

VILLANOVA BASEBALL

OVERALL RECORD: 24-22 • BIG EAST RECORD: 8-12



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

VS.

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

MAY 12-13, 2000

FRIDAY (2) @ 4:00 P.M. • SATURDAY @ 12:00 P.M.

VILLANOVA 2000 BASEBALL TEAM

No	Name	Cl	Pos	Ht	Wt	B/T	Hometown/H.S.
1	Matt Blaney	So	IF/OF	6-0	175	S/R	Glendale, Calif./St. Francis
2	Mark Thompson	So	C	6-3	200	R/R	Amherst, Mass./Williston Northampton
3	Gregory Fater	So	C	5-11	170	R/R	Newport, R.I./Rogers
5	Brendan Trainor	So	2B	6-1	185	L/R	Chelmsford, Mass./Northfield
7	Brian Hearne	So	OF	5-11	180	L/L	Landenberg, Pa./Avon Grove
8	Matt Longo	Jr	IF	6-0	180	L/R	Hammonton, N.J./Hammonton
9	Ryan Crammer	Fr	SS	6-4	184	L/R	Bordentown, N.J./Bordentown Regional
10	Brian Manning	Jr	P	6-3	195	R/R	Anaheim Hills, Calif./Mater Dei
11	Mike Houser	So	OF/P	6-2	190	L/L	Hatfield, Pa./North Penn
12	Brian Slocum	Fr	RHP	6-2	200	R/R	New Rochelle, N.Y./Iona Prep
13	Tom Kandybowicz	Fr	RHP	6-1	200	R/R	Massapequa, N.Y./Massapequa
15	Dan Glover	Jr	C	6-1	210	S/R	Syracuse, N.Y./Christian Brothers Academy
16	Jon Grijalva	Fr	RHP	6-4	210	R/R	San Clemente, Calif./San Clemente
17	Brian Newbold	Fr	OF	6-2	170	R/R	Newington, Conn./Newington
19	Drew Kirchner	Sr	P	6-2	186	R/R	Lititz, Pa./Warwick
20	John Yeager	Fr	RHP	6-2	185	R/R	Phoenixville, Pa./Phoenixville Area
21	Nick Piantek	Jr	IF	6-0	200	S/R	Wallingford, Conn./Notre Dame
23	Chris Graziano	Fr	OF	6-1	185	L/L	Lawrenceville, N.J./Notre Dame
24	Brendan Mannix	So	IF	6-3	200	S/R	Crofton, Md./Archbishop Spalding
25	Michael Duncan	Fr	3B	6-3	215	R/R	Toms River, N.J./Toms River North
26	Aaron Krawiec	Jr	P	6-6	210	L/L	Hamburg, N.Y./St. Francis
27	Matt Therien	Jr	P	6-0	180	L/L	Forked River, N.J./Christian Brothers Acad.
28	Dan Mulholland	So	P	6-2	190	R/R	Drexel Hill Pa./Monsignor Bonner
30	Dave Pizzini	Jr	OF/IF	6-0	165	L/R	Kennett Square, Pa./Kennett
31	Bob Grzenda	So	P	6-1	190	R/R	Scranton, Pa./Bishop Hannan
32	Jason Petre	Jr	P/OF	6-2	210	L/R	Wilton, Conn./Wilton
33	Chris McGratty	So	IF	6-1	175	R/R	Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich./Grosse Pointe S.
34	Chris Watson	Sr	OF	6-0	190	R/R	Pembroke, Mass./Silver Lake
35	Mark Rocca	Fr	RHP	6-1	175	R/R	Andover, Mass./Andover
36	James Russell	Fr	RHP	6-6	225	R/R	Rochester, N.Y./Greece Athena
42	Kevin Feeley	So	P	6-1	185	R/R	Cranford, N.J./Cranford
44	Will Henry	Sr	P	6-0	190	R/R	Pequea, Pa./Penn Manor
46	Alen Knapic	Fr	RHP	6-2	173	R/R	Jamaica, N.Y./Archbishop Molloy
48	John Picone	Sr	C	5-11	205	R/R	Holliston, Mass./Holliston
50	Scott Ward	Jr	P	6-1	200	R/R	Haddonfield, N.J./Haddonfield Memorial
52	Rob Cafiero	So	1B/P	6-4	230	R/R	Massapequa Park, N.Y./Massapequa

