EAST in overall triples ... entered last week **19th in nation for triples** (0.15 per game, now 0.14).
- Made switch to CF and **2-hole** (30 starts batting 2nd) on Spring Break trip, **shifted to LF** in last 14 games

(3) Matt Edwards (So., 3B/1B; Mechanicsville, VA)

Yr.	Avg.	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI	TB/SLG	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	E (FLD%)
'02	.290	9/8	31	3	9	1-0-0	4	10/.323	3	1	6	1	.371	0	0	1-1	6 (.806)
'03	.370	42/42	154	26	57	13-1-7	53	93/.604	17	3	21	3	.433	4	0	2-5	5 (.979)
Tot.	.357	51/50	185	29	66	14-1-7	57	103/.557	20	4	27	4	.423	4	0	3-6	11 (.959)

- Carries 7-game hitting streak (11-for-22, four 2-hit games, 11 RBI), after 0-for-12 drought.
- Leads BIG EAST in overall RBI, plus 3rd in TBs, 4th in 2Bs, 6th in slugging, 7th in hits and 8th in HRs.
- Nearly has surpassed ND's 2002 leading RBI total (59, by Andrew Bushey).
- Already has totaled **17 multi-RBI** games, including five 3-RBI games, 4 RBI in second game vs. Georgetown and 5 RBI in third game vs. Creighton
- Also owns **17 multi-hit** games (five 3-hit games, plus 4-for-5 in nightcap at St. John's)
- Saw 9-game hitting streak end in doubleheader vs. Chicago State and Bowling Green (0-for-4)
- **BIG EAST player of the week** (3/31-4/6) after leading ND during 4-0 week in hits and batting average (9-for-14, .643), RBI (10) home runs (3), total bases (21) and slugging pct. (1.500), plus 7 R, 2 BB, 3B, SB and just one K ... hit 6-for-9 in the doubleheader sweep at St. John's, with five RBI and a pair of booming HRs to dead-center field.
- Has made 23 starts at 1B, with the first coming on Spring Break trip, with 32 total starts batting in the 3-hole
- Missed most of 2002 season due to broken leg (vs. USC in Round Rock, ninth game of '02)

(4) Kris Billmaier (Sr., RF; Woodinville, WA ... team tri-captain with Steve Sollmann and J.P. Gagne)

Yr.	Avg.	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI	TB/SLG	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	E (FLD%)
'00	.354	33/21	82	18	29	3-0-4	19	44/.537	8	1	10	0	.413	1	0	0-2	0 (.000)
'01	.257	56/55	183	34	47	9-0-3	37	65/.355	30	9	15	0	.382	3	2	4-6	2 (.970)
'02	.313	65/62	230	34	72	8-1-3	41	91/.396	14	7	33	4	.369	1	11	2-2	8 (.927)
'03	.288	43/42	160	30	46	13-1-4	34	73/.456	16	4	16	4	.355	6	2	1-1	1 (.987)
Tot.	.296	197/180	655	169	194	33-2-14	131	273/.417	68	21	74	8	.375	11	15	7-11	11 (.957)

- Hit just 2-for-8 in UConn series (2 RBI), after batting 7-for-18 (.389) with 8 RBI in previous five games.
- Ranks fourth in BIG EAST with 13 doubles.
- Owns 14 multi-hit and eight multi-RBI games (2nd-most on team).
- Made switch from right to CF in last 11 games ... has hit cleanup in 28 games this season (5-hole in seven).
- Home run vs. Seton Hall (4/19) was his first HR since second game of '03 vs. Newman.

(5) Javi Sanchez (Jr., C; Miami, FL)

Yr.	Avg.	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI	TB/SLG	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	E (FLD%)
'01	.000	9/2	13	0	0	0-0-0	0	0/.000	1	0	2	0	.071	0	0	0-0	1 (.750)
'02	.281	66/65	231	50	65	7-3-5	29	93/.403	24	5	32	3	.360	1	8	1-1	28 (.902)
'03	.300	38/38	140	30	42	10-1-1	18	57/.407	12	5	11	1	.373	1	0	4-4	5 (.983)
Tot.	.279	113/105	384	80	107	17-4-6	47	150/.391	37	10	45	4	.356	2	8	5-5	34 (.942)

- Saw 8-game hitting streak end in Seton Hall opener (included four games before missing four with back spasms).
- Batting 6-for-16 in last five games (2 RBI, 5 R).
- Has gone hitless in consecutive games just twice all season (vs. Detroit and Valparaiso, then in SHU doubleheader)
- Owns 14 multi-hit games in 2003 (3rd-most on team), with four multi-RBI games
- Has hit five of his six career home runs with the Irish away from home, including blast in the 2002 Baseball Bash vs. Michigan (first at that event since 1999) and 3-run shot to tie 2002 CWS opener vs. Stanford (3-3, 4-3 loss).
- Owns walks (12) than Ks (11) in 2003.
- Prep 2B who started at SS in 2002 after injuries to Matt Macri and Matt Edwards

(6) Matt Macri (So., SS; Clive, IA ... preseason All-American)

Yr.	Avg.	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI	TB/SLG	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	E (FLD%)
'02	.206	17/16	68	10	14	3-0-1	13	20/.294	7	0	24	0	.273	2	0	1-2	1.000
'03	.298	40/40	141	30	42	12-3-4	22	71/.504	18	4	28	0	.393	0	5	4-5	12 (.934)
Tot.	.268	57/56	209	40	56	15-4-4	35	91/.435	25	4	52	0	.354	2	5	5-7	12 (.938)

- Tied for third among BIG EAST players with four triples.
- Hit just 2-for-11 in UConn series, after batting .447 (17-for-38) in previous 12 games played.
- Fifth on team with 13 multi-hit games, plus four multi-RBI games.
- Has made most of his starts batting in the 6-hole (17, also 13 in 7-hole), after opening season as leadoff hitter.
- Missed most of 2002 season due to "Tommy John" reconstructive elbow surgery.
- Nation's No. 2-rated college SS prospect for 2003 draft (per *Baseball America*).

