



# STANFORD ATHLETICS

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## BASEBALL RECAP

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\*David Stringer earns the victory with 5.2 innings of scoreless three-hit relief work

### Sean Ratliff's Bunt Single Gives Stanford 4-3 Win Over UC Davis In 13 Innings

**Stanford, Calif. –** Sean Ratliff's bunt single with two outs in the bottom of the 13<sup>th</sup> inning scored pinch-runner J.J. Jelmini with the game-winning run to lift Stanford (25-28) to a 4-3 non-conference victory over UC Davis (22-31) on a warm Tuesday evening at Sunken Diamond. David Stringer (2-2) earned the victory for the Cardinal with 5.2 innings of scoreless three-hit relief and struck out a season-high six in the final home game of the 2007 season. The 13-inning affair was Stanford's longest of the season in both innings and time played as the contest lasted four hours and 13 minutes.

Ratliff (2-6, HR, 2 RBI) also hit his team-leading 12<sup>th</sup> homer in the contest, while Michael Taylor (2-4) and Adam Sorgi (2-6, 2B, RBI) each added two-hit games.

Brian Juhl drew a leadoff walk to start the bottom of the 13<sup>th</sup> for the Cardinal before being pinch-ran for by Jelmini. Ryan Seawell moved Jelmini to second on a sacrifice bunt in the senior's final career plate appearance at Sunken Diamond. Joey August then hit a grounder up the middle that Aggie shortstop Matt Dempsey fielded cleanly on the run to his left but threw up the line in an attempt to retire August at first. August was originally ruled out on a tag by UC Davis first baseman Grant Hirneise, but the call was later changed to safe after Stanford head coach Mark Marquess argued and the umpires conferred, leaving Stanford with runners on first and third with one out. Toby Gerhart went down swinging for the second out of the inning before Ratliff bunted an 0-1 pitch by Aggie reliever and losing pitcher Nik Aurora to the right side of the infield. UC Davis second baseman Brandon Oliver fielded the ball on the run and tried to flip it out of his glove but Ratliff dove into first base ahead of the throw to start a celebration.

"They were not expecting me to do anything like that," said Ratliff. "We had talked about it in the ninth inning when they intentionally walked me and said that if we got in the same situation again, we would do it. He put the sign down, and we got it done. We knew that if I got that bunt down, I would have a pretty good chance of beating it out."

"There's just no way they're going to get him if he gets it by the pitcher," said Marquess about the decision to have Ratliff lay down the bunt. "I just thought it was worth the chance, and it worked out really well."

Aurora (0-3) took the loss despite limiting the Cardinal to just two runs (one earned) while scattering five hits and five walks with five strikeouts over 5.2 frames.

Daniel Descalso (3-5, 2B, RBI) and Aaron Hanke (2-6, HR, 2 RBI) had multiple-hit games for an Aggie team that edged Stanford in hits by an 11-10 count.

Both teams had scoring opportunities late in the game before the Cardinal finally broke through with its game-winning bottom of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Aggies loaded the bases in the top of the 13<sup>th</sup> with just one out on back-to-back leadoff singles by Descalso and Hanke, a sacrifice bunt from Hirneise and an intentional walk to Jacob Jeffries but Stringer got out of the jam unscathed by striking out Ryan Royster and getting Kevin James to ground out to Sorgi at second base.

"I just didn't want to get beat with something that wasn't my best pitch in that situation," said Stringer.

Stanford left the bases loaded for the second time in the contest in the 12<sup>th</sup> when Cord Phelps grounded into an inning-ending 3-2-3 double play after a one-out Taylor single, followed by a Sorgi double and an intentional walk to Jason Castro had loaded the bags.

Stanford tied the game at 3-3 with two outs in the bottom of the ninth when pinch-runner Jeff Whitlow scampered home on Aurora's bases loaded wild pitch but also left the bases loaded with a chance to win the game prior to the contest going into extra innings. Pinch-hitter Brendan Domaracki started the rally with a one-out walk before being pinch-run for by Whitlow, who moved to third when August kept the inning alive with a two-out single. Gerhart was then hit by a pitch for the third time in the game to load the bases before Aurora uncorked the wild pitch that tied the contest. Aurora then intentionally walked Ratliff to load the bases but Taylor swung at the first pitch in the next at bat and fouled out to Jeffries near the backstop behind the plate to send the game into extra frames.

The game had been scoreless through the first three innings as starters Austin Yount (5.2 IP, 4 H, 2 R, 1 ER, 1 SO) of Stanford and Jeff Reekers (6.0 IP, 5 H, 2 R, 2 ER, 1 BB, 3 SO) were engaged in a pitchers' dual.

