

STANFORD BASEBALL RELEASE

January 31, 2007

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**STANFORD
MEDIA RELATIONS**Arrillaga Family Sports Center • Stanford, California 94305-6150
Telephone (650) 723-4418 • FAX (650) 725-2957 • www.gostanford.com**2007 SCHEDULE/RESULTS****0-0, 0-0 (PAC-10)****0-0 (H), 0-0 (A), 0-0 (N)**

Date	Day	Opponent (TV)	Result/Time
FEBRUARY			
2	Fri.	at #14 Cal State Fullerton	7 pm
3	Sat.	at #14 Cal State Fullerton	6 pm
4	Sun.	at #14 Cal State Fullerton	12 pm
9	Fri.	Fresno State	5 pm
10	Sat.	Fresno State	1 pm
11	Sun.	Fresno State	1 pm
13	Tue.	Rikkyo - Japan (Exhibition)	2 pm
16	Fri.	at #4 Texas ¹	2:30 pm, CT
17	Sat.	at #4 Texas ¹	1 pm, CT
18	Sun.	at #4 Texas ¹	1 pm, CT
20	Tue.	San Francisco	5 pm
23	Fri.	Kansas	5 pm
24	Sat.	Kansas	1 pm
25	Sun.	Kansas	11 am
MARCH			
2	Fri.	California	5 pm
3	Sat.	California	1 pm
4	Sun.	California	1 pm
6	Tue.	at Santa Clara	6 pm
9	Fri.	USC	5 pm
10	Sat.	USC	1 pm
11	Sun.	USC	1 pm
24	Sat.	Sacramento State	1 pm
25	Sun.	at Sacramento State	2 pm
27	Tue.	at San Jose State	6 pm
30	Fri.	UCLA*	6 pm
31	Sat.	UCLA*	1 pm
APRIL			
1	Sun.	UCLA*	1 pm
5	Thu.	at #20 Arizona State*	7 pm, MT
6	Fri.	at #20 Arizona State*	7 pm, MT
7	Sat.	at #20 Arizona State*	1 pm, MT
10	Tue.	at Nevada	2 pm
13	Fri.	Arizona*	6 pm
14	Sat.	Arizona*	1 pm
15	Sun.	Arizona*	1 pm
17	Tue.	Santa Clara	6 pm
20	Fri.	at California*	2:30 pm
21	Sat.	at California*	1 pm
22	Sun.	at California*	1 pm
24	Tue.	San Jose State	6 pm
27	Fri.	#16 Oregon State*	6 pm
28	Sat.	#16 Oregon State*	1 pm
29	Sun.	#16 Oregon State*	1 pm
MAY			
1	Tue.	Santa Clara	6 pm
5	Sat.	at Washington State*	5:30 pm
6	Sun.	at Washington State*	2 pm
7	Mon.	at Washington State*	12 pm
11	Fri.	Washington*	6 pm
12	Sat.	Washington*	1 pm
13	Sun.	Washington* (CSTV)	1 pm
15	Tue.	at Santa Clara	6 pm
18	Fri.	Pacific	6 pm
19	Sat.	at Pacific	2 pm
20	Sun.	Pacific	1 pm
22	Tue.	UC Davis	6 pm
25	Fri.	at USC*	7 pm
26	Sat.	at USC*	1:30 pm
27	Sun.	at USC*	1 pm
JUNE			
1-4	F-M	NCAA Regionals	TBA
8-11	F-M	NCAA Super Regionals	TBA
15-25	F-M	College World Series ²	TBA

*Pac-10 Game; ¹Dell Diamond, Round Rock, TX; ²College World Series, Omaha, NE; **All Home Games In Bold At Sunken Diamond**; Rankings by *Baseball America* are at time of game

•Cardinal coming off 2006 season that ended just two games shy of the CWS

Stanford Opens 2007 Season**At No. 14 Cal State Fullerton Friday-Sunday****STANFORD CARDINAL (0-0)
at No. 14 CAL STATE FULLERTON (0-0)****Fri., February 2 (7 pm, PT) – RHP Nolan Gallagher (5-5, 3.99)* vs. RHP Wes Roemer (13-2, 2.38)*****Sat., February 3 (6 pm, PT) – RHP Jeff Inman vs. RHP Jeff Kaplan****Sun., February 4 (12 pm, PT) – LHP Jeremy Bleich (4-4, 4.05)* vs. RHP Sean Urena**

*2006 Statistics

LIVE GAME COVERAGE**Audio Broadcast:** KZSU (90.1 FM)/gostanford.com/KZSU.org (Alex Gyr)**STANFORD-CAL STATE FULLERTON SERIES HISTORY****All-Time Series:** Stanford 48-35**2006 Results: Series –** Stanford 3-0 (at Stanford, February 3-5) Stanford 2-1, Stanford 6-5 (10 inn.), Stanford 6-3**Last Meeting at Cal State Fullerton: Series –** Cal State Fullerton 2-1 (February 4-6, 2005) Cal State Fullerton 5-3, Cal State Fullerton 4-3, Stanford 15-10**Current Game Win Streak:** Stanford – 4 (February 6, 2005 - February 5, 2006)**Current Series Win Streak:** Stanford – 1 (February 3-5, 2006)**Current Season Series Win Streak:** Stanford – 1 (2006)**THE MATCHUP**

