

SMC Softball Swings for WCC Title

By Michael Sakoda



Lujane Massadi



Photos Tod Fierner Andrea Hazel



Katie Moss



Sarah Lira

The women's softball team at Saint Mary's College is well into its first season as a member of the West Coast Conference. The move from the Pacific Coast Softball Conference gives the players and coaches a sense of pride, something to play for.

"(This) has had a big impact because as a school, we're WCC, but softball was this spinoff as far as the PCSC went," said head coach Jessica Hanaseth-Rodgers. "The girls and I feel more a part of the St. Mary's group of athletics ... more involved (and) a little more important."

After a rocky 5-10 start, the team has notched a 22-23 record (8-4 WCC) including an 8-2 upset of California.

"The game against Berkeley was a huge confidence booster," said pitcher Lujane Massadi, one of the nine sophomores on the St. Mary's roster. "It was the first time in school history that we beat them ... and it was great to see our whole team work together and come up with a win."

Hanaseth-Rodgers credits the growth of her pitching staff

with the turnaround.

"We've been relying on (them) these last several games. Playing a tough schedule has taken us in a positive direction... the staff has been poised ... never rattled, and they've started to take control of the games," she explained.

The Gaels' pitchers, Massadi, freshman Katie Moss and junior Sarah Lira have been tremendous this season, with a combined ERA of 2.27. Moss (.62 ERA) has four saves on the year. She made her first start on April 26 against Santa Clara, pitching a complete game, allowing just three hits and three walks, with no earned runs, and 11 strikeouts.

"We're going to need (Katie) if we want to make this run," said Hanaseth-Rodgers. "We're going to need her to come in and step up, and hopefully we can provide some offense."

St. Mary's is chasing a WCC title this season and they can clinch a championship by sweeping BYU this weekend.

"Winning the conference is doable if we keep playing the

way we have been," said Massadi. "It's about being prepared mentally ... working in practice then coming out, ready to go."

But the Gaels will need hits from an offense that's been struggling as of late. "In our last eight games we've left 61 runners on base," said Hanaseth-Rodgers. "We were averaging two runs a game and giving up three ... if we score a third of (those) this is a totally different conversation."

Sophomore catcher Andrea Hazel is the team's best hitter so far this year—.346 avg., 46 hits, 25 RBI and 6 HR—but Hanaseth-Rodgers is looking for all her players to rise to the challenge.

"We need timely hits," she said. "We're getting people on base ... it's time for anyone, one through nine, to step up and make something happen."

The Gaels look to bounce back from a 1-2 loss to Stanford on April 30, as they visit UC Davis today, May 7. They play BYU in a three game series May 9-10.

MBA Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

Mustang Division

April 12

A's 3, Cubs 1

A's Highlights: Adam Harper 2-for-2, 1B, 3B, 1 RS, 1 RBI; Shan Brinton 1-for-2, 1 RBI; Donovan Castilla-Liu 1-for-2, 1 RS.

Cubs Highlights: Mason Fara 2-for-3, 1B, 2B, 1 RS; Tyler Kivelson 2-for-3, 1B-2, 1 RBI; Jack Beaty 4K's in two perfect innings.

Red Sox 9, Yankees 4

Red Sox Highlights: Evan Olson 2-for-3, 2 RS, 2 RBI; Jack Williams 2-for-3, RS, 2 RBI; Connor Fritch 2-for-2, BB, RS.

Yankee Highlights: Vito Crudele 0-for-1, BB, RS; Luke Olsen 1-for-2, 2 S, BB; Xavier Esquer 1-for-3, RS 2 RBI.

April 16

Red Sox 15, Cubs 11

Red Sox Highlights: Evan Olson 3-for-4, 1B, 2-2B, 1 RS, 4 RBI; Charlie Revelis 2-for-3, 2 RS, RBI; Dylan Rusconi 1-for-2, 1B, 2 RS, RBI.

