

2006 SCHEDULE (12-8)

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. 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 (DH)*	L, 3-8; W, 12-2
Sun. 26	vs. Georgetown*	W, 6-3
Tues. 28	Valparaiso	5:05 p.m.
Wed. 29	Western Michigan	5:05 p.m.
Fri. 31	Pittsburgh*	6:05 p.m.

APRIL

Sat. 1	Pittsburgh*	1:05 p.m.
Sun. 2	Pittsburgh*	12:05 p.m.
Tues. 4	Chicago State	5:05 p.m.
Wed. 5	Ball State	5:05 p.m.
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 Tour. (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

(vs. Valparaiso ... Eck Stadium ... March 28)

LONG-AWAITED HOMESTAND – Notre Dame (12-8) played 17 of its first 20 games on the road but now will play 19 of the next 22 at home, with 7- and 12-game homestands separated by a series at South Florida ... sophomore LHPs David Gruener (vs. Valparaiso) and Korpi (vs. Western Michigan) will be the midweek starters on March 28 and 29 while the weekend rotation vs. Pittsburgh is set for junior RHPs Jeff Samardzija (March 31) and Jeff Manship (April 1), followed by senior LHP Tom Thornton in the Sunday game (April 2).

IRISH POST 500th WIN OF MAINIERI ERA – Sunday's 6-3 win over Georgetown was Paul Mainieri's 500th victory in 11-plus seasons at ND (500-204-2; 831-483-3 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).

QUICK ND TEAM NOTES – Notre Dame scored in the first inning of all five games last week and now owns a 21-5 first-inning scoring margin ... the Irish used a seven-run first inning to help beat Central Michigan last week (11-9) ... ND now has opened on the road in nine of its 11 BIG EAST seasons (7-4 in BIG EAST openers) ... the Irish have been swept in just nine of 91 all-time double-headers... the Irish went 7-1 in San Antonio during Spring Break, sparked by a rally vs. #15 Texas A&M (5-4) ... ND already has suffered several tough 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 the NCAA Regional final for the sixth straight season (38-24-1).

QUICK ND PLAYER NOTES – One-third of ND's RBI this season (35 of 113; 31%) has come from the #8 and #9 hitters in the batting order, with senior RF **Cody Rizzo** (19) and senior SS **Greg Lopez** (18) currently sitting atop the team's RBI charts ... Lopez has collected 14 of his RBI from the 8-hole while all but one of Rizzo's RBI have come from the #9 spot (Mike Dury's 3-run home run vs. Oklahoma also came from the 8th spot) ... Lopez led ND by batting 6-for-12 (6 RBI) in the Georgetown series and now ranks 4th on the team with a .324 season batting avg. ... Rizzo's 19 RBI are five shy of his entire 2005 total while his .379 batting with runners in scoring position is more than 100 points higher than his overall avg. (.274) ... senior 1B **Craig Cooper** has reached in 11-of-12 leadoff plate appearances in the first inning (HR, 2 2B, 3 1B, 4 BB, HBP) and owns a team-best .600 on-base pct. when leading off any inning (15-of-25) ... Rizzo had 3 HBP last week and now is tied for 3rd in NCAA history with 74 career HBPs ... sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley**'s 8 HBPs give him 38 in his career, already tied for 2nd in ND history ... senior CF **Alex Nettey**'s BIG EAST-leading 11 HBP put him on pace to be the third ND player to set the team record in the past four seasons (Rizzo had 28 HBP in '03, Lilley had 30 in '05) ... Cooper opened the series finale at GU with a rare leadoff home run ... Rizzo and freshman DH **Jeremy Barnes** had homered in the first win over GU, giving ND three HRs in a span of 33 ABs (after just 5 HRs in the first 596 ABs of the season) ... Cooper's nine-game hit streak ended vs. CMU (0-for-1, 3 BB, SF) ... sophomore LHP **Wade Korpi** has 25 Ks and just 6 BB in 17.1 IP (a big improvement from his 32 Ks and 33 BB in 54.1 as a freshman) ... ND's top four starting pitchers – **Tom Thornton**, **Jeff Manship**, **Jeff Samardzija** and Korpi – have combined for a 2.99 ERA, .240 opp. avg., 3.2 K/walk ratio (100/31) and 11 more innings (111.1) than hits allowed (100) ... **Matt Bransfield** was named tournament MVP at the Irish Baseball Classic (8-for-16, 5 RBI, HR, 3B, 3 2B). the Arizona game (2-0, in 10) was ND's second extra-inning loss in '06 ... the Irish entered '06 with the nation's 7th-best win pct. of the 2000s (now .723; 289-110-2) ... the veteran Irish lineup returns 8-of-9 position starters, with six seniors in the regular lineup.