Stanford and Cal State Fullerton continue their early season meetings with the 2007 series between a pair of young clubs. Stanford has just one senior but eight players who have started 20 or more games in a season back from a club that finished 33-27 overall last year and reached an NCAA Super Regional. Cal State Fullerton has just four returning position player starters and one starting pitcher back from a 2006 club that was 50-15 overall while finishing tied for third at the College World Series after winning Big West, NCAA Regional and NCAA Super Regional crowns.

SEASON-OPENERS

Stanford has a 24-6 record (.800) in 30 season-openers under current head coach Mark Marquess • Stanford has opened against Cal State Fullerton four times during Marquess, defeating the Titans in 2002 (7-4), 2004 (16-3) and 2006 (2-1), while falling in 1994 (2-12) • Stanford's four previous season-openers against Cal State Fullerton were played at Sunken Diamond

2007 QUICK OUTLOOK

Stanford has a young but not necessarily inexperienced team heading into the 2007 campaign. The Cardinal has just one senior but does have eight position players that have made at least 20 starts in a season as well as two of the three pitchers that finished the 2006 campaign in its rotation. Junior outfielder Michael Taylor is a Third Team Preseason and on the Wallace Award Watch List but only Taylor and Adam Sorgi have earned honors from the Pac-10 with both honorable mention all-conference players.

2006 QUICK REVIEW

Stanford came within two victories of reaching the College World Series for the first time since 2003 last season. Despite a subpar 33-27 overall record and an 11-13 Pac-10 mark (5th-T), the Cardinal came together to win the NCAA Austin Regional, knocking off defending national champion and No. 3 national seed Texas in the process. Stanford's season eventually ended with a loss to eventual national champion Oregon State in the NCAA Corvallis Super Regional. Chris Minaker was named a Third Team All-American and an All-Pac-10 player, leading the Cardinal in nearly every category offensively, including batting average (.364), home runs (11), RBI (68). Greg Reynolds was 7-6 with a 3.31 ERA on the mound, striking out 108 batters in 127.2 innings. Reynolds was drafted second overall in first round of the 2006 MLB First-Year Player Draft to become tied for the highest a Stanford player had ever been drafted. A total of seven Stanford players (John Hester, Blake Holler, Chris Lewis, Matt Manship, Minaker, Jim Rapoport, Reynolds) were taken in the draft and later signed professional baseball contracts.

STANFORD BASEBALL HISTORY

Stanford Baseball has an all-time record of 2490-1550-32 (.615) entering the 2007 season • Stanford has won two College World Series titles (1987, 1988) and finished as the national runner-up on three other occasions (2000, 2001, 2003), while making a total of 15 trips to the CWS • Stanford has won 14 Regionals and five Super Regionals, going a combined 32-9 (.800) in Regional (22-6, .786) and Super Regional (10-4, .714) action since the beginning of the Super Regional postseason format in 1999 • Stanford has an all-time postseason record of 120-60 (.667), going 68-25 (.731) in Regional action, 10-4 (.714) in Super Regional play and 38-27 (.585) in the College World Series • Stanford has made 27 appearances in the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship, including 13 in a row and eight straight seasons of reaching at least an NCAA Regional title • Stanford has also won 20 conference championships (18 Pac-10) and recorded 13 straight winning seasons, as well as 41 in the last 42 years and 58 in the past 60

PRESEASON PICKS

Stanford is ranked as high as No. 23 nationally by *Collegiate Baseball*, while checking in at No. 24 by the NCBWA, No. 25 by USA Today/ESPN and No. 31 by *Baseball America* • The Cardinal is also among the teams receiving consideration in the Rivals.com 2007 preseason poll • The league coaches picked Stanford to finish third in the conference in their annual preseason poll

WINNERS

Stanford has recorded winning campaigns for 13 straight seasons, as well as 41 of the last 42 years and 58 of the past 60

MARK MARQUESS 12TH ON ALL-TIME VICTORY LIST; 6TH ON ACTIVE LIST

Mark Marquess sits in sole possession of 12th-place on the all-time win list for NCAA Division I coaches and has moved into sixth on the active win list heading into the 2007 campaign • Marquess has an all-time record to 1257-617-5 (.670) entering his 31st season as Stanford's head coach • Marquess also has impressive postseason (112-52, .683, 24 Appearances), Regional (68-25, .731, 24 Appearances, 14 Titles), Super Regional (10-4, .769, 6 Appearances, 5 Titles), College World Series (34-23, .596, 13 Appearances, 2 Titles) and Pac-10 (501-327, .605, 12 Titles) records

