

NOTRE DAME 2006 SCHEDULE (2-2)

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. Nebraska	12:15 P.M.
Sat. 4	vs. Minnesota	6:35 p.m.
Sun. 5	vs. Arizona	11:05 a.m.

UTSA Express Classic (Wolff Stadium; San Antonio)

Fri. 10	vs. Texas A&M	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 11	vs. Iowa	11:00 a.m.
Sun. 12	vs. Illinois	7:00 p.m.
Mon. 13	vs. Iowa	7:00 p.m.

Irish Baseball Classic (Wolff Stadium; San Antonio)

Thur. 16	vs. Iowa	1:30 p.m.
Fri. 17	vs. Southern Illinois	1:30 p.m.
Fri. 17	vs. Iowa	5:30 p.m.
Sat. 18	vs. Southern Illinois	1:30 p.m.

Tues. 21	Wright State	5:05 p.m.
Wed. 22	Central Michigan	5:05 p.m.

at Povich Field (Bethesda, MD)

Sat. 25	vs. Georgetown (DH)*	noon
Sun. 26	vs. Georgetown*	noon
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	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.

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 Tournament

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
(Dairy Queen Classic; Minneapolis, Minn.; March 3-5)

TALENTED FIELD HEADED TO THE METRODOME – The Notre Dame baseball team (2-2) returns to the road for week-2, with a challenging three-game slate at the University of Minnesota's annual Dairy Queen Classic (March 3-5, at the Metrodome) ... the four participants – ND, Minnesota, Nebraska and Arizona – combined for a 167-93-1 record in 2005 ... the Irish entered 2006 with the nation's seventh-best winning pct. of the 2000s (now .727; 281-105-2) ... ND opened 2-2 at USA Baseball Stadium in Millington, Tenn., topping Indiana State (3-0) before competing in the Service Academies Classic (8-2 vs. Air Force, 6-7 vs. Memphis in 10 inn., 3-4 vs. Oklahoma) ... the Irish led the final two games before being undone by unearned runs ... the veteran Irish lineup returns 8-of-9 position starters, with six seniors in the regulat lineup ... ND's pitching staff is fronted by a seasoned three-man rotation that includes senior LHP Tom Thornton and a pair of junior RHPs (Jeff Manship and Jeff Samardzija) who are rated among the nation's top 100 prospects) ... those three pitchers and sophomore LHP Wade Korpi combined for a 1.17 ERA as the opening-eek starters ... the Irish re looking to resume their 2005 late-season momentum that included an unprecedented fourth straight BIG EAST tournament title before advancing to the NCAA Regional final for the sixth straight season, en route to a 38-24-1 final record.

RADIO, LIVE-STATS, TEXT-MESSAGES UPDATES & HOTLINE – All of Notre Dame's 2006 regular-season and postseason again will be broadcast by South Bend's ESPN Radio (now on 1490 AM) ... the broadcasts are available via the internet at www.und.com (All Access subscription) ... und.com also provides links to livestats on the website's main page, for all home games and select road games (including the DQ Classic, courtesy of Minnesota's live-stats) ... a free text-message service (Irish Alert) also now is available (see und.com for details) ... also call the ND Sports Hotline at 574-631-3000 for schedule and result information for all varsity sports currently in season (from the main menu, select "4" and then select "1" for baseball information).

PROBABLE WEEK-2 PITCHING MATCHUPS

3/3 vs. Nebraska – Sr. LHP Tom Thornton ('06: 0.00, 1-0, 5 Ks, 0 BB, 5 H/.208, 7.0 IP ... '05: 4.69, 6-6, 40 Ks, 19 BB, 115 H, 96 IP ... career: 3.64, 21-9, 151 Ks, 57 BB, 269 H/.275, 257.1 IP, 48 GP/40 GS)

3/4 vs. Minnesota – Jr. RHP Jeff Samardzija ('06: 1.50, 1-0, 2 Ks, 4 BB, 4 H/.211, 6.0 IP; '05: 3.89, 8-1, 56 Ks, 30 BB, 85 H, 78.2 IP ... career: 3.39, 14-4, 100 Ks, 51 BB, 139 H/.244, 148.2 IP, 36 GP/17 GS)

3/5 vs. Arizona – Jr. RHP Jeff Manship ('06: 3.60, 0-0, 8 Ks, 2 BB, 2 H/.125, 5.0 IP ... '05: 3.97, 2-1, SV, 20 Ks, 10 BB, 24 H, 22.2 IP ... career: 3.90, 2-1, 28 Ks, 12 BB, 26 H, 27.2 IP ... missed '04 due to elbow injury; slowed in '05 by rehab)

Opponent probable starters vs. ND ('06 stats, unless indicated):

Nebraska – junior RHP Joba Chamberlain (1.93, 1-1, 17 ks, 5 BB, 8 H, 14 IP)
Minnesota – soph. RHP Dustin Brabender (13.50, 0-1, 2 Ks, 5 H, 3.1 IP)
Arizona – junior LHP Brad Mills (4.86, 2-0, 18 Ks, 6 BB, 20 H, 16.2 IP)

NOTRE DAME PROBABLE STARTING LINEUP (vs. RHP)

