

Tigers fall in series finale to Santa Ana and sit a half game back of idle Orange Coast:

	<u>R:</u>	<u>H:</u>	<u>E:</u>
Santa Ana College (22-11 Overall, 12-6 OEC):	1-0-1-0-0-0-0-1-0=3	13	0
Riverside City College (26-9 Overall, 13-5 OEC):	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0=0	0	0

Riverside, CA (Evans Sports Complex)-

By: Derryl Trujillo
Inland Sports Senior Writer

In the Orange Empire Conference series victories are key and Riverside City College put up 27 runs on Tuesday & Thursday to get that objective against Santa Ana College. Tied with idle Orange Coast College to start Friday action & looking for a sweep of the Dons the Tigers offense was held to just five hits in a 3-0 loss Friday afternoon at Evans Sports Complex. With one series against Cypress remaining 4/23, 4/25, and 4/26 RCC finds themselves a ½ game out of first pending OCC's Saturday game.

Riverside City College thought they had escaped the first inning unscathed after what was initially ruled a double play (diving catch by Ulises Caballero & runner out advancing to second) got reversed to a fielder's choice. However the two man umpiring crew ruled that instead of completing a successful catch Caballero lost possession of that ball extending the inning. Good teams take advantage of second opportunities and that's exactly what the Dons did here. An infield single by Drake Wood gave Santa Ana runners on first and second with two outs. Ray Villanueva converted their extra opportunity with an RBI single to give the Dons a 1-0 lead.

That lone run was enough support for Santa Ana starting pitcher Nathan Cachu who threw a complete game allowing five hits, four K's, and three walks.

However Santa Ana came thru with single insurance runs in the third and eighth innings for good measure.

In the third Wood hit a double down the left field line with one out and was scored on an RBI single from Copper Hansen making it 2-0 Dons. An additional run came home in the eighth as Cage Massey doubled down the left field line with two outs and was scored on Chad Wilson's RBI single. Dons batters came up with thirteen hits on the day.

RCC's best chance to score came in the ninth inning as Steve Ramirez & Joseph Ramirez reached with singles. Matt Happ grounded into a double play and Dylan Morace grounded out to second base ending the game. In total the Tigers had a runner or runners on base with one out or fewer in six of nine innings but could not punch thru.

Tigers coach Rudy Arguelles said after the loss "That guy (Chu) had a gutsy performance and I told their coach I'd love 40 of him just from a mentality standpoint. Alex Salazar kept us in the game but unfortunately we couldn't pick him up today. In this conference if you've got an opportunity to sweep it's a special position that has to be converted. We'll go back to work and get ready for those two non-conference games this week and that Cypress series next week."

Dons Notables:

WP: Nathan Chu (6-1)>>CG, 5 Hits, 3 BB's, 4 K's

James Williams> 2-5

Frank Garcia>3-5

Drake Wood>2-5

Ray Villanueva>2-4

Copper Hansen>2-4

Tiger Notables:

LP: Alex Salazar (5-3)>>8 IP, 11 Hits, 3 Runs, 2 BB, 8 K's