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Renewable Energy Heats Up in South Bay

Professor discusses success of former Decathlon participants

Sophie Mattson THE SANTA CLARA

San Jose, Calif., is now ranked as the nation’s fourth-best solar city, according to the Shining Cities report released last Thursday. The report, which measures the top 20 American solar cities by total installed solar capacity at the end of 2013, ranks Los Angeles as the nation’s top solar city, with San Diego, Calif., starting Phoenix and San Jose behind it.

Remarkably, San Jose was ranked one spot higher in the report than Honolulu, Hawaii, which is known for its year-round sunny weather. According to Kelsea Jones, Deputy Director of California Solar Energy Industries Association, this year’s report was the first that ranked the top solar cities on a national level, and it was the first done on a per capita scale.

The Environment California Research and Policy Center, a statewide environmental advocacy organization, compiled the Shining Cities report. The California Solar Energy Industries Association is located throughout California and is the nation’s oldest solar energy association. CALSEIA has been promoting the Shining Cities report in California.

“Just like (the city’s) goal to put a computer in every home and a smartphone in every hand, it has continued to be a leader when it comes to clean techology,” said Jones. “The vision, along with strong public policy, like rebates, debt metering and cutting through red tape, makes San Jose solar-friendly.”

Although Santa Clara does not have any research concerned with developing solar cells, the campus has been an active proponent of solar technology, according to Associate Professor Timothy Hight; Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department and former director of the Solar Decathlon team.

Santa Clara uses one megawatt of (photovoltaic) solar arrays on campus, and participated in the Solar Decathlon competition to build solar-powered homes in 2007, 2009 and 2013. According to Hight, members of the 2007 Solar Decathlon team and graduates of Santa Clara started a company that pioneered solar technology.

“Eight of them that were all involved in the Solar Decathlon started VaIlance Energy,” said Hight, “and their product became an energy management system that monitored not just solar, but any kind of energy production and use you had in a facility.”

According to Hight, VaIlance Energy’s main products were greener drywall, material that easily absorbs moisture and energy-conserving windows. A larger energy company called Serious Materials eventually bought VaIlance Energy.

Hight believes the main issue with the development of solar technology in cities is the red tape that holds back development. The city of San Jose has promoted the use of solar technology by removing the hurdles to installing solar technology in residential and commercial buildings.

“The technology issues aren’t what is holding solar technology back,” said Hight. “There are more problems with the cost of permitting and incentives for people to actually do it. San Jose has been one of the areas to make it easier to make it cut through that stuff.”

Contact Sophie Mattson at smattson@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.

Student Promotes Philanthropy for Disease

Broncos take on celebrity-sponsored competition

Eryn Olson THE SANTA CLARA

In memory of his father, senior David Guibord helped raise over $82,500 for the Santa Clara chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association. Guibord is the captain of the Santa Clara Men’s Rugby team, and wanted to use this event to specifically speak out about early-onset Alzheimer’s.

“Eight of them that were all involved in the Solar Decathlon started VaIlance Energy, and it was the first done on a per capita scale. Ranked the top solar cities on a national level, San Diego, Calif., Phoenix and San Jose behind it. The majority of the money given to the Santa Clara chapter came from online donations. Guibord estimated that over 750 people donated to the cause, most of whom were students. Guibord also raised over $5,000 at a fundraising event on Saturday, April 5. Students purchased $5 purple wristbands for the Alzheimer’s Association, which gave them admission into the event featuring live music and inflatable pools.

Guibord set his initial goal at $5,000, which he thought was ambitious at the time. After the first week, the donation page neared $10,000. His efforts were clearly a success as the Santa Clara group finished by quadrupling that amount in only a month.

“It was so cool to watch the money keep piling in, knowing that it was going (toward) a great and very important cause,” Guibord said. Guibord believes people should continue donating to the Alzheimer’s Association, and he encourages Santa Clara students to attend the Walk to End Alzheimer’s in San Jose, Calif. this coming October.