Head Coach: #6 George Bennett

Assistants: #14 Lou Soscia, #18 Doc Kennedy, #38 Joe Godri

VILLANOVA BASEBALL PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

2	Greg Fater (Fay-ter)	27	Matt Therien (Ther-e-in)
9	Ryan Crammer (Cram-mer)	30	Dave Pizzini (Pizz-e-nee)
13	Tom Kandybowicz (Candy-bo-it-z)	31	Bob Grzenda (Gruh-zenda)
14	Lou Soscia (So-shuh)	32	Jason Petre (Pet-tre)
16	Jon Grijalva (Gri-haul-va)	35	Mark Rocca (Rock-a)
19	Drew Kirchner (Kirk-ner)	38	Joe Godri (God-ree)
21	Nick Piantek (P-an-tek)	46	Alen Knapic (Nap-ick)
23	Chris Graziano (Graz-iano)	48	John Picone (Pick-cone)
26	Aaron Krawiec (Krau-wick)	52	Rob Cafiero (Ca-fear-o)

WILDCAT SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Time
2/11	@ William & Mary	L, 25-3
2/25	@ Miami	L, 13-8
2/26	vs. Eastern Michigan	W, 6-5
2/28	vs. St. Bonaventure	L, 19-15
3/1	@ Lynn University	L, 11-6
3/1	@ Florida Atlantic	W, 13-12
3/2	vs. Florida Int.	L, 5-4
3/3	vs. St. Bonaventure	W, 16-11
3/6	@ La Salle	W, 6-2
3/7	La Salle	W, 11-6
3/14	Philadelphia Univ.	W, 8-0
3/15	Delaware	L, 15-5
3/18	Pittsburgh	L, 5-4 (10)
3/19	Pittsburgh	W, W/ 4-3, 4-2
3/22	@ Rider	W, 4-0
3/23	@ West Chester	W, 6-4 (10)
3/25	Notre Dame (2)	L, L/ 4-0, 7-3(10)
3/26	Notre Dame	W, 11-5
3/28	LBC Lehigh	L, 4-3
3/29	Temple	W, 16-10
4/1	Boston College (2)	L, L/ 5-3, 8-7
4/2	Boston College	L, 7-6
4/4	Drexel	W, 4-2
4/5	@ St. Joseph's	W, 5-4 (10)
4/6	@ Drexel	W, 4-3
4/8	@ Seton Hall (2)	L, W/ 3-0, 7-3
4/9	@ Seton Hall	L, 11-2
4/11	Drexel	W, 4-2
4/13	Rider	W, 4-3
4/15	Georgetown (2)	W, W/ 10-5, 6-2
4/16	Georgetown	W, 16-4
4/19	@ Lehigh	W, 16-3
4/20	@ UConn (2)	L, L/ 2-1, 3-2
4/22	@ Rutgers (2)	ppd.
4/24	@ Philadelphia Univ.	W, 23-11
4/26	@ St. Joseph's	L, 5-4
4/27	La Salle	W, 11-9
4/28	@ La Salle	W, 9-6
5/6	@ St. John's	L, 9-2
5/7	@ St. John's (2)	L, W/ 6-0, 9-8
5/10	@ Temple	3:30
5/12	@ West Virginia (2)	Noon
5/13	@ West Virginia	Noon
5/17-20	Big East Tournament	

CATCH UP WITH THE CATS

ON THE WEB AT:

WWW.VILLANOVA.COM



OR ON THE WILDCAT ATHLETICS' HOTLINE AT:

1-888-400-NOVA

VILLANOVA MEDIA RELATIONS

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LAST WEEKEND'S BIG EAST SERIES VERSUS ST. JOHN'S

WILDCATS DROP GAME ONE TO ST. JOHN'S

Saturday, May 6

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Villanova	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	8	1
St. John's	0	1	0	2	0	6	0	0	x	9	8	0

FLUSHING, N.Y. --- On Saturday, May 6th, in the first game of a three game series at Shea Stadium against St. John's, the Villanova baseball team lost to the Red Storm by the score of 9-2.

Taking the loss for Villanova was left-hander Aaron Krawiec, whose record drops to 4-4. Krawiec pitched five and two-thirds innings giving up seven hits, allowing eight earned runs, walking six and striking out six. Through the first five innings, Krawiec was solid on the mound, allowing only two earned runs. St. John's came alive in the sixth, scoring six runs to pull away for the win.

Coming in and pitching one and a third strong innings of relief for the Wildcats was Scott Ward, who now has four straight appearances without allowing an earned run. Jason Petre came on in the eighth and pitched the final inning of shutout baseball.

