



# STANFORD ATHLETICS

## MEDIA RELATIONS

Arrillaga Family Sports Center  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94305  
(650) 723-4418 • FAX (650) 725-2957

**Website:** [gostanford.com](http://gostanford.com)

---

## BASEBALL RECAP

**Contact:** Kyle McRae (650-725-2959, [mcr@stanford.edu](mailto:mcr@stanford.edu))

**Web:** <http://gostanford.cstv.com/sports/m-basebl/recaps/060306aaa.html>

**Date:** June 4, 2006

\*Cardinal to face North Carolina State-Texas winner live on ESPNU on Sunday at 4 pm, CT/2 pm, PT

## Stanford Moves On To Regional Title Game With 12-8 Win At Texas

**Austin, Tex.** – Stanford (32-25) moved on to Sunday's championship game of the 2006 Austin Regional with a wild 12-8 victory over defending national champion and No. 3 national seed Texas (41-20) in a winners' bracket game before a loud crowd of 5420 fans on Saturday at Disch-Falk Stadium. John Hester (2-4, HR, 4 RBI) hit his first career grand slam in the second inning and tied a career-high four RBI to help the Cardinal come back from an early 3-0 deficit, while Erik Davis recorded his third save of the season by thwarting a furious Longhorn rally in the seventh inning and pitching 2.1 hitless frames to preserve the Cardinal lead.

"Any time you get a big hit like that, it definitely lifts the spirit of the team," said Hester about his grand slam. "The fact that we were down by three and then gained the lead with one swing of the bat really turned the game around."

"It was a great game with many ups and downs," added Stanford head coach Mark Marquess, who moved into sole possession of 12<sup>th</sup>-place on the all-time win list for NCAA Division I coaches with his 1256<sup>th</sup> career victory. "I thought the key was John Hester's grand slam that put us right back in the game by putting us up a run. In the bottom of the eighth, those three runs we got were just huge. Overall, it was a great college baseball game, great crowd, good atmosphere and a big win for us."

Stanford will play at 4 pm, CT/2 pm, PT on Sunday against the winner of the day's first contest in an elimination game between North Carolina State (39-22) and Texas. A victory on Sunday for the Cardinal, who is playing in its eighth consecutive NCAA Regional title game, would move Stanford on to one of eight NCAA Super Regionals to be held Friday-Monday, June 9-12.

The trio of Jason Castro (3-4, 3B, 2 RBI), Chris Lewis (3-4) and Michael Taylor (3-4) combined for nine of Stanford's 16 hits and nine of the team's 12 runs with each player scoring three times and collecting three hits. Chris Minaker (2-5, RBI) also had a pair of hits while Jim Rapoport drove in a pair of runs.

Starter Nolan Gallagher (5-4) picked up the victory by lasting until two outs in the seventh inning despite allowing six runs on seven hits and two walks with four strikeouts.

Carson Kainer (2-4, 2B, 4 RBI), Drew Stubbs (2-4, 2B, 2 RBI, SB), Chance Wheelless (2-5, RBI, SB) and Nick Peoples (2-3) had a pair of hits each with Stubbs and Wheelless also scoring a pair of runs.

Texas took an early 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning when Kainer drilled a three-run double down the left field line after Peoples, Stubbs and Wheelless had put together three consecutive one-out singles to load the bases. Third base umpire Harry Greer gave an original signal that the ball was fair but ESPNU replays showed the ball clearly fair. Marquess came out of the Cardinal dugout to discuss the situation but the ball was ruled fair.

Hester's gave the Cardinal a 4-3 lead with one swing of the bat when he drilled his grand slam well over the fence just to the left of the large scoreboard in leftcenter field. Taylor, Lewis and Castro had loaded the bases for Hester with three consecutive singles to start inning.

Stanford increased its lead to 5-3 when Minaker led off the third with a single, moved to second when Taylor was hit by a pitch and third on a sacrifice bunt from Chris Lewis before scoring on a sacrifice fly by Castro.

Texas got the run back when Preston Clark went deep in the fourth inning with a two-out solo shot over the left field wall.

Stanford gave itself some breathing room with a wild four-run fifth that saw the Cardinal score three unearned runs and send 10 batters to the plate. Taylor and Lewis started the inning with back-to-back singles on balls through the infield. Castro then hit a slow bouncing ball that Texas second baseman Bradley Suttle was unable to come up with and was charged with an error, allowing Taylor to score from second and leaving runners on first and second. Hester then hit a hard shot that ended up as an infield single when the ball took a bad hop and hit Peoples in the face, knocking the Longhorns' third baseman out of the game and loading the bases with no outs. Joseph Krebs (3.0 IP, 2 H, 1 BB, 4 SO) then relieved Texas starter and losing pitcher Kyle McCulloch (8-5), who allowed nine runs (six earned) on nine hits and two walks. Krebs struck out Randy Molina and got Rapoport to ground into a possible rally-ending double play, but the hard-hit ball ricocheted off the glove of Wheelless at first base and turned into a pair of unearned runs for the Cardinal when Lewis and Castro both came across to score. Krebs then walked Ryan Seawell to reload the bases before Grant Escue went down on strikes for the second out, but Minaker bounced an RBI infield single to shortstop to bring Hester home with the final run of the inning. Krebs finally got the Longhorns out of the inning when Taylor grounded out to end the inning with the bases loaded.