Contact Eryn Olson at elson@scu.edu or (408) 554-4852.
1. South Korea ferry disaster leads to 283 missing, four dead. A ferry carrying 462 people, mostly high school students on an overnight trip to a tourist island, sank off South Korea’s southern coast on Wednesday, leaving more than 280 people missing despite a frantic, hours-long rescue by dozens of ships and helicopters. At least four people were confirmed dead and 55 injured. The high number of people unaccounted for — likely trapped in the ship or floating in the ocean — raised fears that the death toll could rise drastically, making it one of South Korea’s biggest ferry disasters since 1993, when 292 people died. One student, Lim Hyung-Min, told a broadcaster that he and other students jumped into the ocean wearing life jackets and then swam to a nearby rescue boat. “As the ferry was shaking and tilting, we all tripped and bumbled into each other,” Lim said, adding that some people were bleeding. Once he jumped, the ocean “was so cold. I was shivering, thinking that I wanted to live.”

From AP Reports.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Alcohol Related Medical Emergency

4/9: A student was found intoxicated and unresponsive in front of Ricard Observatory. CSS and SCU EMS responded. The student was uncooperative and disrespectful to attending personnel when she woke up. She was released to her friend to be escorted home.

4/12: A campus resident was reported ill due to excessive alcohol consumption. CSS and SCU EMS responded. Two bottles of alcoholic beverages were found in the resident’s room and were confiscated and disposed of. He shouted obscenities toward the Residence Life staff upon CSS departure. He was documented for his behavior.

4/12: CSS responded to a report of loud music in the early hours of Valentine’s Day last year. But former police officer Roger Dixon, testifying for the defense, also appeared unsteady as chief prosecutor Cerrie Nel warned him that it was impossible to “try and be an expert” in areas he was not.

From AP Reports.

2. Pistorius defense tries to re-build case: Oscar Pistorius’ lawyers tried to roll back the prosecution’s momentum at his murder trial Wednesday following the star athlete’s shaky testimony, presenting a forensic expert who quickly found his own credentials and findings sharply questioned.

With Pistorius now back watching the proceedings from a wooden bench, the double-amputee Olympian’s defense team was attempting to bolster his account that he shot girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp by mistake through a bathroom door in his home, thinking she was a dangerous intruder about to attack him in the night.

Pistorius faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted of premeditated murder in Steenkamp’s death in the early hours of Valentine’s Day last year.

But former police officer Roger Dixon, testifying for the defense, also appeared unsteady as chief prosecutor Cerrie Nel warned him that it was impossible to “try and be an expert” in areas he was not.

From AP Reports.

World Roundup

1. South Korea ferry disaster leads to 283 missing, four dead. A ferry carrying 462 people, mostly high school students on an overnight trip to a tourist island, sank off South Korea’s southern coast on Wednesday, leaving more than 280 people missing despite a frantic, hours-long rescue by dozens of ships and helicopters. At least four people were confirmed dead and 55 injured. The high number of people unaccounted for — likely trapped in the ship or floating in the ocean — raised fears that the death toll could rise drastically, making it one of South Korea’s biggest ferry disasters since 1993, when 292 people died. One student, Lim Hyung-Min, told a broadcaster that he and other students jumped into the ocean wearing life jackets and then swam to a nearby rescue boat. “As the ferry was shaking and tilting, we all tripped and bumbled into each other,” Lim said, adding that some people were bleeding. Once he jumped, the ocean “was so cold. I was shivering, thinking that I wanted to live.”

From AP Reports.
Religious diversity across the nation discussed  

Sophie Mattson  
THE SANTA CLARA

The variety of different beliefs across the globe has led to constant conflict between religious groups. Eboo Patel spoke on campus Wednesday, April 10, about how to integrate the positive aspects of religious diversity into society today.