MICHAEL TAYLOR GARNERS PRESEASON HONORS

Michael Taylor has earned Third Team Preseason All-American honors from *Baseball America* and is also on the Watch List for the College Baseball Foundation's Brooks Wallace Award Watch List • Taylor hit .325 with five homers, 39 RBI and two stolen bases while earning honorable mention All-Pac-10 honors in 2006 • Taylor enters the 2007 campaign having made 116 consecutive starts and has started 118 of 119 possible games in his first two seasons at Stanford

SOPHOMORE CLASS – Stanford has a strong sophomore class that did more than get its feet wet last season with 10 different rookies making starts in 2006 • Jason Castro (40), Joey August (29), Cord Phelps (28), Brent Milleville (20), Grant Escue (10), Austin Yount (9), Jeremy Bleich (7), Max Fearnow (2), J.J. Jelmini (2) and Sean Ratliff (1) all made starts last season • Bleich also had a team-high seven saves and was the team's primary closer for more than two and a half months to start the season before making seven of his last nine appearances as a starter

STANFORD BASEBALL IN THE BIGS – Stanford has sent 75 players on to play Major League Baseball, including nine (Joe Borchard – Florida Marlins, Seattle Mariners • Eric Bruntlett – Houston Astros • John Gall – St. Louis Cardinals • Jody Gerut – Pittsburgh Pirates • Jeremy Guthrie – Cleveland Indians • Mike Gosling, Cincinnati Reds • Rick Helling – Milwaukee Brewers • Mike Mussina – New York Yankees • Carlos Quentin – Arizona Diamondbacks) that were on an MLB roster at some point in 2006

STANFORD IN THE MINOR LEAGUES – Stanford has an additional 30 former players that were on a Minor League Baseball roster in 2006 (does not include those that were on a Major League Baseball roster at some point in 2006) or are a current member of a professional baseball organization and did not play due to injury (Jonny Ash – Corpus Christi Hooks, Houston Astros AA • Jeff Bruksch – Chattanooga Lookouts, Cincinnati Reds AA • Chris Carter – Tucson Sidewinders, Arizona Diamondbacks AAA • Tony Cogan – Sioux Falls Canaries, Independent • Jason Cooper – Buffalo Bisons, Cleveland Indians AAA • Scott Dragicevich – Dunedin Blue Jays, Toronto Blue A Advanced • Pete Duda – Unassigned, Arizona Diamondbacks • Sam Fuld – Daytona Cubs, Chicago Cubs A Advanced • Jeff Gilmore – Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, Seattle Mariners A • Brian Hall – Unassigned, Toronto Blue Jays • Jed Hansen – Fresno Grizzlies, San Francisco Giants AAA • John Hester – Missoula Osprey, Arizona Diamondbacks Rookie • Blake Holler – Orem Owls, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim Rookie • John Hudgins – Oklahoma RedHawks, Texas Rangers AAA • Mark Jecmen – Lake County Captains, Cleveland Indians A • Chris Lewis – Arizona League Angels, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim A • Andrew Lorraine – Charlotte Knights, Chicago White Sox AAA • Jed Lowrie – Wilmington Blue Rocks, Boston Red Sox A Advanced • Donny Lucy – Winston-Salem Warhogs, Chicago White Sox A Advanced • Matt Manship – Vancouver Canadians, Oakland A's Short Season A • John Mayberry, Jr. – Clinton LumberKings, Texas Rangers A • Chris Minaker – Wisconsin Timber Rattlers A • Chris O'Riordan – Mobile Bay Bears, San Diego Padres AA • Jay Pecci – Gary Southshore Railcats, Independent • Danny Putnam – Midland RockHounds, Oakland A's AA • Jim Rapoport – State College Spikes, St. Louis Cardinals Short Season A • Greg Reynolds – Modesto Nuts, Colorado Rockies A Advanced • Mark Romanczuk – Unassigned, Arizona Diamondbacks) • Tony Schragger – Albuquerque Isotopes, Florida Marlins AAA • Jason Van Meetren – Chico Outlaws, Independent

2006 STANFORD-CAL STATE FULLERTON SERIES

February 3, 2006 - at Stanford 2, Cal State Fullerton 1

Pinch hitter Brendan Domaracki's one-out bases loaded single in the bottom of the ninth scored Michael Taylor with the game-winning run to lift Stanford to a dramatic season-opening 2-1 victory over No. 5 Cal State Fullerton. Jeremy Bleich pitched 2.1 hitless innings in his first collegiate outing to earn the victory after starter Greg Reynolds had limited the Titans to one run while scattering eight hits over the first 6.2 frames. Taylor (2-4, 3B) was the only Cardinal player with more than one hit in the contest and led off the Cardinal half of the ninth with his triple down the right field line off losing pitcher Dustin Miller.

