



STANFORD ATHLETICS

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*Cardinal finishes 2006 campaign with 33-27 overall record and 13th consecutive postseason appearance

Stanford's Season Ends Short Of Omaha With 15-0 Loss At Oregon State

Corvallis, Ore. – Oregon State (44-14) ended Stanford's 2006 season two wins short of the College World Series with a dominating 15-0 victory over the Cardinal on Sunday night to wrap up the Corvallis Super Regional at Goss Stadium at Coleman Field in two straight games. The Beavers are going to Omaha for the second straight season and will be the only team from last year's field among the eight qualifying for the 2006 CWS. Stanford finishes its campaign with a 33-27 overall mark and its 13th consecutive postseason appearance.

"First of all congratulations to Oregon State," said Stanford head coach Mark Marquess. "They have obviously had a great season, and they are a great team. I wish them the very best in Omaha, and I'm sure they will do well."

"From my team's standpoint, I'm very proud of this group," continued Marquess. "It's been a long season with some ups and downs, but they battled back and played very well at the end of the season."

The Beavers set the tone right from the start of Sunday's action with a four-run first and then added six more runs in the fourth to lead 10-0 after just three and a half innings. Oregon State added two more in both the sixth and eighth, before scoring their final run in the ninth.

Saturday night's hero Mitch Canham (2-5, 2B, 5 RBI, SB) had another big game on Sunday with five RBI, while Tyler Graham (5-6, 2B, 3 RBI) had five hits. Bill Rowe (3-4, 2B, 3 RBI) also had three hits and three RBI in addition to scoring four runs and being hit by three pitches to reach baseball all six times along with Graham. Scott Santschi (2-4, HR, 2 RBI) added a pair of hits as well as the game's only home run, while Shea McFeely (2-5, 2 RBI), Chris Kunda (2-5) and Cole Gillespie (2-6) also had two-hit contests. Graham and Gillespie both scored three times.

Oregon State's offensive outburst was more than enough for three Beaver pitchers that combined to hand Stanford only its fourth shutout in 180 all-time postseason games and its first since Western Carolina blanked the Cardinal 5-0 in a 1992 NCAA South II Regional in Tallahassee, Florida. Jonah Nickerson (11-4) earned the victory by limiting the Cardinal to just five hits and three walks with seven strikeouts over the first 7.2 frames. Eddie Kunz got the final out in the eighth when he struck out Michael Taylor and Daniel Turpen struck out two batters in a perfect ninth frame to wrap up Oregon State's third shutout of Stanford in 2006. The Beavers also shut the Cardinal out twice during the three-game regular season series between the teams in Corvallis from April 13-16.

The 15-run margin of defeat was the worst postseason loss in Stanford's illustrious history, eclipsing a previous 17-3 decision at the hands of Miami in the first game of the 1983 College World Series.

"We were never really in tonight's game," admitted Marquess. "They scored four runs in the first inning and were really hitting the ball all over the ballpark. We just could not contain them. They really swung the bats well and then Nickerson was tough on us as he's been all season. We really didn't come close to scoring a run."

Oregon State jumped on the Cardinal with four runs in the top of the first inning to take a 4-0 lead before Stanford even came to bat. Three consecutive singles from Kunda, Gillespie and Rowe brought home the first run. Gallagher made an error on a comebacker that could have turned into an inning-ending double play but was still one out strike away from getting out of the inning without any further damage before hitting Canham with the bases loaded to force in one run and giving up a two-run single to McFeely for the other two scores. The Cardinal finally got out of the inning when Taylor threw Canham out at the plate trying to score from second on Santschi's single to the Stanford rightfielder.

The Beavers turned the contest into a blowout with a six-run fourth that extended their lead to 10-0. McFeely led off with a single and Santschi immediately followed with a two-run homer to end a brief outing for Stanford starter and losing pitcher Nolan Gallagher (3.0 IP, 8 H, 6 R, 3 ER, 3 SO), who finished his season with a 5-5 record. Erik Davis, who had been a standout for the Cardinal out of the bullpen at the NCAA Austin Regional, came on but couldn't record an out against any of the five batters he faced. Oregon State loaded the bases against Davis on singles by Darwin Barney and Gillespie sandwiched around a walk to Kunda. Rowe the came through with a two-RBI single and Graham belted an RBI double down the left field line before Davis (0.0 IP, 4 H, 4 R, 4 ER, 1 BB) was replaced by Austin Yount (3.0 IP, 2 H, 2 R, 2 ER, 1 SO), who hit John Wallace and gave up a sacrifice fly to Canham before finally getting McFeely on a groundout and striking out Santschi to end the long inning.

Oregon State got two more runs in the sixth to make it 12-0 when Canham singled home Rowe and Graham, who had been hit by a pitch and singled to lead off the inning before being sacrificed to second and third on a bunt from Wallace.

The Beavers increased their lead to 14-0 in the eighth when Rowe led off with a double and scored on Graham's RBI single, before Graham moved up to second on a wild pitch and came around on Canham's RBI double two batters later.

Oregon State finished off its scoring in the ninth on a two-out RBI single by Graham that scored Gillespie, who had reached on a fielders' choice after Kunda had started a rally with a one-out single.

Chris Minaker (2-4, 2B) was the only Stanford player with more than one hit while playing in the final game of his Cardinal career. Minaker, who played every inning at shortstop in each of his last two seasons and started the final 157 games of his career at the position, doubled in his final collegiate at bat with two outs in the Cardinal eighth.

