

Saint Mary's Tops Hawaii in Overtime Thriller in WNIT Opening Round

By Karl Buscheck



Carly Turner



Shannon Mauldin

Photos Tod Fierner

After earning a berth for the WNIT, Saint Mary's faced a tough opponent in the first round. Saint Mary's escaped with a 92-88 overtime win against Hawaii on March 20 after watching an 18-point second-half lead vanish.

"It was a battle out there," said head coach Paul Thomas after his squad survived the late scare to move onto the second round of the Women's NIT. "I think this team is motivated. I think they want to continue playing."

Saint Mary's led throughout the first half and took a 36-28 edge into the break at McKeon Pavilion. The

Gaels stormed out of the locker room, opening up a commanding 50-32 advantage just five minutes into the second half.

With the Gaels seemingly cruising, Hawaii began to slowly claw back into the game, cutting the deficit to single digits with just under five minutes to go.

"They hit some shots. Got some momentum and started playing downhill," said Thomas. "And it was funny because that's what we told our players. We had to play downhill."

In the closing seconds of regulation, the Warriors tied up the score at

75-75 to send the game to overtime.

"I'll give them all the credit for coming back, but I was super pleased our kids did not lose their focus in overtime, kept to the game plan and knew we had to get to the free throw line and that's what we did."

During overtime, Saint Mary's demonstrated remarkable poise, as a parade of Gaels drained 16 of 19 free throws to hold off the surging Warriors.

"I think that's the kids we have," said Thomas. "They have that composure. And they have that composure because we practice pressure free throws probably every single

day. They have that composure because that's the kind of kids they are. I believe they are built that way. That's their makeup."

Freshman guard Stella Beck sank four consecutive free throws in overtime, while freshman guard Carly Turner hit six of seven on the night, and junior guard Lauren Nicholson was 10-12 from the line on her way to scoring 23 points.

Nobody was more clutch than junior guard Shannon Mauldin, who contributed a career-high 32 points. "I think she just continues to improve," said Thomas. "She did a phenomenal job of just playing

under control."

With the win, Saint Mary's earned the right to host Fresno State on March 23 at 7 p.m. in the tournament's second round. The two teams met back in December when the Bulldogs emerged with a 60-56 win. Thomas appreciates that it will be a challenging matchup, but he also appreciates how important it is that the team will be playing in Moraga this time around.

"I know we'll be prepared, and we're very grateful and very pleased that the game is at home. That makes a difference. We get a chance to play in front of our home crowd again."

Saint Mary's Bows Out of NIT in Opening Round

By Karl Buscheck



Brad Waldow

Photo Tod Fierner

For Saint Mary's, the final game of the year was a microcosm of

the season. On March 18, in the opening round of the NIT, the Gaels

jumped out to a fast start, but ultimately couldn't keep up.

"I feel like we just ran out of gas towards the end of the season," said senior forward Brad Waldow after the team lost 75-64 to Vanderbilt at McKeon Pavilion on March 18. Waldow had a big night, grabbing 13 boards and contributing 12 points to move into fourth place on the school's all-time scoring list.

On the year, Saint Mary's posted a 21-10 record, but the squad was on the wrong side of the score line in its final three contests.

"It's tough to finish with three losses in a row," said head coach Randy Bennett. "That hurt us. You don't like going out like that. You remember seasons how you finish. So, that leaves a bad taste in our mouth, but the overall body of work [was] pretty good."

The night began promisingly, as Saint Mary's claimed a 19-12 lead after 10 minutes of play. The Commodores then proceeded to rip off a 10-0 run, and the visitors never looked back.

The shots weren't falling for the hosts, and it didn't help that Saint Mary's failed to protect the ball. "The first half we had 10 turnovers," said Bennett. "And that was pretty much the difference in the game."

The Gaels also ran up against a quality opponent: "We brought it. We just got beat by a team that was better than us tonight," said Bennett. "They're playing like an NCAA tournament team right now. We've seen a few."

Forward Garrett Jackson led the way with 23 points and Bennett was impressed with the senior both on the court and off it. "I thought Garrett

made some huge strides as a player. I was really proud of what he's done. Unselfish as a leader. Not many guys come as far as he has."

The playoffs lasted just one game, but it was the eighth year in a row that Saint Mary's earned a post-season berth. "It's hard to do," said Bennett of the accomplishment. "I want those guys to understand that. For them to get into the NIT, it's tough."

With seniors like Jackson and Waldow departing, keeping that streak alive now falls to the young players. "Who's going to be the guys who step up and be your all-league type players because we need those," said Bennett. "I could guess who they are, but they haven't done it. They got to do it. We just got to pound the rock. Work hard. And, I think, we will."

MBA Box Scores

Submitted by Kat Panos

Mustang Division

Feb. 28

Cardinals 22, Yankees 3

Cardinals - Dashiell Weaver 2-3, 2B, 2 RBI's; Miles O'Conner 2-3, 3B, 3 RBI's; Will Cook 2-3, 3B, 2B, 3RBI's; Charlie Lopez 2-3, 2B, 2 RBI's; Jules Frippiat 3-3, 2RBI's.

Yankees - Tim Daugherty 1-2, 1B; Dylan Rusconi 1-2, 1B; Scotty Linden 1-2, 3B, 2 RBI's

Giants 4, Rangers 0

Giants - Andrew Pan 2-2, 3 RBI's; Landon Fly 1-3, HR, RBI; Adrian Blumberg 2 IP, 6 K's.

