



STANFORD ATHLETICS

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BASEBALL RECAP

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*Cardinal extends win streak to season-best four straight

Reynolds And Bleich Pitch Stanford To 3-2 Win At Fresno State

Fresno, Calif. – Greg Reynolds and Jeremy Bleich combined on a six-hitter to lead Stanford (8-3) to a season-best fourth straight win in a 3-2 victory at Fresno State (6-7) on Friday night at Beiden Field. Reynolds (1-1) earned his first victory of the season by striking out a career-high 11 batters without issuing a walk, while allowing just one run and five hits over the first 7.2 innings. Bleich (1.1 IP, 1 H, 1 R, 1 ER, 1 SO) notched his fifth save of the young season by getting the Cardinal out of an eighth inning jam and then holding off the Bulldogs in the ninth.

"It's good to get Greg a win here, because he's pitched well for us," said Stanford head coach Mark Marquess.

"It's an honor to pitch on Friday nights on this staff," added Reynolds. "I know the ramifications of getting that first win of the series. I like the role, and I think I'm establishing myself early in the season that I'm somewhat deserving of the Friday night role. It's been exciting so far."

Fresno State trailed 3-1 heading into the bottom of the ninth before Bleich allowed his first run of the season by giving up a triple into the rightcenter field gap to Ozzie Lewis, who would score on Frank LoNigro's sacrifice fly that followed. The Bulldogs managed to get the tying run to second base when pinch-hitter Brian Lappin reached on a two-out, two-base error by Cardinal shortstop Chris Minaker but Bleich retired Erik Wetzel on another ground ball to Minaker to end the game.

"Jeremy's done a great job in some pressure games," commented Marquess. "That's his fifth save – that's pretty good."

Michael Taylor (3-5, RBI) and Jim Rapoport (2-5, 2B, RBI) had multiple-hit games for Stanford, who outthit Fresno State by an 11-6 count.

Fresno State starter Doug Fister (1-3) took the loss despite limiting the Cardinal to a pair of sixth inning runs and scattering seven hits while walking just one and striking out five. Brandon Burke (3.0 IP, 4 H, 1 R, 1 ER, 1 SO) kept the Bulldogs close.

Steve Susdorf accounted for the other Fresno State run with a solo homer in the bottom of the sixth, while Loren Storey (2-4, SB) was the only Fresno State player with more than one hit.

Reynolds and Fister traded blanks on the scoreboard until got to Fister for a pair of runs in the top of the fifth. Joey August's leadoff infield single started the rally and Rapoport knocked him to break the scoreless tie when he one-hopped the wall in leftcenter field for an RBI double. Minaker then moved Rapoport to third with a grounder to Bulldog second baseman Erik Wetzel and Taylor followed with an RBI single down the right field line to plate Rapoport.

Susdorf cut the lead in half and ended Reynolds' shutout bid when he deposited the first pitch he saw in the bottom of the sixth over the right field wall.

Reynolds responded by getting the next nine hitters he faced with only LoNigro reaching on a throwing error by Cardinal catcher John Hester after a striking out during the span.

The Bulldogs were finally able to knock Reynolds out of the game after he allowed a two-out single to Storey and a subsequent RBI double to Kent Sakamoto in the bottom of the eighth before Bleich came on to end the threat with the tying run on second by getting Beau Mills to ground out to Cardinal first baseman Jason Castro.

Stanford and Fresno State will continue the three-game series that opens a 10-game road trip on Saturday and Sunday with the start time scheduled both days at 1:05 pm, PT. Stanford is scheduled to start righthander Matt Manship (0-1, 6.55) against Fresno State lefty Eddie Romero (2-1, 4.37) on Saturday. RHP Andy Underwood (2-1, 1.99) is scheduled to go for the Bulldogs on Sunday, while the Cardinal has not announced a starting pitcher for the series finale.

NOTES

- Stanford has extended its current win streak to a season-best four straight games
- Stanford has won six straight games against Fresno State since the Bulldogs beat the Cardinal in the 2004 series opener in Fresno and needs just one more win in the series for its seventh straight series win over Fresno State since the Bulldogs took two-of-three at Stanford in 1999
- Greg Reynolds struck out a career-high 11 batters without issuing a walk and now has 29 strikeouts and just two walks this season
- Michael Taylor extended his season-high hit streak to five games (one shy of his career-high) with his first three-hit game of the season and his team-leading fifth multiple-hit contest ... Taylor now leads Stanford with a .333 batting average and 13 RBI as he also drove in a run for the fifth straight game
- Jeremy Bleich recorded his team-leading fifth save and also has a 1-0 record while appearing in seven of Stanford's first 11 games ... Bleich did allow his first run in the ninth after 10.1 previous scoreless innings but still has an 0.79 ERA and an opponents' batting average of .108

- Stanford's pitching staff lowered its team ERA to 3.33, which would be the lowest mark since the 1973 club checked in at 2.64 were the season to end today
- Stanford played in front of its largest crowd (3704) of the season
- Stanford committed a season-high three errors
- Chris Minaker had the first two-error game of his collegiate career