Campus' pancreatic cancer research leads the way

By Jimmy McCue
The Collegian

As the average lifespan of Americans increases with each generation, the likelihood of an individual developing cancer, the second leading cause of death in the United States, increases with each passing day.

“It is very likely that cancer will surpass heart disease as the leading cause of deaths in the United States over the next couple of years,” said Dr. Jason Bush, assistant professor of cancer biology at California State University, Fresno.

Non-melanoma skin cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer in the United States, with more than one million new cases expected to develop in 2009, but it is not the most deadly.

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, pancreatic cancer, is considered the most deadly form of cancer, with less than five percent of individuals expecting to survive past five years after initial diagnosis.

During the past three years, Bush has been establishing a cancer research laboratory at Fresno State, getting recognition as part of a campus team from the National Institutes of Health, which has recently received an infrastructure grant worth $4.5 million over the course of five years for molecular analyses at CSU Fresno.

His laboratory consists of several projects running simultaneously, with themes such as defining the differences between metastatic bone-seeking and metastatic brain-seeking breast cancer cells, but he has one project dedicated to finding biomarkers for early stages of pancreatic cancer.

Since pancreatic cancer is usually diagnosed when it has developed into stage-three or stage-four cancer, it has a very high mortality rate.

“It is also a terribly under-funded area of research,” said Bush, who has limited the research needed to find clinical diagnostic techniques for early detection.

Under the leadership of Rowena Chu, a senior graduate student in Bush’s lab and a biology master’s candidate at CSU Fresno, the development over the past two years of secretome analyses (protein signatures secreted by the pancreatic cancer cells) for pancreatic cancer has reached a point where it can progress into its second phase.

By Megan Poindexter
The Collegian

As the Associated Students, Inc (ASI) elections draw near for the 2009-10 school year, students might want an idea of just exactly what the organization does and how it works.

The student government mimics much of the current U.S. system of democracy, but is altered to fit the university’s needs.

It is easiest to break it down by branches.

Executive Branch

The executive branch ranks in the order of president, executive vice president and vice president of finance and according to the ASI bylaws “the executive officers shall, at all times while holding office, satisfy the eligibility and qualification requirements established by the Chanceller of The California State University.”

Vice president of finance is a position characterized by the management of the ASI budget, which is approximately $650,000, depending on student fees.

“It is a very stressful position because work doesn’t end when you leave the office,” said Vice President of Finance Lauren Johnson.

“I have to keep track of all ASI expenditures,” said chief financial officer, Johnson gives advice to senators about the appropriateness of their expenditures. The position also requires the creation of the following year’s budget.

Johnson works closely with executive vice president Jessica Sweeten. According to article two, section three “the executive vice president shall be selected by a simple majority of the voting members of the senate each academic year.”

The position requires the executive vice president to cast the deciding vote of any ties in senate decision-making and in senate meetings is the senate chair.

In the event that the president is unable to fulfill his or her duties, the executive vice president will fill the vacancy.

Serving as the current ASI president is Graham Wahlberg.

According to ASI bylaws the president can fill vacant positions that are then confirmed by a simple majority of the senate, can veto any action made by the senate, can issue executive orders and be responsible for other duties “prescribed by the student senate.”

“University official[s] treat my position as an equal,” said Wahlberg.

“I call to light what we see them doing wrong or what we disagree with.”

As head of ASI, Wahlberg is given the ability to create a president’s cabinet.

However, citing a small budget and other important things to focus on, Wahlberg said he did not create a personal staff for the year.

“You have to be very careful with something that powerful,” said Wahlberg.

According to the president’s handbook, 75 percent of time is spent in meetings, speaking and making public appearances while 15 percent is for special appearances and 10 percent is spent on e-mails and making phone calls.

Legislative Branch

The legislative branch currently consists of 15 senators, eight of which are senators of colleges and seven of which are senators at large.

Next year will see the addition of two new senators.

Starting this fall, the senator of auxiliary will be changed to the senator of legislative affairs and there will be a senator serving as a Greek liaison.

All senate members are dignified as representatives for the constituents of their specific areas, and in charge of being the student voice to administration.

ASI bylaws state that senators shall associate themselves with issues that directly affect students and are to

Some members of the Fresno State community just can’t wait until Spring Break to get a little bit of relaxing in — this man decided to spend his Friday afternoon taking a nap on the concrete blocks outside the Henry Madden Library.

By Sarah Gilbert
The Collegian

Cancer leads the way into its second phase.

Pancreatic cancer has reached pancreatic cancer cells) for early detection.

