



PURCHASE COLLEGE – SUNY MEN'S BASEBALL RECAP

Panthers Show Resilience at Rutgers-Newark

Piscataway, NJ (**Mar. 8, 2009**) – One of the top DIII programs in the tri-state area got the better of Purchase Sunday. Rutgers-Newark won both ends of the doubleheader 10-3 and 4-3 at Rutgers University's Bainton

Field.

Purchase pushed Rutgers-Newark, especially in game two, putting the tying run at third in the last inning, but the Panthers had no answers for Scarlet Raiders junior first baseman Matt Lingo, who homered in each game of the twin bill. Lingo went 4-for-7 with four RBIs. Rutgers-Newark improved to 3-1, dropping the Panthers to 2-2 in the non-conference doubleheader.

In the opener, Lingo had a two-run single in the Raiders' six-run first inning and added a solo home run over the right field fence to cap a two-run second as the early explosion made an easy winner of sophomore starter Ryan Williams who gave up three runs on six hits while striking out three and walking one in four full innings of the seven-inning game.

In the nightcap, Lingo delivered his second game-winning hit of the day, hammering a two-run homer over the right field fence to break a 2-2 deadlock in the fourth.

Scarlet Raiders designated hitter Christian Diaz belted a one-out solo homer over the left field fence to knot the score after the Panthers posted two runs in the top of the frame.

Rutgers-Newark right-hander Tom Abair, a transfer from Kean, got a win in his first start, battling through two jams. Closer Michael Hansen posted his second save in as many days, becoming the final fourth Rutgers-Newark hurler in the contest to escape disaster. After opening the top of the seventh with a strikeout, the lefthander issued a walk and allowed a single before uncorking a wild pitch to put runners in scoring position. A grounder off the bat of Purchase first baseman **George Kennedy (JR/Nyack, NY)** to second base plated outfielder **Kyle Saud (SR/Jesup, GA)** and put leftfielder **Austin Groves (SO/Stratford, CT)** at third. Hansen struck out Purchase cleanup hitter **Anthony Dowalo (SR/Hicksville, NY)** to end the game, stranding the potential tying run at third.

Kennedy went 1-for-4 with an RBI in game two after collecting two hits and two RBIs in game one. Shortstop **CJ Bula (FR/Bronx, NY)** also had a hit and an RBI in the second game. Groves had a hit in each of the two games and Saud collected two hits in the first game.

The Panthers will now travel to John Jay Wednesday before gearing up for their annual Spring Break trip.

-Bobby Ciafardini, SID

-Rutgers-Newark Sports Information Contributed to this report