Cubs Highlights: Wiley Winkler 3-for-3, 2-1B 2, 2B, 1 RS, RBI; Jack Beaty 2-for-3, 2 RS; Mason Fara 2-for-3, 2 RS, RBI.

April 19

Yankees 13, Cubs 14

Yankees Highlights: Xavier Esquer 2-for-2, 1B, 2B, 2 RBIs & 2 RS; Andrew Pan 2-for-3, 1B, 2B, 1 RBI, 1 RS; Justin Myers 1-for-3, 2B, RBI, 2RS; Vito Crudele 1-for-3, 1 RS

Cubs Highlights: Wiley Winkler 1-for-4, game-winning 2 RBI; Mason Fara 4-for-4, RBI, 3 RS; Jack Beaty 1-for-2, HR, 4 RBI, 2 RS; Jules Frippiat, 1-for-3, 1 RS.

Red Sox 9, Cardinals 4

Red Sox Highlights: Connor Fritch, 1-for-2, 2 RBIs, 1 RS, 3 IP, 0 ER; Jack Williams, 2-for-3, 2 RBIs, 2 RS.

Cardinals Highlights: Logan Robeson, 1-for-2, 1 RS, 3 IP, 0 RS; Ryan Sintchak, 1-for-1, 1 RS; William Pirone, 1-for-2.

A's 4, Giants 3

A's highlights: Adam Harper 3-for-3, 2B, 1 RBI, 1RS, 2 IP, 0 ER, 2 K; Shan Brinton 2-for-2, 2B; Garrett Nelson 1-for-1, BB; Luca Rago 1-for-3, 1 RBI - game tying hit, 2.2 IP, 5 K.

Giants highlights: Max Rittmann 3-for-3, 2 2B, 1 RBI, 2.1 IP, 1 ER, 3 K; Scott Linden 2-for-3, 2B, 1 RBI, 1 RS, 2.2 IP, 0 ER, 3 K; Nicholas Buck 2-for-3, 1 RBI, 1 RS; Aidan Paul 2 BB, 1 RS.

April 21

A's 13, Yankees 5

A's highlights: Adam Harper 3-for-3, 3B, 2-2B, BB, 3 RBI, 3RS; Luca Rago 3-for-4, 3-2B, 4 RBI, 3 RS; Charlie Hill 3-for-3, 4 SB, 3 RS.

Yankee's highlights: Ben Jules 2 IP, 0 ER, 6 K; Xavier Esquer 1-for-2, 2 SB, 1 RS; Scott Linden 2-for-3, 2B, 1 RBI, 1 RS, 2.2 IP, 0 ER, 3 K; Luke Olsen 1-for-2, 2 SB, 1 RS.

April 22

Red Sox 7, Giants 4

Red Sox Highlights: Nick Gryko 1-for-2, 3 RBI; Dylan Rusconi 1-for-2, RS, RBI; Connor Fritch, 2-for-2, 2B, 2 RS, RBI.

Giants Highlights: Max Rittman 3 IP, 1 ER, 2-for-3, 2 RS; Grant Roesch 1-for-2, 2 RBI.

April 24

Giants 11, A's 8

A's Highlights: Sal Meehan 2-for-2, RBI, 3 RS; Lucas Concepcion 2-for-3, 3 RBIs, RS; Charlie Hill 2-for-4, 3 RS.

Giants Highlights: Will Studebaker 2-for-3, RBI & RS; Zach Donovan 1-for-2, RBI & RS; Hayden Prizeman 1-for-2, RS.

April 29

Giants 7, Cubs 5

Giants Highlights: Ben Marston 1-for-2 3B, RBI, RS; Grant Roesch 1-for-2, 2 RBI; Will Studebaker 2IP, 5 K's, 2 hits, 0 walks.

Cubs Highlights: Michael Coane 2-for-3, RBI; Jules Frippiat, RBI.

April 30

A's 13, Red Sox 9

A's Highlights: Donovan Castilla-Liu 3-for-3, BB, 2 RBI, 4 RS; Adam Harper 3-for-3, BB, 2 RBI, 3 RS; Brendan Comerford RBI; Charlie Burke SB, RS.