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High mortality rate.

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CANCER: Students contribute to research for early signs of cancer

CONTINUED from page 1

Ultimately, Chu and her teammates on the project are trying to analyze and isolate specific soluble proteins and secretions from cultured cancer cells of the pancreas, called ductal cells, to find biomarkers that would indicate the early developments of pancreatic cancer.

In the first phase, Chu and her lab associates have been trying to establish in vitro pancreatic ductal cell culture lines of acini, which are the glandular portions of the pancreas that secrete enzymes to help dissolve your food within the intestines. Development of this model system has allowed them to isolate specific proteins to determine whether or not they are indicators of pancreatic cancer.

Now that they have established their culture lines, they will be comparing them to primary cells from tumors that have been removed from patients with pancreatic cancer, to compare the secreted protein signatures or ‘secretome’ by the cells from cancer patients.

Once they have established a correlation between their culture line and that of primary cells from tumors of pancreatic cancer patients, they will then compare with that of pancreatic juices released from patients with pancreatic cancer.

The analysis of the pancreatic juices will allow Chu and her associates to develop a method that will allow physicians to test an individual for early pancreatic cancer, after obtaining a sample of the pancreatic juice through a procedure called endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP).

“Trying to find a translation from the lab to the clinic,” said Bush, should be the driver when it comes to biomedical research. Without this connection, it is nearly impossible to apply what has been done in the lab to actual practice.

Though the past two years have been exhausting for Chu and her team and the research is long from over, the benefits of the outcome outweigh the numerous nights of little sleep.

“I often feel there should be two of me,” said Chu. “But I always look at the bigger picture and keep in mind what I am here to do, which outweighs any drawbacks to the responsibilities I have in the lab.”

For David Wells, an undergraduate research assistant in Bush’s lab, working in the lab is not a daunting, but rather an environment where everyone is working together for a common goal.

“Everyone in the lab is very inviting,” said Wells. “We each have our own projects, but we are also learning from everyone else’s project at the same time. We work in a little learning community and try to help each other out when we can.”

Corrections
• The March 25 story “Parking renovations could raise fees” incorrectly stated the price of a year-round pass. The price could go up to $272 for the Fall/Spring pass when it opens in 2012.
• The March 27 story “ASI considers pay for senators” was incorrectly attributed. The story was written by Brian Maxey.

ASI: Judicial branch deals primarily with elections issues, violations

CONTINUED from page 1

approve the yearly budget. In addition, in order to override a president’s veto the senate needs a two-thirds vote.

In past years, senate members were required by ASI to complete three projects a year.

However, when Wahlberg entered office, he believed that the senate needed to be working closer with the student body.

Therefore, he made it mandatory for senators to meet with their constituents and department faculty once a week.

“All these senators are really taking this to heart and doing such an amazing job,” said Wahlberg.

“They are starting to become infectious on campus.”

Working in close partnership with their constituents, senators bring their concerns and proposed ideas to senate meetings.

Meetings are held every other Wednesday and are run in strict, professional manner. Senators each give updates about the concerns and future plans of their constituents.

The two most important aspects on the agenda are the actions and information.

Actions are items that the senate votes on, such as issuing money to a senator for a college event. Informational items are simply topics discussed in the meetings, but are not voted on.

In addition, another chief responsibility at these meetings is to pass or deny solutions.

If the university decides to make any new policies or increase any fees, then the senate votes either for or against the proposal.

Judicial Branch

Five people make up the judiciary and all have lifetime terms, which means as long as they are a student enrolled at the university they are part of the court.

Members of the court are in constant communication through e-mail said Amanda Fine, who is in her first year on the court.

The members do not meet on a regular basis until the end of the school year when election season is near.

According to the ASI bylaws, “Any member of the Associated Students who desires to bring an issue to the student court may due so by submitting a written statement to the Chief Justice, in care of the Associated Students’ office.”

While the judicial branch deals with discrepancies between the legislative and executive branch, they mostly deal with election violations.

“We really only deal with issues when it comes to the elections,” Fine said.

“We are objective individuals who aren’t really involved in ASI and can look in from the outside to ensure the integrity of the elections.”

Other than assuring that candidates follow the rules of the election, the members of the judicial branch don’t have any other major responsibilities.

The structure of ASI is not overly-complicated, but at the same time it does take time to understand the specifics.