Patel, an interfaith leader and member of President Barack Obama’s inaugural Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships, tackled the current problems with the existence of a variety of religions. “Baghdad is diverse, and it is a quasi-civil war,” said Patel. “Bombay is diverse, and on a bad day, there is a bomb from one religious community attacking another religious community.” Patel said that diversity means being in constant contact with people with whom you disagree, and religious differences in particular entail deep disagreement on fundamental matters. Although diversity can play out like a civil war, it can also result in cooperation between groups.

Patel, inspired by his Muslim faith, Indian heritage and American citizenship aspires to help spread interfaith cooperation. “People talk all the time about the metaphor of bridges between diverse individuals and communities,” Patel said, “but bridges don’t fall from the sky or arise from the ground. People build bridges. We build bridges.”

Rather than being defined by the existence of one social group like in the past, many societies around the world today are incredibly diverse. Due to global interconnectedness, people of different ethnicities are required to interact more frequently today than ever before.

According to Patel, one of the biggest implications of diversity is the way that it has been shown to weaken social cohesion. Without social cohesion, negative forces can infiltrate a society.

“The more diversity there is in a city or neighborhood, the lower the rates of social interaction,” Patel said. “We all like social cohesion and participation in community, as well as diversity, so what happens when we find out that these things are inversely correlated?”

In order to achieve cooperation between different religious groups, a society must transcend diversity and achieve pluralism. Diversity is when people who orient around different religious views live in the same area, while pluralism is what Patel advocates for America today.

“Pluralism has three parts: respect for the identities of different communities and a commitment to the common good,” Patel said. “There is no other world than a diverse world. There is no case that you can return to where everybody is going to be a Catholic from the same village in Germany. When we achieve pluralism, it is the most inspiring thing on the planet.”

Contact Sophie Mattson at smattson@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.

Eboo Patel spoke on campus Wednesday, April 10, about how to integrate the positive aspects of religious diversity into society today. He discussed the ways society today can achieve harmony between different religious groups, pluralism, social cohesion and participation in the community.

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Deadline: April 28, 2014

Eclectic ensembles gather and celebrate

Eryn Olson  
THE SANTA CLARA

Music filled the Mayer Theatre through Saturday evening as the Santa Clara Gospel Choir hosted its 7th Annual Gospel Fest and its first Northern California Mass University Workshop. The year’s theme, “Living a Victorious Life,” guided a day filled with uplifting and energetic messages. The night’s performances began with a pre-recorded video of the Santa Clara Gospel Choir explaining what victory means to them, followed by a lively three-song medley from the group. Spermed by junior Eric Wu’s theatrical solo, the 15 members got the audience dancing, clapping and singing along. A variety of acts performed throughout the show, including Testimony A Cappella from Stanford University and C3 Church.

This groundbreaking event was the first to bring university gospel choirs from around the Bay Area to collectively learn and perform songs. Junior sisters Adrielle and Desiree Williams, co-presidents of Santa Clara’s Gospel Choir, admitted that the event brought tears to their eyes. “Gospel music has so much variety and so much depth to it,” said Desiree Williams. “Gospel music goes beyond the black community.”

Each guest director was of a different nationality. Adrielle Williams said that this event exemplifies Santa Clara’s mission of educating the whole person. “In terms of spirituality, gospel choir really nails that because of how diverse and how powerful it is,” said Adrielle Williams.

Contact Eryn Olson at elolson@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.
LGBT Choir Performs Show Tunes

Local singing group brings energetic act to campus

Eddie Solis Jr.
ASSOCIATE REPORTER

The Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus performed a medley of classic Broadway hits during their latest concert over the weekend at the Santa Clara Recital Hall.

Santa Clara is full of opportunities to attend exciting events that showcase all kinds of talent, ranging from dancing to painting to spoken word. It’s not common, however, for a performance to highlight talent from groups other than Santa Clara students. This concert was a chance to check out a unique troupe of skilled singers from outside the campus bubble.

