

April 21, 2017  
Volume 2, Issue 10

# Rutgers Baseball



## GAME TOMORROW!

The Scarlet Knights open their weekend series against the Iowa Hawkeyes tonight in Iowa City. Tune in to the Big Ten Network tomorrow night at 7p.m. est to watch Rutgers take on Iowa in game 2 of this 3 game series.

## Home Games Next Week:

4/25 Villanova  
4/26 Columbia  
4/28 Michigan  
4/29 Michigan  
4/30 Michigan  
5/2 Wagner

## Rutgers takes the Purdue Series!!

After being swept in the opening conference series against Maryland and getting the next weekend series cancelled due to weather, the Scarlet Knights went into last weekend's series against Purdue hungry to play. Coming off of a 28-4 victory over Lafayette on Wednesday, Rutgers had the bats and pitching staff running on all cylinders.

On Friday, Rutgers out-hit Purdue by the count of 11-10 and stole six bases, but left 10 men on base. Senior Tom Marcinczyk reached base safely all five trips on three walks, a double and a single to lead the bats, while sophomore Jawuan Harris scored three runs in as many visits to the base paths. The outfielder also swiped three bases to bring his career total to 55, tied for eighth-most in school history. Sophomore Mike Martinez added two hits, a walk and two steals and classmate Carmen Sclafani singled and doubled. Senior Christian Campbell had three RBIs.



On the mound, senior Ryan Fleming closed out the game with 2.2 innings of scoreless relief with one hit allowed to keep RU within striking distance. Freshman Kyle Gerace worked two innings after senior Gaby Rosa (3-3), who took the loss in a 4.1-inning start. The right-hander struck out four.

Down 7-4 in the ninth inning, the Scarlet Knights loaded the bases with no outs. Harris and Martinez both singled, with Marcinczyk taking ball four to put the tying run on. The Boilermakers then called on Ross Learnard from the bullpen. Next, Campbell and junior Milo Freeman both lifted sacrifice flies to cut the deficit to one. However, Learnard stranded Marcinczyk at first on a strikeout to pick up his third save of the season.

Falling behind in the series 0-1, Rutgers would look to sophomore Serafino Brito and junior John O'Reilly to secure the series.

On Saturday Rutgers baseball overcame an early three-run deficit and held on late to beat Purdue, 7-6, Saturday at Bainton Field to earn its first Big Ten victory of the season.

Sophomore Serafino Brito (2-6) earned the win for RU in a six-inning start, allowing four earned runs. The right-hander struck out three and has now not walked a batter in his last 20 innings worked. Sophomore Ryan Wares followed with a scoreless frame of relief, which included stranding the tying run at third base. Finishing up, fifth-year senior Max Herrmann collected his fifth save of the season and 14th of his career by holding a one-run lead the last two innings.

Offensively, senior Tom Marcinczyk had two hits and walk to make it on base in 8-of-9 trips to the plate so this series. He also contributed two runs and one RBI. Junior Chris Folinusz also had a multiple-hit game with a single and a double, adding a sacrifice fly and two runs scored. The Scarlet Knights took advantage of three Purdue errors to plate four unearned runs.

Down 4-1 in the fourth, Rutgers sent 10 batters to the plate to score five runs on three hits and two errors. Sophomore Jawuan Harris started it off with a single and classmate Mike Martinez walked to put two aboard. After Harris swiped third, Marcinczyk lined an RBI single to make it a two-run game. Senior Christian Campbell came up next and placed a well-positioned bunt for a hit to load the bases. Folinusz then chopped a ball back to the mound that was errantly thrown home, as Martinez slid in safely. Freshman Kevin Welsh and junior Milo Freeman then each followed with RBI fielder's choices to give Rutgers the lead. Continuing, sophomore Carmen Sclafani walked and senior Mike Carter lifted a sacrifice fly to make it 6-4.

The Boilermakers scored an unearned run off a stolen base in the fifth, but the Scarlet Knights added that run back in the sixth. Folinusz hit a leadoff double off the base of the left-field wall, with Welsh then laying down a sacrifice bunt that was thrown away to allow a run to score.

In the top of the seventh, an error put a Purdue runner on base that would eventually score. That is when Wares entered from the bullpen and ended up facing a runners-at-the-corner situation with one out. However, he escaped with the one-run lead by inducing an infield pop and lineout to center field.

Herrmann took the mound in the eighth. With a runner at second and one out, the veteran fielded a comebacker and ran down the baserunner straying off the base in a textbook manner to eliminate a man in scoring position. A short pop fly to right field completed the inning.