**RADIO, LIVE-STATS, TEXT-MESSAGES
UPDATES & HOTLINE**

All of ND's 2006 regular-season and post-season 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 GU 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).

SERIES NOTES – ND holds a 67-20 lead in a Valparaiso series that dates back to 1918 (43-10 at ND; 11-1 in Mainieri era) ... ND has won six straight in the series but Valpo's 4-2 win in '01 knocked the Irish from the top ranking ... Cooper is a .545 career batter vs. Valpo (6-for-11), including a 1st-inning grand slam in the '05 game (9-8) ... Dallas Cawiezell also was the '05 starter vs. ND (2 IP, H, 4 R/3 ER, BB).

NEW SERIES 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.

PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

Tues., March 28 – ND soph. LHP **David Gruener** (2.57 ERA, 0-0, 5 Ks, 3 BB, 5 H/.192 opp. avg., 7 IP, 6 GP/0 GS) and Valpo soph. RHP **Dallas Cawiezell** (9.72, 1-2, 10 Ks, 2 BB, 20 H/.455, 8.1 IP, 4 GP/1 GS)

Wed., March 29 – ND soph. LHP **Wade Korpi** (4.15, 1-1, 25 Ks, 6 BB, 20 H/.286, 17.1 IP, 4 GP/3 GS) and WMU soph. RHP **Dan Coberley** (3.09, 2-1, 8 Ks, 6 BB, 13 H/.289, 11.2 IP, 5 GP/0 GS) OR soph. RHP **Bryan French** (4.91, 0-2, 9 Ks, 4 BB, 18 H/.316, 14.2 IP, 3 GP/2 GS)

Fri., March 31 – ND jr. RHP **Jeff Samardzija** (3.72 ERA, 2-1, 10 Ks, 14 BB, 26 H/.245 opp. avg., 29 IP, 5 GS) and Pitt soph. LHP **Rob Brant** (4.42, 2-3, 37 Ks, 16 BB, 38 H/.266, 36.2 IP, 7 GP/6 GS)

Sat., April 1 – ND jr. RHP **Jeff Manship** (2.32 ERA, 2-1, 41 Ks, 8 BB, 24 H/.209 opp. avg., 31 IP, 5 GS) and Pitt jr. RHP **Paul Nardoizzi** (3.32, 4-2, 49 Ks, 13 BB, 32 H/.204, 43.1 IP, 6 GS)

Sun., April 2 – ND sr. LHP **Tom Thornton** (2.38 ERA, 4-1, 24 Ks, 3 BB, 30 H/.240 opp. avg., 34 IP, 5 GS) and Pitt soph. RHP **Kyle Landis** (3.71, 2-1, 30 Ks, 6 BB, 23 H/.225, 26.2 IP, 9 GP/2 GS)