* indicates lefthander hitter, ** indicates switch hitter

Pos.	Player	Yr./Ht./Wt.	Hometown	2005 Statistics and Notes
2B	#2 Brett Lilley*	Fr./5-7/165	North Canton, OH	Freshman All-American .355, 28 RBI, 30 HBP
C	#11 Sean Gaston*	Jr./6-0/175	Brownsburg, IN	Cape Cod League All-Star .293, HR, 28 RBI, 27 R
DH	#36 Steve Andres*	Sr./5-10/200	Napa, CA	Also could start in LF .232, 5 HR, 25 RBI, 21 BB
1B	#9 Craig Cooper	Sr./6-2/210	Plainview, NY	2-time BIG EAST bat. champ .325, 7 HR, 58 RBI, 14 SB
SS	#4 Greg Lopez	Sr./6-0/190	Upper Arlington, OH	2nd-year team captain .274, 2 HR, 34 RBI, 7 SAC
LF	#12 Matt Bransfield	Sr./6-1/200	Englewood, CO	Led '04 BIG EAST in RBI .313, 16 RBI, 6 2B (inj.)
2B	#7 Ross Brezovsky*	So./5-10/170	Naples, FL	Prep shortstop .261, 2 HR, 20 RBI, 35 R
CF	#16 Alex Nettey	Sr./6-1/200	Dolton, IL	Strong defensive CF .288, 2 HR, 24 RBI, 44 R
RF	#17 Cody Rizzo	Sr./6-1/195	Temecula, CA	Also serves as #2 catcher .252, 6 HR, 24 RBI, 17 SB

Nebraska Cornhuskers

Series: Notre Dame Leads 10-2

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Enrollment: 25,000

Colors: Scarlet and Cream

Field: Hawks Field (355-395-325)

Conference: Big 12

2005 Record: 57-15

Conference Record/Finish: 19-8/1st

Postseason: 1-2 at College World Series

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 15/13

Head Coach: Mike Anderson (No. Colo. '90)

Record/at Nebraska: 145-58 (4th year)

Assistants: Dave Bingham, Andy Sawyers

Baseball SID: Shamus McKnight

E-Mail: smcknight@huskers.com

SID Phone/Fax: (402) 472-7772/472-2005

Hotline: (402) 472-2260

Website: www.huskers.com

Top Returners (2005 Stats)

Joba Chamberlain, RHP, Jr. (2.81, 10-2, 130 Ks)

Johnny Dorn, RHP, So. (2.16, 12-2, SV, 76 Ks)

Brandon Buckman, IF, Sr. (.335, 2 HR, 30 RBI)

Brett Jensen, RHP, Sr. (1.96, 3-5, 16 SV, 46 Ks)

Andy Gerch, OF, So. (.364, 4 HR, 35 RBI)

Tony Watson, LHP, So. (2.82, 6-1, SV, 39 Ks)

ND vs. NEBRASKA (10-2)

In Mainieri Era: Tied 1-1

At ND: ND leads 8-1

Neutral Sites: ND leads 2-0

One-Run Wins: ND 1, Nebraska 1

Current Streak: ND 4-1

Date	Site	Result	Score
5/17/1897	ND	W	6-5
5/22/1899	ND	W	16-8
5/12/1900	ND	W	12-5
5/8/1901	ND	W	16-10
5/9/1902	ND	W	2-0
5/8/1903	ND	W	13-2
5/3/1904	ND	L	4-5
5/11/1906	ND	W	8-3
5/14/1907	ND	W	4-0
2/22/1991	Phoenix	W	8-5
3/13/1995	S.A. (WS; 11)	W	5-3
2/28/2003	M'dome	L	1-7

Series Scoring	Runs	Avg.
Notre Dame	95	7.9
Nebraska	53	4.4

ND Most Runs: 16 (1897, 1901)

ND Widest Margin: 13-2 (1901)

Nebraska Most Runs (Gm): 10 ('01)

High-Scoring Game: 26 (ND 16-10, '01)

Low-Scoring Game: ND 2-0 (1902)

ND Win Streak: 6, (1897-1903)

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).

SCOUTING THE CORNHUSKERS – Nebraska is ranked as high as 5th in the national polls and carries a 5-2 record ... see www.huskers.com for detailed info.

SUPER SKIPPERS – The DQ Classic will feature three of the winningest active coaches in Division I: Notre Dame's Paul Mainieri (22nd; 821), Minnesota's John Anderson (17th; 871) and Arizona's Andy Lopez (20th; 836) ... Mainieri, Anderson and Lopez have combined for 2,528 wins as college head coaches ... the 2006 season opener saw Mainieri match with another coach, Indiana State's Bob Wran (10th; 1,050), who ranks among the top-25 on the NCAA list for winningest active coaches ... Mainieri will face three others in 2006 who rank among the NCAA's top-50 winningest active coaches: Fred Hill of Rutgers (18th; 864), South Florida's Eddie Cardieri (28th; 767) and Louisville's Leo Prado (49th; 562) ... with Mainieri, Hill, Cardieri and Prado, the BIG EAST Conference currently features four coaches among that NCAA top-50 list (only the Atlantic Coast and Missouri Valley conferences have more coaches on the list).

VERSUS THE BIG 12

• Notre Dame owns a 19-16-1 (.542) all-time record vs. teams that currently comprise the Big 12 Conference (3-7 in the Paul Mainieri era), having faced all of the current Big 12 teams that play baseball with the exception of Oklahoma State and Kansas ... the most-common Big 12 teams faced by ND have included Nebraska (10-2 series edge for the Irish), Texas (3-3) and Baylor (2-3), plus a handful of games vs. Texas Tech (1-0), Missouri (1-1), Texas A&M (1-2), Oklahoma (0-2) and Kansas State (0-2) ... ND went 1-1-1 vs. Big 12 team Iowa State (the Cyclones recently dropped their baseball program).