For three shows, the Silicon Valley Gay Men’s Chorus performed a variety of famous show tunes from musicals such as “Cats,” “Wicked” and “Les Miserables.” The chorus sang two acts of over eight songs each. The crowd, which averaged over 200 members each day, enjoyed these fun Broadway favorites.

“The musical theater has so much history, so my artistic advisory committee put all the songs down that we really liked,” said Artistic Director Shawn Reischneider. “We wanted a variety of style to represent musical theater. We got the jazz style, fun pop music and new musicals like ‘Wicked’.”

The chorus is made up of approximately 30 members and their performance included soloists, a drummer and a bassist.

The show began with “Be Our Guest” from “Beauty and the Beast,” which set the tone for an engaging and entertaining set.

The chorus performed a variety of songs and styles. Included were hits like the foot-tapping, crowd-pleasing “You Can’t Stop the Beat” from “Hairspray,” to the bluesy “Feeling Good” from “The Roar of the Greasepaint,” to “The Sound of Music’s” classic title song.

The first act ended with a game in which the chorus performed brief snippets of classic songs to see if the audience could recognize the famous show tunes.

“There were so many songs that I recognized, but also a lot that I was discovering for the first time,” said audience member Ruth Dodd, who had never before seen the chorus.

The prize for winning was season tickets for the SVGMC.

“The second act continued with a medley of songs from “Ragtime,” “Les Miserables” and “Man of La Mancha.” Each performance displayed a range of emotions, from energetic to somber to hilarious. The rambunctious and sassy performance of “Everybody’s Girl,” guest starring Mary Melnik, had the crowd in uncontrollable laughter.

“(Melnik) is well-known in the theater community here in the Silicon Valley, so when we saw this song, we knew we had to include it, but who do we think could do it?” said Reischneider. “And I knew that (Melnik) could pull that one off because you have to have stage presence to really make it happen.”

Besides having fun and entertaining the audience, SVGMC also strives to serve a greater purpose.

“Our organization is really here to provide a community, a place to belong,” said Reischneider. “We are holding auditions for anyone who wants to join our community. We want to show a positive, visible image for LGBT choruses.”

The SVGCMC’s next performance will be in June at Santa Clara. It will be a musical-type storyline with three acts. The show will focus on their relationshipships and lives. Those interested can visit their website, SVGMC.org, for audition information and a schedule of future show times.

Contact Eddie Solis Jr. at esolis1@scu.edu.
Many universities within the United States were established to advance the ideals of liberal education within a religious, moral framework. In the last century, however, the academy has become widely ambivalent about the place of “God” in the broader discourse of a university. This quarter’s lecture series will ask why, as we consider the role of religion within higher education in the United States.

THE FRAILTY OF FAITH: HOW CAN A THINKING PERSON STILL BELIEVE IN GOD?
Inaugural Louis I. Bannan, S.J. Lecture
Michael C. McCarthy, S.J., Santa Clara University
April 15, 2014 | 4–5:15 p.m.
St. Clare Room, Library and Learning Commons

CONTAINMENT OR ENGAGEMENT? THE SHIFTING ROLE OF RELIGION IN HIGHER EDUCATION
April 22, 2014 | 4–5:30 p.m.
St. Clare Room, Library and Learning Commons
Julie Reuben, Harvard Graduate School of Education
Author of Making of the Modern University: Intellectual Transformation and the Marginalization of Morality
Douglas “Jake” Jacobsen and Rhonda Hustedt Jacobsen, Messiah College
Co-authors of No Longer Invisible: Religion in University Education

WHAT GOOD IS GOD OUTSIDE OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES? INTERDISCIPLINARY REFLECTIONS ON THE GOD-QUESTION
April 30, 2014 | 12–1:15 p.m. (Lunch provided)
Williman Room, Benson Memorial Center
Phyllis Brown, associate provost, Undergraduate Studies; professor, English Department, Santa Clara University