At the plate for the 'Cats, Rob Cafiero went two-for-four with a double. Brendan Mannix went two-for-three with a run scored. Catcher Dan Glover went one-for-two with a double and an RBI. Mike Houser came on in the ninth inning to hit a pinch-hit solo homerun, but it was not enough as St. John's went on for a 9-2 victory.

Getting the win for the Red Storm was Keith Stamler who improves to 4-3. Stamler allowed for eight hits, two runs, four walks and struck out seven on his way to the win.

Offensively for the Red Storm, Matt Galante went three-for-four with one run scored an RBI. Keith Graham went one-for-three with two runs scored, a homerun and an RBI.

St. John's improves to 24-18 overall with the victory, 7-11 in the Big East. Villanova drops to 23-21 and 7-11 in the Big East.

RED STORM SHUTS OUT `NOVA IN GAME TWO

Sunday, May 7

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Villanova	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
St. John's	1	0	3	1	1	0	x	6	9	0

FLUSHING, N.Y. --- In the first game of a double-header on Sunday, May 7th at Shea Stadium, the Villanova baseball team was shutout by the Red Storm by a score of 6-0.

St. John's scored one run in the first, three in the third and one run each in the fourth and fifth innings en route to the six run victory.

Taking the loss for Villanova on the mound was Brian Slocum who pitched two and two-thirds innings allowing for five hits and four runs, walking six and striking out one. The freshman's record now stands at 4-3. Coming on in relief was Bob Grzenda who pitched two and a third solid innings giving up just two runs, one walk and striking out two. Matt Therien came on and pitched a scoreless final inning for the Wildcats.

In the game, Villanova tallied three hits at the plate. Second baseman Chris Watson went one-for-one, while Brian Hearne and Dan Glover each went one-for-three.

Kevin McGerry, pitching a seven-inning shutout, recorded the win for St. John's. McGerry gave up three hits, no runs, walked five and struck out eight.

At the plate for the Red Storm, J.P. Cirigliano went two-for-two with an RBI and Mike Niksa went two-for-three with two runs scored and an RBI.

WILDCATS RALLY IN NINTH TO BEAT ST. JOHN'S

Saturday, May 6

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Villanova	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	9	9	1
St. John's	1	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	8	12	2

FLUSHING, N.Y. --- After losing 6-0 in game one of a double-header against St. John's on Sunday at Shea Stadium, the Villanova Wildcats were fighting for their Big East lives in game two. Overcoming a three-run deficit in the final inning, the Wildcats scored four runs in the top of the ninth inning as they went on for a 9-8 victory. With the win, Villanova is 24-22 overall on the season, 8-12 in the Big East, while St. John's is 25-19 overall, and 8-12 in the Big East.

Villanova scored first, getting two runs in the first inning on a two RBI single from Rob Cafiero. In the second inning, the Wildcats made it a 3-1 advantage on an RBI double by Brendan Trainor. St. John's came back to tie the game in the bottom of the second as J.P. Cirigliano hit an RBI double.

Still tied going into the sixth inning, Dave Pizzini hit a one-out triple for the 'Cats and scored one batter later on a wild pitch. Pizzini's run gave `Nova a 4-3 lead.

The Red Storm offense came alive in the bottom of the sixth, however, as Shane Zarzycki tallied two RBIs to give St. John's a 7-4 lead. In the seventh inning, St. John's increased their lead to 8-4 on a suicide squeeze bunt by catcher Mike Niksa. Villanova added one run in the eighth on a bases loaded error by Red Storm first baseman Chris Fallon to close to within 8-5.

With two outs and the bases loaded in the ninth inning, Wildcat second baseman Matt Longo walked to close the gap even further to 8-6. A walk to Rob Cafiero one batter later made it an 8-7 ballgame. With the bases still loaded, Nick Piantek singled up the middle to score Pizzini and Longo to give Villanova the decisive 9-8 lead.

In the bottom of the ninth, Villanova closer Brian Manning closed the door on St. John's with a little help from his fielders. With runners at first and second with two outs, Niksa lined a single into left field. Pizzini came up throwing, however, and gunned the would be tying-run out at the plate to end the game and preserve the 9-8 win for Villanova. Manning got the victory on the mound for the 'Cats to improve to 2-4.

Starting on the mound for the Wildcats was freshman Tom Kandybowicz, who did not factor in the decision. Kandybowicz pitched five and two-thirds innings, giving up eight hits, seven runs, three walks and striking out two.

The Villanova bullpen was solid in relief. Will Henry pitched two-thirds of an inning, giving up two hits and one run. Matt Therien pitched one inning without giving up a hit or a run. Brian Manning came on to pitch one and two-thirds innings allowing just one hit and no runs.