• The Mainieri-era games (3-7) vs. Big 12 teams include: a 6-1 win over Texas Tech at the 2004 Round Rock (TX) Classic; splits with Nebraska (5-3 at 1995 Irish Baseball Classic in San Antonio; 1-7 at '03 DQ Metrodome Classic) and Missouri (1-13 at '99 UNO Classic; 7-6 at '02 UNO Classic); a 10-6 loss to Texas in Mainieri's first game at ND (at CS Fullerton); a 13-5 loss to Texas A&M at the '05 Round Rock Classic; a pair of losses to Baylor in San Antonio at the 1995 IBC (1-2; 4-10) – and the 2006 loss to Oklahoma at the Service Academies Classic in Millington, Tenn. (3-4).

PLAYING THE FIELD – Nebraska's fellow 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.

SEASON-OPENING SITES

• Tennessee and Florida (7) now are tied for being the site of the the second-most season-opening road games in the history of the Notre Dame baseball program, with six previous Irish teams also opening in the volunteer state (13 ND teams have opened in other Indiana cities).

• The Irish opened their season at USA Baseball Stadium for the third time (also 1992 and 2000), with only two fields serving as the site of more ND season openers (6 at Indiana University, 4 at Purdue; also 3 at Georgia Tech).

Dairy Queen Classic Information

Host: University of Minnesota

Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Stadium: HHH Metrodome

Capacity: 55,000

Dimensions (LF-CF-RF): 343-408-327

Ticket Office: (800) UGOPHER

Press Box Phone: (612) 627-4400

Tournament Schedule (home team listed second)

• Friday, March 3

Notre Dame vs. Nebraska – 12:15 p.m.

Arizona vs. Minnesota – 6:35 p.m.

• Saturday, March 4

Nebraska vs. Arizona – 12:05 p.m.

Notre Dame vs. Minnesota – 6:35 p.m.

• Sunday, March 5

Arizona vs. Notre Dame – 11:05 a.m.

Nebraska vs. Minnesota – 3:05 p.m.

BACK TO THE DOME – Notre Dame is set for its fourth trip to the METRO-DOME for college baseball tournament action, dropping three challenging games in 1991 (3-7 vs. Stanford, 5-9 vs. Minnesota and 3-6 vs. UCLA) before winning 2-of-3 in the 2000 tournament and adding a win as part of a strong field in 2003 ('00 and '03 recaps below).

The Irish opened play at the Metrodome in 2000 with an 8-5 win over #24 Wake Forest, behind the pitching of Scott Cavey (6 IP, 2 R, 4 H, 4 BB, 7 Ks) and nine ND players combining on a 16-hit attack (11 left-on-base kept the game close). Steve Stanley and Andrew Bushey each had three hits in the game, with Paul O'Toole hitting a 2-run single and Alec Porzel adding a two-run double. WFU's Ben Clayton took the loss (3 IP, 2 R, 4 H, 4 BB).

Notre Dame then dropped a 9-7 game to Minnesota, as 8,000-plus fans looked on and Stanley (2-for-3, 2 BB, 3 SB) led the ND attack. Aaron Heilman posted a then-career-high 12 Ks (8 IP, UER, 4 H, 0 BB, 11 Ks "looking") in the closing 6-4 win over Georgia, with WFU earning the tournament trophy based on run differential. Porzel's two-run double completed his 6-RBI showing at the tournament.

The Irish dropped a pair of tough games at the Metrodome in '03 (1-7 vs. #16 Nebraska; 2-8 vs. Minnesota) but outlasted #7 Wake Forest in 13 innings (2-1). John Axford (7 IP, 4 H, 2 BB, 4 Ks) and J.P. Gagne (6 IP, 4 H, 2 BB, 2 Ks, 12 GO) starred on the mound while singles from Alex Nettey, Craig Cooper and Joe Thaman led to the winning run.

SCOUTING THE GOPHERS – Minnesota is off to a 0-3 start ... see www.gophersports.com for detailed info.

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).

Minnesota Golden Gophers

Series: Notre Dame Leads 23-18

Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Enrollment/Colors: 48,484/Maroon and Gold

Field: HHH Metrodome (343-408-327)

Conference: Big Ten

2005 Record: 33-29 (17-15 Big Ten/6th)

Postseason: Big Ten Tourn. Runner-Up

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 22/9

Head Coach: John Anderson (Minn.'77)

Record/at Minn.: 871-550-3 (25th year)

Assistants: Rob Fornasiere, Todd Oakes

Baseball SID: Steve Geller

E-Mail: gelle014@umn.edu

SID Phone/Fax: (612) 624-9396/624-0359

Website: www.gophersports.com

Top Returners (2005 stats):

Andy Hunter, 1B/C, Sr. (.324, 8 HR, 47 RBI)

John Gaub, LHP, Jr. (2.08, 2-1, 7 SV, 65 Ks)

Tony Leseman, OF, Sr. (.287, 3 HR, 27 RBI)

Mike Mee, 1B/OF, Sr. (.283, 8 HR, 42 RBI)

Gary Perinar, RHP, So. (2.70, 2-2, 21 Ks)

