

Dominant Pitching and Timely Hitting Leads to University of Washington Victory

SEATTLE, Wash. – The University of Washington baseball team secured a series split on Sunday with its 4-0 victory over Utah Valley University. Junior hurler Stevie Emanuels led the way for the Huskies, as he tossed seven shutout innings and struck out eight batters. This victory moves the University of Washington to 9-6 and drops Utah Valley University to 5-12.

Sophomore Mason Gray started on the mound for the Wolverines and he looked sharp right out of the gate as he struck out three batters and limited the Huskies to zero runs through his first two innings of work.

However, the University of Washington hitters were able to adjust when they came up against Gray for a second time. Noah Hsue set the tone to open the bottom of the third when he worked a 2-0 count and belted a line-drive triple into the right-center-field gap. Braiden Ward followed up with an extra-base hit of his own. His RBI double to center field, drove in Hsue to give the Huskies a 1-0 lead. After Preston Viltz's single set up a first-and-third jam, Gray struck out back-to-back hitters to put him an out away from sending the ballgame to the fourth inning.

Meanwhile, Michael Petrie made sure the University of Washington would not waste the opportunity as he ripped a two-run double to center field that brought Viltz and Ward around to score and push the Huskies's lead to 3-0. For Petrie, this was his third double and sixth and seventh RBI of the season.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, it appeared that Gray was able to regain his composure as he retired the first two batters he faced. Standing in his way from setting the side down in order was Hsue who was already 2-2 against Gray on the afternoon. On an 0-2 pitch, Hsue served a ground-ball single to left field to keep the inning alive. This was the first time in his collegiate career that he had picked up three hits in a single game.

After Ward worked a four-pitch walk, Gray's evening was finished as head coach Eric Madsen went to the bullpen to bring in freshman-southpaw Logan Petet. Gray's 3.2 innings pitched marked his second shortest outing of the year. This has been a theme for him on the rubber as he has been able to surpass more than four frames just once this season. On Petet's first pitch of the game, Hsue and Ward applied more pressure on the basepaths as they successfully pulled off the double steal attempt putting both of themselves in scoring position. Nevertheless, Petet was able to weave out of trouble as he induced a fly out to left field off the bat of Viltz to keep the Huskies's lead at 3-0.

After Petet kept the Huskies out of the run column in the fifth inning, Madsen went to his pen once again and brought in freshman Nick Sims for the bottom of the sixth frame. After falling behind 1-2 in the count, Michael Snyder led off the inning by working a walk. Sims would answer back immediately by fanning Ramon Bramasco on three pitches.

However, Hsue kept the line moving as he singled to left field for his fourth hit of the game, but more importantly set up a first-and-second spot for the Huskies. Ward added on to the lead with

an RBI single to left field that drove in Snyder from second base. This extended the University of Washington's advantage to 4-0. For Ward, this was his second RBI on the day and fifth of the campaign.

Pitching told the rest of the story for the Huskies. Emanuels retired 12 of the last 13 batters he faced to punctuate his seven-inning masterpiece with an exclamation point. The bullpen rode his momentum as Gabe Smith pieced together a scoreless eighth inning and Davis Delorefice slammed the door with a 1-2-3 ninth inning to secure the 4-0 victory.

The University of Washington win gave Emanuels his third victory on the mound this season and Mason his second loss. The Huskies will look to stay hot as they head down to Dedeaux Field in Los Angeles to take on the University of Southern California on March 13 at 6 p.m. PT.

Box Score: <https://gohuskies.com/sports/baseball/stats/2020/utah-valley/boxscore/18117>