



STANFORD ATHLETICS

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BASEBALL RECAP

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*Bruins jump out to 6-0 lead and never trail in series-opening victory

Stanford's Seven-Game Win Streak Snapped With 8-1 Loss At UCLA

Los Angeles, Calif. – UCLA (29-21, 11-8 Pac-10) snapped a season-high seven-game win streak for Stanford (28-22, 10-12 Pac-10) with an 8-1 victory over the Cardinal in the opener of a crucial three-game Pac-10 series on a cool and cloudy Friday evening at Jackie Robinson Stadium. The Bruins jumped out to a 6-0 lead after the first three innings to support winning pitcher Hector Ambriz (7-6), who gave up just one run while scattering eight hits and striking out eight without walking a batter over 8.0 frames. Ambriz also doubled and contributed a pair of RBI at the plate.

Sean Smith (3-3, 2 2B, HR, 2 RBI) and Ryan Babineau (3-4, HR, 3 RBI) both homered to lead the Bruins' offense, while Jermaine Curtis (2-4, 3B, RBI) and Brandon Crawford (2-5, 3B) each had a pair of hits including first inning triples that set the tone for the contest.

Chris Minaker (3-4) and Grant Escue (2-4) had multiple-hit games for the Cardinal with Minaker extending his hit streak to seven in a row. Jason Castro extended his career-high hit streak to eight games with a fifth inning single, while Michael Taylor was held hitless to end his career-high hit streak at nine.

Greg Reynolds (6-4) took the loss and had a four-game win streak snapped as he failed to pitch a complete game for the first time in his last four starts, giving up seven runs (six earned) and 10 hits to equal both the most runs and hits he has allowed in his career. Reynolds struck out just three and walked one, while also hitting three Bruins.

UCLA put three runs on the board in the bottom of the first inning to take an early 3-0 lead. Crawford and Curtis started the Bruins' half of the first with back-to-back triples to right field for the first UCLA run. Chris Jensen was then hit by a pitch but made the first out when he tried to advance on a Reynolds' pitch in the dirt. Ambriz then slugged a double to right center to bring in Curtis and Cardinal centerfielder Ryan Seawell dropped a fly ball hit by Brett McMillan to put Bruins on first and third with just one out. Smith then brought home Ambriz with a sacrifice fly to make it 3-0 and Blair Dunlap singled to keep the rally going before Reynolds finally retired Josh Roenicke to end the inning.

The Bruins added another run in the bottom of the second to increase their lead to 4-0. Babineau and Crawford started the rally with back-to-back singles, before a sacrifice bunt from Curtis moved the runners to second and third. Reynolds then intentionally walked Jensen before a sacrifice fly by Ambriz plated Babineau.

Babineau got UCLA two more runs in the third when he blasted a two-out, two-run homer over the left field wall to put the Bruins ahead, 6-0. Smith had started the inning with a double but Reynolds picked up two outs on a pair of fielders' choice before Babineau's shot over the left field wall.

UCLA picked up another run in the fifth to go ahead 7-0 when Babineau's routine two-out ground ball turned into a bad-hop single when it bounced over the head of Minaker at shortstop to score Roenicke, who had reached on a fielders' choice earlier in the inning that began with Smith's second leadoff double in as many at bats.

Stanford scored its only run of the game in the sixth when Seawell led off with a double, before Escue and Minaker followed with back-to-back singles. But Ambriz avoided a bigger Cardinal inning when he took things into his own hands by fielding a foul pop-up by Taylor, before striking out Randy Molina and Chris Lewis to leave Escue stranded at third and Minaker at first.

Smith finished out the scoring when he led off the eighth with a solo homer off Cardinal reliever Austin Yount (1.0 IP, 2 H, 1 R, 1 ER, 2 SO).

Brian Schroeder pitched a perfect ninth in relief of Ambriz to close out the game, striking out pinch-hitter Brian Juhl and Lewis back-to-back to end the contest.

Stanford and UCLA continue the series Saturday (2 pm, PT) and Sunday (1 pm, PT). UCLA is scheduled to pitch LHP Dave Huff (6-2, 2.77) on Saturday and RHP Tyson Brummett (6-6, 4.43) on Sunday, while the Cardinal has not yet announced a probable starting pitcher for either contest.

NOTES

- Stanford had its season-long win streak snapped at seven games (its longest since also winning seven in a row from April 10-23, 2004)
- Stanford also had its season-best five-game road win streak ended (its longest since taking five in a row on the road from March 20 – April 3, 2005)
- Stanford will need to sweep the final two games of its current series versus UCLA to extend its series win streak to four, as well as its series win streak over the Bruins to nine in a row with the last UCLA series victory over Stanford coming in 1997
- Jason Castro extended his career-high hit streak to eight contests
- Chris Minaker passed his previous career-high in hits for a season and now has 76
- Chris Minaker extended his hit streak to seven games as he has also hit safely in 19 of his last 20 contests
- Chris Minaker has now started 147 consecutive games at shortstop and played every inning at the position in the last two seasons
- Greg Reynolds had strings of four straight victories and three consecutive complete games snapped, while allowing a career-high-tying seven runs and a career-high-tying 10 hits ... Reynolds did last 5.1 innings or more for his 15th consecutive start this season and 16th in a row overall
- Stanford's string of three straight double digit run games was snapped