Andy Peters, LHP, Sr. (3.47, 5-1, 35 Ks)

ND vs. MINNESOTA (23-18)

In Mainieri ERA: Minn. leads 2-1

Neutral Sites: ND 4-3 (Minn. 3-0 @M'dome)

In NCAAs: ND leads 4-3

Date	Site	Result	Score
6/20/1894	ND	L	1-3
6/7/1900	ND	W	7-3
4/24/1901	ND	W	7-6
5/20/1901	ND	L	5-10
5/21/1901	ND	L	4-5
5/19/1902	MN	W	9-5
5/20/1902	MN	L	5-9
6/5/1902	MN	W	22-2
5/12/1904	ND	W	13-3
5/21/1904	ND	W	18-1
5/3/1906	MN	W	9-0
5/4/1906	MN	L	4-7
5/30/1906	So. Bend	L	5-8
5/31/1906	ND	W	3-0
5/4/07	MN	W	5-0
5/30/07	So. Bend	L	1-2
5/20/09	ND	W	12-6
5/28/09	MN	L	2-3
5/28/09	MN	L	1-2
5/21/24	ND	W	11-5
6/1/25	ND	L	2-3
5/21/27	MN	W	4-1
5/1/28	ND	W	7-2
5/24/29	MN	W	18-2
5/25/29	MN	W	4-2
4/22/49	ND	W	8-6
4/23/49	ND	W	4-0
5/12/50	MN	W	6-1
5/13/50	MN	L	5-15
5/29/56	MN (NCAAs)	W	4-3
5/30/56	MN (NCAAs)	L	5-15
5/30/56	MN (NCAAs)	L	1-10
5/29/58	WM (NCAAs)	W	11-7
5/29/59	ND (NCAAs)	W	12-4
5/29/60	MN (NCAAs)	L	6-15
6/4/70	OS (NCAAs)	W	6-2
3/19/84	S.A.	L	4-7
3/30/91	M'dome	L	5-9
3/4/00	M'dome	L	7-9
3/4/03	M'dome	L	2-8
3/4/04	FAU	W	19-7

Series Scoring	Runs	Avg.
Notre Dame	274	6.7
Minnesota	208	5.1

Arizona Wildcats

Series: Arizona Leads 6-2

Location: Tucson, Arizona

Enrollment: 35,400

Colors: Cardinal and Navy

Field: Sancet Stadium

Conference: Pacific-10

2005 Record: 39-21 (17-7 Pac-10/2nd)

Postseason: 2-2 NCAA Fullerton Regional

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 12/8

Head Coach: Andy Lopez (UCLA '75)

Overall Record: 836-517-7 (24th year)

Record at Arizona: 1,149-100-1 (5th year)

Assistants: Mark Wasikowski, Andy Diver

Baseball SID: Matt Rector

E-Mail: mjrector@email.arizona.edu

SID Phone/Fax: (520) 621-4163/621-2681

Hotline: (520) 621-0909

Website: www.arizonaathletics.com

Top Returners (2005 Stats):

Jason Donald, SS, Jr. (.288, 5 HR, 33 RBI)

Brad Boyer, 2B, Sr. (.285, 3 HR, 46 RBI)

Mark Melancon, RHP, Jr. (2.58, 4-3, 11 SV, 69 Ks)

Eric Berger, LHP, So. (3.84, 6-2, SV, 68 Ks)

Derek Decater, OF, Sr. (.320, 1 HR, 19 RBI)

David Coulon, LHP, So. (5.50, 3-3, 44 Ks)

ND vs. ARIZONA (2-6)

In Mainieri Era: ND leads 2-1

At ND: Arizona leads 1-0

At UA: Arizona leads 5-0

Neutral Sites: ND leads 2-0

One-Run Wins: Arizona 2

Date	Site	Result	Score
4/7/61	Arizona	L	3-5
4/8/61	Arizona	L	4-12
4/8/61	Arizona	L	1-6
3/9/93	Arizona	L	6-19
3/10/93	Arizona	L	9-10
5/30/03	CSF (NCAAs)	W	13-5
3/12/04	Round Rock	W	4-2
6/6/04	ND (NCAAs)	L	6-7

Series Scoring	Runs	Avg.
Notre Dame	46	5.8
Arizona	66	8.3

ND Most Runs (Game): 13 (2003)

ND Widest Margin: 8 (13-5; '03)

UA Most Runs (Game): 19 (1993)

UA Wide Margin: 13 (19-6; '93)

High-Scoring Game: 25 (UA 19-6, '93)

Low-Scoring Game: ND 4-2 (2004)

WILDCATS NOTES – Arizona is off to an 8-4 start ... see www.arizonaathletics.com for detailed info.

FRIEND OR FOE? – Two Notre Dame juniors – RHP **Jeff Manship** and catcher **Sean Gaston** – played alongside Arizona senior 2B **Brad Boyer** and junior SS **Jason Donald** during the summer of 2005, with the Cape Cod League's Cotuit Kettleers ... Manship is slated to face Arizona in Sunday's game ... ND senior LF **Matt Bransfield** and Arizona pitcher **Mark Melancon** were teammates on the Cherry Creek (Colo.) Connie Mack team.

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 2006 games schedule vs. Valparaiso, Ball state and IPFW.