(7) Cody Rizzo (Fr., DH/LF; Temecula, CA)

Yr.	Avg.	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI	TB/SLG	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	E (FLD%)
'03	.325	38/37	126	40	41	9-1-3	26	61/.484	6	20	25	4	.432	3	1	1-2	3 (.959)

- Ranks fifth among BIG EAST players with 40 runs scored.
- Hit 2-for-3 vs. IPFW (then just 2-for-9 in UConn series), after batting 3-for-16 in the previous five games.
- Classic utility player who has made starts at CF (4), LF (13), DH (6) and C (3) and now RF (11), also batting in leadoff spot early in season (his most common lineup spot has been 14 games in the 7-hole)
- Third on team with seven multi-RBI games, plus 13 multi-hit efforts.
- Excellent baserunner and rare 2-sport star in soccer/baseball as a prep (California HS soccer is played in the fall)

(8) Steve Andres (Fr., DH; Napa, CA)

Yr.	Avg.	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI	TB/SLG	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	E (FLD%)
'03	.258	30/20	62	17	16	1-2-2	12	27/.435	11	8	12	2	.427	1	0	0-1	1 (.978)

- Has totaled just two hits in team's last 15 games (14 ABs), after batting 5-for-10 in previous three-game stretch
- Owns four multi-hit and two multi-RBI games.
- Sparked offense in first three games of 2003 vs. Dayton, Newman and ASU (6-for-11, 2 RBI, 7 RBI, HR, 3B, 2B).

or Matt Bransfield (Fr., IF/DH; Englewood, CO)

Yr.	Avg.	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI	TB/SLG	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	E (FLD%)
'03	.344	19/5	32	8	11	3-0-0	6	14/.438	1	2	9	1	.389	1	1	0-0	1.000

- Batting 9-for-18 in his last eight games played, after 2-for-14 start to his ND career.

or Craig Cooper (Fr., LF/DH; Plainview, NY)

Yr.	Avg.	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI	TB/SLG	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	E (FLD%)
'03	.320	35/24	100	20	32	5-2-0	13	41/.410	12	2	21	2	.404	0	0	8-11	1.000

- Owns seven multi-hit and four multi-RBI games ... just 2-for-7 in team's last 11 games (4 GP).

(9) Greg Lopez (Fr., 3B; Upper Arlington, OH)

Yr.	Avg.	GP/GS	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI	TB/SLG	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	E (FLD%)
'03	.280	35/30	100	15	28	1-0-0	24	29/.290	3	4	14	5	.321	2	4	1-4	4 (.941)

- Effective situational hitter who has 24 RBI, despite totaling just 28 hits.
- Has made 26 starts at third base, with seven multi-hit and six multi-RBI games (5th-best on team).

Inside The Notre Dame Bullpen (stats for relief appearances only)

Pitcher	ERA	W-L	Rel. GP	SV	IP	H (Avg., HR)	R/ER	K/BB	WP	HBP	Inher.	R's Sc.	1st Batters
Arminio	0.00	0-0	2	0	2.1	0 (.000, 0)	0/0	1/1	0	0	0	0	0-for-1
Viloria	0.55	1-0	14	1	16.1	11 (.190, 0)	2/1	14/1	0	0	0-of-7	0	2-for-12, 4 K
Thornton	1.12	0-0	4	0	8.0	6 (.231, 0)	2/1	3/6	0	2	1-of-3	0	1-for-2, K, BB, HB
Gagne	2.82	3-4	21	10	38.1	34 (.233, 2)	19/12	29/15	2	0	1-of-9	0	3-for-18, 2 K, 2 BB
Jones	3.00	2-0	7	0	9.0	9 (.243, 0)	4/3	12/1	0	1	0	0	1-for-6, K
Doherty	3.65	1-0	8	0	12.1	9 (.214, 0)	6/5	21/5	1	2	1-of-3 (SF)	0	1-for-6, 3 K, BB
Ogilvie	4.50	0-0	1	0	2.0	2 (.250, 0)	1/1	2/0	0	0	0	0	0-for-1
Vergara	5.79	0-0	6	1	14.0	13 (.236, 2)	11/9	12/10	2	3	0	0	1-for-6, 3 K
Laird	7.00	1-0	14	1	18.0	17 (.246, 3)	14/14	24/12	3	1	1-of-1	0	2-for-11, 5 K, 2 BB
Kalita	8.10	0-0	1	0	3.1	6 (.545, 0)	3/3	0/3	0	1	0	0	BB
Wilkins	9.00	0-0	3	0	4.0	10 (.500, 1)	6/4	5/1	0	0	0	0	1-for-3, K
Bickford	18.00	0-0	1	0	2.0	4 (.364, 0)	4/4	2/3	1	0	0	0	0-for-1, K
Totals	3.96	8-4	82	13	129.2	108 (.247, 8)	67/54	125/58	9	10	4-of-23	0	12-for-67 (.179) 6 BB, 23 K

BULLPEN BOUNCES BACK – The Notre Dame relief pitchers had some rocky outings in the first few weeks of the season but have lowered the overall bullpen ERA to 3.96 with some strong performances in recent weeks ... the bullpen has allowed just 4-of-23 inherited runners to score (including one in the 5-3 loss to Pittsburgh) while the first batters facing the ND relievers have combined to hit just .179 (12-for-67) with six walks and 23 Ks ... senior closer **J.P. Gagne** has converted all 10 of his traditional save opportunities this season, with one potential save lost in the 14-8 game at Arizona State (he would have needed to log four innings, taking the mound in the 6th with an 8-4 lead before the Irish lost 14-8).

THE FIREMAN – Senior setup man **Brandon Viloria** logged a scoreless 8th inning in Sunday's win over UConn to lower his career ERA to 2.45, good for 2nd-best in Notre Dame history among pitchers with 60-plus innings (behind Nick Palihnich's 2.36 from 1959-61) ... Viloria also owns the ND record for lower career walk average (1.40 BB per 9 UP) ... his classmate, closer **J.P. Gagne**, made his 84th and 85th career appearances in the UConn series, pacing him 2nd in ND history for games pitched and seven back of Chris Michalak's record total (92, '90-'93) ... Gagne needs three more Ks to crack that ND career top-10 list (with 189) ... his 10 saves are one shy of John Corbin's ND-record total from the 2000 season (Gagne's 16 career saves rank 2nd only to Corbin's 20 in the ND record book).

Top Veteran Relievers Career Stats

J.P. Gagne

Year	ERA	W-L	GP/GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	2B-3B-HR	BF/B/Avg	WP	HB
2000	4.46	7-1	19/13	0	0	72.2	98	40	36	25	44	0-0-6	.333	4	2
2001	5.35	5-5	17/13	1	0	70.2	79	47	42	21	47	17-2-6	.280	1	5
2002	3.14	9-4	28/7	1	6	94.2	86	40	33	16	69	23-1-7	390/.245	4	12
2003	2.82	3-4	21/0	0	10	38.1	34	19	12	15	29	4-0-2	164/.233	2	0
Totals	4.01	24-14	85/33	2	16	276.1	297	146	123	77	189	44-3-21	.277	11	19

Tyler Jones

Year	ERA	W-L	GP/GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	2B-3B-HR	BF/B/Avg	WP	HB
2002	4.00	1-0	4/1	0	1	9.0	9	5	4	9	6	0-0-0	46/.243	1	0
2003	4.85	2-1	8/1	0	0	13.0	14	8	7	1	14	1-1-2	56/.259	0	1
Totals	4.50	3-1	12/2	0	1	22.0	23	13	11	10	20	1-1-2	102/.253	1	1

