

Saint Mary's Baseball Finishes Off Fairleigh Dickinson

By Kevin D. Shallat



Photo Tod Fierner

On March 17, the Gaels went for a four-game series sweep against the Fairleigh Dickinson Knights. Luck was on the side of the Gaels in this series, though they didn't appear to need it. The Gaels swept the series and finished off the Knights 11-6 in the rubber match. Their five-run win on St. Patrick's Day was their smallest margin victory in the series.

Local product Taylor Reid got the nod to start on the mound for the Gaels. The freshman from Danville pitched a tough game, as he surrendered six runs in six innings. However, his teammates were able to pick him up with some runs of their own to keep him in the game.

Saint Mary's was able to jump out to a 4-0 lead after Michael Cipolla led off the bottom of the third inning with a base hit. The Knights would come back and make it a 4-3 game after

Joel Staples made a throwing error to first base. The runner eventually came in to score for the Knights, making it a one run game. However, Staples would get his revenge, as he led off for the Gaels in the bottom of the sixth inning. After fouling off two loud foul balls, Staples was able to pick himself up, as he belted a leadoff double to start another Saint Mary's rally. Justin Fazio's base hit and Corey Miller's double helped the Gaels jump out to a 6-3 lead through six innings of play.

The Knights were able to tie the game 6-6 in the seventh after Reid hit back-to-back hitters. Dorsey Ek came in to pitch in relief with the bases loaded and no outs. Ek gave up a double to the Knights, but the runs would be charged to Reid. After relinquishing the lead, the Gaels were in jeopardy of losing the game and the series sweep.

Once again, it didn't take long for the Gaels to strike back. The Gaels unloaded with a five run inning in the bottom of the seventh after Anthony Aliotti set his team up with a leadoff walk. The Gaels were able to re-take the lead after Fazio recorded his second hit of the game to make it 8-6 in favor of the Gaels. Then, with two runners on, Ryan Mulligan was able to put the game out of reach after he struck for a three-run home run over the right field wall. "I just wanted to drive something over their heads to score the run from third, but the ball ended up carrying," Mulligan said. Ek closed out the game for the Gaels, and preserved their 11-6 lead.

When asked whether this team could contend in league, head coach Jedd Soto said, "I really do. In a three game set, with our pitching, I think we can really contend this year."