

## Post Game Notes

### Notre Dame vs. St. John's

May 1, 2010

- Senior Ryan Connolly (Binghamton, N.Y.) drilled a leadoff home run in the bottom of the first inning, his third leadoff home run this season—he also led off with a long ball against Bradley on March 11 and at Georgetown on April 2. Five of Connolly's 13 career home runs have come in his first plate appearance of the game, as he also homered in the second inning on March 8, 2009 against USF (Connolly batted seventh) and in the first inning against Michigan State on March 20 of this season (game two; batted third). The three leadoff homers in one year are the most since Craig Cooper notched four in the 2006 season, doing so at Georgetown (3/26) and at home against Manchester (4/12), St. John's (4/13; game two), and Rutgers (4/23).
- Notre Dame has now scored in the first inning in five straight games.
- With the homer, Connolly reached base to lead off the game for the fifth straight contest, upping his on-base percentage in his first plate appearance this season to .595 (25-for-42). The five consecutive games of reaching base in his first trip to the plate ties for Connolly's longest streak of the season, as he also reached in five straight from March 23-27.
- To give an update on an open-ended question, no Irish player (besides Connolly) has registered six hits in six consecutive plate appearances since at least the 2004 season. Connolly went 5-for-5 against Cincinnati on April 24 (game two of the doubleheader) and then doubled in his first at bat against Toledo on April 27 to collect his sixth hit in as many trips to the plate.
- Connolly was also hit by a pitch once again, giving him 16 on the season, tied for ninth in Irish single-season history with Greg Lopez (2005).
- Senior Billy Boockford (Glen Ellyn, Ill.) picked up his first career stolen base on his first career attempt in the second inning of Saturday's contest.
- Sophomore starter Steve Sabatino (Lockport, Ill.) fell victim to a pair of unearned runs in the second inning of his start and has now given up 18 unearned runs this season, the most for a Notre Dame pitcher since Tom Price yielded 21 in 1994 and tied for the fourth most in Irish single-season history (since earned runs began being tracked in 1957). The only other Irish pitchers to surrender more were Bill Matre (19 in 1983) and Mike Bobinski (19 in 1978).
- Junior shortstop Mick Doyle (LaGrange Park, Ill.) ended an 0-for-20 slump on Saturday with a fifth-inning double.
- Sophomore Joe Spano (Verona, N.J.) tossed 3.0 scoreless frames for the second consecutive outing. He walked 16 batters and struck out 12 in his first 14.1 innings this season, but has walked just one and punched out six in his last two outings.
- Spano also became the eighth Notre Dame pitcher to pick off a runner this season when he nabbed Joe Panik in the seventh inning. The Irish have not had more pitchers pick off a runner in a season since at least 1996 (when pickoff statistics became available).
- The last seven hitters in the order for the Red Storm did virtually all of the damage in Saturday's game, combining to go 11-for-25 (.440) and score all eight St. John's runs. At the top of the order, Scott Ferrara and Jimmy Parque together went 0-for-9.
- Notre Dame used the lineup of Ryan Connolly (LF), Frank DeSico (2B), David Mills (DH), Casey Martin (1B), Brayden Ashdown (CF), Billy Boockford (RF), Mick Doyle (SS), Cameron McConnell (C), and Greg Sherry (3B) for the fourth time in the past five games—today's contest was the first in which the Irish have lost with that lineup (3-0 entering the game).
- Senior Casey Martin (Chesterton, Ind.) saw his hitting streak end at nine games after an 0-for-4 afternoon.