

## Gaels Fall to Gonzaga in First of Series

By Steven Johns

After being swept by first-place San Diego and losing to Stanford, the Gaels were trying to start their series against the Bulldogs on a good note, but on April 25 the Saint Mary's Gaels suffered their fourth straight loss, falling 11-3 to conference foe Gonzaga.

Both starting pitchers dominated in the first two innings, but in the third inning, Saint Mary's pitcher Scott Schneider ran into a lot of trouble. After retiring the first batter of the inning, Drew Heid doubled down the left-field line. Lead-off hitter Evan Wells followed with another double down the left-field line. Jason Chatwood then hit a hard ground ball that Randy Wells bobbled, allowing Chatwood to reach safely. Marcus McKimmy followed with a sacrifice fly to left field, making the game 2-0.

Ryan Wiegand's single drove in Chatwood to make the game 3-0 in favor of Gonzaga. After a hit batsman Mark Castellitto doubled in two runs to cap off a five-run inning.

In the fifth inning the Bulldogs' bats came alive again. The first hitter was again retired, but Schneider then walked Wiegand. Tyson Van Winkle followed the walk with Gonzaga's fifth double of the game, driving in Wiegand. Castellitto got his second hit of the

game and his first RBI of the game when he singled in Wiegand. After a sacrifice fly made the game 8-0, Bryan Winston walked and Heid doubled him in to make the lead 9 runs.

Gonzaga's starting pitcher, Matt Fields, pitched an outstanding game. Through the first seven innings Fields only gave up three hits and three walks. Fields also struck out eight hitters in those seven innings and ended up going 7-plus innings while giving up three hits, three walks and one run.

The Bulldogs put two more runs on the board in the seventh when Winston and Heid each singled in a run.

The only bright spot for the Gaels came in the eighth inning. After a lead-off pinch hit single by Brian Hawkins, another pinch hitter came to the plate. Batting for Cory Miller, Ryan Young launched a long two-run homerun to left-center field. The next batter, pinch hitter Conor Larkin, hit a high bouncer over the third baseman. After a couple of outs and a Kyle Jensen walk, Kenny Fuglerud singled in the third run of the inning.

The Gaels tried to build a rally in the ninth, but Jeremy Stumetz was able to keep any runners from scoring.



Daniel Alcaire (36) Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's only managed to get six hits and four walks against the Bulldogs' pitchers.

This loss drops the Gaels to 4-8 in the West Coast Conference and 20-17 overall. Saint Mary's is now six games behind San Diego with only 12 games left, of which only eight are against conference opponents.