Matt Laird

Year	ERA	W-L	GP/GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	2B-3B-HR	BF/B/Avg	WP	HB
2000	3.83	5-2	15/9	0	0	47.0	55	32	20	15	34	0-0-2	.284	6	9
2001	3.09	5-1	22/0	0	4	32.0	23	11	11	15	28	5-0-1	.209	4	6
2002	5.73	0-0	12/0	0	1	11.0	14	9	7	9	9	0-1-0	58/.292	3	0
2003	7.00	1-0	14/0	0	1	18.0	17	14	14	12	24	2-0-3	84/.246	3	1
Totals	4.33	11-3	63/9	0	6	108.0	109	66	52	51	95	7-1-6	.259	16	16

Brandon Viloria

Year	ERA	W-L	GP/GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	2B-3B-HR	BF/B/Avg	WP	HB
2000	3.18	0-0	11/1	0	0	17.0	19	6	6	1	15	0-0-0	.284	1	1
2001	3.32	3-1	12/0	0	2	21.2	21	10	8	5	8	7-0-1	.241	0	2
2002	2.45	2-1	16/0	0	3	22.0	16	10	6	5	8	0-1-1	88/.203	0	1
2003	0.55	1-0	14/0	0	1	16.1	11	2	1	1	14	4-0-0	60/.190	0	0
Totals	2.45	6-2	53/1	0	6	77.0	67	28	21	12	45	11-1-2	.230	1	4

ND ALUMS EMBARK ON PRO SEASONS – Three former Notre Dame baseball players were on 40-man rosters for MLB Spring Training: IF **Craig Counsell** (Arizona), RHP **Brad Lidge** (Houston) and LHP **Tim Kalita** (Detroit) ... Counsell and Lidge both made the big-league rosters (Kalita is with the double-A Erie Sea Wolves) ... three others were non-roster invitees to Big-League Camp: RHPs **Aaron Heilman** (rated by *Baseball America* as the No. 3 prospect in the New York Mets organization; with triple-A Norfolk Tides) and **Christian Parker** (Yankees; triple-A Columbus Clippers) and LHP **Chris Michalak** (Colorado Springs Sky Sox) ... several other former ND players have embarked on their minor-league seasons: catcher **Paul O'Toole** (Cubs; single-A Daytona), 3B/C **Andrew Bushey** (Colorado, single-A Asheville Tourists), Oakland A's OFs **Steve Stanley** (double-A Midland, Rockhounds) and **Brian Stavisky** (single-A Kane County Cougars), IF **Brant Ust** (Detroit; double-A Erie), RHP **Danny Tamayo** (Kansas City; double-A Wichita Wranglers) and OF **Matt Bok** (Los Angeles, single-A Ogden Raptors) ... Tamayo and Stanley both are competing in the Texas League while Heilman and Parker both are pitchers in the International League ... here's a look at ND's alums currently in pro ball (stats as of April 28):

Matt Bok, C (Ogden Raptors, Dodgers single-A, Pioneer League) ... yet to play a game in '03

Andrew Bushey, C/IF (Asheville Tourists, Rockies single-A, South Atlantic League)
0-for-8, 4 GP, RBI, 3 BB, K, three starts at C, one at 1B

Craig Counsell, IF (Arizona Diamondbacks, has split time at 2B, SS and 3B)
.282 (24-for-85), 23 GP, 3B, 4 2B, 12 R, 8 RBI, 13 BB, 13 Ks, 3-5 SB, .353 slug, .378 OB, .988 fielding pct. (1 E)

Aaron Heilman, RHP (Norfolk Tides, Mets AAA, International League)
3-1, 3.77 ERA, 5 GS, 28.2 IP, .262 opp. batting avg. (27-for-103), 12 R, 4 HR, 13 BB, 24 Ks

Tim Kalita, LHP (Erie Sea Wolves, Tigers AA, Eastern League)
0-1, 9.99 ERA, 6 GP/2 GS, 12.0 IP, .351 opp. avg. (20-for-57), 13 R/12 ER, 6 BB, 8 Ks, 4 WP

Brad Lidge, RHP (Houston Astros)
2-0, SV, 2 hld, 1.02 ERA, 12 GP, 17.2 IP, .172 opp.avg. (10-58), 2 R, 7 BB, 18 Ks, 4 HB, .244 opp. slug, .300 opp. OB

Chris Michalak, LHP (Colorado Springs Sky Sox, Rockies AAA, Pacific Coast League)
2-2, 3.38 ERA, 5 GS, 29.1 IP, .266 opp.avg. (30-for-113), 19 R/11 ER, 17 BB, 22 Ks ... also has hit 2-for-7 (2 RBI, R)

Paul O'Toole, C/IF/OF (Daytona Cubs, Cubs single-A, Florida State League)
.308 (8-for-26), 8 GP, 2 R, 2 2B, 3 RBI, 2 SAC, 4 BB, 5 Ks, .385 slug, .400 on-base, 2 E ... 4 starts at C, 1 at 3B

Christian Parker, RHP (Columbus Clippers, Yankees AAA, International League)
0-1, 7.20 ERA, 1 GS, 5.0 IP, .409 opp. avg. (9-for-22), 6 R/4 ER, 2 BB, 6 Ks, WP, HR

Steve Stanley, OF (Midland Rockhounds, Athletics AA, Texas League)
.292 (20-for-72), 20 GP, 7 R, 2B, 7 RBI, 2 SAC, 8 BB, 11 Ks, 0-1 SB, E, .306 slug, .363 on-base, 19 starts (all in OF)

Brian Stavisky, OF (Kane County Cougars, Oakland single-A, Midwest League)
.282 (20-for-71), 20 GP, 13 R, 9 RBI, 3B, 4 2B, SAC, 2 HBP, 13 BB, 16 Ks, .366 slug, .407 on-base, E, 6 starts in OF

Danny Tamayo, RHP (Wichita Wranglers, Royals AA, Texas League)
0-4, 5.59 ERA, 4 GS, 19.1 IP, .324 opp. avg. (24-for-74), 14 R/12 ER, 10 BB, 11 Ks, HR, 2 WP

Brant Ust, IF (Erie Sea Wolves, Tigers AA, Eastern League)
.283 (13-46), 14 GP, 5 R, 9 RBI, 2 HR, 6 2B, 2 BB, 10 Ks, SB, .543 slug, .313 OB, 4 E, starts: SS (7), 2B (6), 3B (1)

EXPECTING ECK'S-ELLENCE – The 11-0 loss to Rutgers on May 5, 2002, ended ND's team-record scoring streak at 231 games ... the Irish then went **unbeaten in 19 consecutive games at Eck Stadium after that loss to Rutgers**, outscoring the opponents 218-88 in those games (average score of 12-5) ... ND now is **39-4 in its last 43 home games**, dating back to the 7-5 loss to Pittsburgh on April 11, 2002 ... now celebrating its 10th year of play at Eck Stadium, the Irish own an all-time record of 238-52 in the facility (.821) ... ND had defeated 21 consecutive non-conference teams that visited The Eck before the recent loss to Eastern Michigan.