February 4, 2006 - at Stanford 6, Cal State Fullerton 5

Stanford stunned No. 5 Cal State Fullerton with its second dramatic win in as many days as John Hester was balked home by Titan reliever Bryan Harris with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning to give the Cardinal a 6-5 victory. Austin Yount was the hitting hero as the freshman blasted his first collegiate home run and drove in three to go with a triple in his 2-for-4 effort. Sean Ratliff earned the victory in his first collegiate appearance on the mound, allowing just one hit and striking out six over the final 3.2 innings of the contest. Hester drew a leadoff walk to start Stanford's game-winning rally before moving to second on a Chris Lewis sacrifice bunt and third when Brian Juhl grounded out prior to the balk.

February 5, 2006 - at Stanford 6, Cal State Fullerton 3

Stanford finished off a three-game sweep of No. 5 Cal State Fullerton with a 6-3 victory. Austin Yount pitched 2.0 scoreless innings of one-hit relief to become the third Cardinal freshman in as many days to earn a victory on the mound, while fellow rookie Jeremy Bleich came on to get the final three outs in the ninth and earn his first collegiate save. Michael Taylor (2-3, HR, 2 RBI) and Chris Lewis (1-3, HR, 2 RBI) both homered and drove in a pair of runs to lead the Cardinal offense.

2007 STANFORD BASEBALL OUTLOOK

There is no doubt the Stanford Baseball team will be looking for its identity early in the 2007 campaign. This year's talented Stanford squad is young but not necessarily inexperienced. Stanford has only two seniors on the club but features eight position players that have started at least 20 games in a season. Eight pitchers from last year's staff also return, including two that were in the starting rotation at the end of the 2006 campaign when the Cardinal made an impressive run that left the team just two wins shy of its first College World Series appearance since 2003.

But most of the big names from 2006 have moved on. Seven players from a year ago were selected in the 2006 MLB Draft First-Year Player Draft and have since signed professional baseball contracts, including ace pitcher Greg Reynolds who was the second overall pick of the draft by the Colorado Rockies. The popular 2006 senior class of John Hester, Chris Lewis, Matt Manship and Chris Minaker are also now professional players as are Blake Holler and Jim Rapoport.

So a fair question to ask is who are these guys that remain.

Michael Taylor made a 2007 Preseason All-American Baseball America squad that is largely influenced by professional scouts but was not selected by any other publications. No player on Stanford's roster has ever earned All-Pac-10 honors with only Taylor and Adam Sorgi, who missed the entire 2006 season due to injury, even picking up honorable mention recognition from the conference.

"It's true that we don't have an all-conference player returning," admitted Stanford head coach Mark Marquess, who is in his 31st season as the team's head coach in 2007 and ranks sixth among active Division I coaches in career wins as well as 12th on the all-time list. "Sure it is a concern that we are so young, but I think we do have a lot of talent that just needs to be prove itself."

Position Players

Junior Michael Taylor is definitely one of the talented players that is looking for a breakout season. In addition to being recognized on Baseball America's preseason All-American squad for the second straight year after a Third Team selection in 2006, the team's starting rightfielder is also Stanford's lone representative on the Wallace Award Watch List that tracks players in consideration for the honor given annually to college baseball's top player. Taylor has put up a pair of good seasons in his first two years with the Cardinal and has shown flashes of the talent and potential that will likely make him a first round pick in the 2007 MLB First-Year Player Draft. His numbers during his first two seasons have been good enough to make him Stanford's active career leader in nearly every offensive category, including batting average (.307) among players with enough official at bats to qualify, home runs (9) and RBI (67). He has also been durable, playing in 118 of 119 possible games over the first two years of his career. He will head into the 2007 season with a string of 116 consecutive starts – the longest run by any current Stanford player. Taylor has been clutch as well, hitting .425 in nine career postseason games. He arguably played some of his best baseball to date during Stanford's late 2006 run when he hit four of his five homers over the team's final 13 contests and hit safely in 18 of the last 20 with a career-best nine-game hit streak included. He finished the 2006 season with a .325 batting average, five homers, 39 RBI and two stolen bases after hitting .289 with four homers, 28 RBI and nine stolen bases in a 2005 campaign that included Stanford's first cycle since 1998.

The return of junior Adam Sorgi is also expected to be a big boost for this year's team. Sorgi led the 2005 Cardinal in batting average (.322), hits (77) and triples (5), while stroking five homers, driving in 41 runs and stealing three bases on his way to honorable mention All-Pac-10 honors but was forced to miss all of last season with an injury. This year, he is healthy and expected to replace three-year starter Chris Minaker at shortstop.

Ryan Seawell could also be another key to the club's success in 2007. One of only two seniors on the squad, Seawell emerged as the team's starting centerfielder and leadoff hitter last year and ended up hitting .313 with two triples and 14 RBI. He also showed his speed tool by sharing the team lead in both triples (3) and stolen bases (5) despite starting just 40 of the 56 games he played in. In addition, he proved his ability to get on base with a .417 on-base percentage that was second among regular Cardinal starters and included 16 hit by pitches to rank third in the Pac-10 and tied for fifth on Stanford's all-time single-season list. He is also arguably Stanford's best defensive outfielder and is expected to return as the starter in center field and

at the top of the lineup.