St. John's Kevin Zaug started at pitcher for the Red Storm. Zaug gave up four runs on six hits in five and a third innings. Getting the loss for St. John's was John Niebling who falls to 4-5 on the year. Niebling came on to pitch one and a third innings, allowing for one hit, four runs, walking two and striking out three.



Junior Nick Piantek had the game-winning hit for the Wildcats on Sunday versus St. Johns.



STORYBOOK SEASON FOR PIZZINI

Junior leftfielder Dave Pizzini has made enormous strides throughout his Main Line career, from the time he arrived in 1998. As a rookie, Pizzini showed flashes of brilliance, but struggled at times like most freshmen tend to do. Playing in 30 games, and starting in 16, he batted .230 (17-for-74), with three doubles, one triple, two home runs and nine RBI.

Prior to the 1999 campaign, Pizzini looked to be battling for a starting job at third base. Due to injuries to several Villanova outfielders, however, Pizzini was thrust into a starting role in left field. He would not disappoint. Pizzini turned into one of 1999's most pleasant surprises, batting .359 (65-for-181), with 13 doubles, one triple, one home run and 36 RBI.

Entering this season as a centerpiece to the Villanova lineup, even greater things were expected of Pizzini. The junior from Kennett Square, Pa., has taken his success to a whole new level in 2000. Pizzini leads the team in nearly every offensive category. He ranks first on the Wildcats in batting (.395), runs (48), hits (73), doubles (15), triples (4), total bases (102), slugging (.551), and stolen bases (9).

His accolades span much higher than just the Villanova leaderboard. Pizzini also ranks among the top players in both the Big East and the nation. In the Big East, Pizzini was twice named the conference Player of the Week this season. Below is a listing of where Pizzini ranks among the Big East's best.

	Big East Games	Overall Games
Batting	---	.395, 4th
Hits	28, t-9th	73, 2nd
Runs	---	48, 5th
Doubles	---	15, 7th
Triples	1, t-7th	4, t-3rd
Total Bases	---	102, 7th
On-Base %	---	---
Slugging %	---	---



#30 DAVE PIZZINI
 Jr. • LF • Kennett Square, Pa.
 All-Big East Candidate
 All-America Candidate

Junior left fielder Dave Pizzini leads the Wildcats in almost every offensive category in 2000, and is up near the top of the Big East in batting, hits, runs, doubles, triples and total bases.



Freshman pitcher Brian Slocum

FRESHMAN HURLERS SOLIDIFY VILLANOVA ROTATION

Two different stories with the same end result: success. Brian Slocum and Tom Kandybowicz came to Villanova with very different expectation levels. There was no question that both had the skills to be successful in the Big East. The time frame, however, was the point in question.

An Iona Prep grad from New Rochelle, N.Y., Slocum was taken in the 14th round of the Major League Baseball Draft by the Minnesota Twins. He chose to bypass the pros and come to the Main Line with a great deal of pressure to perform right away. Kandybowicz (Massapequa, N.Y./ Massapequa H.S.) on the other hand, was never expected to jump right into the Wildcats' weekend rotation like he has.

Joining Krawiec in the Wildcats' weekend pitching rotation, Slocum and Kandybowicz have helped give Villanova an incredible 1-2-3 punch. Together, the three have combined for a 12-8 record with a 4.27 ERA. In 198.1 innings, they have given up just 191 hits, 125 runs (94 earned), walking 102 and striking out 159.

In Big East play, Krawiec, Slocum and Kandybowicz have posted a 6-6 record with an outstanding 3.64 ERA. They have allowed just 122 hits and 54 earned runs in 133.2 innings, striking out 98 and walking 65. Below are the overall and Big East individual stats for Krawiec, Slocum and Kandybowicz:

Brian Slocum

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA	W-L
Big East	47.2	40	23	14	30	28	2.64	2-3
Overall	67.2	55	34	22	43	44	2.93	4-3

Tom Kandybowicz

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA	W-L
Big East	36.2	38	22	18	13	16	4.42	3-0
Overall	55.2	60	37	28	20	32	4.53	4-1



Freshman pitcher Tom Kandybowicz



WILDCAT BULLPEN PROVIDES SOLID RELIEF

A question mark beginning the 2000 campaign, the Villanova bullpen has continued to improve and mature as the season has gone on. Winding down the regular season this weekend in Morgantown, W.V., the Wildcats will again rely on the pen to help Villanova make a stretch run at the Big East Tournament.