MAINIERI HITS WIN NO. 700 – Ninth-year ND head coach **Paul Mainieri** – now in his 21st overall season – picked up his 700th career coaching victory in the 6-2 series-opening win over Georgetown on Sat., March 29, just 135 games removed from his 600th win (ND's 99 combined wins in '01 and '02 were third-most in nation, behind Florida State's 107 and South Carolina's 106) ... Mainieri's **720-430-1 career record** (.626) includes 180-121 at St. Thomas ('83-'88), 152-158 at Air Force ('89-'94) and 388-151-1 (.719) at ND ('95-'03), with his 400th win at ND suddenly 12 Ws away ... his ND career includes five BIG EAST titles and five NCAA trips with the Irish ('96, '99-'02), the program's first No. 1 ranking in 2001 and first CWS trip since '57 (in '02) ... he was the nation's only coach to repeat as ABCA regional coach of the year (Midwest), in 2002, and his squads have extended ND's streak of seasons with 40-plus wins to 14 (nation's 4th-longest active streak) ... 31 of his ND players have moved on to pro ball, including 12 drafted in the first 10 rounds and pair of first-round pitchers (Brad Lidge in '98, Aaron Heilman in '01) ... every ND player in the Mainieri era who has completed his eligibility with the Irish has graduated from Notre Dame (46 of 46) while the eight who were signed after their junior seasons have returned to complete or near completion of their graduation requirements (including two-time Academic All-American Brian Stavisky) ... Mainieri owns the best BIG EAST winning pct. in the conference's history (.757, 134-43) ... in 70 BIG EAST series spanning eight seasons, the Irish have won 55 with eight splits and just seven series wins by the opponent (just two of them being 3-game sweeps) ... the Irish have been swept just four times in 68 all-time BIG EAST doubleheaders (42 ND sweeps, 22 splits).

BIG-INNING BOPPERS – Notre Dame opened the season by posting three “big innings” (5-plus runs) in the first four games but then went 16 games without 5-plus runs in any inning ... that drought ended with a vengeance in games 21-29, when the Irish erupted for 10 big innings (in all but one of those games, the finale of the Georgetown series) ... the team's big inning total now strands at **17**, including **four in the last seven games** ... by comparison, the **2002 team totaled just one more big inning** (18) in 68 games played, with seven of those coming in the final week of the regular season (4) and the NCAA Regional (3) ... the big innings in 2003 have included two 9-run eruptions (vs. Georgetown and Detroit), three 7-run innings (at ASU, and then last week vs. Cleveland State and UConn) and 6-run innings vs. Newman, St. John's and IPFW ... the **6th inning has produced five “big innings”**, with four in the 2nd, two in the 3rd and 4th one each in the 1st, 5th, 7th and 8th – with the Irish failing to post 5-plus runs in only the 9th inning this season ... the big innings in the three midweek games on April 8-9 accounted for 18 of ND's 23 total runs (78%) in those games ... here's a look at ND's big innings in 2003:

Gm #	Opponent	Big Inning	Final Score
1	Dayton	5 runs in the 7th	W, 10-9
2	Newman	6 runs in the 3rd	W, 15-5
4	Arizona State (gm 2)	7 runs in the 6th	L, 8-14
21	Georgetown (gm 2)	9 runs in the 6th	W, 13-3
23	Detroit	9 runs in the 2nd	W, 15-5
24	Valparaiso	5 runs in the 2nd	W, 13-4
24	Valparaiso	5 runs in the 5th	
25	St. John's (gm 1)	6 runs in the 3rd	W, 11-3
26	St. John's (gm 2)	5 runs in the 2nd	W, 18-3
26	St. John's (gm 2)	5 runs in the 4th	
27	Western Michigan	5 runs in the 8th	W, 7-1
28	Chicago State	8 runs in the 2nd	W, 9-3
29	Bowling Green	5 runs in the 6th	W, 7-2
37	Seton Hall (gm 2)	5 runs in the 6th	W, 9-3
39	Cleveland State	7 runs in the 6th	W, 13-1
40	IPFW	6 runs in the 1st	W, 13-3
42	Connecticut (gm 2)	7 runs in the 4th	W, 11-4

MIDSEASON CHECKUP

With 43 games in the books, here's a look at how Notre Dame has answered 10 major preseason questions:

Who would emerge as the new leadoff hitter, at a spot held the previous four seasons mostly by Steve Stanley (and fellow 2002 grads Ken Meyer and Paul O'Toole)?

Sophomore SS Matt Macri and freshman OF Cody Rizzo were tried at the leadoff spot in the first seven games before ND moved junior 2B **Steve Sollmann** up from the 2-hole into the top spot ... Sollmann has responded by batting .385 as the leadoff hitter (45-for-117, 37 R, 23 RBI, 3 HR, 3 3B, 8 2B, 14 BB, 17 SB) and reaching base in 54 percent of his leadoff plate appearances (any inning) since the lineup shift (he leads the team with a .585 overall leadoff OB pct.).

Who would fill the gap in center field, where Stanley started all 256 games from 1999-2002?

Freshmen Craig Cooper and Cody Rizzo were tried in center during the first two weeks of the season before their classmate Brennan Grogan started 21 of the next 22 games at CF ... another freshman, Alex Nettey, then started three games in center – with senior RF **Kris Billmaier** making the shift to CF in the last 11 games.

Who would step into the No. 3 batting order spot, occupied in '02 by LF Brian Stavisky (signed as a junior 6th-round pick of the Oakland A's)?

Junior corner IF **Matt Edwards** has made 32 starts in the 3-hole (also batting cleanup recently) while ranking as one of ND's most pivotal players ... Edwards – who missed most of the '02 season with a broken leg – is batting .370 with 53 RBI and 7 home runs in 42 games played, comparable to Stavisky's '02 stats (.394, 57 RBI, 9 HR in 50 GP).

How would sophomores Matt Macri (SS) and Matt Edwards (3B/1B) return from the injuries that held them out for most of the 2002 season?

Edwards (see above) was a key factor to ND's first-half success (with Steve Sollmann's production again meeting his usual high standard) while Macri – who missed most of '02 with ACL elbow surgery – has overcome a slow start to hit .388 and make just three errors in his last 15 games (he made four Es in the first four games and was batting just .211 in late March, now .307) ... Macri also has showcased his range, glove work and arm strength to throw out several batters.

