



# STANFORD ATHLETICS

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## BASEBALL RECAP

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**Web:** <http://gostanford.cstv.com/sports/m-basebl/recaps/052707aad.html>

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\*Cardinal extends string of .500 or better seasons to 14 in a row and pulls itself out of last place with the victory

### Stanford Closes Season With Sixth Straight Win, 10-5 At USC

**Los Angeles, Calif.** – Stanford (28-28, 9-15 Pac-10) closed out 2007 with its sixth straight win in a 10-5 victory over USC (27-29, 8-16 Pac-10) on Sunday at Dedeaux Field. The team's ninth victory in its final 10 games of the campaign allowed the Cardinal to extend its string of non-losing seasons to 14 in a row.

Stanford also pulled itself out of the Pac-10 cellar with the victory, while the Trojans fell into the league's basement. Stanford's offense once again keyed the victory as the team scored double digit runs for the third straight contest to finish with 40 runs scored and 58 hits in a three-game sweep of the Trojans.

"I am proud of the way this ballclub finished the season," commented Stanford head coach Mark Marquess. "They never quit working hard, and the way played at the end of the season, and the results we had in the last few weeks were evidence of that."

Brent Milleville (4-5, 2B, HR, 2 RBI) equaled a career-high with four of Stanford's 19 hits and also blasted his first home run of the season in Sunday's victory. Toby Gerhart (3-4) and Cord Phelps (3-5, RBI) both equaled career-highs as well with three hits each. Michael Taylor (2-6, 2 2B, 4 RBI) extended his career-high hit streak to 12 games and recorded his 16<sup>th</sup> multiple-hit contest in his last 19 games, while Sean Ratliff (2-5, 2B, RBI) and Adam Sorgi (2-5) also had a pair of hits each. All nine Stanford starters had at least one hit.

"It's something for us to build on," said Taylor about the team's hot finish. "There are a lot of guys who learned lessons about perseverance. We were able to preserve and work hard throughout the season, and we were able to get back to .500."

Stanford starter Austin Yount (3-1) earned the victory by limiting the Trojans to three runs on seven hits and three walks in a 5.2 inning outing that match the longest of his career. Yount also tied a career-high with his five strikeouts in his first Pac-10 start on the mound.

USC's Lucas Duda (2-4, HR, RBI) and Hector Estrella (2-5, 2B) had two hits each, while J.J. Owen and Mike O'Neill both drove in a pair of runs.

USC starter Tommy Milone took the loss to fall to 3-7 on the season, allowing six runs on 10 hits and two walks with five strikeouts.

Stanford jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning and never trailed. Back-to-back doubles by Ratliff and Taylor following a one-out walk to Gerhart accounted for the first two Cardinal runs of the contest.

Taylor's clutch two-out bases loaded double in the second gave the Cardinal three more runs and an early 5-0 advantage. Stanford had loaded the bases for Taylor when Phelps and Ryan Seawell led off the inning with back-to-back singles and moved to third on Jeff Whitlow's sacrifice bunt before Gerhart was hit by a pitch.

USC came back with one run in the bottom of the second on three singles. One-out singles by Johnny Bowden and Robert Stock set the stage for a two-out RBI single by O'Neill two batters later.

The Trojans got two more runs in the bottom of the fourth to cut the Cardinal lead to 5-3. Duda led off with a solo homer over the right field wall for the first run of the inning. Stock restarted the rally with a one-out walk, moved to third on a double by Estrella and scored on an RBI groundout from O'Neill.

Stanford would score the game's next five runs to take a 10-3 lead.

Milleville gave the Cardinal one run with a one-out solo shot in the top of the fifth.

Stanford got one more run in the seventh. Sorgi and Milleville led off the inning with back-to-back singles before moving to second and third on Brian Juhl's sacrifice bunt. Seawell drew a two-out walk two batters later before Whitlow was credited with an RBI infield single to bring Sorgi home.

The Cardinal gave itself a big cushion that would prove helpful during a ninth inning USC comeback by scoring three times after two were out in the top of the eighth. Sorgi started the two-out rally with a single and scored on a Milleville double. Juhl followed with an RBI double to plate Milleville and end a tough outing for USC reliever Anthony Vasquez (2.2 IP, 7 H, 4 R, 4 ER, 1 BB, 2 SO). Phelps then greeted Paul Koss (1.1 IP, 2 H, 1 BB, 1 SO) with an RBI single to conclude Stanford's scoring for the season.

USC made it interesting in the ninth with a two-run rally off three Cardinal relievers. Cory Bannister (1.2 IP, 2 H, 2 R, 2 ER, 3 BB) walked pinch-hitter Roberto Lopez to start the inning, before allowing a single to Grant Green and walking Matt Cusick to load the bases. Bannister gave way to Andrew Clauson (0.0 IP, 1 BF, 1 H), who gave up a two-run double to Owen to plate Lopez and Green. Nolan Gallagher (1.0 IP, 1 BB, 1 SO) was called upon to get the final outs for the Cardinal. Gallagher walked Duda to load the bases but then retired the final three batters in order with the tying run looming on deck.

"It was satisfying both as a team and an individual to come in and be on the mound when we got that sweep," said Gallagher. "It's not an easy place to win here at USC. It felt good to provide something for the team."

## NOTES

### STANFORD

- Stanford finished its 2007 season by extending its second longest win streak of the campaign to six games and won nine of its last 10 games overall
- Stanford won three straight series for the first time in 2007 and the first time since the Cardinal won three series in a row versus Arizona State and California, and at Washington from April 28 – May 14, 2006
- Stanford's late season run allowed the Cardinal to record its 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive season with at least a .500 record as the Cardinal finished at an even 28-28
- Stanford climbed out of the Pac-10 cellar on the final day of the season and has still not finished last in the conference since 1993
- Stanford closed the 2007 campaign with a season-long five-game road win streak
- The game clocked in at 3:41 to mark the 19<sup>th</sup> time in 56 games in which the Cardinal has played 3:40 or more and the 36<sup>th</sup> occasion Stanford played for 3:00 or more
- Stanford won its fourth straight game against USC after losing its previous four to the Trojans
- Stanford's sweep of USC ended a four-series slide to the Trojans
- Stanford finished the three-game series versus USC with 40 runs and 58 hits
- Stanford recorded double digit hits for the 11<sup>th</sup> straight game and the 20<sup>th</sup> time in the final 22 contests of the season to finish the campaign with a season-high .305 batting average that marked the first time the club hit .300 or better as a team since the 2004 squad hit .324
- Stanford's 19 hits tied its second-highest total of the season and was just one less than the season-high 20 the Cardinal recorded at USC on May 25
- Stanford won its sixth straight day game
- Stanford finished the season with 43 homers to extend its string of 40-homer campaigns to 20 in a row
- Michael Taylor extended his career-high hit streak to 12 games with his 16<sup>th</sup> multiple-hit contest in his last 19 games
- Brent Milleville equaled career-highs with four hits and two runs scored, while also hitting his first homer of the season
- Toby Gerhart equaled career-highs with three hits and two runs scored
- Cord Phelps extended his hit streak to a career-high-tying six games and had a career-high-tying three hits
- Michael Taylor tied a season-high with six at bats
- Jeff Whitlow tied a career-high with five at bats
- Austin Yount equaled career-bests with 5.2 innings pitched and five strikeouts in his first career Pac-10 start