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

Pos.	Player	Yr./Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2006 Statistics
C	#11 Sean Gaston*	Jr./6-0/175	Brownsburg, IN	.294, 9 RBI, 3B, 2 2B
1B	#9 Craig Cooper	Sr./6-2/210	Plainview, NY	.344, 19 R, 4 RBI, 3 2B, 9 BB
2B	#7 Ross Brezovsky*	So./5-10/170	Naples, FL	.323, HR, 11 RBI, 3 2B
SS	#4 Greg Lopez	Sr./6-0/190	Upper Arlington, OH	.324, 18 RBI, 3 E
3B	#2 Brett Lilley*	Fr./5-7/165	North Canton, OH	.266, 11 R, 6 RBI, 8 HBP
LF	#12 Matt Bransfield	Sr./6-1/200	Englewood, CO	.333, 2 HR, 14 RBI, 9 2B
CF	#16 Alex Nettey	Sr./6-1/200	Dolton, IL	.273, 15 R, 6 SB, 11 HBP
RF	#17 Cody Rizzo	Sr./6-1/195	Temecula, CA	.274, 19 RBI, 2 HR, 7 SB
DH	#20 Jeremy Barnes	Fr./5-11/185	Garland, TX	.294, 8 RBI, 11 R, 4 2B, 9 BB
OF	#8 Danny Dressman	Jr./5-9/180	San Jose, CA	.333, 15 RBI, 2 3B, 11 BB

CAREER STATS vs. VALPARAISO

Craig Cooper	.545 (6-for-11)	6 RBI, 5 R, 2 HR, BB, K, 3 SB
Steve Andres	.500 (3-for-6)	4 RBI, 3 R, HR, BB, K
Matt Bransfield	.444 (4-for-9)	4 RBI, 2 R, 2 2B, K
Greg Lopez	.400 (4-for-10)	4 RBI, 2 R, 2B, 2 Ks
Alex Nettey	.333 (2-for-6)	3 R, 2 Ks
Brett Lilley	.000 (0-for-3)	2 R, BB
Sean Gaston	.000 (0-for-2)	RBI, R, K
Cody Rizzo	.000 (0-for-12)	RBI, 4 Ks
Rozz Brezovsky	.000 (0-for-4)	K
Danny Dressman	1 GP	
Joey Williamson	3 IP, 6 R, 9 H, 2 HB, K	
Mike Dury	2.1 IP, R, 3 H, 2 Ks	
Jess Stewart	5 IP, H, 2 HB, 6 Ks	

CAREER STATS vs. NOTRE DAME

Rupno	.600 (3-for-5)	3 RBI, R, BB
Lowell	.500 (2-for-4)	2 RBI, 2 R, 2 Ks
Perri	.375 (3-for-8)	R, 2B, BB, K
Reynolds	.375 (3-for-8)	RBI, 3 R, 2B, BB, 3 Ks
Rzepka	.333 (3-for-9)	RBI, R, K, SB
Arendsdorff	.250 (2-for-8)	RBI, R, 2B, K
Piazza	.200 (1-for-5)	RBI, 2 Ks
Kutansky	.167 (2-for-12)	RBI, 2 R, 3B, K
Rickert	.167 (1-for-6)	RBI, R, 2 Ks, CS
Giusti	1-for-3	R, SB
Manthei	1-for-2	K, CS
Augustine	1-for-1	RBI
Mazzone	0-for-2	
Cawiezell	2 IP, 4 R/3 ER, H, BB, 2 HB	
Snelten	1.2 IP, H, 3 Ks	
Gillikin	5 IP, 4 H, 3 R, 3 BB, 5 Ks	
Obenauf	IP, 3 H, 3 R, BB	

ON THE ROAD ... AGAIN? – Notre Dame opened BIG EAST play on the road for the 9th time in 11 seasons ... the only times that ND has started BIG EAST play at home both came vs. GU ('98 and '05).