In the ninth, the first batter reached on a hit by pitch, but sophomore Nick Matera, who had just entered the game, gunned out the runner attempting to steal. Purdue did hit a two-out triple, but Herrmann picked up a grounder to shortstop to preserve the victory.

Rutgers baseball jumped out to an 8-0 lead and junior John O'Reilly carried it from there in dominant fashion on the way to an 8-2 victory Sunday at Bainton Field. Making his 30th career start, O'Reilly (3-5) retired the first 19 batters faced to carry a perfect game with one out in the seventh inning. A walk would end the bid for perfection and a single with two down ended the no-hitter, but the right-hander continued on to finish the eighth inning for the first time in his career. He tied his collegiate high with seven strikeouts, holding Purdue to just three hits and two runs in the economical 95-pitch outing.



Offensively, the Scarlet Knights collected 12 hits and scored eight times to bring the weekly total to 49 runs. Sophomore Jawuan Harris reached base four times on two walks, a single and an RBI triple, while junior Chris Folinusz banged two doubles. Sophomore Mike Martinez and senior Christian Campbell added two singles apiece in the balanced attack.

The Scarlet Knights quickly went ahead with three runs in the first inning. Senior Mike Carter and Harris each started with walks, but a double play threatened to quiet the rally. However, senior Tom Marcinczyk went against the shift and grounded a ball through the vacated shortstop area for an RBI single. Campbell would then single and advance on an error to put two in scoring position for Folinusz, who laced a two-run double on a full count to the right-center gap.

In the third, Harris drew a leadoff walk and ran to third when Martinez lined a single to left-center. Martinez would then steal second with the ball scooting into center field to permit Harris to trot home.

The lead ballooned to eight with a four-run rally in the fourth that included five hits. Folinusz started it off with a double and scored when freshman Kevin Welsh laid down a bunt for a hit that was thrown away. Sophomore Nick Matera followed with a bunt single of his own to put runners on the corner for sophomore Carmen Sclafani, who hit a sacrifice fly. After the second out, Harris drilled a line drive that went all the way to the left-center wall for an RBI triple. Martinez capped the inning with an RBI single.

That would prove to be plenty of run support for O'Reilly, who picked up 11 outs on the ground on the day and cruised through the first six innings. Harry Shipley drew a walk on a full count with one out in the seventh to end the perfect game and Skyler Hunter singled for the first hit with two outs. A two-run double by Jacson McGowan put the Boilermakers (18-17, 6-6) on the board. The last no-hitter by a Rutgers pitcher was thrown by Gary Malikoski in 1978.

O'Reilly worked around a leadoff double in the eighth, striking out two of the last three batters faced to end the career-long start. It was also the longest by a Scarlet Knight this season.





## Rutgers Heads to Iowa!

Rutgers baseball is set to travel to Iowa for its first Big Ten road series of the season, which starts Friday at Banks Field. The Scarlet Knight have been home the last three weekends after playing the previous six on the road.

Saturday's 7 p.m. ET game will air on Big Ten Network following the RU football spring game, with Brandon Gaudin and Danan Hughes on the call. The other two contests will broadcast on BTN Plus.

### SCOUTING RUTGERS

Rutgers will make its initial trip to Iowa for a Big Ten series, marking the ninth Big Ten campus visited since joining the league in 2015. The Scarlet Knights have not previously played at Minnesota, Nebraska and Northwestern in conference play. The latter two are on the schedule for later in the season, with the Minnesota series still in discussions for determining possible makeup dates.

Rutgers is coming off a heartbreaking loss in non-conference action Wednesday at Seton Hall. In a seesaw affair that saw both teams stage late rallies, the Pirates came away with a walk-off inside-the-park home run in the 12th inning to end a five-hour, eight-minute contest. Senior Mike Carter went 7-for-11 with a home run versus SHU to up his non-conference batting average to .452 this season. Sophomores Jawuan Harris and Mike Martinez each picked up four hits in the two midweek games.

Prior to that, RU won its last Big Ten series by taking the last two games over Purdue at Bainton Field. Junior John O'Reilly seized the rubber game by retiring the first 19 batter faced and striking out seven. The bats scored at least six runs in each game and have plated that number or more the last six times out, a stretch that started with a school-record 28 runs at Lafayette.

Overall, Carter ranks No. 27 nationally and leads the Big Ten with a .397 batting average. He also enters the weekend tied for first in the league with 54 hits, third with a .465 on-base percentage, tied for fourth with 11 doubles, sixth with a .559 slugging percentage and tied for 12th with 29 runs scored. Seeing time at designated hitter, first base and left field, Carter has reached base in 32-of-34 games and is closing in on 200 career hits at 192.