Stanford's final returning upperclassman starter is junior Randy Molina, who emerged as the team's starter at third base last year and will make another run at the job this season after hitting .308 with 10 RBI in 46 games and 32 starts in 2006. He also led the club with 25 walks and a .425 on-base percentage, which was the highest among regular starters.

Five other second-year players picked up significant starting experience as freshmen last year.

Jason Castro led all of the 2006 rookies with 40 starts and is penciled in as the team's first baseman on opening day after making 37 of his starts at the position a year ago. As an athletic and promising freshman, Castro hit .283 with three homers and 19 RBI in addition to being one of the team's leaders with five stolen bases. He was also superb defensively, making just three errors in 443 chances for a stellar .993 fielding percentage. In addition, Castro was much better in the second half of the season offensively with a .319 batting average following the team's annual March break for finals after hitting just .196 in the first half of the campaign.

Grant Escue made the most of his starting opportunity late in the season when he hit .422 with eight RBI while starting 10 games at designated hitter, including four of five in the postseason. He is expected to battle again for the role in 2007 and can also play first base.

Joey August spent much of the 2006 campaign as the team's starter in left field and may have the inside track at winning the job again in 2007 after hitting a respectable .273 with a homer, six RBI and two stolen bases in a rookie season in which he played in 42 games with 29 starts.

Although Brent Milleville (.198, 2 HR, 12 RBI, 2 SB) didn't put up big numbers in his 47 games and 20 starts last season, the powerful righthanded hitter figures to be a much bigger part of the team's offense in 2007. Milleville is also versatile defensively and could see playing time behind the dish, at first base or at a corner outfielder position as well as designated hitter.

Cord Phelps (.196, 10 RBI) also had a rough go offensively for the Cardinal as a freshman in 2006 but picked up valuable experience in 38 games played and 28 starts (16 at second base, 12 at third base). He missed the 2006 fall season due to injury but is also healthy and ready to go.

In addition to Sorgi taking over for Minaker at shortstop, the Cardinal also needs to find a new starter at second base to replace Lewis and one at catcher to take over for Hester.

Sophomore Austin Yount has the inside track to take the job at second base after an impressive fall. Yount, who is also a key member of the team's pitching staff, started off his 2006 freshman season hot both at the plate and on the mound. He had three hits in his first five at bats and became the first player to both homer and pick up a win on the mound in the same year since 1993 when he did both in the first series of the season against Cal State Fullerton. But, Yount quickly faded at the plate and finished the campaign with just two hits in his final 31 at bats for a .139 season average while seeing most of his action on the mound.

Junior Brian Juhl should be the starter behind the dish after waiting in the wings behind Hester for two seasons. Juhl got a brief taste of the starting role in 2006 when he filled in for seven starts while Hester was out of the lineup with a knee infection from May 5-14. He finished the season with a .217 batting average, his first career homer and three RBI. Juhl is also an excellent defensive catcher and should be a dangerous switch-hitter when he is the team's regular starter.

Other position player returnees from last year include Stephen Brown (So., UT, .000, 0 HR, 0 RBI, 0 SB), Matt Cano (Jr., INF, .000, 0 HR, 0 RBI, 0 SB), Brendan Domaracki (Jr., OF, .267, 1 HR, 7 RBI, 0 SB), J.J. Jelmini (So., INF, .182, 0 HR, 2 RBI, 0 SB), Sean Ratliff (So., LHP/OF, .000, 0 HR, 1 RBI, 0 SB) and Jeff Whitlow (So., OF, .000, 0 HR, 0 RBI, 0 SB). Brown (3B), Domaracki (LF), Jelmini (2B/3B) and Ratliff (LF) are all looking to make legitimate runs at starting jobs in 2007.

Incoming position players include freshmen Kirk Erickson (C, Santa Rosa, CA/Santa Rosa HS), Adam Gaylord (INF, La Mirada, CA/La Mirada HS), Toby Gerhart (OF, Norco, CA/Norco HS), Brian Moon (INF/OF, Glendale, CA/Herbert Hoover HS), Wande Olabisi (OF, Houston, TX/St. Stephens Episcopal School) and Steven Swinford (1B, Lake Oswego, OR/Lakeridge HS).

Pitchers

Stanford should have lots of depth on the mound this season and two of the three pitchers that finished the 2006 campaign in its starting rotation in junior righthander Nolan Gallagher and sophomore lefty Jeremy Bleich. But for the second straight year, the Cardinal will need to replace its ace after Greg Reynolds (7-6, 3.31 ERA, 127.2 IP, 108 SO, 18 starts) moved onto the professional ranks following his selection as the second overall pick in the 2006 MLB First-Year Player Draft. Stanford also loses three other pitchers – Matt Manship (2-6, 5.51 ERA, 67.0 IP, 50 SO, 12 starts), Matt Leva (2-1, 4.43 ERA, 40.2 IP, 28 SO, nine starts) and Blake Holler (1-0, 8.86 ERA, 21.1 IP, 18 SO, one start) – that combined with Reynolds to start 40 of the team's 60 games a year ago.