BANNAN INSTITUTES RESEARCH REPORT
WHAT GOOD IS GOD FOR GRIEF AND LOSS? PSYCHOLOGY MEETS PHILOSOPHY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH STUDY
May 7, 2014 | 12–1:15 p.m. (Lunch provided)
Williman Room, Benson Memorial Center
Professor Feldman and Professor Gressis will be reporting on their research regarding the role of religious belief on experiences of loss and death anxiety in philosophy faculty, Jesuit priests, and undergraduate students. This research study was funded through a What Good is God? Bannan Institute Research Grant.

2014 EXPLORE JOURNAL: WHAT GOOD IS GOD?
Exploring the Integration of Faith, Justice, and the Intellectual Life in Jesuit, Catholic Higher Education
Published in print and online May 2014
Previous publications available at scu.edu/explore

IGNATIAN RETREAT FOR FACULTY AND STAFF
ENCOUNTERING GOD WITHIN THE IGNATIAN TRADITION
June 20–22, 2014
Villa Maria del Mar, Santa Cruz, Calif.
As a university community we have engaged the provocative question raised by the Bannan Institute this year: “What Good Is God?” This Ignatian Retreat offers the University’s faculty and staff an opportunity for personal prayer and reflection as we begin our summer months. Where has God been laboring in our work and service at Santa Clara University? How might divine love and life desire to heal and to enliven us?
Registration limited to Santa Clara University faculty and staff.
Register at www.scu.edu/ic

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, UNLESS NOTED. PLEASE RSVP AT SCU.EDU/IGNATIANCENTER
Waiting to See What Stephen Colbert Does Next

One of my less consequential regrets is not finding “The Colbert Report” sooner. I’ve been a fan of Jon Stewart for years, but I never kept to the same channel when 11:30 p.m. arrived. It was only in the last two and a half years that I gave Stephen Colbert a chance, and I’m glad I did.

Now that Colbert has been selected to replace David Letterman on CBS starting next year, I’m counting the days until Colbert runs his course. Colbert’s uber-conservative personality is also the show’s central premise: the use of reductio ad absurdum. The technique has been used in arguments for centuries, and follows the logic of taking one side’s ideas to an extreme and applying it to situations to expose it as ironic or down-right hypocritical. However, Colbert’s true genius has been not just in his character or his premise, but in the education he has provided while entertaining his viewers.

After the Supreme Court created super PACs — independent accounts for unlimited political donations — in its 2010 Citizens United ruling, Colbert created a super PAC of his own, “Americans for a Better Tomorrow, Tomorrow.” Not only did he raise over a million dollars, but he has provided while entertaining his viewers.

His choice of interview guests could do several things. Whether or not Colbert’s joke was offensive — even in full context — many outlets were unwilling to give the Snyder story coverage, and Colbert did. Since news of Colbert’s departure broke, many have speculated on what Colbert will be like since he is not bringing his conservative character with him. I can only hope Colbert will put his own personal spin on it, much like how he didn’t rip off “The Daily Show,” but gave it a perfect partner. Plus, it provides the opportunity to give someone else a chance to flex their comedic muscle on Comedy Central. My personal choice is Jescia Williams of “The Daily Show.” Colbert could do several things to improve upon the traditional — and stale — late-night format, many of which he already does. Anchoring his monologue to one or two major topical issues would continue to both educate and entertain. His choice of interview guests will also be important. Though CBS will likely want to stay focused on celebrities on promotion tours, if Colbert can add at least a few appearances a month from people such as Slate’s legal correspondent Emily Bazelon or physicists like Neil deGrasse Tyson, he could make late-night not only tolerable, but culturally relevant.

My hope is that whatever Colbert does in his new venue, he continues not only to make us laugh, but to make us think as well.

Jonathan Tomczak is a senior political science and history double major and editor of the Opinion section.