NOTRE DAME BIG EAST SEASON OPENER HISTORY

1996	win	9-0	at Boston College (on Cape Cod)
1997	loss	4-5	at Seton Hall
1998	win	7-6	vs. Georgetown
1999	win	4-1	at West Virginia
2000	win	4-0	vs. Villanova (Richie Ashburn Field)
2001	win	3-0	at Pittsburgh
2002	loss	3-4	at Connecticut
2003	win	2-3	vs. Villanova (VU Ballpark)
2004	win	5-3	at West Virginia
2005	win	6-2	vs. Georgetown
2006	loss	3-8	vs. Georgetown (Bethesda/Povich Field)

Totals: 7-4 (5-4 on the road)

NOTRE DAME BIG EAST OPENING WEEKEND HISTORY

1996	3-1	vs. Boston College (2-0; Cape Cod), at Providence (1-1)
1997	0-3	at Seton Hall
1998	3-0	vs. Georgetown
1999	2-0	at West Virginia
2000	2-1	vs. Villanova (Richie Ashburn Field)
2001	2-2	at Pittsburgh (2-0), at Virginia Tech (0-2)
2002	0-3	at Connecticut
2003	1-2	vs. Villanova (VU Ballpark)
2004	3-0	at West Virginia
2005	3-1	vs. Georgetown (1-1) and Seton Hall (2-0)
2006	2-1	vs. Georgetown (Bethesda/Povich Field)

Totals: 21-14 (6-2 vs. GU), 15-13 on the road

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 (.716; 197-78-1) – the best win pct. by any BIG EAST team since the Irish joined the league in 1996 ... ND has played 94 BIG EAST series and has lost the series just 13 times (67 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 (.716) owns the best BIG EAST regular-season win pct. in the conference's history.

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:

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)
2006 – 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.

GOLDEN GLOVE – Senior shortstop **Greg Lopez** enters the weekend riding a 14-game errorless streak, spanning 55 fielding chances ... Lopez has made just one error all season (vs. Memphis) and owns a sparkling .985 fielding pct. ... he made 20 errors as a sophomore and 23 as a junior (both while playing mostly SS) and now has totaled 101 error-free games in the past three seasons (138 GP), with just eight multiple-E games in that stretch ... Lopez also had a strong defensive start in 2005 (no Es in first 15 games) and rattled off a 17-game error-free streak in '04.

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 has moved him into third place on the list for career batting average in BIG EAST games, entering 2006 at .420 (68-for-162) ... 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 joins Cirone as the only players in the past 18 seasons to hit above .420 or higher in their BIG EAST career.

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 345 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	31	102	146
Craig Cooper	50	8	57	115
Alex Nettey	4	87	2	93
Steve Andres	59	0	2	61
Danny Dressman	7	31	7	45
Totals	133	156	171	460

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 11-of-12 first-inning plate appearances since taking over the leadoff spot (3 singles, 3 walks, 2 doubles, HBP) ... he also has reached on a team-best 63.2% of his overall plate appearances when leading off any inning (12-of-19).

KEY HITS – Senior RF/C **Cody Rizzo** ranks just 8th among the ND regulars in batting avg. (.274) but leads the team with 19 RBI, while batting mostly in the 9-hole ... Rizzo's batting with runners in scoring position (.360, 9-for-25) is 4th-best on the team, is more than 100 points above his overall batting avg. and is double his batting numbers with non-RBI chances (.185, 5-for-27; no runners or runner on 1st-base only) ... he also leads the team with 10 two-out RBI.

BIG EAST Stat Leaders

Danny Dressman – 3rd in sac. bunts (6), 28th in batting avg. (.333)

Matt Bransfield – 2nd in doubles (9), 27th in batting avg. (.333)

Alex Nettey – 1st in HBP (11)

Brett Lilley – 3rd in HBP (8)

Craig Cooper – 21st in batting avg. (.344)

Jeff Manship – 1st in strikeouts looking (14), 4th in Ks (41), 8th in ERA (2.32), opp. batting avg. (.209)

Kyle Weiland – 1st in saves (5) and 3rd in games finished (8)

Tom Thornton – 1st in wins (4), 9th in ERA (2.38)

Jeff Samardzija – 23rd in ERA (3.72)

Team Offense

1st in HBPs (39)

4th in batting avg. (.296), on-base pct. (.395) and stolen bases (28)

5th in slugging pct. (.396) and sac. bunts (21)

8th in home runs (8) and triples (4)

Team Pitching

1st in saves (6) and fewest home runs allowed (3)

2nd in fewest walks allowed (60)

3rd in ERA (3.54), Ks looking (53) and fewest hits allowed (167)

4th in strikeouts (154) and opp. batting avg. (.250)

5th in wins (12)

Team Fielding – 4th with .970 fielding pct.

