

# Gaels Fall after Spartans Comeback

By Steven Johns

In their final home game of the season, the Saint Mary's baseball team was in prime position to take home a win, but the San Jose State Spartans came back to defeat the Gaels 7-5.

On May 7, the Spartans completed the season sweep of the Gaels in a game that quickly changed directions.

In the first four innings, the game appeared to be a pitching duel. The Spartans were retired in 1-2-3 in the top of the first and the Gaels came to plate in the bottom. Kenny Fuglerud led off the inning with a walk. After an out Joe Staples lined a double into the gap in left-center field, plating Fuglerud.

The Gaels challenged again in the third inning, but were unable to put any runs on the board.

The big inning for the Gaels came in the fifth. Staples led off the inning with a double down the right field line. A single by Kyle Jensen moved Staples to third and an error on the play allowed Jensen to reach second base. The next batter Ryan Young singled, driving in two runs to give Saint Mary's a 3-0 lead. The Gaels' bats stayed hot as Justin Fazio also singled and drove in a run. After a sacrifice bunt by Daniel Alcaire, a Ryan Mulligan single gave the Gaels a 5-0 lead.

Saint Mary's starter Taylor Reid pitched great through the first six innings. Through the sixth inning Reid allowed only six hits and one run. Of the 18 outs in those innings, 13 were recorded via a fly-out.

In the seventh, however, Reid ran into trouble. Number nine hitter, Anthony Aguilera, led off the inning with a single. Lead-off man Craig Hertler crushed a 2-1 pitch deep into left field. With runners on second and third John Shaffer grounded out to second, plating

Aguilera. The number three hitter, Kyle Bellows followed with a single to drive in another run and make the game 5-3 in favor of Saint Mary's. With two outs in the inning, back-to-back singles by Corey Valine and Alex Sofranac made the game 5-4 with the Spartans still threatening. A long double by Sonny Garza drove in two runs and gave San Jose State a 6-5 lead.

From the seventh inning on the Spartan's bullpen shut down the hot bats of Saint Mary's. The combination of Christopher McNeil, Anthony Vega, and Jack Adams finished the game for the Spartans.

In the end, what started out as a pitchers' duel, ended up as a slugfest. The Gaels lost 7-5 despite only being out hit 15-14.

This disappointing loss by the Gaels prolonged their losing streak to four, the first three of which came at the hands of Miami. With only seven games left on its schedule, Saint Mary's can only hope to end the season with a record above .500. Currently the Gaels sit at 22-23 overall and 5-10 in the West Coast Conference.



Photo Tod Fierner