AVOIDING 0-AND-2 – If Notre Dame wins at least one of its first two games at the Metrodome, it will mark the 47th time in 51 total Paul Mainieri-era tournaments (regular season and postseason) that the Irish have avoided an 0-2 start ... ND never has gone 0-2 at a postseason tournament in the Mainieri era (since '95) ... that's a streak of 21 postseason events, including 11 conference tournaments, eight NCAA Regionals, the 2002 Super Regional at Florida State and the '02 College World Series ... the Irish also have gone 0-2 just four times in 29 regular-season tournaments during the Mainieri era (one of those 0-2 starts came at the 2003 DQ Classic, after losses to Nebraska and Minnesota).

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; April 25 vs. Purdue at 7:05) while the April 13 doubleheader vs. St. John's will be telecast live by CSTV (other TV broadcasts are TBA).

- 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.

OPENING-DAY HOME RUNS – Current seniors **Steve Andres** and **Matt Bransfield** (who share LF/DH duties) 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) ... former standout 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 2002 (vs. Missouri, at UNO), Kris Billmaier in 2003 (vs. Dayton, at ASU) and Edwards in 2004 (vs. San Diego State, at USC) ... Edwards is the only player from the Murphy/Mainieri era to hit multiple opening-day HRs in his ND 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, when DeSensi and Failla did it) ... the 12 have included three first basemen (Edwards twice and Leatherman), plus two catchers, two DHs, two shortstops and two lefffielder (also a CF and RF):

Opening-Day Home Runs in the Murphy/Mainieri Era (since 1989)

- Ed Lund (Jr., C, '89) – at Trinity (12-2)
- Craig DeSensi (So., DH, '93) – at Arizona State (11-4)
- Paul Failla (So., SS, '93) – at Arizona State (11-4)
- Eric Danapilis (Sr., CF, '93) – at Arizona State (11-4)
- Bob Lisanti (Sr., C, '96) – at Georgia Tech (4-12)
- Dan Leatherman (Jr., 1B, '98) – vs. Florida State, in Orlando (10-1)
- Brant Ust (Jr., SS, '99) – vs. James Madison, at FIU (8-4)
- Matt Bok (Sr., DH, '02) – vs. Missouri, @UNO (7-6)
- Kris Billmaier (Sr., RF, '03) – vs. Dayton, @ASU (10-9)
- Matt Edwards (Jr., 1B, '04) – vs. San Diego State, @USC (7-1)
- Steve Andres (Jr., LF, '05) – vs. Florida A&M, @UCF (18-3)**
- Matt Edwards (Sr., 1B, '05) – vs. Florida A&M, @UCF (18-3)
- Matt Bransfield (Sr., LF, '06) – vs. Indiana State, @Millington, Tenn. (3-0)**

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 310 outfield starts in their Notre Dame careers ... that total does not include the 115 career outfield starts by senior Craig Cooper, who is slated to shift to first base in 2006:

Career OF Starts	LF	CF	RF	Total
Cody Rizzo	13	30	94	137
Craig Cooper	50	8	57	115
Alex Nettey	4	73	2	79
Steve Andres	59	0	1	60
Danny Dressman	4	29	1	33
Totals	130	140	155	425

**NOTRE DAME BASEBALL
2006 QUICK FACTS**

Location Notre Dame, IN 46556
 Founded 1842
 First Season of Baseball 1892
 Undergraduate Enrollment 8,311

Nickname Fighting Irish
 Colors Gold and Blue
 Conference BIG EAST
 Athletic Director Kevin White

Stadium (cap.) Eck Stadium (2,500)
 Surface, Dim..... Grass, 331-401--331

Head Coach Paul Mainieri (Fla. Int'l '80)
 Career Record 819-475-3 (23 seasons)
 Record at ND 488-196-2 (11 seasons)

Asst. Coach Terry Rooney (Radford '96)
 Asst. Coach Cliff Godwin (ECU '01)
 Vol. Asst. John Gumpf (CS San Bernadino '97)

Letterwinners Ret./Lost 21/7
 Position Starters Ret./Lost 8/1
 Letterwinning Pitchers Ret./Lost 10/5
 Total Returners 21 (13 pos./10 pitchers)
 Newcomers 11

2005 Record 38-24-1
 2004 BIG EAST Record/Finish .. 14-9-1/3rd
 Postseason 2-2 NCAA Gainesville Reg.

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

MILESTONE MARKERS – The following individuals are approaching statistical milestones in their Notre Dame careers:

- Jeff Samardzija 100 strikeouts
- Cody Rizzo 150 hits, 94 RBI
- Tom Thornton 151 strikeouts
- Greg Lopez 98 RBI, 93 runs
- Steve Andres ... 93 runs, 87 RBI, 84 walks
- Paul Mainieri 490 wins (at ND)
- Matt Bransfield 90 RBI
- Alex Nettey 86 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)

