



Mills' Return Fails to Convince NCAA

By Mikaela Cowles



Patrick Mills (13)

Snubbed by the NCAA, the Gael's have to settle for postseason play in the National Invitational Tournament (NIT). It's a disappointment, but everyone knew that something changed on that fated January road trip to Washington.

On January 29th Gael's fans held their breath as Patrick Mills winced in pain at half time of the Gonzaga game. Mills was sidelined for 5 weeks due to two metacarpal fractures in his right hand that resulted in a successful surgery on February 4. Suffering the loss of their star Olympian, the Gael's fell to the Zags 62-69 and continued to lose four of their next five games.

Finalizing their starting line up with fresh faces Lucas Walker, Mickey McConnel and Wayne Hunter, the Gael's gelled as a unit and on February 19th fully found their rhythm against San Diego, winning 61-65. Saint Mary's went on to win the remainder of their conference games, finishing the regular season 24-5. On March 8th in the semi-finals of the West Coast Conference tournament, Mills' reinstatement to the Saint Mary's roster failed to live up to Saint Mary's hope for a positive effect.

Mills' 5 weeks off were spent practicing hesitation and inside out moves with his left hand around

cones, finishing his moves with left handed running jumpers and over the rim finger roles. After only one day of full contact practice Mills entered the game against Portland with a swollen hand, a tentative attitude and a lot of energy.

Mills' performance against Portland was less than desired by the Gael's and it didn't pick up much from there as they faced Gonzaga in the finals of the WCC tournament. Saint Mary's fell to the Zags 58-83 and lost the automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

The Gael's scheduled an extra game against Eastern Washington on March 13, to allow the team to re-gel with Mills and prove to the selection committee they deserved an at-large bid. Mills' play definitely improved. Not only did his shooting percentage rise but the quality of his misses was noticeably better as the Gael's won handily 85-65. Commenting on his hand, Mills told reporters that by Friday night "the swelling had gone down tremendously. The motion and feeling in my fingers and wrist as well was pretty much 100%."

Saint Mary's proved themselves a strong team even without Mills as they beat highly ranked Utah State on February 21. With the return of Mills the Gael's held on to the hope of an at-large bid, however the selection committee had other things in mind.

With a low strength of schedule, Saint Mary's suffered the Mid Major curse and lost the chance at playing in March Madness. However, Saint Mary's will still be playing in the post season, and the nature of the NIT means the Gael's opened the tournament with home court advantage for their first game against Washington State last night (results not available at press time).

On Your Mark, Get Set... Register to Swim

Written with information provided by Gint Federas (LMYA) and Jane Daniel (MSC)



Looking for spring swim clinics, swim lessons or a summer swim team program? Local public options include LMYA Dolphins and Miramonte Swim Club programs:

LMYA Dolphins, based at the Acalanes High School pool, offers April preseason stroke clinics open to all swimmers, regardless of summer team affiliation. Conducted by Acalanes High School head swim team coaches Marc Cavallero and Jeff Miller, these clinics begin on April 6 and run for 4 weeks with Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs sessions available.

The LMYA Dolphins summer community swim team, open to swimmers age 4-18, is also coached by Cavallero and Miller who subscribe to the SWIM SMART Program which promises "success and fun." Pre-season practices start May 4th. Regular season morning age group practices begin June 15 and evening practices start June 16. Register for the pre-season clinics and swim team online at www.lmyaswim.com or in person on Thursday, March 26, from 6-

9pm, in the Acalanes High School cafeteria. Please bring your checkbook and calendar.

LMYA Swim Team also offers a "Gutter Guppy" introductory program for water-safe 4-6 year olds. Evaluation and registration will be held at Acalanes High School pool on May 19 and June 1.

For more information about LMYA's swim programs go to www.lmyaswim.com, send an email to registration@lmyaswim.com, or contact Kristi Buck, Dolphins Team Director, at 925-284-4822.

Miramonte Swim Club (MSC), the only public swim team in the OMPA swim league, holds its programs at the Miramonte High School pool. MSC is currently accepting registration for its upcoming swim lessons and stroke clinics, as well as for the summer swim team program. The swim and stroke program runs on four weekends, a total of 8 classes, between April 11 and May 10. The swim team starts May 11 with preseason workouts, and the summer season runs from mid-June to the OMPA championship in early August. There are

SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Gaels Fall Twice Saturday at the Guisto

By Alex Crook



SMC's Chris Murphy catches UCSB opponent trying to steal

Photo Tod Fierner

Expectations are running high around St Mary's College Luis Guisto Field this year. Although being picked second to last in the West Coast Conference is not necessarily a good thing, the Saint Mary's baseball team is used to handling that sort of hype. Armed with some incredible talent like freshman infielder Troy Channing and preseason All-American utility Kyle Jensen, the Gael's are proving that they can play anyone.

On Friday, SMC started the 4-game weekend series against UC Santa Barbara by posting a win. But on Saturday the Gael's stumbled twice. Saint Mary's didn't make it easy, but UC Santa Barbara took

both games anyway, 9-2 and 7-5.

In the later Saturday game, the Gael's and Gauchos were practically being picked second to last in the West Coast Conference is not necessarily a good thing, the Saint Mary's baseball team is used to handling that sort of hype. Armed with some incredible talent like freshman infielder Troy Channing and preseason All-American utility Kyle Jensen, the Gael's are proving that they can play anyone.

Santa Barbara scored 4 runs on 4 hits in the one inning alone, including a 2-run shot from infielder Robby Cummings to put his Gauchos ahead 3-2.

The Gael's made a little magic of their own in the fourth, tallying up 2 runs on 2 hits. In the inning, infielder Troy Channing doubled, bringing home fellow infielder Daniel Alcaine and pulling the Gael's within one, 5-4.

In the bottom of the sixth, the Gael's threatened with runners on the

corners, hanging onto a 6-5 one run deficit. Outfielder Justin Fazio's lineout ended the inning, and the Gauchos caught their breath back, clinging to their narrow lead. From there, the Gauchos kept their pace. Final score, 7-5.

With the Saturday losses, the Gael's ended the disappointing day with a 10-6 record, while the Gauchos improved to 11-4 and keep their #25 ranking.

SMC closed out the 4-game series, 1 win to 3 losses, losing Sunday afternoon's game, 25-11.

This week, Saint Mary's hosts 2 games against Cornell before heading to Corvallis, to play both Utah Valley State and Oregon State.

St. Perpetua wins Tournament

Submitted by Dawn Brightbill



Pictured are (top row, L-R) Tim Fogarty, Connor Smith, Keith Vaisnor; (middle row) Nathan Edwards, Brendan Supple, Gino Frument; (bottom row) Colin Fogarty, Nico Brightbill, Ian Franklin, Chris Vaisnor

Photo Kim Fogerty

The St. Perpetua 5th Grade Boys National League basketball team, coached by Tim Fogarty and Keith Vaisnor, won the 2009 CYO National Invitational Tournament of Champions in Brentwood in early March. The team had previously won the West Diablo 5th Grade National League Regular Season Championship and the MVP Flight Turkey Shoot-Out. They ended their season with a record of 18 - 0.

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