Any person involved in student government have high hopes that students will better understand the purpose of it all to get more involved.
Long distance relationships:

When I was sixteen, I had long-distance relationships...
The evolution of the comic book

By J.W. Faria
The Collegian

The Holocaust, September 11 attacks, Islamic Revolution, and gay and lesbian superheroes. These heavy-hitting topics are not what you would typically think of finding in a comic book. As Bob Dylan sang in his 1964 album of the same name, “the times, they are a-changin.”

Comic books are becoming more responsible. He said that comic books can hold up a mirror to society and be a reflection of society as a whole.

The question that is raised within the comic book industry is art imitating life or is life imitating art?

Tyler Jost, 21, an avid comic book reader and frequent customer of Roberto’s comic book shop, said, “Everything goes into graphic novels eventually.”

Yet, Jost said half the fun of collecting and reading comics is getting the individual books. You get to see your books grow in a sense,” Jost said. For Jost, it’s about the personal attachment and experience you get when following characters and story arcs on a month-to-month basis.

Dr. Samina Najmi, an assistant professor of English at Fresno State, teaches two courses involving graphic novels or graphic narratives as source material for the course, English 179, Multi-Ethnic U.S. Literature, and English 193T, Mid-Eastern American Literature.

The two graphic novels she uses are Marjane Satrapi’s “Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood” and Art Spiegelman’s “In the Shadow of No Towers.”

“What I like about them is that they are an accessible, non-elitist genre,” Najmi said. Najmi said she grew up on Betty and Veronica, an Archie comic book.

Some people consider a literary medium such as graphic novels or graphic narratives to be a lesser form compared to novels or other types of literature. “I think that’s changing,” Najmi said.

She has felt an academic shift in the last few years “that means something,” according to Dr. Najmi, more professors and instructors are using this accessible literary and art medium as a tool to teach.

“There was very little out there to address 9/11,” Najmi said. “It was a different political climate.” With Spiegelman’s “In the Shadow of No Towers,” Najmi finds a medium, “that speaks to the power of the graphic form.”

Najmi has heard strong reactions from students with Spiegelman’s work. Spiegelman’s other graphic novel, “Maus,” talks about the need to resist racial profiling, something that his parents went through during the Holocaust, because they were Jewish.

“Through teaching, I’ve gotten more visual myself,” Najmi said. “Persepolis,” another graphic narrative in Najmi’s teaching canon, is an autobiographical account of the author’s life during the late 1970s Islamic Revolution in Iran, when the writer was 9 to 14 years of age. “In some parts it really shocked me,” Najmi said. The advantage and appeal to students is they get a crash course of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in an atypical literary format.

Nick Clark, 28, currently reads both The Walking Dead and X-Men titles. “My favorite is The End League,” Clark said.

Clark thinks that writers always try to write what people are interested in. “Perfect example, is the Barack Obama Spiderman issue,” Clark said, “They definitely mirror what’s going on in the world.”

Word of the Day

bromance

Describes the complicated love and affection shared by two straight males.

From UrbanDictionary.com

Photo Illustration by Bryan Cole
Rose Hennig finally finds a donor and gets her bone marrow transplant.

By Sarah A. Peterson  
The Collegian

Rose Hennig has finally found her perfect match—though they have never actually met.

She doesn’t know much about the person responsible for saving her life, only that he’s a 24-year-old with two tattoos. Hennig, a 20-year-old Fresno State student, had thought her battle with a rare form of cancer would never end.

But then she was given a perfect match from a bone marrow donor.

Her sister Katie had a 25 percent chance of being a match, but when those results came back negative, Hennig turned to the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) Registry.

“I had no idea how long it was going to kill me,” she said. “It was scary, but I thought, it’s really hard to think about it.”

Hennig, a 20-year-old Fresno State student, had thought her battle with a rare form of cancer would never end. “I had been trying to push it to the back of my mind, so I didn’t really think about it.”

But then she was given a perfect match from a bone marrow donor, please visit Marrow.org.

“I was kind of shocked by how happy I was. I had been trying to push it to the back of my mind, so I wouldn’t have to think about it.”

After another round of chemotherapy treatments in late July 2008, she was eagerly anticipating a return to her life at Fresno State as a Kappa Alpha Theta sister and a member of the equestrian team, but by the end of September, the cancer returned.

And this time, chemotherapy could no longer be trusted to get the job done. Hennig would need a peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) transplant with a match from a bone marrow donor.

After the initial transplant, it takes about 100 days for the stem cells to grow and develop into a new blood system. And Hennig is looking forward to that day.

“Once the 100 days are up, I can go outside without wearing a mask,” she said. “I can go more places. It’ll still be six months to a year before I can see my horse, though.”