MAINIERI ERA OPENING-WEEK TEAM STATISTICS

<u>Yr. (17-21)</u>	<u>Avg. (H-AB)</u>	<u>Runs (R/gm)</u>	<u>TB (HR-3B-2B/Slug)</u>	<u>On-Base</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>BB/K</u>
1995 (1-2)	.352 (38-108)	23 (7.7)	60 (2-3-10/.556)	.450	2-4	18/25
1996 (0-2)	.246 (17-69)	8 (4.0)	28 (1-0-8/.406)	.316	1-2	4/22
1997 (0-3)	.297 (33-111)	17 (5.7)	46 (1-2-6/.414)	.350	1-1	8/25
1998 (1-2)	.260 (27-104)	19 (6.3)	39 (3-1-1/.375)	.353	2-3	14/21
1999 (1-3)	.197 (25-127)	11 (2.8)	38 (2-0-7/.299)	.270	4-4	10/36
2000 (2-1)	.279 (24-86)	14 (4.8)	40 (2-2-6/.465)	.304	2-2	4/16
2001 (2-1)	.302 (35-116)	17 (5.7)	46 (0-2-7/.397)	.385	6-9	13/22
2002 (1-2)	.257 (29-111)	16 (5.3)	43 (2-1-6/.387)	.415	6-10	8/15
2003 (2-2)	.367 (54-147)	36 (9.0)	86 (6-2-10/.585)	.428	2-2	10/24
2004 (2-0)	.310 (18-58)	10 (5.0)	23 (1-0-2/.397)	.388	5-5	6/17
2005 (3-1)	.274 (34-124)	27 (6.8)	46 (2-0-6/.371)	.421	3-9	16/21
2006 (2-2)	.250 (31-124)	20 (5.0)	43 (3-0-3/.347)	.333	2-5	13/16
Mainieri Era	.284 (365-1285)	218 (5.7)	538 (24-13-70/.419)	.368	36-56	124/260

Per-Game Avg: 3.3 BB, 6.8 Ks, 1.0 SBs, 2.8 extra-base hits (0.6 HRs)

<u>Year (15-19)</u>	<u>R/ER</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>ERA</u>	<u>K/BB</u>	<u>H-AB</u>	<u>AVG</u>	<u>Slug. (HR)</u>	<u>(Season)</u>	
								<u>WP/HB</u>	<u>ERA</u>
1995 (1-2)	35/30	25.0	10.80	18/20	39-102	.382	.559 (2)	7/9	(4.53)
1996 (0-2)	21/18	16.0	10.13	11/11	26-72	.361	.556 (3)	1/2	(3.87)
1997 (0-3)	35/24	25.0	8.64	17/21	34-107	.318	.486 (3)	7/5	(4.51)
1998 (1-2)	14/11	25.0	3.96	22/14	24-90	.267	.345 (0)	2/4	(4.02)
1999 (1-3)	33/28	33.0	7.64	29/15	42-141	.298	.560 (10)	6/2	(5.15)
2000 (2-1)	8/5	22.0	2.05	23/7	19-79	.241	.354 (2)	0/1	(3.93)
2001 (2-1)	14/7	29.0	2.17	13/8	26-106	.245	.292 (0)	0/8	(3.22)
2002 (1-2)	20/19	27.2	6.18	22/9	37-112	.330	.473 (3)	2/4	(3.57)
2003 (2-2)	44/34	32.0	9.56	11/28	46-136	.338	.544 (4)	7/5	(3.35)
2004 (2-0)	2/1	16.0	0.57	18/5	9-53	.170	.208 (0)	1/2	(3.43)
2005 (3-1)	10/7	35.0	1.80	17/19	37-129	.287	.357 (1)	1/5	(4.41)
2006 (2-2)	13/8	36.0	2.00	38/10	30-129	.233	.333 (2)	1/4	-
Mainieri Era	249/192	321.2	5.37	239/167	369-1256	.294	.423 (30)	35/51	(4.00)

9-Inn. Avg.: 7.0 Ks, 4.9 BB, 10.9 hits, 0.9 HRs, 1.0 wild pitches, 1.5 hit batters

<u>Year (15-19)</u>	<u>Errors</u>	<u>Chances</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>UE Runs</u>	<u>DPs</u>	<u>UER Loss</u>	<u>(Season)</u>	
							<u>Margin</u>	<u>Fld.</u>
1995 (1-2)	6	97	.938	5	0	0		.960
1996 (0-2)	4	73	.945	3	1	0		.953
1997 (0-3)	12	118	.898	11	1	1		.942
1998 (1-2)	4	121	.967	3	4	0		.962
1999 (1-3)	9	149	.940	5	0	0		.954
2000 (2-1)	3	102	.971	3	2	1		.965
2001 (2-1)	4	129	.969	7	3	1		.964
2002 (1-2)	4	127	.969	1	5	0		.961
2003 (2-2)	8	160	.950	10	3	1		.970
2004 (2-0)	1	64	.984	1	0	0		.967
2005 (3-1)	7	163	.957	3	10	0		.960
2006 (2-2)	4	148	.973	5	4	2		-
Mainieri Era	66	1,451	.955	57	33	6		.960

Per-Game Averages: 1.9 errors, 1.7 unearned runs, 1.0 double plays

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- The Notre Dame baseball team traditionally has matched its stellar play on the field with strong performances in the classroom and that continued to be the case in the 2005 fall semester – as the 32 players combined for a 3.17 team GPA during the semester.
- The NCAA's recently-released Graduation Success Rate (GSR) data also reinforced the Notre Dame baseball program's elite academic standing, as the Irish were one of 17 teams among 268 in Division I – but one of only two teams from that group that also currently are in the national top-25 polls – to compile a 100% graduation rate, during a four-year sample of classes entering from 1995-98.
- The Irish also own a 100% graduation rate (63-of-63) among four-year players throughout the tenure of head coach Paul Mainieri ('95-present), with 12 others who signed professionally prior to their senior season returning to complete or near completion of their degree requirements.
- Twenty-one of the ND baseball players posted a GPA of 3.0-plus during the 2005 fall semester, with 11 checking in at 3.4 or higher ... the ND players also have combined for an impressive 3.10 cumulative team GPA over the course of their college careers.
- Notre Dame boasts several strong Academic All-America candidates in 2006, most notably: senior LHP **Tom Thornton** (3.54 cumulative GPA; as a double major in anthropology and film-television-and-theater), sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** (3.64; business), senior SS **Greg Lopez** (3.39; pre-professional studies and anthropology), senior LF/DH **Matt Bransfield** (3.36; sociology) and junior catcher **Sean Gaston** (3.36; political science and history) ... Notre Dame's unmatched Academic All-America history includes 20 honorees since 1992.
- The senior class led the way for the Irish during the 2005 fall semester, averaging a 3.54 semester GPA that included seven players above a 3.4 and all eight posting a semester GPA of 3.05 or higher.