Gallagher and Bleich are expected to battle for the job of replacing Reynolds as the team's top starter.

Bleich's seven starts in 2006 are the most of any returning Stanford pitcher. He was 4-4 with a 4.05 ERA and 37 strikeouts in 60.0 innings pitched a year ago, while appearing in a team-high 24 contests and also recording a club-best seven saves (#4T Pac-10) before he was moved into the rotation in mid-April. The lefty runs his fastball into the low 90's with excellent movement and is especially tough on left-handers. He has the potential to be one of the top pitchers in the Pac-10.

Gallagher came on at the end of the 2006 campaign and moved into the rotation for the team's final Pac-10 series of the year at UCLA, where he responded with the first complete game of his career. Gallagher's performance against the Bruins earned him the role as the team's No. 2 starter for the postseason, where he came up with a victory over Texas in a winners' bracket game at the NCAA Austin Regional and was chosen over Bleich to start the second game of the NCAA Corvallis Super Regional against eventual CWS champion Oregon State. He finished the 2006 season with a 5-5 record and a 3.99 ERA, striking out 51 batters over 65.1 innings, 22 appearances and six starts. He is also Stanford's active career leader in nearly every pitching category including wins (7), ERA (3.51), innings pitched (120.1) and strikeouts (111).

The next three pitchers with an inside track to earn a spot in the rotation look to be a trio of righties in junior Erik Davis, sophomore Max Fearnow and freshman Jeffrey Inman.

Davis pitched well at the end of the 2006 campaign primarily out of the bullpen. He finished the season with a 1-1 record and four saves while recording a 4.91 ERA and striking out 22 batters in 33.0 innings over 22 appearances and one start. Davis picked up two of his four saves in the postseason in back-to-back games against Texas and North Carolina State to secure the NCAA Austin Regional. Even more significantly, Davis has recovered from a scary injury suffered in a Cape Cod Baseball League game in June of 2006 when he was hit in the face by a line drive that caused him to miss the remainder of the season and have a pair of surgeries to repair the damage.

Fearnow was one of the most improved pitchers on the staff during the fall of 2006 and is primed to make a run at the starting rotation. He was 2-0 with a 5.91 ERA in 2006, striking out 19 in 21.1 innings and 16 appearances with two starts.

Inman (Bakersfield, CA/Garces Memorial HS) is an impressive freshman that has enough potential to bolt past Bleich and Gallagher into the role of the team's ace. Inman, who was selected by the Kansas City Royals in the 19th round of the 2006 MLB First-Year Player Draft but did not sign a professional contract, arguably had the best 2006 fall season of any pitcher on the staff. He has excellent stuff and command with the ability to throw three pitches for a strike, including a fastball that gets into the low 90's.

Sophomore lefty Sean Ratliff (2-0, 6.75 ERA, 28.0 IP, 30 SO), junior righthander David Stringer (3-4, 4.34 ERA, 1 SV, 47.2 IP, 47 SO) and sophomore righty Austin Yount (4-0, 2.84 ERA, 1 SV, 25.1 IP, 15 SO) also return from last year's staff. Ratliff and Yount are both two-way players making respective runs for starting spots in left field and at second base.

Ratliff led the club with a 9.64 strikeout per nine innings average last year that is the eighth-best all-time season in that category on The Farm.

Stimpson, who had an outstanding rookie season back in 2004, may be returning to that form and is expected to get a shot at the team's closer role.

Stringer was in the rotation briefly in 2006 and should be a valuable arm out of the bullpen if he doesn't get another crack at becoming a starter again.

Yount played a key role in the bullpen for the Cardinal last year and recorded the lowest ERA on the club.

Sophomore southpaws Blake Hancock and Tom Stilson, as well as junior righthander Rex Petrill are still looking for their first collegiate action on the mound. Hancock and Stilson are both coming off injuries that forced them to miss all of the 2006 season.

Other incoming freshmen pitchers include righthanders Cory Bannister (Paradise Valley, CA/Chaparral HS), Andrew Clauson (Yakima, WA/A.C. Davis HS), Will Krasne (Washington, DC/St. Albans School), Kyle Thompson (Northridge, CA/Chaminade College Prep), Brandt Walker (Austin, TX/St. Stephens Episcopal School). Walker was a 21st round draft pick of the Texas Rangers in the 2006 MLB First-Year Player Draft but did not sign a professional contract.

Schedule

Stanford's schedule is once again familiar and very difficult. The Cardinal, ranked No. 23 by Collegiate Baseball and No. 31 by Baseball America in 2007 preseason polls, has 25 games slated against eight teams (Arizona, Arizona State, Cal State Fullerton, Oregon State, San Francisco, Texas, UCLA, USC) that are also ranked by at least one of the two publications. Defending College World Series champion and Pac-10 foe Oregon State highlights the schedule with a visit to Sunken Diamond for a three-game series April 27-29.

