



STANFORD ATHLETICS

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BASEBALL RECAP

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*Victory moves Cardinal on to winners' bracket game versus defending national champion Texas on Saturday (3 pm, CT/1 pm, PT)

Stanford Wins NCAA Regional Opener Over North Carolina State, 7-2

Austin, Tex. – Stanford (31-25) opened postseason play at the NCAA Austin Regional with a 7-2 victory over North Carolina State (38-22) as Greg Reynolds tossed a complete-game seven-hitter at Disch-Falk Field on Friday. Reynolds struck out seven and walked two while going the distance for the fifth time in his last six starts in a game televised live nationally by ESPNU and played before an announced crowd of 4055. Stanford jumped out to a 5-0 lead after an inning and a half and never trailed as the Cardinal won its postseason opener for the seventh time in the last eight campaigns.

The victory earned the third-seeded Cardinal a spot in a winners' bracket game versus defending national champion and No. 3 national seed Texas (41-19) on Saturday, June 3 (3 pm, CT/1 pm, PT, ESPNU). The Longhorns, also the Austin Regional host and No. 3 national seed, defeated No. 4 seed Texas-Arlington in Friday's other first round game by a score of 9-1. Second-seed North Carolina State and Texas-Arlington will meet in an elimination game on Saturday (11 am, CT/9 am, PT) with the winner moving on to face Saturday's Stanford-Texas loser in another elimination contest on Sunday (12 pm, CT/10 am, PT). The winner of Saturday's Texas-Stanford game will move on to the first of two possible Regional championship games on Sunday (4 pm, CT, 2 pm, PT).

"We got a great pitching effort from Greg Reynolds today," said Stanford head coach Mark Marquess, who won his 1255th career game to move into a tie for 12th-place on the all-time NCAA Division I win list. "He had really good stuff and got stronger as the game went on."

"I knew that North Carolina State had some hitters that were certainly very aggressive and very good," added Reynolds. "The key was to keep my fastball down. The plan was to attack hitters with my fastball and along the way throw in some off-speed. If I could do that, I thought they would get themselves out and hit a lot of ground balls, and that's exactly what happened."

Reynolds induced 13 ground ball outs and Stanford added three more outs via the ground by turning three double plays, including a pair that came on comebackers up the middle started by Reynolds.

Jim Rapoport (3-4, 2 2B, 2 RBI) equaled a season-best with his third three-hit game of the season and had a pair of doubles for the first time in his career. Randy Molina (3-3) also had a three-hit contest, while Chris Minaker (2-4, 2B, RBI), Grant Escue (2-5, RBI) and John Hester (2-5, RBI) added a pair of hits each for the Cardinal. Michael Taylor drove in a pair of runs, while Escue scored a career-high-tying two runs.

Ryan Seawell set the tone for the Cardinal when he drilled the second pitch of the game from starting pitcher and loser Gib Hobson (9-2) just shy of the 405 foot sign in left center field. North Carolina State centerfielder Matt Camp chased the ball down on the warning track for the first out of the game but Escue followed with a single to start a Cardinal rally. Minaker moved Escue to third with a double to rightcenter and Taylor brought him home with an RBI groundout.

Stanford took a commanding 5-0 lead with four more runs in the top of the second when the Cardinal hit around in the order. Rapoport brought home the first two Cardinal runs with a one-out ground rule double that bounced over the wall in rightcenter field to score Jason Castro and Hester, who had walked and singled to start the rally before moving to second on Molina's sacrifice bunt. Hobson struck out Seawell for the second out of the inning but three consecutive singles from Escue, Minaker and Taylor brought home two more Cardinal runs with Escue and Taylor each driving in a run.

"It was important to get those runs early," emphasized Marquess. "We hit the ball really well. That was huge and if you give Greg [Reynolds] a five-run cushion that's pretty good. We'll take our chances with that."

"We wanted to come out and make a statement with the bats," chipped in Minaker. "It was big getting to their pitcher early. I heard nothing but great things about him in the scouting report and when you're facing a great arm, you want to get to him early."

The Cardinal increased its lead to 6-0 in the sixth when Molina led off with an infield single, Rapoport drilled a ball off the wall in rightcenter field and Seawell was hit by a pitch to load the bases with no outs. Jason Duncan (3.2 IP, 6 H, 1 R, 1 ER, 4 SO) then struck out Escue for the first out of the inning before being relieved by Travis High (0.2 IP), who gave up a sacrifice fly to Minaker before getting Taylor on a fielders' choice to end the inning.

North Carolina State ended Reynolds shutout bid in the bottom of the sixth when Camp started a two-out rally with an infield single before two more singles from Ramon Corona and Aaron Bates brought him around to score.

Pinch-hitter Matt Mangini drilled a one-out triple off the leftcenter field wall with Seawell crashing hard off the fence in his effort to chase it down and Camp followed with an RBI single to cut the Cardinal lead to 6-2 in the bottom of the eighth. But, Reynolds got Corona to hit into a 1-6-3 double play to end the inning.

Stanford added an unearned run in the top of the ninth when Hester singled home Chris Lewis, who had reached on an error by Mangini at third base earlier in the inning.

Camp (2-3, RBI) and Bates (2-4, RBI) each had two hits and an RBI for North Carolina State.