She also looks forward to the day she can return to Fresno State, to her sorority, and to the equestrian team. “Before any of this happened I was an undeclared major,” Hennig said, “but now I’m thinking about going into nursing, because I figure, who better to help people go through all of this than someone who’s been there already.”

Hennig celebrated her 21st birthday on March 29, surrounded by her family and two other bone marrow transplant (bmt) patients that she met at Stanford.

“I can’t really go buy alcohol yet, though,” she said, “because nobody would really be able to see me under my face mask. Maybe next year.”

For more information on becoming a marrow donor, please visit Marrow.org.

“Running through things because you are familiar with them breeds routine, and this is the seed of boredom.”

— James Galway, Irish musician

The perfect match

Rose Hennig finally finds a donor and gets her bone marrow transplant.

The daily crossword

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nicholas Lewis Tribune Media Services, Inc.

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Across
1 Tobacco substitute, not necessarily healthy
2 A type of Egyptian surnames
3 Military rank
4 Public servant
5 Indianapolis
6 The first name of the Greek author of “The Iliad” and “The Odyssey”
7 The head of the Roman goddess of victory
8 “Bleah!”
9 The playground game
10 A type of pepper
11 A type of bread
12 A type of pool
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14 A type of cheese
15 A type of beer
16 A type of record
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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

The Collegian is a forum for student expression. http://collegian.csufresno.edu
Sprague: Hometown boy making senior year count

Continued from page 8

The long ball

Junior Tom Mendonca has already hit 11 home runs this season. Mendonca hit three round-trippers this weekend, to take sole possession of second place on Fresno State’s all-time home run list at 40. Giuseppe Chiaramonte is the Bulldogs’ all-time leader with 42.

“Records are records, if they’re set, they’re broken,” Mendonca said. “If it happens, it happens. If it doesn’t, I’m just happy to play baseball.” Although Fresno State’s weekend had several positive trends continued to rear their ugly head, including shaky performances from the bullpen. Over the last three seasons, they’ve had limited to spot starts and long relief.

Although those victories were things he will never forget, Sprague said putting 2008 behind him was key for his success this season. “Putting last season in the past was easy for us this year because we had a good, solid group of guys coming back.” Sprague said. “That made it easy for us to let the past go; plus we have a whole bunch of young guys who didn’t experience that, so we knew we had a clean slate this year.”

Coach Mike Batesole knows that the learning curve will be something his young pitching staff will need to overcome, but with Sprague at the helm, he’s confident his team will be right where it needs to be come conference play.

“Sprague has nine starts last season and finished 6-2 so he’s earned the right to toe the rubber on the weekend for us,” Batesole said. “If he keeps doing well, he’ll keep that spot.”

Growing up down the road from Pete Beiden Field, Sprague said he never thought “Bulldogs to Super Regionals and picking up a win against Georgia in game two of the College World Series final.”

He remembers being 12 years old coming up games with his friends idolizing Bob Bennett’s Diamond ‘Dogs of old. Now he’s the only one out of that group of friends still playing baseball.

Sprague may not have asked for it, but his veteran presence and the way he carries himself on the mound are the model by which his young teammates are learning the Division I game.

“Whether you have a good outing or a bad outing, it’s bouncing back and knowing what you’re supposed to do that will take care of the experience factor right away,” Sprague said. “It’s amazing, because [pitching at Beiden Field] is something I never thought I’d be doing.”

After spending last season as a long reliever/spot starter, senior Holden Sprague is the ace of the Bulldogs’ pitching staff.

Continued from page 8

have learned the hard way.

Fresno State has lost many games this year in the late innings due to inefficiency from pitchers coming out of the bullpen.

While a lot of that may have to do with inexperience, Sprague said that it’s not a good enough excuse.

“Every year is different, so you can’t really blame anything,” Sprague said. “You can’t blame what we do in the next few months on our experience because we’re all pitchers and we all know what’s expected out of us and we know what to do.”

Sprague is the only pitcher on this season’s staff to have logged more than 26 innings in a single season and started nine games for the Bulldogs last season.

Fresno State lost all four of its weekend starters from a year ago and Sprague’s duties over the last three seasons have become a specialty for the Fresno native.

Last season, Sprague excelled on the game’s biggest stage, beating San Diego, sending the Bulldogs to Super Regionals and picking up a win against Georgia in game two of the College World Series final.