Senior Tom Marcinczyk is also approaching the 200-hit mark with 190 to his record. The right fielder is hitting .450/.621/.850 over the last six games and is tied for third in the conference with 24 walks drawn. Hitting six home runs, Marcinczyk is one off the team lead held by Harris, who has seven in addition to 19 stolen bases. The 26 home runs hit by the Scarlet Knights top the 19 hits in all of 2016.

Rutgers will use the same starting rotation, lining up senior Gaby Rosa, sophomore Serafino Brito and O'Reilly in that order versus the Hawkeyes. Rosa struck out four in 4.1 innings last time against Purdue and brings 10 career victories to the mound. Brito won last Saturday by pitching six innings with four runs to hold a lead.

Rutgers (13-21, 2-4) at Iowa (22-13, 5-4) - Iowa City, Iowa	
Game 35	April 21 - 7 p.m. ET
Probable Pitching Matchup	Rutgers - RHP <a href="#">Gaby Rosa</a> (3-3, 5.86 ERA) Iowa - RHP Nick Gallagher (4-1, 2.55 ERA)
Coverage	<a href="#">BTN Plus</a>   <a href="#">Live Stats</a>
Game 36 (BTN)	April 22 - 7 p.m. ET
Probable Pitching Matchup	Rutgers - RHP <a href="#">Serafino Brito</a> (2-6, 5.21 ERA) Iowa - LHP Ryan Erickson (1-1, 3.55 ERA)
Coverage	<a href="#">BTN2Go</a>   <a href="#">Live Stats</a>
Game 37	April 23 - 1 p.m. ET
Probable Pitching Matchup	Rutgers - RHP <a href="#">John O'Reilly</a> (3-5, 5.13 ERA) Iowa - TBA
Coverage	<a href="#">BTN Plus</a>   <a href="#">Live Stats</a>
<b>R</b>	<a href="#">Roster</a>   <a href="#">Schedule</a>   <a href="#">Statistics</a>   <a href="#">Fact Book</a>
	<a href="#">Social Media</a>
	<a href="#">Twitter</a>   <a href="#">Facebook</a>   <a href="#">Instagram</a>   <a href="#">Snapchat</a>

The right-hander has not walked a batter in 20 innings, ranking first in the Big Ten and No. 29 nationally with just 1.16 base on balls permitted per nine innings. Rounding out the order, O'Reilly is coming off the best start of his career that included carrying a perfect game into the seventh inning. He ended up pitching a career-high eight innings and matched his collegiate best with seven strikeouts.

Out of the bullpen, senior Ryan Fleming leads the staff and is tied for fourth in the conference with 17 appearances on the season. The left-hander worked two scoreless frames in extra innings on Wednesday. Fifth-year senior Max Herrmann has five saves and 14 in his career, tied for third-most in school history.

**SCOUTING IOWA**

The Hawkeyes won 2-of-3 in their last Big Ten set at Nebraska and also own a weekend series victory over Purdue. Most recently, the team suffered a 6-4 road loss in midweek action at Bradley, but hold an 11-1 record at Banks Field this season. Jake Adams leads the Big Ten with 14 home runs and has 46 RBIs, while Robert Neustrom is hitting .358. Friday starter Nick Gallagher brings a 2.55 ERA into the weekend with a .232 average against. Overall, Iowa is hitting .285/.377/.429 as a team and has a 4.16 staff ERA.

Rick Heller is in his fourth season as the head coach. [Click here for more on Iowa baseball.](#)

**THE SERIES**

Rutgers closed out the 2015 season by taking 2-of-3 over then-No. 13 Iowa at Bainton Field. Howie Brey pitched a complete game to lead RU to a 5-3 victory in the series opener. After the Hawkeyes won the middle game by the score of 10-3, the Scarlet Knights held on for a 3-2 win in the rubber game to become the first team to win a weekend set over UI that season. Marcinczyk delivered a two-run double that proved to be the difference in that victory.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 5-4, as six previous games were played at neutral sites.

# THANK YOU!!!

Following Saturday's win against Purdue, the Rutgers baseball team shaved their heads to cap off their fundraiser for the Vs. Cancer Foundation. The team has been raising money since the fall to fund research for different types of childhood cancers. Half of the money will go to support the Vs. Cancer Foundations mission and the other half goes directly to the Robert Wood Johnson Children's Hospital. This year the Scarlet Knights raised:

## \$17,589.80

The Rutgers baseball team would like to thank everyone who donated and attended this event. Without your help we could not have had such a successful campaign to do good for so many kids.