IS THE EIGHTH ENOUGH? – The Irish have put away several games this season in the 8th, owning a 21-6 scoring edge in the inning (+15, the team's second-best margin in any inning) ... ND is batting .437 (34-for-78) in the 8th inning this season, with a .590 team slugging pct. in the inning (HR, 2 3B, 5 2B) and a .483 on-base pct. (7 BB, 2 HBP) ... seven ND regulars are batting .500 or better in the 8th inning this season:

Greg Lopez	4-for-5	3 RBI, 2 R, 2B, SF, GDP
Brett Lilley	3-for-5	2 RBI, 2B, BB, K, SAC, GDP
Alex Nettey	4-for-7	RBI, 2 R, HBP, 2 Ks
Craig Cooper	4-for-7	4 R, HBP
Danny Dressman	5-for-9	RBI, 5 R, 2 3B, 2 BB, K
Matt Bransfield	4-for-8	3 RBI, 2 R, 2B, BB, 2 Ks
Jeremy Barnes	2-for-4	2 RBI, 3 R, 2B, BB

Here's a look at ND's record in various situations:

ND scores in 1st inning	6-4
Opponent scores in 1st inning	2-2
ND scores first	9-4
ND leads after 8th inning	12-1
ND hits a home run	5-1
Opponent hits a home run	0-3
ND does not make an error	4-1
ND is outthit by the opponent	0-5
One-run games	1-2
Extra-inning games	0-2

NOTRE DAME BASEBALL 2006 QUICK FACTS

Location..... Notre Dame, IN 46556
Founded1842
First Season of Baseball 1892
Undergraduate Enrollment8,311

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
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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:

Greg Lopez..... 100 runs
Paul Mainieri..... 498 wins (at ND)
Matt Bransfield 98 RBI
Alex Nettey 98 hits
Cody Rizzo 94 RBI
Steve Andres ... 94 runs, 88 RBI, 91 walks
Brett Lilley..... 93 hits
Craig Cooper 189 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
(5.20 ERA, 4-1, 2 SV, 53 Ks, 19 BB, 35 IP)

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

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

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)

NOTRE DAME PLAYER TEAM RANKS

Jeremy Barnes – ranks 2nd on team with 4 doubles and 9 walks, also 3rd in on-base pct. (.419), runs (11) and stolen bases (4), 4th in slugging (.431) ... 2nd on team in batting with runners in scoring position (.471), 3rd in batting vs. RHPs (.313), 4th in batting with runners on (.333)

Matt Bransfield – leads team in slugging (.569), hits (24), home runs (2), doubles (9), total bases (41) and games started (19); 2nd in batting avg. (.333) and games played (19); 4th in BI (14) and 5th in runs (10) ... leads team in batting vs. LHPs (.429), 2nd in leadoff on-base (.500) and 2-out RBI (7); 4th in batting with runners on (.333), 2-out batting (.310) and batting vs. RHPs (.310)

Ross Brezovsky – 2nd on team in total bases (27) and doubles (4), 3rd in slugging (.435) and starts (18), 4th in hits (20), 5th in batting (.323) and RBI (11) ... 3rd on team in 2-out batting (.316), 5th in batting vs. RHPs (.306) and LHPs (.385) and 2-out RBI (5)

Craig Cooper – leads team in runs (19) and batting (.344), 2nd in on-base (.446) slugging (.443) and walks (9) and total bases (27), 3rd in hits (21), 4th in doubles (3) and HBP (3) ... owns team-best .600 leadoff on-base pct. and batting vs. RHPs (.367), 4th in runners advanced (53%)