Articles in the Opinion section represent the views of the individual authors only and not the views of The Santa Clara or Santa Clara University.

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Azusa Pacific University’s Master of Professional Accountancy program is dedicated to training ethical and competent certified public accountants. The nation’s largest Christian accounting endowment makes this program affordable, and its requirements satisfy California’s new 150 Rule for CPA licensure. The Becker Exam Review fee is included in the cost of the program, and students with at least a 3.3 GPA are eligible for scholarship funds. Azusa Pacific is one of only two Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) schools nationally to offer an MPA.
Men’s rugby falls short, aims to reorganize for national playoffs

Ivan Munoz

The previous one-loss Santa Clara University Touring Side was denied the California Conference crown after being handed its second loss of the season by Saint Mary’s College this past Saturday. "Against Saint Mary’s we got out to a hot start," said team captain Michael Cunningham. "We had them on the ropes for the first 20 minutes of the game, but that is something we have to do for all 80 minutes. We never gave up. We kept fighting throughout the whole match.”

Despite the loss, Santa Clara still has a chance to play for the national championship. The squad will look to regroup and prepare for an upcoming playoff run, which is scheduled to begin on April 19. SCUTS is slated to challenge Colorado State University at home the first round of the 2014 Division IAm Playoffs.

Before Saturday’s defeat, Santa Clara was riding a three-game winning streak and had just come off a 22-31 road win over the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Santa Clara’s men and women’s golf teams wrapped up their 2013-2014 campaign on Wednesday at the West Coast Conference Championships. The men finished in second place, just four shots behind the winners from Brigham Young University and the women finished good enough for fourth place.

The WCC squads competed against one another for the first time ever at the Gold Mountain Golf Club Olympic Course in Bremerton, Wash., over a three-day span from Monday to Wednesday.

The men’s golf team posted an even par score of 288 after the first day of the event on Monday. On Tuesday, the men’s second-round score of 292 bumped the Broncos into second place, tied with BYU and three strokes behind the tournament leaders from Saint Mary’s College. On the final day of competition, Santa Clara notched a 290 to end the day with a 10-over-par performance.

After a rough first day of their WCC championship tournament, the women’s golf team moved into fourth place after Tuesday’s round. The team posted a season-high score of 311 on Monday, leaving them in fifth place, but Tuesday’s improved score of 303 bumped the Broncos into fourth. On Wednesday, the women posted a team score of 307, finishing the round 19 shots over par.

Sophomore Monique Riley led the way for the Broncos, finishing ninth overall with a final score of 227.

Santa Clara

The Santa Clara Bronco student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom in addition to on the field of play. As a whole, the Broncos recorded a 3.13 average GPA for the 2014 winter quarter, marking the 21st time in 22 quarters that the Broncos topped the 3.0 mark. Eleven Broncos currently hold a 3.4 and 104 athletes earned a 3.5 or higher this past academic quarter.

Lauren Rausche

STANDINGS

Baseball

Team | WCC | Overall
--- | --- | ---
Pepperdine | 12-3 | 28-8
San Diego | 11-4 | 25-11
Loyola Marymount | 11-4 | 22-14
Gonzaga | 8-7 | 12-23
Pacific | 7-8 | 18-20
Santa Clara | 5-7 | 14-22
Saint Mary’s | 5-7 | 13-22
San Francisco | 6-9 | 17-18
Brigham Young | 5-10 | 14-24
Portland | 2-13 | 8-30

Softball

Team | WCC | Overall
--- | --- | ---
Brigham Young | 4-2 | 21-21
Saint Mary’s | 4-2 | 17-19
Pacific | 4-2 | 15-23
San Diego | 3-3 | 18-19
Santa Clara | 2-4 | 6-26
Loyola Marymount | 1-5 | 20-19

