

SMC Plays Stanford for Nine Innings: No Win, No Tie, No Loss

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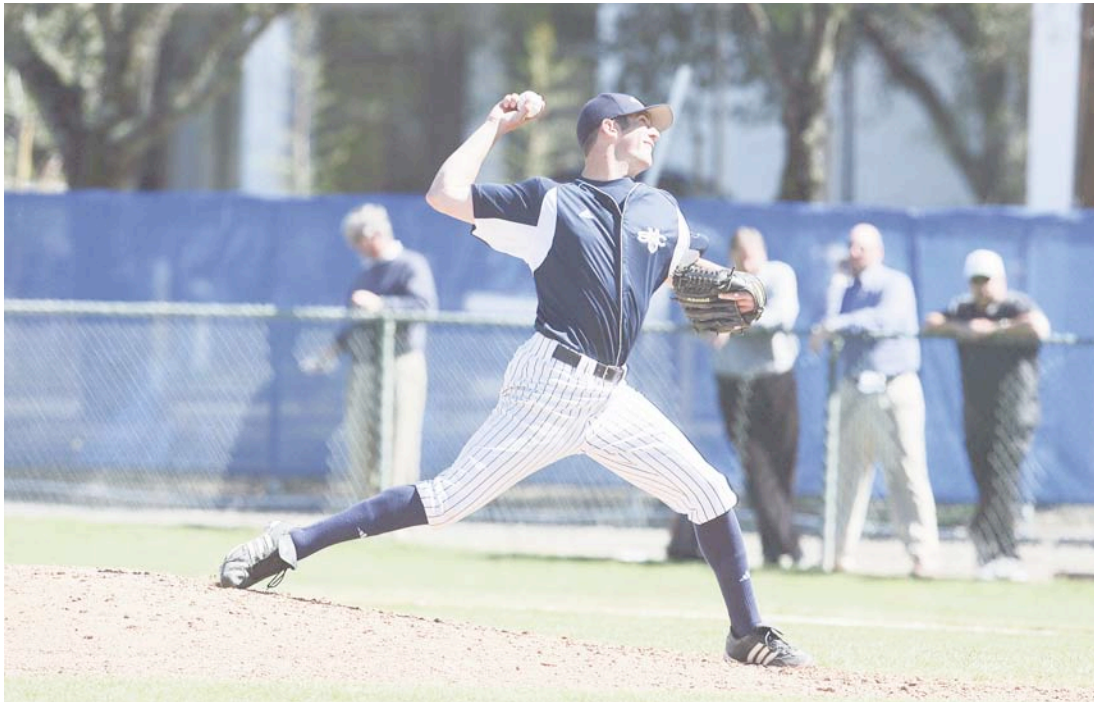


Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's baseball team was back in action Wednesday, Mar. 5, at beautiful Louis Guisto field on the Saint Mary's campus. After beating the Stanford Cardinal at the Sunken Diamond this year, the Gaels looked to sweep the home and home series. With the sight of a packed crowd basking in the warm afternoon sun, and the rolling green hills and pink cherry blossoms providing the backdrop, the stage was set for another impressive win for the Gaels.

As it turned out, the sun was not a luxury in this game, but a necessity, as the current stadium has no lights. After trailing by one run in the ninth, the Gaels were able to tie the game at 7-7 before the coaches were forced to put the game on hold due to darkness, and finish the contest on a later date.

This game was a treat for fans from both ends of the spectrum. The first half of the game was a pitcher's duel between Stan-

ford's starting pitcher and Saint Mary's starting pitcher, Anthony Aliotti. The second half featured a seesaw battle of the bats, which tested the bullpens of both teams.

Aliotti looked strong from the first pitch. With a live fastball and stellar defense on the mound, the big left-hander was able to pitch a shutout through three innings of play. His first mistake of the game came on a solo home run by Stanford in the top of the fourth, which gave the Cardinal a 1-0 lead.

By the top of the fifth inning, Aliotti looked like his arm was getting a little tired, but wasn't about to get pulled in a one run game. Stanford took advantage and scored three more runs on a two-run homer to deep left field, and jumped out to a 4-0 lead.

Geoff Byrns was able to get the Gaels on the board in the bottom of the fifth inning, as his sacrifice fly to deep right field was able to score the runner from third base.

The Gaels took a 5-4 lead in the seventh in-

ning, and would extend that lead to 6-4 in the eighth after Aliotti scored Randy Wells on an RBI base hit.

Alex Jensen pitched two and a third strong innings for the Gaels, but was pulled in the ninth inning after surrendering a home run to Stanford's Zack Jones. Stanford was then able to tie the game at 6-6, before walking in the go-ahead run to give them a 7-6 advantage going into the bottom of the ninth. Kenny Fuglerud did a great job in the bottom of the ninth to keep the Gaels hopes alive, as he was able to get a hit and a stolen base to put Saint Mary's in scoring position. Cory Miller's double was able to score Fuglerud from second base. After nine innings, and the score knotted up at 7-7, the game was called due to darkness. The extra innings for this game will be made up in Palo Alto on April 23.