Stanford got on the board first with a run in the bottom of the fourth frame to take a 1-0 lead. Gerhart was hit by a pitch to start the inning before moving to third on a Taylor single and scoring when Sorgi was credited with an RBI fielder's choice after Oliver's throw from second was off target on the tail end of a potential inning-ending double play ball.

UC Davis tied the game at 1-1 in the top of the fifth when Hanke led off the inning with his sixth long ball of the season over the left field wall.

The Aggies took a 2-1 lead in the sixth when Descalso doubled home Oliver, who had singled with two outs and moved to second on Brent Milleville's passed ball.

Stanford tied the game on a long Ratliff solo homer over the rightcenter field fence with one out in the bottom of the sixth.

UC Davis broke a 2-2 tie in the top of the eighth inning when Michael Jacobellis scored on an RBI groundout by Hanke. Jacobellis had started the rally with a leadoff single and the Aggies had runners on first and second with no outs when a well-placed sacrifice bunt attempt by Dempsey to the first base side of the mound turned into a bunt single. Oliver then moved the runners to second and third with a sacrifice bunt before Descalso was walked intentionally to load the bases. Hanke followed with a comebacker up the middle that Stringer managed to get a glove on before it squirted away towards the left side of the infield. Phelps rushed in from shortstop and was able to get Hanke at first base on a fantastic fielding play but not without Jacobellis coming home to give the Aggies a 3-2 lead.

"I just view my job to keep us in the game as long as possible and give us every chance to win," offered Stringer. "I just tried to limit the damage and get out of the situation, and then every inning from there on I tried to shut them down. We pulled it out in the end, so I'll take it."

"It was good to go out on winning note like this," added Stringer about the team's final home game of the season. "But, it's sad to leave this place every year."

"This was a good win for us," summarized Marquess.

Stanford's victory helped the Cardinal avenge the Aggies' two-game home-and-home sweep of the Cardinal in 2006.

The win also kept Stanford's hopes alive of avoiding its first losing campaign since 1993. The Cardinal can still finish an even .500 (28-28) on the season with a three-game sweep at USC (26-26, 9-13 Pac-10) in its final action of the 2007 season this Friday-Sunday, May 25-27 (7 pm, 1:30 pm, 1 pm, PT).

"We have a chance to get back to .500 and kind of salvage the season," explained Ratliff. "That would be huge for us to win so many games late in the season to get back there."

## NOTES

### STANFORD

- Stanford has now won three in a row to equal its second longest win streak of the season and six of its last seven
- Stanford kept its hopes alive of avoiding its first losing season since 1993 as the Cardinal can still finish with an even .500 (28-28) record with wins in each of its last three regular season games at USC this Friday-Sunday, May 25-27
- The 13-inning game clocked in at 4:13 and was Stanford's longest contest of the season in both time and innings played with the 13 innings played the longest the Cardinal has played at Sunken Diamond since a 3-2 victory in 13 innings over Cal State Fullerton in the first game of an NCAA Regional on May 31, 2002
- Stanford snapped a two-game losing streak against UC Davis and now leads the all-time series (since 1959), 41-9
- Stanford improved to 7-5 in the month of May and is trying to record only its second winning month of the 2007 season and its first since the club was 7-5 in February
- Stanford recorded double digit hits for the eighth straight game and the 17<sup>th</sup> time in the last 19 contests
- David Stringer ran his consecutive string of innings without allowing an earned run to 14.1
- David Stringer recorded a career-high six strikeouts
- Michael Taylor extended his hit streak to nine games and notched his 13<sup>th</sup> multiple-hit contest in his last 16 games
- Jason Castro had a career and team season-high 21 putouts
- Cord Phelps and Adam Sorgi tied a team season-high with seven assists each with Phelps establishing a new career-high and Sorgi equaling his career-best
- Joey August set a new career-high with seven at bats
- Toby Gerhart set a new career-high and a new team season-high with three hit-by-pitches
- Stanford starter Austin Yount pitched a new career-high 5.2 innings
- Stanford set new season-highs with 45 at bats, 39 putouts, 25 assists and 15 runners left on base
- Stanford won for just the second time in its last 12 night games
- Stanford came from behind to win for the 16<sup>th</sup> time in 25 victories this season
- Stanford's victory gave the Cardinal a final 17-15 home record in 2007 to extend its string of 17 or more home wins in a season to 12 in a row and avoid equaling the worst winning percentage ever in recorded history at home (.500, 13-13, 1964)
- Stanford now has 38 homers on the season and needs just two more in its final three games to extend its string of 40-homer seasons to 20 in a row
- Stanford senior Ryan Seawell played in the final home game of his career and was honored in a pre-game ceremony
- Stanford student radio broadcaster Alex Gyr was on the KZSU 90.1 FM broadcast for the final time at Sunken Diamond in his collegiate career and was recognized over the public address system during the contest