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Growi...
CONTINUED from page 8

Track and field head south for Cal-Nevadas

While the club does receive money from Associated Student, Inc. (ASI) and IRA, it does not have near the same budget as other athletic teams at Fresno State.

Each player pays $500 to play and must buy their own plane ticket for traveling.

In addition to cost being an obstacle for the team’s success, so is time. The team practices twice a week, but with gym space tight, they often can’t practice until 8 p.m. or 9 p.m. on school nights. Practice can end anywhere from 10 p.m. to midnight.

Only a select few universities nationwide have men’s volleyball programs run through the NCAA. However, there are over 320 universities with club volleyball programs, and that is where the true prestige lies, according to Tsukimura.

To the members of the Fresno State men’s volleyball team, it isn’t an issue making part of the NCAA or receiving much exposure.

“If it would be nice to get a little more recognition,” said Gillen. “But our fans know who we are and volleyball is such a tight community.”

Scott Winsor will also experience that success on a national level has been reached without the help that most other athletic programs receive.

Taylor Franzman competed in the pole vault at this past weekend’s Cal-Nevada meet.

Junior Jake Wiens (above) was league MVP last season for Fresno State. The Buchanan High grad made the All-Tournament Team for his performance at nationals last season.

Track and field head south for Cal-Nevadas

By Lorenzo Reyno

In preparation for the Cal-Nevada Championships, Fresno State track and field coach Scott Winsor had to address the “C” word to his team while in practice.

“Our kids are going to see some great competition – probably competition that they haven’t seen yet,” Winsor said. “But that’s what we need.”

The Cal-Nevada Championships is one of the many marquee meets for the Fresno State track and field squad every year. But for the Bulldogs, having to travel to UCLA to compete against some of the top track programs in the state of California and Nevada.

The trip to Los Angeles will mark a first in the Cal-Nevada meet. The Championships will be held on the UCLA campus. Scott Winsor will also experience his first trip to UCLA.

“I’ve never competed at UCLA. We’ve competed at Mount Sac every year for 20 years, but never at UCLA,” Winsor said.

Winsor still believes that being in Los Angeles will be a benefit for his team as the season progresses.

“I guess it’s a great venue and a beautiful track,” Winsor said. “Its kind of like the old basketball saying ‘the basket is ten feet high.’ ‘The track is 400 meters, that’s what they’ll run on and that’s what we’ll do.’”

For Winsor and the Bulldogs’ track and field squad, the competition will be huge, especially with a couple of Pac-10 teams involved.

“It’s going to be a heck of a meet,” Winsor said. “It is an every year.”

Winsor said that the team needed some time to prepare for the Cal-Nevada meet and has been impressed with the overall progression.

“We’ve had a good couple of weeks here,” Winsor said. “Last week was very good for us. Our decathletes had a heck of a day, so we are looking to build on that. The kids know that we need to keep it up and get better every week.”

Not only do the Bulldogs need to step it up every week, they also want to win the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) title and then send some of their athletes to the NCAA Regional.

“Our minimum goal is to win WAC,” Winsor said. “But above and beyond that, we want to make sure that we are prepared to get to the regional and then prepare to get out of regions and into the NCAA. This is just another opportunity to show the kids how to do that.”

One key element on the women’s side for the Bulldogs is WAC individual champion Tierra Hilliard, who will be participating in the sprint competition. Hilliard is familiar with some of the competition in the Cal-Nevada meet.

“We saw a few teams last week,” Hilliard said. “There’s like 30 schools, so there’s going to be good competition every year.”

Hilliard is content with being a conference individual champion, but she is looking to have more results during the Cal-Nevada meet and beyond.

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TACOS MARQUITOS
Each player pays $500 to play and must buy their own plane ticket for traveling.

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“If it would be nice to get a little more recognition,” said Gillen. “But our fans know who we are and volleyball is such a tight community.”

Scott Winsor will also experience that success on a national level has been reached without the help that most other athletic programs receive.

Taylor Franzman competed in the pole vault at this past weekend’s Cal-Nevada meet.

Junior Jake Wiens (above) was league MVP last season for Fresno State. The Buchanan High grad made the All-Tournament Team for his performance at nationals last season.

Track and field head south for Cal-Nevadas

By Lorenzo Reyno

In preparation for the Cal-Nevada Championships, Fresno State track and field coach Scott Winsor had to address the “C” word to his team while in practice.

“Our kids are going to see some great competition – probably competition that they haven’t seen yet,” Winsor said. “But that’s what we need.”

The Cal-Nevada Championships is one of the many marquee meets for the Fresno State track and field squad every year. But for the Bulldogs, having to travel to UCLA to compete against some of the top track programs in the state of California and Nevada.