Softball

Team | GCC* | Overall
--- | --- | ---
San Diego State (No. 19) | 5-0 | 21-10
Loyola Marymount (No. 12) | 5-1 | 19-11
California Baptist | 3-2 | 20-9
Santa Clara (No. 18) | 3-2 | 14-11
Pacific | 2-4 | 12-16
Azusa Pacific | 1-4 | 15-18
Fresno Pacific | 0-6 | 8-21

*Golden Coast Conference

UPCOMING GAMES

Baseball

Santa Clara @ San Diego | Thu. 4/17 | 6:00 p.m.
Santa Clara @ San Diego | Fri. 4/18 | 6:00 p.m.
Santa Clara @ San Diego | Sat. 4/19 | 1:00 p.m.
Santa Clara @ Stanford | Thu. 4/24 | 2:00 p.m.

Softball

Fresno State @ Santa Clara | Thu. 4/17 | 6:00 p.m.
Santa Clara @ Stanford | Thu. 4/17 | 2:00 p.m.

Women’s Water Polo

Cal Baptist @ Santa Clara | Thu. 4/17 | 3:30 p.m.
Santa Clara @ UC Davis | Sat. 4/19 | 12:00 p.m.

BRONCO BRIEFS

Men and Women’s Golf

Despite falling to the No. 1-ranked squad from Saint Mary’s College over the weekend, SCUTS punched a ticket to the postseason. They will play this Saturday at 2 p.m. on Bellomy Field.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Kert Woods

Baseball

Woods made a game-saving throw from left field to nail a Gonzaga baserunner trying to score, sealing the Broncos’ 6-5 victory over the Bulldogs on Friday.

Did you think that your game-saving throw was going to be in time once it left your hand?

Once it left my hand, I immediately knew I was going to get him at the plate. But we would not have gotten him without a great tag by Stevie (Berman).

Who is your favorite Major League Baseball player right now?

My favorite MLB player now is Jose Reyes.
The Santa Clara

Sports

Thursday, April 17, 2014

California Battle Set to Drop

Just a few hours after the San Francisco Giants and Los Angeles Dodgers wrap up their sixth meeting of the season this afternoon, California’s focus shifts to the ice. The San Jose Sharks and LA Kings will drop the puck on Game 1 of a first round series in the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

A great sports rivalry develops when two excellent teams meet often, play well against each other and make each game absolutely nerve-wracking for fans of both sides. By those criteria, the Sharks and Kings have been building an intense rivalry over the past decade.

Since the 2004-2005 lockout, both squads have acquired key players and solid coaching staffs to become among the top teams in the league. And when the squads meet to play each other, it is an event unto itself. In the past five years, the Sharks and Kings have met 28 times in the regular season. A single goal has determined the winner in 16 of those games. Over the same span, the home team has won 18 times. This has extended to the playoffs, where each team owns one series win.

This season has a particular edge to it. The Kings eliminated the Sharks in seven games last year. Both teams have underperformed somewhat during the season, whether due to injuries in the case of the Sharks or a lack of offense plaguing the Kings. Only one of the teams playing up to their potential.

Moreover, coming into the new season, the Sharks were captivated by the fantastic start of rookie Tomas Hertl. That was until the captain of the Kings, Dustin Brown, shattered Hertl’s knee during a December collision that everyone outside Los Angeles acknowledges as malicious.

In terms of who win the series, it is — of course — a toss-up. The Kings lead the season series, but the Sharks have home-ice advantage. This allows San Jose to put its line out second, creating strategically favorable matchups. It may just come down to which team’s goaltender steps up.

Northern and Southern California are fiercely competitive. In one respect, the Sharks-Kings series is just another chapter in a larger geographic contest. But to fans of each team, it is intensely personal. The fact that Hertl has returned to the lineup just in time to exact revenge adds to the rivalry narrative in a big way. Sharks fans such as myself have not forgotten what happened, and knocking our rival out of the playoffs is the perfect karmic compensation.

