



STANFORD ATHLETICS

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*Cardinal to face Oregon State in Super Regional scheduled to start either next Friday or Saturday

Stanford Wins Austin Regional With 17-7 Victory Over North Carolina State

Austin, Tex. – Stanford (33-25) erupted with a 17-7 victory over North Carolina State (40-23) in the championship game of the NCAA Austin Regional on Sunday at Disch-Falk Field to advance to Super Regional action for the first time since 2003. Stanford will face Oregon State (42-14), winner of the Corvallis Regional, in a best two-of-three series that will begin either next Friday or Saturday. The sites and dates of all eight Super Regionals of the 2006 NCAA Division I Baseball Championships will be announced Monday on ncaasports.com at approximately 6 pm, PT.

Chris Minaker (5-5, 2 2B, 3B, 2 RBI) scored a career-high six of Stanford's season-high 17 runs and had a career-high-tying five of the club's season-high 24 hits to lead the offensive outburst. Michael Taylor (4-4, 2B, HR, 4 RBI) and Ryan Seawell (4-6, 3B, 3 RBI) added four hits each with Taylor's RBI tying a career-best and Seawell posted the first four-hit game of his career. Chris Lewis (2-5, 4 RBI) also drove in four and had pair of hits, while Jason Castro (2-5, 3B) and John Hester (2-6, 2B, RBI, SB) also had a pair of hits each.

"It was a great game for us," said Stanford head coach Mark Marquess. "We really swung the bats well, and we had good pitching performances. I was very pleased with our play in the entire Regional. I don't think we made an error in any of the three games, and we hit the ball well. The thing we did well today was getting hits and baserunners."

Reliever Austin Yount improved to 4-0 by picking up the victory, limiting a potent North Carolina State club to a pair of runs on one hit and three walks with two strikeouts over 3.1 innings of work. Erik Davis (1.1 IP, 3 H, 1 BB, 1 SO) got his second save of the Regional when he came in and closed the door on a potential Wolfpack comeback in the bottom of the eighth inning by inducing potential tying run Jon Still into an inning-ending fielders choice that left the bases loaded and the Cardinal holding an 11-7 lead.

Aaron Bates (4-4, HR, 3 RBI) and Still (2-5, 2B, HR, 3 RBI) led the North Carolina State offense.

The Wolfpack used eight pitchers in the contest with reliever Chris Engle (1-1) taking the loss when he was charged with the first two Stanford runs in a three-run Cardinal sixth that snapped a 5-5 tie.

Stanford never trailed in the game after picking up the first four runs of the contest.

Minaker doubled off the wall with two outs in the top of the first and moved to third when an error by Wolfpack third baseman Drew Martin kept the inning going for Lewis, who brought home Minaker with an RBI single up the middle.

Brent Milleville started the Cardinal second with a double before moving to third on a sacrifice bunt by Cord Phelps and scoring on an RBI groundout from Rapoport to put Stanford ahead, 2-0.

Stanford scored two more times and knocked out North Carolina State starter Eric Surkamp (2.0 IP, 5 H, 4 R, 3 ER, 1 SO) in the third. Hester singled to start the rally and stole second before Minaker tripled to leftcenter to plate Hester and end Surkamp's brief outing. Taylor greeted reliever Joey Cutler (1.0 IP, 1 H, 1 BB) with an RBI double to bring home Minaker.

North Carolina State got right back in the game in the third when Still closed the gap with a line drive homer to the opposite field over the right field wall. Stanford starter Jeremy Bleich (4.1 IP, 8 H, 5 R, 5 ER, 1 BB, 1 SO) had held the Wolfpack scoreless on just one hit over the first two and a third innings before back-to-back singles by Ramon Corona and Bates set the table for Still.

Stanford extended its lead to 5-3 in the top of the fifth when Minaker, Taylor and Lewis opened the inning with three consecutive singles to knock Matt Payne (1.0 IP, 5 H, 1 R, 1 ER) out of the game. Engle came on to get Castro to hit into a double play and induced Phelps into a bases loaded fielders' choice two batters later to avoid further damage.

The Wolfpack tied the game at 5-5 with two runs in the bottom of the fifth. Bleich gave up a leadoff double to Matt Camp to start the rally and Bates singled him home two batters later. Still then doubled to move Bates to third and end Bleich's day before Ryan Pond brought home Bates with a sacrifice fly off Yount.

Stanford went back in front to stay with a three-run fifth to take an 8-5 lead. Rapoport started the inning when he led off by just beating out a high chopper for an infield hit. Seawell then followed with a single to put Cardinal runners on first and second. Engle struck out Hester before being relieved by Kyle Rutter, who walked Minaker before giving way to Joel Brookens (2.1 IP, 5 H, 3 R, 3 ER, 1 SO), who gave up an RBI infield single to Taylor and an RBI fielders' choice to Seawell, before wild pitching Minaker home with the third and final run of the inning.

The teams traded single runs in the seventh to make the score 9-6.

The Cardinal scored when Grant Escue led off with a single, moved to second on a ground out by Molina and scored two batters later on Seawell's RBI single to right field.

Bates' solo homer to lead off the South Carolina seventh got the Wolfpack the run back.