The trip to Los Angeles will mark a first in the Cal-Nevada meet. The Championships will be held on the UCLA campus. Scott Winsor will also experience his first trip to UCLA.

“I’ve never competed at UCLA. We’ve competed at Mount Sac every year for 20 years, but never at UCLA,” Winsor said.

Winsor still believes that being in Los Angeles will be a benefit for his team as the season progresses.

“I guess it’s a great venue and a beautiful track,” Winsor said. “Its kind of like the old basketball saying ‘the basket is ten feet high.’ ‘The track is 400 meters, that’s what they’ll run on and that’s what we’ll do.’”

For Winsor and the Bulldogs’ track and field squad, the competition will be huge, especially with a couple of Pac-10 teams involved.

“It’s going to be a heck of a meet,” Winsor said. “It is an every year.”

Winsor said that the team needed some time to prepare for the Cal-Nevada meet and has been impressed with the overall progression.

“We’ve had a good couple of weeks here,” Winsor said. “Last week was very good for us. Our decathletes had a heck of a day, so we are looking to build on that. The kids know that we need to keep it up and get better every week.”

Not only do the Bulldogs need to step it up every week, they also want to win the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) title and then send some of their athletes to the NCAA Regional.

“Our minimum goal is to win WAC,” Winsor said. “But above and beyond that, we want to make sure that we are prepared to get to the regional and then prepare to get out of regions and into the NCAA. This is just another opportunity to show the kids how to do that.”

One key element on the women’s side for the Bulldogs is WAC individual champion Tierra Hilliard, who will be participating in the sprint competition. Hilliard is familiar with some of the competition in the Cal-Nevada meet.

“We saw a few teams last week,” Hilliard said. “There’s like 30 schools, so there’s going to be good competition every year.”

Hilliard is content with being a conference individual champion, but she is looking to have more results during the Cal-Nevada meet and beyond.

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Wise Ol’ Owl

Lone senior has become leader and mentor to young pitching staff

By Jimmy Graben
The Collegian

Coming into the 2009 baseball season, senior pitcher Holden Sprague knew he had a tall task ahead of him. Not only is there that whole defending national champions thing, but the right-hander has been unofficially labeled as the staff mentor.

That’s a lot of mentoring when you’re the only senior on the pitching staff and there are 10 new players who haven’t thrown a pitch in Division I baseball.

Now instead of playing games with camera men at the College World Series, Sprague is being a role model for a team looking to capture its fourth consecutive Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Championship.

One player Sprague has had a direct impact on is sophomore Jake Floethe.

In his first year in the starting rotation, Floethe attributes his early success to the lessons Sprague has taught him and the rest of his teammates.

“He’s a great role model,” Floethe said. “We watch him work hard during the offseason and we get to watch him pitch Friday nights and it’s great. He tears apart hitters and as a staff we just sit back there and learn from him.”

But, all of the new responsibilities and expectations haven’t affected the way Sprague approaches the game.

The Bullard High grad said that he takes an offensive mentality when pitching, because the key is attacking the mitt and just throwing strikes.

“It’s just going out there and knowing what you’re capable of and knowing that you’re one on that’s going to succeed and not the hitter,” Sprague said. “It’s just tricking your mind to the point where there is no failure and if there is failure you have to bounce back and take every pitch one at a time.”

This is something that many of the younger pitchers on this year’s staff have faced the minimum number of batters in a game since 1947, thanks to an 11-run fourth inning and a three out of four games against Lipscomb. Mendonca hit a three-run home run in the bottom of the ninth Sunday, to tie the game.

Junior Tom Mendonca came closer to becoming Fresno State’s all-time home run leader, hitting three bombs in the four games against Lipscomb. Mendonca hit a three-run home run in the bottom of the ninth Sunday, to tie the game.

Senior catcher Danny Benny faced the minimum 27 batters on Saturday night to pick up a complete game, two-hit shutout on Saturday night over Lipscomb.

Benny’s performance was the first time a Bulldog pitcher has faced the minimum number of batters in a game since 1947.

“Just being able to go out there and throw like that in front of my family was great,” Benny said. “We got a lot of runs out there, no errors on our defense and our fielders helping me out was great.”

The Diamond ‘Dogs put up 10 runs behind Benny to cap off a Saturday doubleheader sweep.

Fresno State won the first game on Saturday 13-11, thanks to an 11-run fourth inning and a three out of four games against Lipscomb.

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