



## Saint Mary's Drops League Game to Cal after Slow Start

By Kevin D. Shallat



Claire Purcell (4)

Photo Tod Fierner

After returning home from a successful road trip to the Spring Fling Tournament in Florida where the Saint Mary's women's lacrosse team won two games in a row (beating Central Connecticut State 18-8 and Lafayette 13-11), the Gaels had their hands full in a tough match-up to begin league play at home on April 2.

The Gaels hosted a strong California Bears squad in the first Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match-up of the year. Although they mounted a spirited comeback in the second half, the Gaels couldn't get their offense in gear and dropped their game against the Bears, 15-2.

The Bears jumped out to a 6-0 lead at the start. Madeleine Dale scored off a pass from Alyse Kennedy to put the Bears on the board shortly after the opening whistle. This opened up the floodgates, as Cal was able to get to the net with ease in the first half.

The Gaels finally managed to get on the scoreboard after a few strong hustle plays from their star player, Abbie Coleman, who was

able to ignite the Gael offense from her strong play on defense.

Shortly after intercepting a pass down by the Gael's own goal, Coleman sprinted down field on a fast break, only to miss a shot on goal. Her efforts were rewarded, however, as the Gaels got the ball right back. Coleman recovered the ball and waited for the perfect opportunity to ensure a Gael goal. She hoisted a pass to teammate Alana Burrough from behind the Cal net, and Burrough was able to score from three feet to cut the Gael deficit to five.

Chloe Dee and Maggie Schwab did what they could to try and get their teammates some open looks around the Cal goal, but Saint Mary's couldn't convert any more goals in the first half.

The low scoring output can be credited to the stingy Cal defense. The Cal defense was very physical and aggressive, which made it hard for anybody to score against them. Cal led 9-1 at halftime, but something clicked for the Gaels on defense during the last few minutes of the first half, and they did a good job of holding off the Bears.

Although the Gaels continued their strong defense in the second half, holding the Bears scoreless for over 15 minutes of play, Cal still found a way to record six goals in the second period. Saint Mary's was only able to record one more goal from a shot by Dana Elfvin on a nice pass from Schwab.

But it was too little too late for the Gaels, as their defense took too long to get going, and they were unable to take advantage of their free-position shots on goal.

Cal scored one more time with 10 seconds left to put the punctuation mark on a 15-2 win for the Bears.



Chloe Dee (6) Photo Tod Fierner