Who would meet the challenge as the staff's No. 3 starter, after the preseason surgery to ace Grant Johnson?

Ryan Kalita has stepped up as the No. 3 starter in the past month, helping overcome the loss of both Johnson and Kalita's fellow senior RHP Peter Ogilvie (just returned from sore shoulder rehab) ... Kalita (12-0 in his ND career) is 5-0 with a 3.93 ERA and .246 opp. batting avg. this season (40 Ks, 22 BB, 45 H in 50.1 IP).

Would the Irish experience a dropoff in power, most notably due to the loss of O'Toole (11 HRs in '02) and Stavisky (9)?

The current home run total (23) is on pace to fall short of the HR total by the '02 squad (53) and the Irish may not have a double-digit HR hitter on the '03 squad, with Matt Edwards (7) the current long-ball leader ... ND's current 32-5 run is all the more noteworthy when considering that the cleanup spot has produced just one home run in the last 41 games.

Would the Irish have speed and good basestealing ability, after the loss of Stanley and O'Toole?

The return of sophomore SS Matt Macri and the addition of freshmen such as Brennan Grogan, Cody Rizzo, Craig Cooper and Greg Lopez has added some quality baserunners to the 2003 lineup – with the current SB total (59) close to surpassing the SB total for all of 2002 (63) ... the combination of junior 2B Steve Sollmann (25), Grogan (12) and Cooper (8) gives the 2003 Irish a group of three players who are in the range of swiping 10-plus bases (Stanley's 32 and O'Toole's 11 were ND's only double-digit SB players in '02).

How would junior Javi Sanchez handle the position switch from the middle infield to catcher?

Sanchez – a prep 2B who filled in at SS in '02 – has made an impressive transition behind the dish while doing a solid job batting mostly in the 5-hole for the Irish (.300, 30 R, 18 RBI, HR, 3B, 10 2B) ... Sanchez has cut down on his passed balls and has made strides in throwing out attempted basestealers, due to his strong arm and agility behind the plate.

How quickly and to what degree would the freshman position players make an impact?

Five freshman position players – RF **Cody Rizzo**, LF **Brennan Grogan**, 3B **Greg Lopez**, DH **Steve Andres** and OF/DH **Craig Cooper** – played key roles in the first half of '03, combining to make 99 starts (after 29 games) while batting a combined .318 (114-for-358) ... their biggest statistical contributions (at the 29-game mark) included 62% of Notre Dame's times hit-by-pitch, 50% of the team's triples, 43% of the stolen bases and 42% of the runs scored (94 of 224).

Would the offense do its share to complement the talented core of veteran pitchers?

The 2003 team (.312 team batting avg.) – which has taken on a more righthanded slant (after the departure of five lefthanded-hitting position starters) – is lagging behind the 2002 team's final batting average (.321) but the Irish have been able to bunch together their hits to the tune of 17 "big innings" (5-plus runs) and 19 wins by 5-plus runs (just two shy of the '02 team's total of wins by 5-plus) ... seven of the eight starting position players currently are batting above .285.

TWO-YEAR TEAR – Notre Dame's combined victory total from the 2001 (49-13-1) and 2002 (50-18) seasons represented the third-most wins (99) in Division I baseball during that two-year span, trailing only Florida State (107) and South Carolina (106) ... ND's three-year **record from 2001-03 now stands at 133-40-1 (.767)**.

BIG SHADOWS – Notre Dame's 2003 roster includes some big bodies, with eight players 6-4 or taller – led by freshman RHP **Ryan Doherty** (7-1, 230), senior 1B **Mike Holba** (6-8, 240), freshman LHP **Tom Thornton** (6-6, 205), sophomore RHPs **Grant Johnson** (6-6, 220) and **John Axford** (6-5, 180), and junior 1B **Joe Thaman** (6-4, 215).

STRONG UP THE MIDDLE – Notre Dame boasts the only pair of middle infielders who each received 2003 preseason All-America honors, with junior 2B **Steve Sollmann** earning a second-team nod from the National College Baseball Writers Association while sophomore SS **Matt Macri** (who saw most of his freshman season cut short by an elbow injury that ultimately required "Tommy John" reconstructive surgery) was a *Baseball America* third team preseason All-American ... *BA* and the BIG EAST coaches forecasted Sollmann as the 2003 BIG EAST player of the year while *Collegiate Baseball* magazine predicted Macri for that honor ... three other 2B and five SS were named to at least one of the three major preseason All-America teams (which featured 10 total middle infielders) ... Southern University 2B Rickie Weeks and Florida State SS Stephen Drew were unanimous first-team picks (also *CB*) while Texas 2B Tim Moss was the only other middle infielder named to all three teams ... middle infielders cited on two of the preseason teams also included Georgia Tech SS Eric Patterson, Eastern Michigan 2B Brian Bixler and Louisiana State SS Aaron Hill ... two other shortstops – Richmond's David Reaver and USC's Anthony Lunetta – also received preseason All-America honors.

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2003 PRESEASON HONORS AND RANKINGS

John Axford (So., RHP) – Nation's #19 college prospect (11th pitcher) for 2004 draft (*Baseball America*/Perfect Game, 12/15/02), BIG EAST's #5 overall prospect (*BA*)

Craig Cooper (Fr., CF) – BIG EAST's #2 newcomer and nation's #50 newcomer (*BA*)

Matt Macri (So., SS) – Preseason third team All-American (*BA*), preseason BIG EAST player of the year (*Collegiate Baseball*), nation's #40 college prospect (#2 among SS) for 2003 draft (*BA*/Perfect Game, 12/15/02), preseason all-BE (*BA*), BE's #3 overall prospect and best IF arm (*BA*)

Chris Niesel (So. RHP) – Preseason all-BIG EAST (*BA*), nation's #49 college prospect for 2004 draft (*BA*/Perfect Game, 12/15/02), preseason all-BIG EAST (*BA*), BE's #6 overall prospect, best breaking ball (*BA*)

Steve Sollmann (Jr., 2B) – Preseason second team All-American (National College Baseball Writers), preseason BIG EAST player of the year (BIG EAST coaches and *BA*), #124 college prospect for 2003 draft (*BA*/PG, 12/15/02), preseason all-BIG EAST (coaches; *BA*), BE's #7 overall prospect (*BA*), best defensive 2B (*BA*)

Joe Thaman (Jr., 1B) – BIG EAST's best defensive 1B (*Baseball America*)

Martin Vergara (So., RHP) – Nation's #78 college prospect for 2004 draft (*BA*/Perfect Game, 12/15/02), BIG EAST's #8 overall prospect (*BA*)