Danny Dressman – leads team in on-base (.471), walks (11) and triples (2); 2nd in batting (.333); 3rd in RBI (15); 4th in HBP (3); 5th in slugging (.426), hits (18) and runs (10)... leads team in 2-out batting (.417), batting with runners on (.481) and in scoring position (.474) and pct. of runners advanced (81%); 2nd in batting vs. RHPs (.364); 3rd in 2-out RBI (6)

Sean Gaston – 4th on team in walks (8) ... 2nd on team in batting with runners on (.391), 3rd on team in runners advanced (58%)

Brett Lilley – 2nd on team in HBP (8); 3rd in runs (11), stolen bases (4) and starts (18) ... leads team in batting vs. LHPs (.429), 4th in leadoff on-base pct. (.429)

Greg Lopez – leads team with 19 starts, 2nd in RBI (18), hits (22) and games played (19); 4th in batting (.324) and 5th in total bases (24) ... 2nd on team in runners advanced (58%) and 2-out batting (.353), 3rd in batting with runners on (.390), in scoring position (.429) and 2-out RBI (6), 4th in batting vs. LHPs

Alex Nettey – leads team in HBP (11); 2nd in stolen bases (6), runs (15) and games played (19); 4th in on-base (.412) ... 5th in 2-out batting (.294), batting with runners in scoring position (.357), runners advanced (48%)

Cody Rizzo – leads team in RBI (19), stolen bases (7) and games played (20); 3rd in HBP (4) and starts (18); 4th in total bases (26) and walks (8) ... leads team in 2-out RBI (10), 3rd in batting vs. LHPs (.417), 4th in batting with runners in scoring position (.379)

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

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

STARTERS SUMMARY

Player	GS	Position										Batting Order												
		p	c	1b	2b	3b	ss	lf	cf	rf	of	dh	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th			
12 Matt Bransfield..	18	.	.	2	.	.	.	16	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	9	3	5	.	.		
4 Greg Lopez.....	18	.	.	.	.	.	18	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	.	12	1	
7 Ross Brezovsky...	17	.	.	.	17	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	3	11	1	.	
2 Brett Lilley.....	17	.	.	.	.	16	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	3	6	7	.	.	1	.	
16 Alex Nettey.....	17	17	3	.	.	1	.	4	5	3	1
17 Cody Rizzo.....	17	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	16
6 Danny Dressman...	15	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	6	.	4	.	.	12	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
11 Sean Gaston.....	14	.	13	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	2	5	5	1	.	.	.	.
9 Craig Cooper.....	14	.	.	14	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
20 Jeremy Barnes....	11	.	.	2	2	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	2	.	2	1	5	.	1	.	.
36 Steve Andres.....	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	6	.	.	2	3	1	2	.	.	.
44 Mike Dury.....	3	.	.	.	1	2	1	.	2	.
8 Evan Sharpley....	1	1	1	.	.	.
14 Eddy Mendiola....	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)

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).

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 (31 in 17 GP) ... senior CF **Alex Nettey** leads all BIG EAST players with 9 HBPs (9th in ND history with 28 career HBPs) ... senior RF/C **Cody Rizzo** (3 HBP in '06) ranks 4th in NCAA history with 73 career HBPs ... sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (5 HBP in '06) already is 5th in ND history with 35 career HBPs, two behind Dan Bautch and Greg Layson and three shy of Craig DeSensi ... senior SS **Greg Lopez** (30) and senior 1B **Craig Cooper** 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)
- 74 – Jeff Ontiveros (Texas; 1999-2002); 258 GP (3.49 gms/HBP)
- 74* – Cody Rizzo (Notre Dame; '03-); 190 GP (2.57 gms/HBP)**

NCAA RECORD BOOK PLAYER SEASON HIT-BY-PITCH

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

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

NCAA RECORD BOOK TEAM SEASON HIT-BY-PITCH

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

• The 2005 Notre Dame team owns the 2nd-best HBP per game among teams on the above list ... ND totaled 236 HBPs in the past two seasons, in 125 games (1.89 per game) ... 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).