One factor set in stone entering the year was Brian Manning at closer. Manning tied the school record for saves in a season with nine in 1999. He also broke the marks for appearances (30) and K/IP Ratio in a season at 1.62. Missing time in 2000 due to a hand injury, Manning still has 16 appearances and three saves.

What was not set, however, was the Cats depth in middle relief. Juniors Matt Therien and Scott Ward, along with sophomore Bob Grzenda have had something to say about that.

The three have combined to appear in 34 games, and have posted a 4-1 record and three saves. Leading the team in ERA, Therien is 1-0 with a 2.63 ERA. He has appeared in 13.2 innings, striking out 12 while walking just three.

Pitching in eight games, Ward has not allowed a run in his last four appearances, spanning 8.2 innings. He is 1-0 with a 3.29 ERA, and currently ranks second on the team with two saves. In 13.2 innings, Ward has given up just seven hits and six walks, while striking out 13. Opponents are hitting just .149 against him in 2000.

Tied for the team lead in appearances this season is Grzenda with 16. In 31.1 innings on the mound, he has surrendered just 27 hits and 18 runs (13 earned), striking out 27 and walking only 17. Grzenda is presently 2-1 on the year, with one save and a 3.73 ERA.

VILLANOVA BULLPEN



Brian Manning



Matt Therien



Scott Ward



Bob Grzenda

HOUSER MAKING THE MOST OF HIS TIME AT THE PLATE



Sophomore Mike Houser has about half the at bats of the average Villanova starter. What makes Houser unique are the numbers he has put up when he is at the plate.

In just 88 at bats thus far in 2000, Houser has five home runs and 24 RBI. He is tied for first on the Wildcats in home runs and is amongst the team leaders in batting (.307), RBI, and slugging percentage (.523) as well.

In conference games, Houser leads the team with a .385 average, and has two home runs and 12 RBI. His .590 slugging % is tops on the team.

BENNETT'S 500TH CAREER WIN ANOTHER MILESTONE IN ILLUSTRIOUS COACHING CAREER



On April 15, the Villanova baseball team swept a Saturday doubleheader from the Georgetown Hoyas. The Wildcats' 6-2 game two win was not just another victory. It was the 500th career coaching win for Villanova head coach George Bennett.

Bennett's 500th career victory came just over one year after he picked up his 400th Villanova win. His career coaching record currently stands at 506-343-8 (.595). Coming into the 2000 season, only 74 active had coaches had over 500 career coaching victories.

In his 15th season with the Wildcats, Bennett's overall record at Villanova is 438-295-5 (.597). Before coming to Villanova, he spent four seasons (1981-84) at St. Joseph's, where he posted a 68-53-3 mark.

***Bennett ranks number one all-time in wins at Villanova**

George Bennett	(1986-present)	438-295-5 (.597)
Arthur J. Mahan	(1950-73)	236-169-5 (.575)
Charles A. McGeehan	(1913-32)	198-138-3 (.584)
Larry Shane	(1973-85)	148-178-2 (.451)
Frederick J. Croluis	(1905-12)	108-60-5 (.624)
George W. Jacobs	(1933-43)	76-25 (.752)
Philip W. Weinhart	(1946-49)	18-11 (.620)
Rev. Edward McCarthy	(1944-45)	7-8-2 (.412)

WILDCAT SOUTHPAW STRIKING OUT THE COMPETITION

Junior lefty Aaron Krawiec is striking out opponents at a feverish pace in 2000. Krawiec is one of the top strikeout pitchers that the Wildcats have had in recent memory. With 83 strikeouts thus far this season, a Big East Tournament appearance would give him the chance to become just one of a few Villanova pitchers to ever record 100 strikeouts in a season.

Currently tied for the team-lead in victories with four (4-4, 5.28), Krawiec is tops on the squad in innings pitched and strikeouts. In 75.0 innings, he has struck out 83 batters, while walking just 39. Krawiec is third in the Big East in strikeouts for overall games. He is also tied for second in the conference in games started (12).

Krawiec's numbers are even more impressive in Big East Conference play. Starting in seven conference games, he currently has 4.01 ERA. In 49.1 innings, Krawiec has given up just 44 hits and 29 runs (22 earned), striking out 54 while walking just 22. Opponent's .239 batting average against the lefthander, rank him among the Big East leaders that category. Krawiec also ranks second in the Big East in strikeouts for conference games.



Junior pitcher Aaron Krawiec has already set a career-high with 83 strikeouts this season.