"The benefits of playing a tough schedule like we do is that it tells you where you need to be in order to be competitive at the national level," said head coach Mark Marquess. "If you have a weakness, it's usually magnified."

The Cardinal opens its 2007 campaign with a visit to another 2006 CWS participant with a three-game set February 2-4 at Cal State Fullerton.

Stanford will open its home slate of games February 9-11 with a three-game series versus Fresno State at Sunken Diamond before hosting an exhibition contest against Rikkyo University of Japan on February 13.

Stanford travels to Austin for a three-game series against 2005 CWS champ Texas from February 18-20. The Cardinal knocked off the Longhorns the last time the clubs met by shocking the then defending national champions in a winners' bracket game on the way to winning the 2006 NCAA Austin Regional.

After its visit to the Lone Star state, the schedule will keep the Cardinal home for 11 of its next 12 contests beginning with an early-season mid-week game against San Francisco on February 20. Stanford then welcomes Kansas to Sunken Diamond for a three-game series (February 23-25) before hosting Pac-10 and Bay Area rival California for three non-conference contests March 2-4. Stanford will head a few miles down the road for a non-conference game at Santa Clara (March 6) before USC comes to town for a three-game non-conference series (March 9-11) that will complete the team's schedule prior to its annual mid-March break for finals.

The Cardinal's 12-day break will end with a two-game home-and-home set against Sacramento State with the Cardinal hosting the Hornets in the opener before traveling to the Capitol City the following day.

Stanford will make its final preparations for Pac-10 play with a non-conference game at San Jose State on March 27.

The team's eight three-game Pac-10 series begin March 30 – April 1 with a home set versus UCLA, while the squad's first Pac-10 road series is at Arizona State from April 5-7. The remainder of the club's Pac-10 series will also rotate between home and away with additional conference series at Sunken Diamond slated against Arizona (April 13-15), Oregon State (April 27-29) and Washington (May 11-13). Stanford's other Pac-10 road trips take the club to California (April 20-22), Washington State (May 5-7) and USC (May 25-27).

Stanford is also scheduled to play a non-conference series May 18-20 against Pacific, hosting the Tigers in the opener and finale with a bus ride to Stockton planned for the middle game. The May 18 contest will serve as the annual Town & Country Village Fireworks Night with Fan Appreciation/Senior Day planned for May 20.

The Cardinal will fill out its roster of regular season games with six more non-conference mid-week contests during the midst of its Pac-10 schedule. Stanford will travel to Nevada (April 10) and Santa Clara (May 15), while hosting Santa Clara (April 17, May 1), San Jose State (April 24) and UC Davis (May 22).

Stanford is hoping to extend its school record string of appearances in the NCAA Championship to 14 in a row. The 64-team NCAA field will be announced on May 28 – one day after the end of the regular season. The postseason event begins with Regional action at 16 sites around the nation June 1-4. The winners of the 16 Regionals will advance to Super Regional competition June 8-11 at eight locations with each of those winners moving on to the 60th College World Series in Omaha from June 15-25. The ESPN network will televise every Super Regional and College World Series game for the fourth consecutive season, as well as selected Regional contests.