Grant Johnson (So., RHP; inj.) – Nation's #5 college prospect for 2004 draft (*BA*/PG, 12/15/02), preseason third team All-American (*Collegiate Baseball*, NCBWA), preseason all-BIG EAST (coaches, *BA*), BE's #1 prospect and best control pitcher (*BA*)

RIGHT STUFF – ND's lineup – predominantly lefthanded the past four seasons – has taken on a decidedly righthanded slant in 2003, following the graduation of four lefthanded starters (CF and leadoff batter **Steve Stanley**, 3B/cleanup/#5 hitter **Andrew Bushey**, C **Paul O'Toole** and DH **Matt Bok**) and the pro signing of junior LF/3-hole hitter **Brian Stavisky** ... those five players were among the teams' top hitters from 2000-02, with Stanley, Bushey and O'Toole also playing in 1999 alongside fellow lefthanded hitters **Jeff Felker** (1B, '97-'00), **Ben Cooke** (IF/OF, '98-'01) and **Jeff Perconte** (IF/OF, '97-'00) ... junior 1B **Joe Thaman** was the only lefthanded hitter among the returning starters (sophomore Matt Edwards, a righthanded hitter, currently is the 1B starter), with 2B **Steve Sollmann**, RF **Kris Billmaier** and C **Javi Sanchez** (the '02 SS) all hitting from the right side.

ELITE E.R.A. – Notre Dame – which entered last week ranked 27th in the nation for ERA – has finished in the top-16 of the national charts for team ERA in four of the previous five seasons, owning the nation's best team ERA during portions of 2000 and '01 ... the 2000 staff surged atop the national ERA charts in late April (2.72) and finished 16th (3.93) ... the Irish then returned to the top spot among the 2001 team ERA leaders for three weeks in April, finishing fifth at 3.22 (best at ND since '92, third-best since '75) ... ND went on to finish 13th in the 2002 ERA rankings (3.57), joining Texas and Rice as the only teams ranked among the nation's top-20 ERA leaders in 2000, '01 and '02 ... the Irish also finished 12th in the final 1998 team ERA rankings (4.02) while the first eight ND staffs led by pitching coach **Brian O'Connor** ('95-'02) averaged a 4.10 team ERA.

CLOSING WITH THE CLOSER – Current senior RHP and closer **J.P. Gagne** had some rocky moments early in the 2002 postseason but managed to post an amazing ratio of strikeouts (15) to walks (1) in 18 innings of '02 postseason action ... his best two outings came at key times, retiring nine straight to close the 10-4 opening win at Florida State before coming on to strike out the side in the 9th inning of the 3-1 clincher in that three-game NCAA Super-Regional series ... he also went 7-2 in his final nine decisions of the 2002 season.

SENIOR SAVERS – Notre Dame's senior class includes three righthanders – **J.P. Gagne** (16), **Brandon Vilorio** (6) and **Matt Laird** (6) – who each have totaled six-plus saves in their ND careers (combining for 28) ... Laird and his 3/4 delivery produced four saves in the closing role with the 2001 team that climbed to the No. 1 national ranking ... his more noteworthy saves that season included the first of two wins on opening week at Mississippi State (7-5, 0.2 IP) and the final two innings to cap a 3-0 shutout of Cleveland State.

FAR & WIDE – The Notre Dame list of all-time baseball monogram winners includes players from 43 home states ... current senior RHP **Brandon Vilorio** (Wailuku, Hawaii) in 2000 became the program's first letterwinner from the island state while current junior LHP **Cody Wilkins** (Hudson, N.C.) could become the first from the Tar Heel state ... the only other states that have not produced ND baseball letterwinners include Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Vermont ... the nine-year **Paul Mainieri** era has featured players from 34 states/provinces (see p. 33 of media guide), with 19 on the '03 roster: California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Ontario, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

TEAM GAME HIGHS

At-Bats: 47 vs. Villanova (3/23)	Runs Scored: 18 vs. St. John's (4/6)
Hits: 20 vs. IPFW (4/24); 18 vs. Dayton (2/21), St. John's (4/6) and Creighton (4/13)	Doubles: 8 vs. Creighton (4/13)
RBI: 17 vs. St. John's (4/6)	Home Runs: 3 vs. St. John's (4/6)
Triples: 2 (6 games)	Walks: 8 vs. Georgetown (3/29)
Total Bases: 31 vs. Creighton (4/13)	Sac. Bunts: 3 vs. Villanova (3/23 and 3/24)
Batters Strikeouts: 13 vs. Wake Forest (3/2)	Stolen Bases: 4 vs. Wake Forest (3/2), Georgetown (3/29) and Bowling Green (4/10)
Caught Stealing: 2 vs. Navy (3/14) and Bowling Green (4/10)	Hit-By-Pitch: 4 vs. Newman (2/22) and Cleveland State (4/2/3)
Runners LOB: 15 vs. Villanova (3/23)	Hit into DP: 3 vs. N. Florida (3/11), E. Illinois (3/13) and Detroit (4/1)
Errors: 4 vs. Eastern Illinois (3/13)	Passed Balls: 3 vs. Georgetown (3/30)
DPs Turned: 3 vs. Minnesota (3/1) and Seton Hall (4/19)	
Strikeouts Thrown: 16 vs. Western Michigan (4/9; Axford 12, Gagne 6) and Cleveland St. (4/2/3; Ogilvie 8, Doherty 4, Vergara 4)	
Fewest Hits Allowed: 2 vs. Eastern Illinois (3/13) and Chicago State (4/10)	
Wild Pitches: 4 vs. Arizona State (2/22)	Hit Batters: 3 vs. Connecticut (4/26)

INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Hits: 4 by Sollmann vs. Georgetown (3/29), Edwards vs. St. John's (4/6) and Creighton (4/13), Grogan vs. Creighton (4/13)	Walks: 3 by Steve Andres vs. St. John's (4/6)
RBI: 6 by Kris Billmaier vs. Newman (2/22)	Doubles: 3 by Kris Billmaier vs. Georgetown (3/29)
Home Runs: 2 by Kris Billmaier vs. Newman (2/22)	Runs Scored: 4 by Javi Sanchez vs. Purdue (3/26), Steve Sollmann vs. Georgetown (3/29), Matt Edwards vs. St. John's (4/6)
At-Bats: 7 by Brennan Grogan vs. Villanova (3/23)	Total Bases: 9 by Kris Billmaier vs. Newman (2/22) and Matt Edwards vs. St. John's (4/6)
Sac hits: 2 by Joe Thaman vs. Villanova (3/23), Greg Lopez vs. Villanova (3/24) and Brennan Grogan vs. Creighton (4/12)	Stolen Bases: 3 by Steve Sollmann vs. Georgetown (3/29)
Hit by pitch: 2 by Cody Rizzo vs. Newman (2/22) and Detroit (4/1), Craig Cooper vs. Villanova (3/24)	Fielding Assists: 7 by Matt Macri vs. Wake Forest (3/2)
Innings pitched: 8.0 by Chris Niesel vs. Vanderbilt (3/8) and Eastern Illinois (3/13), Ryan Kalita vs. Villanova (3/24)	Strikeouts: 12 by John Axford vs. Western Michigan (4/9)