There is a line in the Game of Thrones series, one that embodies all of the passion and desire for ultimate victory that Sharks fans crave. Since we too are about to clash with kings, I figure it’s appropriate.


Jonathan Tomczak is a senior political science and history double major and editor of the Opinion section.

Seniors Rally to Claim Victory

Broncos score two wins in final home stand of season

Tyler J. Scott

In storybook fashion, two Santa Clara upperclassmen came to the rescue to help decide a victory for the Broncos in the final home match of the season.

Seniors Katie Le and Stephanie Sklar triumphed in their singles matches against Gonzaga University to capture the 4-3 team victory. Santa Clara’s weekend of play ended with a tally of two wins and zero losses.

“I felt really good (to win on Senior Day),” said Le. “It was a lot tougher than I expected, but it’s always good to clinch on (Senior Day) and even though it was tougher, it was still pretty cool to be able to win 4-3 for my team.”

Before overcoming the Bulldogs, the women’s tennis team defeated the University of Portland 6-1, halting a four-match losing streak in the process.

Head Coach Ben Cabell was pleased to end the skid over the weekend.

“(I feel) pretty good,” said Cabell. “We had a tough schedule, so we knew there was going to be some tough matches and we had a player out so we took all of those things into consideration, but it feels good to get back, especially for a conference match.”

The contest on Sunday was a closely contested affair between the Broncos and the Bulldogs. In front of their home fans for the final time of the regular season, the women willed their way to the victory behind their senior leadership.

The partnership of Le and sophomore Chloe Cooke took the doubles point with an 8-5 victory over the Gonzaga pair.

The Bulldogs were shorthanded and had to default their third doubles match, so Le and Cooke’s victory was all it took for Santa Clara to claim the doubles point.

Gonzaga also had to default their sixth singles match, so right off the bat, Santa Clara jumped out to lead 2-0.

Despite the advantage, the Bulldogs clawed their way back. In the end, two Santa Clara seniors captured wins in singles play to clinch the overall team victory.

Sharas took two sets easily, 6-3 and 6-1, and Le triumphed with a 6-2, 7-5 win to end the match in favor of the Broncos.

The one-point team win marks the sixth time that Santa Clara has won a match by a single point this season, something that Cabell views as one of the squad’s strengths.

“Our team this year has competed very well in close matches,” he said. “If you look at our record, we’ve won a lot of those ‘4-3’ close matches. I think it’s one of the things we’ve worked on and kind of prided ourselves on, so I’m not surprised.”

The day before, the Broncos came out on top, taking down Portland in a lopsided fashion.

Santa Clara’s doubles team of sophomore Delphine Rouvillois and Sharas defeated the Pilots’ pairing 8-2 and then the duo of Le alongside Cooke clinched the doubles point with an 8-4 win over the Pilots’ challengers.

As for singles, Santa Clara won five individual matches including a pair of three-set games by Rouvillois and Le.

After winning the first set 6-2, Rouvillois dropped the second by a score of 1-6 but finished strong in the third, winning the set and game 6-2 again.

Le also took the first set of her singles match, this one by a score of 6-3, but her opponent rallied to take the second 6-3. In a tiebreaker situation, Le came through and won 10-3, capturing the victory.

While Rouvillois and Le battled in three-set matches, the rest of the Broncos’ singles competitors cruised to straight-set victories to help the team win its first match in nearly a month of tennis action.

The Broncos now boast a 9-8 record overall and 4-3 in conference play. They end up with a decisive 5-2 home record and a 2-1 neutral court record. However, they are only 2-5 in away matches including 0-3 in their three most recent away contests.

To finish off the season, the squad will travel to Saint Mary’s College to face the Gaels on Friday. Then, they will head to Stockton, Calif. to take on the University of the Pacific the following morning.

After this weekend, Santa Clara will prepare for the West Coast Conference Championships, which will commence on April 23 in San Diego, Calif.

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