Hobson's start was his shortest of the season and second-shortest of his career as he lasted just 1.2 innings, allowing five runs on five hits and a walk with two strikeouts before six North Carolina State relievers closed out the game.

NOTES

TOURNAMENT

- Today's game marked the first time in either school's history that Stanford and NC State have met on the baseball field
- Stanford is making its 27th NCAA Tournament appearance (2-time CWS Champions) and 24th NCAA Regional appearance (13-time Regional Champions)
- NC State is making its 20th NCAA Tournament appearance (one CWS appearance in 1968) and 16th in the last 21 years

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- Stanford improved to 118-58 in NCAA postseason play and 66-25 in regional action by winning its postseason opener for the seventh time in the last eight seasons while making its 13th consecutive postseason appearance and 27th overall (24 in the regional)
- Stanford recorded double-digit hits for the ninth time in its last 11 games and improved its season batting average to .281, equaling a season-high mark the Cardinal stood at after pounding out a season-high 19 hits at Pacific on May 24
- Stanford played errorless baseball to extend its season-best string of errorless games to four in a row
- Stanford played North Carolina State for the first time ever on Friday
- Greg Reynolds recorded his fifth complete game in his last six outings and has now thrown more complete games in a season than any Cardinal pitcher since John Hudgins, who went the distance eight times in 2003
- Greg Reynolds has now pitched at least 7.2 innings in eight of his Pac-10 co-leading 17 starts and at least 5.1 frames in all 17
- Greg Reynolds retired 13 batters in a row (14 outs including a double play) between a walk to Ryan Pond with no outs in the second and three consecutive two-out singles from Matt Camp, Ramon Corona and Aaron Bates that led to the first Wolfpack run in the bottom of the sixth
- Grant Escue had a pair of hits to record his fifth multiple-hit game in his last six contests
- Jim Rapoport tied a season-high with his third three-hit game of the campaign and had his first career two-double contest
- Ryan Seawell extended his career-high hit streak to seven games with a fourth inning single
- Ryan Seawell was hit by a pitch for his team-leading 15th time and is now tied for ninth on the school's all-time single season list in the category
- Chris Minaker recorded his first sacrifice fly of the season in the top of the sixth inning
- Chris Minaker hit the 49th double of his career in the first inning to move within one double of 10th-place on the school's all-time list
- Chris Minaker started his 153rd consecutive game at shortstop and has played every inning at the position in the last two seasons
- Chris Lewis started his 115th straight contest
- Head coach Mark Marquess picked up his 1255th career victory (all at Stanford) to move into a tie for 12th-place on the all-time win list for NCAA Division I coaches to equal Jack Stallings, who won 1255 games in 39 seasons at Georgia Southern
- The Stanford-North Carolina State contest was the first game to start in the 2006 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship
- The ESPNU broadcast was the fourth time this season the Cardinal has played on live television and the second time to a national audience
- Former Stanford pitcher Kyle Peterson (1995-97) was the color analyst for the ESPNU broadcast and is scheduled to work the remainder of the Regional ... Peterson still ranks among Stanford's career leaders in strikeouts (363, 1st-T), wins (35, 2nd-T) and innings pitched (398.1, 3rd)

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

- Gib Hobson's 1.2 innings of work marked his shortest start this season and the second shortest start of his career with only a 1.1 inning outing versus Virginia in 2005 shorter
- With his appearance in the second inning, Jason Duncan moved into a tie for seventh place on the North Carolina State all-time appearance list (71) and is just two away from the Top Five
- Sophomore third baseman Matt Mangini's pinch-hit triple in the eighth inning was his fourth triple of the year and his first since he hit two triples versus Hofstra on February 12

QUOTES

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HEAD COACH MARK MARQUESS

Opening comments

"It was a great pitching effort by Greg [Reynolds]. He did a great job, and I thought he had really good stuff. I actually thought he got stronger as the game progressed, especially with his fastball. It was really exploding, and he gave us a good pitching performance. It was also important for us to score runs early. I thought we hit really well. We hit the ball hard and that was huge. It helped to give Greg a five-run cushion. We're very fortunate to have a very good pitching performance. They're a very powerful offensive team, so any time you can hold a team below their batting average it is a great effort."

On possibly playing the University of Texas again in the regional (from Thursday's press conference)

"They always have a good team. Even if they are young and inexperienced they have a very rich tradition, and that is why we like to play them [in the regular season]. It is a measuring stick for where we need to improve or get better. Last year, we came here and got swept by Texas, and it was actually pretty good for us. We learned a lot. We always have good games with them, but for our program it is a great measuring stick. Obviously we are familiar with them, which is the good news. And the bad news is the same, that we are familiar with them."

SENIOR SHORTSTOP CHRIS MINAKER

On scoring runs in the first two innings

"We wanted to come out and make a statement with the bats. I think it was big getting to their pitcher early because if you look at his numbers, he is a great pitcher. When you're facing a great arm, it's important to get to him early and carrying it on from there to give Greg [Reynolds] a comfort zone to work with."

JUNIOR PITCHER GREG REYNOLDS

On his pitching approach

"Coming into the game, the key for me was to keep my fastball down. The plan was to go in and attack them with my fastball, and along the way, add in some off-speed pitches. I knew if I could keep the fastball down, they would provide the outs themselves."