2007 PRESEASON COLLEGE BASEBALL POLLS

BASEBALL AMERICA		COLLEGIATE BASEBALL		NCBWA		RIVALDS.COM		USA TODAY/ESPN	
Rank (2006 Record)	LY	Rank (2006 Record)	LY	Rank (2006 Record)	LY	Rank (2006 Record)	LY	Rank (2006 Record)	LY
1. Rice (57-13)	4	1. Rice (57-13)	3	1. Rice (57-13)	3	1. Rice (57-13)		1. Rice (57-13)	3
2. Miami (42-24)	8	2. Clemson (53-16)	5	2. Clemson (53-16)	5	2. North Carolina (54-15)		2. Clemson (53-16)	5
3. Clemson (53-16)	5	3. South Carolina (41-25)	12	3. South Carolina (41-25)	13	3. South Carolina (41-25)		3. Miami (42-24)	6
4. Texas (41-12)	12	4. Arkansas (39-21)	25	4. North Carolina (54-15)	2	4. Virginia (47-15)		4. South Carolina (41-25)	17
5. North Carolina (54-15)	2	5. North Carolina (54-15)	2	5. Miami (42-24)	6	5. Miami (42-24)		5. North Carolina (54-15)	2
6. South Carolina (41-25)	13	6. Miami (42-24)	6	6. Texas (41-21)	16	6. Texas (41-21)		6. Texas (41-21)	12
7. Arkansas (39-21)	NR	7. Texas (41-21)	17	7. Virginia (47-15)	14	7. Vanderbilt (38-27)		7. Arkansas (39-21)	22
8. Vanderbilt (38-27)	NR	8. Vanderbilt (38-27)	NR	8. Arkansas (39-21)	27	8. Arizona St. (37-21)		8. CS Fullerton (50-15)	4
9. Virginia (47-15)	16	9. Nebraska (42-17)	22	9. CS Fullerton (50-15)	4	9. Arkansas (39-21)		9. Virginia (47-15)	14
10. Wichita St. (46-22)	25	10. Virginia (47-15)	20	10. Georgia Tech (50-18)	7	10. Clemson (53-16)		10. Vanderbilt (38-27)	NR
11. Tennessee (31-24)	NR	11. Georgia Tech (50-18)	8	11. Vanderbilt (38-27)	NR	11. Mississippi (44-22)		11. Georgia Tech (50-18)	7
12. Georgia Tech (50-18)	7	12. CS Fullerton (50-15)	4	12. Nebraska (42-17)	19	12. CS Fullerton (50-15)		12. Nebraska (42-17)	18
13. UCLA (33-25)	NR	13. Florida St. (42-21)	24	13. Mississippi (44-22)	11	13. Georgia Tech (50-18)		13. Wichita St. (46-22)	NR
14. CS Fullerton (50-15)	3	14. Arizona St. (37-21)	NR	14. Arizona St. (37-21)	28	14. Oregon St. (50-16)		14. Arizona St. (37-21)	23
15. Tulane (43-21)	NR	15. TCU (39-23)	NR	15. Florida St. (44-21)	22	15. Oklahoma St. (41-20)		15. Oregon St. (50-16)	1
16. Oregon St. (50-16)	1	16. Tulane (43-21)	27	16. Tulane (43-21)	21	16. UCLA (33-25)		16. Tulane (43-21)	NR
17. Nebraska (42-17)	15	17. Wichita St. (46-22)	NR	17. Oregon St. (50-16)	1	17. Nebraska (42-17)		17. Florida St. (44-21)	20
18. Florida St. (44-21)	NR	18. Tennessee (31-24)	NR	18. Wichita St. (46-22)	NR	18. Wichita St. (46-22)		18. Mississippi (44-22)	10
19. Pepperdine (42-21)	21	19. Pepperdine (42-21)	30	19. Georgia (47-23)	8	19. Pepperdine (42-21)		19. Tennessee (31-24)	NR
20. Arizona St. (37-21)	NR	20. Mississippi (44-22)	11	20. Pepperdine (42-21)	24	20. Tulane (43-21)		20. Pepperdine (42-21)	25
21. Evansville (43-22)	NR	21. Baylor (37-26)	26	21. Oklahoma St. (41-20)	23	21. North Carolina St. (40-23)		21. UCLA (33-25)	NR
22. Oklahoma St. (41-20)	23	22. Georgia (47-23)	7	22. TCU (39-23)	NR	22. Georgia (47-23)		22. TCU (39-23)	NR
23. Winthrop (46-18)	NR	23. Stanford (23-17)	15	23. UCLA (33-25)	NR	23. Kentucky (44-17)		23. Oklahoma St. (41-20)	NR
24. TCU (39-23)	NR	24. Oklahoma St. (41-20)	23	24. Stanford (33-27)	18	24. Alabama (44-21)		24. Baylor (37-26)	NR
25. Mississippi (44-21)	11	25. USC (25-33)	NR	25. Tennessee (31-24)	NR	25. Winthrop (46-18)		25. Stanford (33-27)	16
26. UC Riverside		26. UCLA (33-25)	NR	26. Baylor (37-26)	30	<i>2007 Opponents In Italics</i>		<i>2007 Opponents In Italics</i>	
27. Georgia		27. Arizona (27-28)	NR	27. Kentucky (44-17)	17				
28. North Carolina St.		28. Evansville (43-22)	19	28. Alabama (44-21)	9				
29. USC		29. Oral Roberts (41-16)	14	29. Evansville (43-22)	29				
30. Kentucky		30. Long Beach St. (29-27)	NR	30. Oklahoma (45-22)	10				
31. Stanford		31. LSU (35-24)	NR	31. Winthrop (46-18)	26				
32. San Francisco		32. Mississippi St. (37-23)	NR	32. USC (25-33)	NR				
33. San Diego St.		33. Houston (39-22)	21	33. Oral Roberts (41-16)	15				
34. Oral Roberts		34. Oklahoma (45-22)	10	34. LSU (35-24)	NR				
35. Oklahoma		35. Troy (47-16)	NR	35. Mississippi St. (37-23)	NR				
36. Auburn		36. San Francisco (39-23)	NR	<i>2007 Opponents In Italics</i>					
37. Baylor		37. Winthrop (46-18)	NR						
38. UC Irvine		38. Michigan (43-21)	NR						
39. Louisiana-Lafayette		39. Notre Dame (45-17-1)	NR						
40. Michigan		40. Ohio State (37-21)	NR						
41. Texas Tech		<i>2007 Opponents In Italics</i>							
42. Central Michigan									
43. Delaware									
44. Elon									
45. Notre Dame									
46. San Diego									
47. Ohio State									
48. Miami (Ohio)									
49. Texas A&M									
50. LSU									
<i>2007 Opponents In Italics</i>									