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.

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)

**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 righthander **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* annual college preview issue lists 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 WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC 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 that will 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.

PLATE DISCIPLINE – Here's how Notre Dame finished up in the plate-discipline formula (walks + HBPs - strikeouts) during the 2005 season:

2005 PLATE-DISCIPLINE CHART (returning players)

<i>Player</i>	<i>Walks</i>	<i>Hit-By-Pitch</i>	<i>Strikeouts</i>	<i>Plate Discipline (BB+HBP-Ks)</i>
Brett Lilley	34	27	32	+29
Craig Cooper	32	14	22	+24
Cody Rizzo	22	21	35	+8
Steve Andres	21	6	20	+7
Matt Bransfield	10	7	14	+3
Alex Nettey	13	14	29	-2
Danny Dressman	5	1	12	-6
Sean Gaston	5	4	16	-7
Mike Dury	2	1	11	-8
Greg Lopez	10	16	43	-17
Ross Brezovsky	16	4	40	-20
TEAM TOTALS	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, as then-freshman 3B Brett Lilley proved to be a valuable addition to the 2005 team ... using a formula that combines those three situational hitting numbers, Lilley was the 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 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 ... here's a look at how each 2005 player rated on the clutch-hitting matrix:

2005 CLUTCH-HITTING CHART (team rank listed before each stat)

	<i>Leadoff On-Base Pct.</i>	<i>Batting w/ RISP</i>	<i>2-Out Batting</i>	<i>Clutch Hit Tot.</i>
Brett Lilley	(3) .515 (.386 adjusted)	(1) .448	(1) .439	1,273
Craig Cooper	(5) .419 (.314)	(2) .434	(2) .369	1,117
<i>Matt Edwards</i>	(1) .581 (.436)	(3) .337	(3) .320	1,093
Matt Bransfield	(2) .542 (.407)	(6) .314	(6) .286	1,007
Sean Gaston	(7) .357 (.268)	(4) .322	(5) .302	892
<i>Tony Langford</i>	(11) .286 (.215)	(5) .317	(4) .309	841
Alex Nettey	(6) .418 (.314)	(9) .273	(12) .219	806
Greg Lopez	(8) .353 (.265)	(10) .242	(7) .279	786
Cody Rizzo	(4) .436 (.327)	(12) .190	(10) .246	763
Ross Brezovsky	(10) .298 (.224)	(7) .288	(10) .246	758
Steve Andres	(11) .286 (.215)	(11) .220	(8) .275	710
Danny Dressman	(13) .182 (.137)	(8) .286	(9) .250	673
Mike Dury	(9) .333 (.250)	(13) .182	(13) .167	599
TEAM	.406 (.311)	.309	.294	908

IT'S ALL THEIR FAULT – Notre Dame would be riding a 446-game scoring streak (which would rank 2nd-longest in NCAA history) if not for one game, an 11-0 loss to Rutgers, late in the 2002 season ... that game ended ND's team-record scoring streak at 231 (stretching from 2/26/99-5/4/02) but the Irish have scored in every game since that loss (214) for the 2nd-longest scoring streak in the program's history ... ND has scored in virtually every game (all but six) of the Paul Mainieri era (99.13%; 684 of 690) ... by scoring in the first 15 games of the 2006 season, Notre Dame would join Arizona State and Wichita State as the only Division I programs ever to compile two scoring streaks of 225-plus games (ASU is the only team with two streaks of 230-plus games) ... one interesting note from the below chart is the fact that Notre Dame is the only team on the list of top scoring streaks that also has ended one of the streaks, in a near-no-hitter vs. Miami during the 1999 season (1-0).