Red Sox Highlights: Dylan Rusconi 3-for-3, 2B, 3 RS, RBI; Nick Gryko 2-for-3, 2 RS, RBI; Charlie Revelis 2-for-3, 2 RS, RBI; Robbie Mascheroni, 1-for-3, 2 RBI.

May 3

Cubs 8, A's 3

Cubs Highlights: Michael Coane 1-for-3, 2RBI, 1RS, 2 IP, 3 K's, 1 ER; Tyler Kivelson 0-for-1, 2 BB, 1 RS; Wiley Winkler 1-for-2, BB, 1 RBI, 1 RS.

A's Highlights: Adam Harper 1-for-2, BB, 3 IP, 0 ER, 0 hits; Shan Brinton 2-for-3, 1 IP, 0 ER; Duke Okamura 1-for-3.

Pinto Division

April 16

A's 11, Angels 6

Angels Highlights: Edgar Alford 1-for-3, RBI; Macsen Freeman 1-for-3; Julia Erickson-King 1-for-3, RBI and Joe Revelos 1-for-3, Run, RBI.

A's Highlights: Max O'Balle 3-for-3, 2 runs, 2 RBIs; Dante Vattuone 1-for-3, Run, 2 RBIs; Rylen Salvi 1-for-3, Run, 2 RBIs; and Bradley Schoenberger 1-for-3, Run, 2B.

April 19

A's 13, Cardinals 11

A's Highlights: Jake Ruffalo 2 for 3, 1 RBI; Max O'Balle 2 for 3, 3RBIs; Rylen Salvi 2 for 3, 1 RBI.

Cardinals Highlights: Adrian Blumberg 3 run HR; Quinn Flanagan 3 for 3; Clayton Naffziger 3 for 3, 1 RBI.

April 22

A's 13, Pirates 12

A's Highlights: Dante Vattuone 3-for-3, 1 RBI, 1 RS; Jake Ruffalo 2-for-3, 2

RBI, 1 RS;

Rylen Salvi 2-for-3, 2 2B, 2RBI, 1 RS. Pirates Highlights: Brendan Baldelli 4-for-5, 2RS, 1 RBI; Nolan Cuddihy 2-for-4, 2RBIs; Will Cook 3-for-4, 3 RS.

April 19

Red Sox 14, Angels 20

Red Sox Highlights: Josh Batra 4-4, 4 RS, Drew DeFrancisci 3-4, 3 RS, Doug Ellery 3-3, 2 RS

Angels Highlights: Sam Whipple 4-4, 2 RS; Thomas Colpo 4-4, 3 RS; Ben Whipple, Ainsley Johnson, Teo Spiropulo, Julia Erickson-King and Macson Freeman all went 3-4.

Pirates 20, Yankees 15

Pirate Highlights: Andy Moon 5-for-5, HR, 2-2B, 3RS, 5 RBI; Nolan Cuddihy 4-for-4, 3 RS, 3 RBI; Michael Herrington: 4-for-4, 1 RS, 3 RBI.

Yankee Highlights: William Myers 3-for-4, 2RS, 4RBI; Colin Spencer: 3-for-4, 1-2B, 1RS, 4 RBI; Lleyton Osteen: 3-for-3, 3 RS, 1 RBI.

April 22

Yankees 6, Giants 5

Giant Highlights: Landon Fly 3-for-3, 3-2B, 1 RS, 2 RBIs; Kyle Ting 2-for-3, 2B, 1 RS, 1 RBI; Will Barish 2-for-3, 1 RS, 1 RBI.

Yankee Highlights: James Giordani 1-for-3, RS; Thatcher Cattell 3-for-3, 1 RS, 1 RBI; Blaise Clancy 2-for-3, 1 RBI.

