

SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



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 half-time, 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.

SMC Uses Pitching Committee To Beat S.F. State

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Photo Tod Fierner

Regardless of how one describes the process, the product was undeniable. Schmarzo allowed only one hit, no walks, and struck out four batters.

Just as Schmarzo's pitching effort helped the Gaels defensively, the Gaels received a similar shot to the arm offensively from their leadoff hitter, Cory Miller. He set the tone early for the Gaels by getting a key leadoff hit in the bottom of the first inning. Miller went three for five at the plate, with two runs and an RBI to finish the day. The Gaels continue to reward themselves with patient, unselfish play from their players. In the same inning Ryan Mulligan walked, and Cory Miller bunted to set up a big inning for the Gaels. Both players are more than capable hitters, but were rewarded by playing small ball. Miller, Mulligan, and Wells would all score, which gave the Gaels a quick 3-0 lead after the first inning of play.

Kenny Fuglerud hit his third home run of the season to put the Gaels up 4-0 in the bottom of the second. Shortly thereafter Anthony Aliotti was

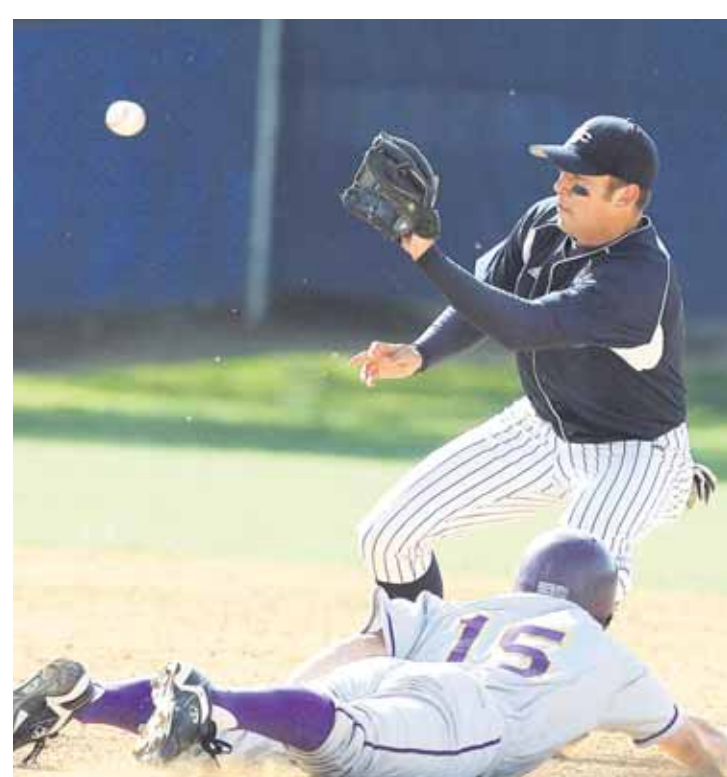


Photo Tod Fierner

able to plate Miller to give the Gaels a comfortable 5-0 lead. The Gaels would climb right back to make it a 5-2 game.

After Joel Staples scored the Gaels sixth run of the day, Randy Wells put the game out of reach in the bottom of the fourth, as he smashed a solo shot to right field to make it a 7-2 game.

"I was in a good count. I was sitting fastball. I know he didn't have much off-speed, so I was just sitting on it," said Wells.

After the Gaels cut it to 7-3 in the eighth, Matt McCormick came in to close the game in the ninth. He allowed two runs, but was able to finish up the game for the Gaels, 7-5.

Cougars Out-Slug Gaels

By Steven Johns

On Tuesday April 8, the Campolindo Cougars out-slugged the Dublin Gaels in a thrilling 10-9 victory.

In their first game against each other, the Cougars and the Gaels used their offenses to overcome poor defenses and poor pitching.

Campolindo took the early lead in the bottom of the first inning by taking advantage of two Dublin errors. Corbin Chase led off the inning with a walk. After an out, Anthony Fadelli singled between first and second to put runners on first and third. Clean up hitter Chris Hilk came up to the plate and hit a ground ball towards the shortstop. The shortstop could not handle it and Chase was able to score. After a strikeout Chris Killeen hit a ball that the third baseman booted, plating Fadelli.

After a third inning run by Campolindo the Cougars looked to be on their way to a win.

In the fourth, however, defensive mishaps and wild pitching allowed Dublin to take a big lead. The first batter of the inning, Steven Zanders, hit a dribbler back to pitcher David Wirth. Wirth threw to first, but Killeen dropped the ball and Zanders was safe.

Wirth then proceeded to walk the next three batters. After a ground out, Wirth hit Chuck Krause and walked Spencer Humphrey. Freshman Joey Mello came to the plate and hit a single to score another run. Zanders singled, plating another run. After a throwing error by catcher Vance Vergara, Nick Russ came in to pitch and got the final out of the inning. By the end of the fourth the Gaels scored 7

runs and made the game 8-3.

Despite this horrible inning, the Cougars were not done yet. In the fifth inning the Cougars offense picked up the fourth inning mishaps.

The first two batters of the inning were erased on a questionable interference call that resulted in a double play. With two outs Fadelli singled, Hilk reached first on an error, and Scott Hogland walked. Killeen then hit a 2 RBI single that was followed by yet another walk. Tommy Stephens got Campolindo's third hit of the game and drove in two in the process. This hitting barrage put the Cougars back on top 9-8.

In the top of the seventh, Dublin was able to take advantage of Mazzie's lead off double to tie the game at 9.

The resilient Cougars, however, were able to come back. A lead-off walk by Hogland gave Campolindo the chance to win the game. Pinch runner Jaime Fox moved to second base on a wild pitch, and got to third on Killeen's sacrifice bunt.

With one out and a runner on third, pinch hitter Will Coleman came to the plate. With a 2-2 count Coleman smashed the ball over the left-fielder's head to win the game.

The Cougars were able to overcome six errors and six walks to win the game. "We made a bunch of errors but we got it together and rallied and eventually came out on top" stated Fox.

This great comeback gave the Cougars their fourth win in a row and improved their overall record to 7-5.



Chloe Dee (6) Photo Tod Fierner

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