CONSECUTIVE GAMES PLAYED WITHOUT BEING SHUT OUT

Games	Team	Dates Between Shutouts
1. 506	Arizona State	4/7/95 (Southern California, 9-0) to 2/15/04 (Oklahoma, 6-0)
2. 349	Coastal Carolina	4/16/83 (Armstrong Atlantic, 2-0) to 4/10/89 (Winthrop, 11-0)
3. 332	Wichita State	3/13/96 (Arkansas, 5-0) to 2/23/01 (La. Lafayette, 1-0)
4. 329	Nebraska	5/3/98 (Texas, 8-0) to June 1, 2003 (Missouri St., 7-0)
5. 326	Florida St.	4/29/84 (Tulane, 1-0) to Feb. 25, 1989 (South Florida, 10-0)
6. 302	Georgia Tech	4/27/79 (South Carolina, 8-0) to 4/18/84 (Maryland, 4-0)
7. 278	Arizona State	2/18/90 (Southern California, 6-0) to 4/12/94 (Grand Canyon, 5-0)
8. 276	Mississippi State	3/9/96 (Florida, 10-0) to 4/7/00 (South Carolina, 1-0)
9. 273	Alabama	3/28/96 (Vanderbilt, 5-0) to 3/31/00 (South Carolina, 2-0)
10. 269	Oklahoma State	3/16/85 (New Orleans, 7-0) to 2/24/89 (LSU, 6-0)
11. 268	Florida	3/1/95 (Florida State, 7-0) to 4/9/99 (Mississippi, 8-0)
12. 248	Miami (Fla.)	5/29/95 (Texas A&M, 4-0) to 5/11/99 (Notre Dame, 1-0)
13. 237	Houston	4/7/95 (Texas A&M, 7-0) to 4/17/99 (Tulane, 4-0)
14. 232	Clemson	4/24/87 (North Carolina, 8-0) to 5/4/86 (South Carolina, 5-0)
15. 231	Notre Dame	2/21/99 (Florida International, 12-0) to 5/5/02 (Rutgers, 11-0)
16. 229	Wichita State	4/5/87 (Bradley, 2-0) to 4/7/90 (Illinois State, 4-0)
17. 224	California	2/2/84 (Houston, 2-0) to 4/25/87 (UCLA, 9-0)
– 214	Notre Dame	5/5/02 (Rutgers, 11-0) to active

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)
- 70* Cody Rizzo (Notre Dame; '03-)**
174 GP (2.49 gms/HBP)

* At his career average pace, Rizzo would need to play in 57 more games to break the NCAA career HBP record

NCAA RECORD BOOK PLAYER SEASON HIT-BY-PITCH

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

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

NCAA RECORD BOOK TEAM SEASON HIT-BY-PITCH

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

• 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

**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

FIVE-HIT HOME DEBUT – Current sophomore 3B **Brett Lilley** turned in a 5-for-5 game vs. Cincinnati on March 22, 2005, becoming the first ND freshman ever to produce five hits in a home opener ... Lilley is one of 29 all-time ND players with 5-plus hits in a game (done 31 total times) and just the second to do so in a home opener ... LF Allen Greene needed extra innings to complete the feat during the home opener of his sophomore season in 1997, batting 5-for-6 in an 8-7, 12-inning win over IUPUI ... the 5-foot-7 Lilley joined another short list as one of four ND freshmen ever to post a 5-hit game at any time in their debut season ... current junior C **Sean Gaston** went 5-for-6 early in the 2004 season vs. Florida Memorial (at FAU) while CF Scott Sollmann hit 5-for-6 at Purdue in his freshman season (5/10/94) and 1B Joe Binkiewicz had a 5-for-5 game vs. Dayton as a rookie (5/20/89) ... each of the above four players is a lefthanded hitter – in fact, 10 of the past 17 Irish players to get five-plus hits in a game have been lefthanded or switch-hitters ... starting with Steve Stanley late in the '01 season, five of the past seven to do so have hit from the left side (also Brian Stavisky and Paul O'Toole in '02 and Gaston in '04, plus righthanders Steve Sollmann in '02 and Matt Macri in '04) ... Sollmann (6-for-7 vs. South Alabama, '02 NCAA regionals) and his former teammate Alec Porzel (6-for-6 vs. Pittsburgh, '01) share the ND record for hits in a game.

**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 of season clinched team's playoff spot (3-3, 2.88 ERA, 45 Ks, 15 BB, 44 H, 50 IP, 9 GS)

Craig Cooper (Brewster Whitecaps; Cape Cod League) – hit .217 with 11 R, 6 2B, 17 BB, 4 SB

Matt Bransfield (Mat-Su Miners; Alaska League) – named to league all-star team while leading team in slugging (.469) and doubles (12), ranking 2nd in RBI (23), and 3rd in both batting (.312) and on-base pct. (.409)

Cody Rizzo (Mat-Su Miners; Alaska League) – 2nd on team with 9 times hit-by-pitch (hit .188, 6 BB, HR, 12 R, 5 RBI)

Alex Nettey (Fayetteville, NC Swampdogs; Coastal Plains League) – hit .236 as starting CF (3 BB, 9 HBP, 8 R, 12 RBI, 8 SB)

Danny Dressman (Madison, WI Mallards; Northwoods League) – team's top defensive outfielder, making just one error in 54 GP (hit .297, 18 R, 17 RBI, 3 2B, 12 BB, 6 SB)

Ross Brezovsky (Hays, KS Larks; Jayhawk League) – hit .256 with 18 runs scored (8 RBI, 3 2B, 15 BB, 12 K, 31 G)

David Gruener (Hays, KS Larks; Jayhawk League) – had 9 starts in 11 appearances (5-2, 59 Ks, 23 BB, 44 H, 52 IP)

Wade Korpi (Staunton, VA, Braves; Valley League) – went 3-3 with 4.67 ERA in 12 appearances (46 Ks, 34.2 IP, 4 GS, 18 BB, 36 H, .265 opp. avg.)

Joey Williamson (Luray, VA, Wranglers; Valley League) – posted 2.06 ERA, and 3-0 record (9 GP/6 GS, 42 Ks, 20 BB, 26 H)

Eddie Smith (DuPage Dragons; Central Illinois Collegiate League) – stole 4 bases on 5 attempts (.156, 8 R, 5 RBI, .315 OBP, .938 FLD)