Ranger - Scott Lyon 1-2; Jason Runkel 1-2; Justin Rodriguez 1 IP, 3 K's.

March 7

Yankees 8, Giants 3

Yankees - Cooper Lenahan 2-2, HR, RBI; Isaiah Ortiz 2-2, RBI; Scott Linden 2-1, Tim Daugherty 2-1; Isaiah Ortiz 2 IP, 4 K's; Scott Linden 1 IP, 3K's; Brendan Comerford 2 IP, 1K

Giants - Logan Robeson 2-2, RBI; Andrew Pan 1 - 2, RBI; Luke Olsen 3-1, RBI; Landon Fly 1.2 IP, 3K's

March 14

White Sox 4, Cardinals 2

White Sox - Evan Olson 2 -2, 3B, 2 RBI, 2R, 2IP, 6K; Justin Meyers 1-2, 3B, 1R, 1.2IP, 3K, 0 ER; Liam Johnson 2SB, 1R, 2IP, 4K, 0 ER

Cardinals - Miles O'Connor 1 -3, 2B, 2IP, 3K; Ryan Sintchak 2IP, 4K, 0 ER; Dashiell Weaver 4SB, 2R, 1IP, 2K.

A's 5, Yankees 2

A's - Lucas Concepcion 2 IP 0 ER, 3-3; Jack Harper 1 IP 3 K, 2-3; Charlie Hill 2 IP, 2-3

Yankees - Isaiah Ortiz 2 IP, 5 K, 1-1; Tim Doherty 1-2 RS; Dylan Rusconi 1-2 RS

Pirates 12, Giants 10

Pirates - Douglas Ellery 3-4, 3 RBI's; Andrew Moon 2-2, 3 RBI's, Joey Cecchin 2 for 4, James Giordani 2 for 3, Ryder Conrad 2 for 3.

Giants Highlights: Andrew Pan 2 for 3 4 RBI's; Logan Robeson 2 for 3; 3 RBI's, Landon Fly 2 for 3; 1 RBI, Adrian Blumberg 2 for 4, 1 RBI.

March 17

White Sox:

Ben Marston: 2-for-2, 2 RBI, Run Barrett Dellamar: 1-for-1, BB, 2 Runs Griffen Bartis: 1-for-2

Evan Olsen: 1 IP with 2 Ks, 0 ER

Pirates:

Joey Cecchin: 3-for-3, 2 Runs. 2 IP with 5Ks, 1 ER

Andy Moon: 2-for-3, 2B, 3 RBI

Pinto Division

Feb. 28

Cardinals 15, A's 9

Cardinals Highlights - Joe Revelos 3-3, 3 2B, 3RS; Jack Meridian 3-3, 3RBI's, 2RS; Crosby Kelly 2-3, 3B, 2 RBI.

A's Highlights - Oliver Fetzko 3-3, 2

RBI, 3 RS, 2 2B; Colin Rutzen 3-3, 1RS; Justin Nagayama 3-3, 1 RBI, 1 RS

Yankees 15, Cubs 10

Yankees Highlights - Avery Jules 2-3 1B, 2B 2 RS; Andrew Vaughn 2-3 1B, 2B, 1 RBI; Carson Rossi 1-3, 3B, 1RBI

Cubs Highlights: Jonathan Wang 2-3, 1B, 3B 2 RBI's; Lucas Cano 2-3, 1B, 2B 1 RBI; Liam Nyhan 1-3 1B, 1 RBI, 1 RS

March 7

Giants 17, Cubs 6

Giants - Grace Rich 2 1B, 3 RBI; Drew Defrancisci 1B, 2 2B, 3 RBI; Brendan Baldelli 4- 5, 4 1B; Levi Olsen 4-4, 3 1B, 1 2B; Cubs - Jonathan Wang 3-3 1B, 2B, 3B; Ryan Lee 2 1B, RBI; Teo Spiropulo 1B, 2B, 3 RBI.

Athletics 17, Yankees 9

Athletics - Ty Madsen 4-4, 2 2B, 2 RS, 4 RBI's; Bradley Schoenberger 3-4, 2B, 2 RS, 3 RBI's; Colin Rutzen 3-4, 2 RS.

Yankees - William Myers 3-3, 2B, 2 RBI's; Quinn Flanagan 3-3, 3 RS; Andrew Vaughn 2-3, 2B, 2 RBI's.

March 9

Red Sox 22, Cardinals 4

Red Sox - Luke McLeod 3-4, 5 RBI's; Cole Fischer 3-4, 2RBI's, 2R; Luke Bonardi 4-4, 4 RBI, 3 2B

Cardinals - Gunnar Chapman 2-3, 2B, 2R; James Erickson 2-3, RBI; Owen Ludwig 2-3

March 14

Cardinals 11, Cubs 10

Cardinals - Joe Revelos 4-4, 3 2B, 2 RBI; Jack Moradian 4-4, 4 RBI, 3 RS; Lucas Cano 2-3

Cubs - Max Robeson 3-4, 4 RBI; Teo Spirolio 3-3, 1 RS

Red Sox 21, Athletics 10

League Champions

Submitted by Jon Zuber



Photo provided

The U10 Magic girls' soccer team won the San Ramon Futsal League title on March 8 with a hard battled 8-5 victory over the SR

Supergirls. The Magic girls took control with great ball handling, passing and some rocket shots on goal.