2003 Notre Dame Baseball Results

Date	Opponent	Result	ND Line	Opp. Line	Pitcher of Record	Notes
2/21	vs. Dayton	W 10-9	10-18-1	9-11-3	Viloria	
2/22	vs. Newman (7)	W 15-5	15-17-1	5-12 -2	Axford	
2/22	at Arizona State	L 3-16	3-6-3	16-10-3	Ogilvie	
2/23	at Arizona State	L 8-14	8-13-3	14-13-1	Gagne	
2/28	vs. Nebraska	L 1-7	1-6-1	7-12-2	Niesel	
3/1	at Minnesota	L 2-8	2-6-0	8-12-2	Ogilvie	
3/2	vs. Wake Forest (13)	W 2-1	2-11-0	1-8-2	Gagne	
3/8	vs. Vanderbilt (10)	W 3-1	3-7-3	1-3-2	Gagne	
3/10	vs. Navy	W 7-3	7-11-0	3-6-2	Axford	
3/11	at North Florida	W 6-1	6-11-0	1-5-7	Kalita	
3/12	at Jacksonville (10)	L 6-9	6-10-0	9-14-6	Gagne	
3/13	vs. Eastern Illinois	W 3-2	3-9-4	2-2-0	Niesel	
3/14	vs. Navy	W 11-2	11-16-1	2-10-4	Thornton	
3/15	vs. Creighton	W 10-3	10-14-1	3-7-2	Axford	
3/23	at Villanova (13)	L 2-3	2-10-0	3-11-3	Gagne	
3/23	at Villanova (7)	W 3-2	3-7-2	2-5-1	Axford	
3/24	at Villanova	W 5-1	5-7-1	1-6-3	Kalita	
3/25	Toledo	W 8-3	8-11-1	3-7-1	Doherty	
3/26	Purdue	W 8-5	8-9-3	5-7-4	Jones	
3/29	Georgetown (7)	W 6-2	6-12-0	2-6-2	Niesel	
3/29	Georgetown	W 13-3	13-11-2	3-7-3	Axford	
3/30	Georgetown	W 12-5	12-14-3	5-7-0	Kalita	
4/1	Detroit	W 15-5	15-17-1	5-9-3	Thornton	
4/2	Valparaiso	W 13-4	13-15-1	4-9-0	Vergara	
4/6	at St. John's (7)	W 11-3	11-7-0	3-9-0	Niesel	
4/6	at St. John's	W 18-3	18-18-2	3-6-2	Kalita	
4/9	Western Michigan	W 7-1	7-8-0	1-7-2	Axford	
4/10	Chicago State (7)	W 9-3	9-11-2	3-2-2	Jones	
4/10	Bowling Green (7)	W 7-2	7-8-1	2-4-3	Gagne	
4/12	at Creighton	W 2-1	2-7-0	1-6-3	Niesel	
4/13	at Creighton	W 13-12	13-18-1	12-14-2	Laird	
4/14	Central Michigan	W 8-3	8-11-0	3-7-1	Axford	
4/15	Eastern Michigan	L 3-5	3-6-0	5-7-2	Jones	
4/17	Pittsburgh (7)	W 5-2	5-8-2	2-8-0	Niesel (7.0)	
4/17	Pittsburgh	L 3-5	3-4-2	5-14-3	Thornton	
4/19	Seton Hall (7)	W 4-3	4-6-1	3-3-4	Kalita	
4/19	Seton Hall	W 9-3	9-11-0	3-5-4	Axford	
4/22	Ball State	L 1-3	1-5-1	3-9-1	Gagne	
4/23	Cleveland State	W 13-1	13-13-0	1-9-6	Ogilvie	
4/24	IPFW	W 13-3	13-20-2	3-7-1	Thornton	
4/26	Connecticut (7)	W 3-2	3-5-0	2-8-0	Doherty	
4/26	Connecticut	W 11-4	11-14-0	4-10-2	Axford	
4/27	Connecticut	W 6-3	6-8-1	3-6-1	Niesel	

Notre Dame Inning-By-Inning

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	EX	Total
Notre Dame	24	55	44	43	36	55	22	29	7	3	318
Opponents	17	8	31	15	18	27	33	16	7	4	176

EVEN STEVEN – Notre Dame's scoring dominance in the 2nd inning this season (55-8) has nearly been matched by the team's scoring edge two innings later in the 4th (43-15) ... the Irish now have been outscored in only one inning, the 7th (22-33).

WINNING BIG & SMALL – Notre Dame is 8-1 this season in one-run games while already posting 19 "big wins" (margin of five-plus runs) ... by comparison, the 2002 ND team was 9-8 in one-run games and totaled 21 wins by 5-plus runs.

APRIL SHOWERS OF WINS – Notre Dame has dominated in April during the nine-year Paul Mainieri era (177-39, .819), including 57-7 (.891) in April during the past three seasons (20-2 in '01, 19-2 in '02, 18-3 in '03) ... ND's only April losses in that stretch: vs. Ball State (3-4) and Valparaiso (3-7) in '01, vs. St. John's (3-4) and Pittsburgh (5-7) in '02, and vs. Eastern Michigan, Pittsburgh and BSU in '03.

FAVORITE MONTH – Several ND players have posted strong numbers during the month of April ... freshman IF/DH **Matt Bransfield** (.429, 9-for-21, 6 RBI, 7 R, 2 2B, BB, 4 Ks) has bounced back from a 1-for-10 start to his Irish career while sophomore 1B **Matt Edwards** owns a .403 batting avg. (29-for-72) and .764 slugging pct. (6 HR, 3B, 6 2B) during April, with 31 RBI in 21 April games played and more walks (9) than Ks (6) ... sophomore SS **Matt Macri** headed into April with just a .253 batting average but he has hit nearly 100 points higher this month (.349, 22-for-63, 14 RBI, 17 R, .651 slugging, 2 HR, 3 3B, 7 2B, 11 BB, 15 Ks, 3 SB) ... junior 2B **Steve Sollmann's** steady season includes a .408 April batting avg. (29-for-71, 15 RBI, 24 R, 2 HR, 2 3B, 6 2B, 8 BB, 5 Ks, 9 SB) ... on the pitching mound, freshman RHP **Ryan Doherty** (9 IP, UER, 3 H, BB, 15 Ks) has allowed no earned runs, just .111 opp. batting and owns a 15-to-1 K-to-walk ratio in five April relief outings ... the bullpen leader, senior closer **J.P. Gagne**, has dominated in 11 April appearances with a 1.96 ERA, 1-1 record and six saves in 18.1 IP (12 H, 8 BB, 12 Ks, .179) ... as a team, ND is 18-3 during the month with a .325 batting average (9.6 runs scored per 9 innings), a 2.95 staff ERA and a .978 team fielding pct. (just 17 errors, two of them by pitchers) ... ND's five players in the infield (including junior C **Javi Sanchez**) have combined for just nine Es all month: Sanchez (0), Sollmann (1; 81 chances), Edwards (2), Macri (4) and freshman 3B **Greg Lopez** (2).