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

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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

• The NCAA's recently-released Graduation Success Rate (GSR) data also reinforced the Notre Dame baseball program's elite academic standing, as the Irish were one of 17 teams among 268 in Division I – but one of only two teams from that group that also currently are in the national top-25 polls – to compile a 100%t graduation rate, during a four-year sample of classes entering from 1995-98.

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

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

• Notre Dame boasts several strong Academic All-America candidates in 2006, most notably: senior LHP **Tom Thornton** (3.54 cumulative GPA; 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)	11	3	5	+9
<i>(2005)</i>	5	1	12	-6
Craig Cooper ('06)	9	3	5	+7
<i>(2005)</i>	32	14	22	+24
Alex Nettey ('06)	2	11	8	+5
<i>(2005)</i>	13	14	29	-2
Brett Lilley ('06)	4	8	8	+4
<i>(2005)</i>	34	27	32	+29
Sean Gaston ('06)	8	0	4	+4
<i>(2005)</i>	5	4	16	-7
Jeremy Barnes ('06)	9	2	9	+2
Ross Brezovsky ('06)	6	2	8	-
<i>(2005)</i>	16	4	40	-20
Steve Andres ('06)	7	1	8	-
<i>(2005)</i>	21	6	20	+7
Greg Lopez ('06)	2	1	5	-2
<i>(2005)</i>	10	16	43	-17
Cody Rizzo ('06)	8	4	14	-2
<i>(2005)</i>	22	21	35	+8
Matt Bransfield ('06)	5	2	18	-11
<i>(2005)</i>	10	7	14	+3
TEAM TOTALS	74	39	103	+10
<i>(2005)</i>	220	125	328	+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 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)

	Leadoff On-Base Pct.	Batting w/ RISP	2-Out Batting	Clutch Hit Tot.
Danny Dressman (2005)	.300 (.225 adjusted) (13) .182 (.137)	(1) .474 (8) .286	(1) .417 (9) .250	(1) 1,116 673
Jeremy Barnes	.389 (.286)	(2) .471	.286	1,043
Matt Bransfield (2005)	(2) .500 (.375) (2) .542 (.407)	.323 (6) .314	(4) .310 (6) .286	1,008 1,007
Greg Lopez (2005)	.294 (.220) (8) .353 (.265)	(3) .429 (10) .242	(2) .353 (7) .279	1,002 786
Craig Cooper (2005)	(1) .600 (.450) (5) .419 (.314)	.250 (2) .434	.235 (2) .369	935 1,117
Cody Rizzo (2005)	.375 (.281) (4) .436 (.327)	(4) .379 (12) .190	.259 (10) .246	919 763
Alex Nettey (2005)	.263 (.199) (6) .418 (.314)	(5) .357 (9) .273	(5) .294 (12) .219	850 806
Ross Brezovsky (2005)	(5) .389 (.286) (10) .298 (.224)	.227 (7) .288	(3) .316 (10) .246	829 758
Sean Gaston (2005)	.333 (.250) (7) .357 (.268)	.313 (4) .322	.200 (5) .302	763 892
Brett Lilley (2005)	(4) .429 (.322) (3) .515 (.386)	.200 (1) .448	.250 (1) .439	722 1,273
Steve Andres (2005)	(3) .500 (.375) (11) .286 (.215)	.091 (11) .220	.154 (8) .275	620 710
TEAM (2005)	.398 (.298) .406 (.311)	.329 .309	.275 .294	902 908

**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, Notre Dame now owns a 44-9 record (.830) vs. fellow Indiana-based schools during the Paul Mainieri era (since '95), with games versus: Valparaiso (10-1), 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 schedule vs. Valparaiso, 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 Leagues (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 Netzey (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)