Taylor made it 11-6 in favor of Stanford in the eighth with a two-run shot that followed a one-out single by Minaker.

North Carolina made things interesting in the bottom of the eighth. Yount got the first two outs before hitting a pair of batters and issuing a walk to load the bases. Davis came on and gave up an RBI single to Bates before getting Still on a fielders' choice to end the threat.

Stanford scored six insurance runs in the top of the ninth. Seawell tripled home the first two runs after Randy Molina was hit by a pitch and Rapoport reached on an error by Wolfpack third baseman Matt Mangini to start the frame. Hester and Minaker followed with back-to-back RBI doubles to plate the next two Cardinal runs, before a sacrifice fly by Lewis and an RBI double by pinch-hitter Brendan Domaracki brought home the final two runs of the contest.

NOTES

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- Stanford won its 14th Regional and has advanced to an NCAA Super Regional for the sixth time in its last eight seasons but its first since 2003
- Stanford is making its 13th straight postseason appearance in the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship
- Stanford improved to 2-0 all-time versus North Carolina State
- Stanford improved to 120-58 (.674) in NCAA postseason play and 68-25 (.731) in Regional action
- Stanford improved to 37-19 (.661) all-time in June
- Stanford has swept the last three Regionals it has won in 2002, 2003 and 2006
- Stanford was playing in a Regional final for the eighth straight season
- Stanford has won 14 of its last 19 games
- Stanford's 17 runs and 24 hits were both season-bests and the most for the Cardinal since the club scored 18 runs in a 19-18 loss at Arizona on May 16, 2004, and recorded 26 hits in a 19-1 win at Arizona on April 5, 2002
- Stanford's six-run ninth inning marked the fifth time in the last 12 games the Cardinal has scored at least six runs in one inning
- Stanford recorded double-digit hits for the 11th time in its last 13 games and fourth game in a row to improve its batting average to a season-high .289
- Stanford played errorless baseball to extend its season-best string of errorless games to six in a row
- Chris Minaker scored a career-high and team season-high six runs, while also equaling career-bests with the second five-hit game of his career and the seventh two-double contest
- Ryan Seawell set a new career-best with his four-hit contest and tied a career-best with his third career three-RBI game
- Michael Taylor tied a career-best with the second four-RBI game of his career
- Stanford's first six hitters each had multiple-hit contests and combined to go 19-for-31 (.613)
- Stanford's three triples tied a season-best as the Cardinal recorded three triples in a game for the second time this season
- Chris Minaker started his 155th consecutive game at shortstop and has played every inning at the position in the last two seasons
- Chris Lewis started his 117th straight contest
- The ESPNU broadcast was the sixth time this season the Cardinal has played on live television and the fourth time before a national audience
- Former Stanford pitcher Kyle Peterson (1995-97) is working as a color analyst for the ESPNU broadcasts ... Peterson still ranks among Stanford's career leaders in strikeouts (363, 1st-T), wins (35, 2nd-T) and innings pitched (398.1, 3rd)

QUOTES

STANFORD

HEAD COACH MARK MARQUESS

Opening comments

"It was a great game for us. We really swung the bats well, and we had good pitching performances. I was very pleased with our play in the entire Regional. I don't think we made an error in any of the three games, and we hit the ball well. The thing we did well today was getting hits and baserunners. When you score 17 runs, you should win."

On North Carolina State

"I was very impressed with North Carolina State. They are a very dangerous offensive team."

On Stanford's 2006 season

"It's been a long season in some ways. There have been a lot of peaks and valleys, but it really has come together here at the end. I'm really proud of this group and how they have bounced back after some tough times."

On Stanford peaking

"At one stage, we were in 3-9 in the Pac-10 and way in last place. We've played very well for about the last 20-25 games. There's no question we played our best baseball over the last third of the season regardless of what we would have done here."

SOPHOMORE OUTFIELDER MICHAEL TAYLOR

On Stanford's offense

"Right now, we're really confident as an offense. We've felt that for the last couple of weeks we have had ability to explode for some runs."

On today's game

"We knew about North Carolina State's offense, and we knew it was going to be a dog fight. We knew we had to keep the pedal to the floor and keep grinding for some runs and not let them get comfortable with coming back. We wanted to come back and score some runs and have them have to keep coming out of a hole. That was really important for us."

On his two-run homer in the top of the eighth

"I was just looking for a pitch up and in, and he threw it there. I got a good swing on it, and I was lucky enough to hit the ball hard enough to get it out of the park."

SENIOR SHORTSTOP CHRIS MINAKER

On a possible Super Regional matchup with Pac-10 foe Oregon State

"Oregon State's an incredible team. They won our conference this year for the second year this row. They have an incredible pitching staff top to bottom and one of the best I've seen in the last few years. You combine that with the fact that their ballpark is an incredibly tough place to play with the crowd and the strong support they get, and it's going to be a challenge. But, at this point in the year, no matter who you match up with in the Super Regional, it's going to be a challenge because everyone at this point is playing great baseball. We're going to have to swing the bats well."

On Stanford's 2006 regular season series at Oregon State

"We put up one run in three games, and that's obviously not going to get the job done if we want to go to Omaha. So, we're going to have to swing the bats well, and continue to pitch and play defense. But, the one thing we need to do against them is hit."