NOTRE DAME STATS DURING APRIL (18-3)

Player	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG	BB	HP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB
Bransfield	.429	11-4	21	7	9	2	0	0	6	11	.524	1	1	4	1	.458	1	0	0-0
Cooper	.412	14-8	34	11	14	2	2	0	4	20	.588	7	0	6	0	.512	0	0	3-3
Sollmann	.408	19-19	71	24	29	6	2	2	15	45	.634	8	0	5	0	.462	1	1	9-12
Edwards	.403	21-21	72	14	29	6	1	6	31	55	.764	9	0	6	4	.458	2	0	2-2
Macri	.349	19-19	63	17	22	7	3	2	14	41	.651	11	2	15	0	.461	0	1	3-4
Grogan	.323	19-19	62	17	20	2	1	0	9	24	.387	7	0	1	2	.386	1	6	6-9
Rizzo	.303	20-20	66	25	20	2	0	2	12	28	.424	2	13	12	1	.422	2	0	0-1
Sanchez	.293	17-17	58	15	17	6	1	0	9	25	.431	3	3	5	0	.359	0	0	2-2
Lopez	.281	19-19	57	8	16	0	0	0	16	16	.281	2	3	7	3	.339	0	2	1-3
Andres	.276	15-10	29	7	8	0	1	1	8	13	.448	6	4	4	2	.450	1	0	0-1
Billmaier	.232	21-20	69	15	16	5	0	1	13	24	.348	12	1	8	1	.345	2	1	1-1
Nettey	.207	12-6	29	7	6	2	0	0	3	8	.276	1	0	8	0	.233	0	1	1-1

Murray	.389	9-4	18	3	7	1	0	0	5	8	.444	0	0	5	1	.368	1	0	0-0
Thaman	.294	8-3	17	3	5	1	0	0	6	6	.353	0	0	3	1	.294	0	1	0-0
Sisko	.200	7-0	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	.200	3	0	1	0	.500	0	0	0-0
Holba	.200	7-0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	.200	2	0	0	0	.429	0	0	0-0
Vergara	.000	1-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0
Richey	.000	1-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1	0	0	0	1.000	0	0	0-0
Totals	.325	21-21	677	174	220	42	11	14	152	326	.482	75	27	90	16	.408	11	13	28
Opponents	.237	21-21	659	71	156	26	6	9	62	221	.335	61	8	167	9	.308	3	14	22

LOB - Team (140), Opp (143). DPs turned - Team (16), Opp (20). IBB - Team (3), Billmaier 1, Sanchez 1, Sollmann 1, Opp (3). Picked off - Grogan 2, Edwards 1.

Player	ERA	W-L	APPGS	CG	SH/CB	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	Avg	WP	HB	
Doherty	0.00	1-0	5	0	0	0/0	0	9.0	3	1	0	1	15	0	0	0	27	.111	0	1
Vergara	1.69	1-0	3	2	0	0/0	1	10.2	8	4	2	8	12	1	2	0	39	.205	0	0
Gagne	1.96	1-1	11	0	0	0/0	6	18.1	12	6	4	8	12	2	0	0	67	.179	1	0
Axford	2.08	4-0	4	4	0	0/0	0	26.0	18	6	6	16	24	3	2	2	88	.205	0	1
Thornton	2.45	2-1	5	4	0	0/0	0	22.0	22	9	6	8	15	4	0	0	81	.272	2	1
Niesel	2.53	4-0	5	5	1	0/0	0	32.0	34	10	9	7	27	5	0	0	127	.268	2	1
Jones	4.50	1-1	5	1	0	0/0	0	8.0	7	4	4	0	8	0	1	2	32	.219	0	1
Laird	4.76	1-0	7	0	0	0/0	1	11.1	10	6	6	1	15	1	0	2	43	.233	0	0
Kalita	5.64	2-0	4	4	0	0/0	0	22.1	25	16	14	6	18	5	0	3	86	.291	1	3
Arminio	0.00	0-0	2	0	0	0/0	0	2.1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	7	.000	0	0
Wilkins	0.00	0-0	1	0	0	0/0	0	1.0	3	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	6	.500	0	0
Viloria	1.59	0-0	6	0	0	0/0	0	5.2	4	1	1	1	7	2	0	0	20	.200	0	0
Ogilvie	2.84	1-0	2	1	0	0/0	0	6.1	6	2	2	1	10	1	0	0	25	.240	0	0
Bickford	18.0	0-0	1	0	0	0/0	0	2.0	4	4	4	3	2	1	0	0	11	.364	1	0
Totals	2.95	18-3					8	177.0	156	71	58	61	167	26	6	9	659	.237	7	8
Opp.	8.06						3	163.0	220	174	146	75	90	42	11	14	677	.325	16	27

PB - Team (5), Javi Sanchez 4, Cody Rizzo 1, Opp (7). Pickoffs - Team (5), Thornton 2, Sanchez 1, Axford 1, Ryan Doherty 1, Opp (3). SBA/ATT - Sanchez (13-16), Rizzo (7-8), Kalita (4-7), Thornton (5-7), J.P. Gagne (4-4), John Axford (2-3), Doherty (2-3), Vergara (2-2), Andres (2-2), Niesel (2-2), Arminio (1-1)

Fielding (Ch.-E-Pct.): Bransfield (11-0), Cooper (7-0), Sollmann (81-1-.988), Edwards (161-2-.988), Macri (88-4-.955), Grogan (24-1-.958), Rizzo (55-2-.964), Sanchez (132-0), Lopez (37-2-.946), Andres (18-1-.944), Billmaier (38-1-.974), Nettey (9-0), Murray (17-1-.941), Thaman (47-0), Sisko (3-0), Gagne (7-0), Axford (7-0), Niesel (6-0), Doherty (3-0), Ogilvie (2-0), Bickford (1-0), Viloria (1-0), Arminio (1-0), Kalita (6-1-.833), Thornton (6-1-.833) ... **Team (768-17-.978), Opp. (743-42-.943).**