

Spartans avoid sweep with walk off win against rival Bulldogs

SAN JOSE, Calif. – Behind a solid start from right handed pitcher Josh Nashed and timely hitting, the San Jose State Spartans avoided a sweep and defeated the Fresno State Bulldogs 3-2 in 10 innings at Municipal Stadium.

Nashed had the rare two-way collegiate start on Saturday, acting as the Spartans starting pitcher while also being placed in the batting order by head coach Dave Nakama as a Designated Hitter. Nakama's move paid off for his team as Nashed only gave up one earned run while striking out four in six innings of work. The right hander started the seventh inning with a 2-1 lead but gave up a walk and two singles to the Bulldogs, loading the bases for Bulldog third baseman Jesse Medrano. Medrano would then drive in a run on a base hit, tying the game 2-2 and forcing Nashed's exit. Left hander Zach Wallace came on in relief for only one batter, retiring Korby Batesole, before righty Josh Goldberg was summoned from the bullpen. Goldberg went on to close out the inning, and the rest of the game, pitching 3.2 innings of scoreless baseball, allowing only one hit the rest of the way in route to the win.

The Spartans took advantage of the outstanding pitching with timely hitting in the middle and extra innings. After going down 1-0 in the top of the fourth inning, the Spartans answered in the bottom half of the inning with Ozzy Braff eventually scoring on a sacrifice fly from Justin Beck to center field. Braff had reached base when he singled earlier in the inning and quickly stole second once aboard. He then advanced to third base on an error by Bulldog third basemen Jesse Medrano who couldn't handle a ground ball. In the fifth inning, Braff contributed an RBI of his own, doubling home Dillan Smith, who reached base earlier in the inning on a hit and was at second after advancing from a Hunter Tidwell base hit as the Spartans took the lead.

Nashed led off the top of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning with a base hit. Justin Beck then moved Nashed over with a sacrifice bunt before Kyle Morrison came in to pinch run, ending Nashed's day for good. Michael Breen was then put on base via an intentional walk and Corey Olivet followed with an unintentional walk afterwards, setting the stage for pinch hitter Aaron Pleschner, who was batting for Smith. Pleschner hit a flare to shallow center field where Fresno State outfielder Brody Russell dove for the ball, but it deflected off the front of his glove, bringing home Morrison and giving the Spartans a thrilling victory. After a day off for the Easter holiday, the Spartans will return home on Monday to face Stanford at Municipal Stadium. First pitch is set for 6 p.m.