Texas roared back with a two-out four-run rally in the seventh. After Gallagher (6.2 IP, 7 H, 6 R, 6 ER, 2 BB, 4 SO) retired the first two batters he faced in the inning, Hunter Harris started the uprising with a two-out single to left. Gallagher then walked Clay Van Hook on four straight pitches and threw one ball before Stubbs before being replaced by Matt Manship (0.0 IP, 3 H, 2 R, 2 ER), who wasn't able to get an out with all four runs scoring on three consecutive hits against him. Stubbs' hard-hit grounder to the left side of the infield turned into a two-RBI double that scored both Harris and Van Hook when it took a bad hop and bounced by Molina at third base. Wheelless and Kainer followed with back-to-back RBI singles to score Stubbs and Wheeler before Davis came on preserve a precarious 9-8 lead by getting Jordan Danks to fly out to left field to end the inning.

"It always feels good to come in during a situation like that and kill a rally," said Davis. "It means a lot that the coaches have the confidence to use me in that situation."

Stanford scored three insurance runs in the top of the eighth to regain the momentum and give Davis a four-run cushion in the ninth. Three consecutive singles from Taylor, Lewis and Castro brought Taylor across with the first run of the inning. Lewis and Castro then moved over to

second and third on a wild pitch from Randy Boone (0.2 IP, 3 H, 3 R, 3 ER, 1 SO), who then struck out Hester before he was relieved by Austin Wood (0.1 IP, 2 H), who allowed back-to-back RBI singles to Molina and Rapoport to end the day's scoring.

## NOTES

### TOURNAMENT

- Today's attendance of 5420 marked the fourth straight NCAA Austin Regional game to tally over 4000 spectators

### STANFORD

- Stanford has advanced to an NCAA Regional title game for the eighth consecutive season in their 13<sup>th</sup> straight postseason appearance
- Stanford broke the tie in its all-time postseason series record with Texas, taking a 6-5 lead in the 11 postseason contests the clubs have played
- Stanford defeated Texas for the third time in four meetings this season and now holds a 20-17-1 advantage in the all-time series between the teams
- Stanford snapped a four-game road losing streak to Texas, picking up its first victory over the Longhorns in Austin since sweeping Texas in a doubleheader on February 22, 2003
- Stanford improved to 119-58 in NCAA postseason play and 67-25 in regional action
- Stanford improved to 36-19 all-time in June
- Stanford recorded double-digit hits for the 10<sup>th</sup> time in its last 12 games and improved its batting average to a season-high .284
- Stanford played errorless baseball to extend its season-best string of errorless games to five in a row
- Stanford came from behind to win for the 21<sup>st</sup> time in 32 victories
- John Hester hit his first career grand slam and tied a career-high with four RBI
- Nolan Gallagher recorded his second career postseason victory
- Jason Castro tied a career-high with his third three-hit game and hit his first career triple
- Ryan Seawell's career-high hit streak ended at seven games when he was 0-for-4
- Ryan Seawell was hit by a pitch for his team-leading 16<sup>th</sup> time and is now tied for fifth on the school's all-time single season list in the category
- Chris Minaker started his 154<sup>th</sup> consecutive game at shortstop and has played every inning at the position in the last two seasons
- Chris Lewis started his 116<sup>th</sup> straight contest
- Head coach Mark Marquess picked up his 1256<sup>th</sup> career victory (all at Stanford) to move into sole possession for 12<sup>th</sup>-place on the all-time win list for NCAA Division I coaches as he moved past Jack Stallings, who won 1255 games in 39 seasons at Georgia Southern
- The ESPNU broadcast was the fifth time this season the Cardinal has played on live television and the third 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, 1<sup>st</sup>-T), wins (35, 2<sup>nd</sup>-T) and innings pitched (398.1, 3<sup>rd</sup>)

## QUOTES

### STANFORD

#### HEAD COACH MARK MARQUESS

##### Opening comments

"It was a great game with many ups and downs. I thought the key was John Hester's grand slam that put us right back in the game by putting us up a run. In the bottom of the eighth, those three runs we got were just huge. Overall, it was a great college baseball game, great crowd, good atmosphere and a big win for us."

#### SOPHOMORE PITCHER NOLAN GALLAGHER

##### On pitching after John Hester's grand slam

"John's grand slam helped put everything back in place. After the first inning, everyone was telling me not to worry because you're not going to win a ballgame with three runs. Having the four-spot put me back on with a three-run lead. From then on, our team continuously brought in more runs, which just kept me fighting."

#### SENIOR CATCHER JOHN HESTER

##### On his second inning grand slam

"Any time you get a big hit like that, it definitely lifts the spirit of the team," said Hester about his grand slam. "The fact that we were down by three and then gained the lead with one swing of the bat really turned the game around."