April 23

Red Sox 19, Cardinals 17

Red Sox Highlights: Isaiah Ortiz 4-for-4, 2B, 2 RS; Max Polk 2-for-4, 2B, 2 RS; Gunner Chapman 3-for-4, 2 RS.

Cardinals Highlights: Tyler Bullock 4-for-4; 1 RS; Jack Mooradian 3-for-4, 3 RS; Blake Webster 4-for-4, 2 RS.

Angels 12, Yankees 11

Angels Highlights: Charlie Murrin 2-for-3, 2 Runs, 3 RBI, HR; Macsen Freeman 1-for-2, Run; Peter Appleton 1-for-3, 2 Runs, RBI; Ainsley Johnson 2-for-3, Run, 2B.

Yankees Highlights: Corey Nelson 2-for-3, Run, 3RBI, 2.2B; Jake Spencer 3-for-3, 3 Runs, 2 RBI, 2 2B; James Girodini 2-for-3, Run, 2 RBI.

April 26

Giants 14, Red Sox 4

Red Sox Highlights: Cal Chivers 3-for-3; Drew DiFrancisci 3-for-3; Scott Lyons 3-for-3

Giants Highlights: Landon Fly 4-for-4, 3 RS; Will Barash 4-for-4, 1 RS; Levi Olsen 4-for-4, 2 RS.

April 29

Yankees 14, Red Sox 12

Red Sox Highlights: Douglas Ellery 2-for-3, 2B, 1 RS, 1 RBI; Drew DeFrancisci 3-for-3, 2 RS, 1 RBI; Ryan Rittmann 2-for-3, 1 RS, 1 RBI.

Yankee Highlights: William Myers 2-for-3, 2 RS, 1 RBI; Colin Spencer 2-for-3, 1 RS, 3 RBIs; James Giordani 2-for-3, 3 RS, 2 RBIs.

A's 17, Giants 7

A's Highlights: Jack Harper 4-for-4, 2 RBIs, 2 RS; Dante Vattuone 2-for-3, 2RS; Brandon Pena 3-for-3, 2 RBI, 3 RS.

Giants Highlights: Kyle Ting 3-for-3, 2RS; Jason Runckel 2-for-3, 4 RBIs, 2 RS; Ben Tallon 2-for-2.

Red Sox 12, Yankees 14

Red Sox Highlights: Drew DiFrancisci 3-for-3, 2 RS; Scott Lyons, Isaiah Ortiz and Ryan Rittman all went 2-for-3.

Yankees Highlights: William Myers, Jake Spencer, and Corey Nelson all went 3-for-3; James Giordani 3-for-3, 3 RS.

April 30

Cardinals 13, Angels 10

Angels Highlights: Teo Spiropulo 1-for-2, 2 RBI, 2B; Nolan Paul 1-for-2, Run; Charlie Murrin 3-for-3, 2 Runs, 2 RBI, 2B; Sam Whipple 2-for-3, Run, 4 RBI, HR.

Cardinals Highlights: Adrian Blumberg 3-for-4, Run, 5 RBI; Blake Webster 3-for-3, 3R; Leighton Jay 4-for-4, 3 RBIs; Clay Naffziger 3-for-3, 3 Runs, 4 RBI, HR.

Moraga Sweeps Series

Submitted by Lynn McAuliffe

Wet fields couldn't prevent the Moraga Mavericks from sweeping their weekend Pony League series against Danville on April 26-27. Moraga pitcher Paul Gannett improved to 3-0 in a complete game 4-2 victory on Saturday morning, followed by Will Bishop's 10-strikeout effort for the 3-2 nightcap win. Bishop also contributed five hits over the series.

Sunday's 21-10 finale was powered by centerfielder Brendan Cunningham going 4-for-5 at the plate with back-to-back triples in the Mavericks' 12-run seventh inning outburst. Moraga Mavericks improve to 7-5 on the season.



Brendan Cunningham makes a backhanded catch deep in center field.



Lefty pitcher Will Bishop threw 10 strike outs.



Second baseman turns double play

Photos provided