"This was really the most enjoyable year of my life," said Minaker, who finished his senior season as the team's leader and with career-highs in nearly every offensive category, including batting average (.364), home runs (11) and RBI (68). "It was awesome even when we struggled. There were no attitude problems with the guys, and they are some of the best people you can ever meet. I'm excited to see where

the Stanford program will go in the next couple of years, because there is a lot of young talent. Along with my fellow seniors, this season was a pleasure from start to finish.”

NOTES

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- Stanford was shutout for only the fourth time in 180 postseason games and for the first time in the postseason since Western Carolina handed the Cardinal a 5-0 loss in its third game of the NCAA South II Regional on May 23, 1992, in Tallahassee, Florida
- Stanford was shutout for the fourth time this season with Oregon State blanking the Cardinal on three of those four occasions
- Stanford suffered its worst margin of defeat ever in a postseason game with its 15-run deficit eclipsing its previous 14-run loss to Miami (17-3) in its first game of the College World Series on June 1, 1985
- Stanford dropped its second straight postseason contest for the first time ever and fell to 10-4 (.714) all-time in its sixth Super Regional appearance with the Cardinal having won each of the previous five
- Stanford made its 13th straight postseason appearance in the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship in 2006
- Stanford lost all five games the Cardinal played against Oregon State (all in Corvallis) in 2006 and has lost seven of the last eight to the Beavers in the past two seasons but still leads the all-time series, 35-22
- Stanford had been 3-0 against the Beavers all-time in the postseason before dropping two postseason games to Oregon State in 2006
- Stanford fell to 120-60 (.667) in NCAA postseason play
- Stanford dropped to 37-21 (.638) all-time in June
- Chris Minaker and Michael Taylor ended the season with six-game hit streaks
- Grant Escue had career-high-tying hit streak snapped at five games, while Jim Rapoport also had a five-game hit streak snapped
- Chris Minaker started the final 157 games of his career at shortstop and played every inning at the position in each of his last two seasons
- Chris Minaker led or co-led the Cardinal and had career-highs in nearly every offensive category, including batting average (.364), hits (94), home runs (11), RBI (68), triples (3), total bases (154), slugging percentage (.597) and at bats (258) ... He also still led the team in doubles (21) despite not reaching his career-high of 25 he posted in 2005 ... In addition, he led his club and currently ranks on top of the Pac-10 list in assists (218)
- Chris Lewis started the final 119 games of his career to start every contest in each of his last two campaigns
- Chris Minaker, Chris Lewis and Michael Taylor each started all 60 games for the Cardinal this season
- Ryan Seawell ended the season being hit by a pitch 16 times to tie for fifth on Stanford's all-time single-season list
- Jeremy Bleich recorded seven saves to rank tied for 10th on the school's all-time single-season list
- Head coach Mark Marquess finishes the 2006 season ranked 12th on the all-time win list for Division I coaches with a 1257-617-5 (.670) as well as sixth among active Division I coaches in victories
- Stanford hit 40 home runs on the season to mark the 20th consecutive campaign the Cardinal has hit 40 or more
- Stanford recorded its 13th straight winning campaign in 2006, as well as its 41st in the last 42 years and 58 in the past 60 seasons
- The ESPN2/ESPU broadcast was the eighth time this season the Cardinal has played on live television and marked the sixth occasion the Cardinal had played before a national television audience
- The crowd of 3194 set a new post-renovation attendance record at Goss Stadium at Coleman Field for the second consecutive game

QUOTES

STANFORD

HEAD COACH MARK MARQUESS

On Oregon State

“First of all congratulations to Oregon State. They have obviously had a great season, and they are a great team. I wish them the very best in Omaha, and I'm sure they will do well. It always gets down to pitching, and that's why they've been as good as they are the last two years. That's always the key any time in baseball, but especially in postseason. Oregon State won't take a back seat to anybody [in Omaha]. They've got a good team.”

On Stanford

“From my team's standpoint, I'm very proud of this group. It's been a long season with some ups and downs and rough roads, but they bounced back and played very well at the end of the season. We came back and played well, and made a run at it but came up just short.”

On Sunday's game

“We were never really in tonight's game. They scored four runs in the first inning and were really hitting the ball all over the ballpark. We just could not contain them. They really swung the bats well and then [Jonah] Nickerson was tough on us as he's been all season. We really didn't come close to scoring a run. They just dominated us.”

SENIOR SHORTSTOP CHRIS MINAKER

On winning pitcher Jonah Nickerson

“He pitched a great ballgame, but he always throws well. He's very tough to hit deep in the count. He's got a great cutter, he hides his fastball very well and his curve ball, he spots up where he needs to put it. I try to attack early with Jonah and get my best swings in early in the count. At least that way, I know I got my swings in that at bat. Whether or not I hit the ball remains to be seen but with a good pitcher like him, you have to attack early.”

On being down 4-0 before Stanford ever came to the plate

“It creates some anxiety. That's a credit to Oregon State coming out and being ready to play early. You always stay positive and keep yourself in the game mentally, but it does affect you.”

On his senior season and his entire Stanford experience

“This was really the most enjoyable year of my life. It was awesome even when we struggled. There were no attitude problems with the guys, and they are some of the best people you can ever meet. I'm excited to see where the Stanford program will go in the next couple of years, because there is a lot of young talent. Along with my fellow seniors, this season was a pleasure from start to finish.”