



November 27, 2011
MPSF Men's Water Polo Tournament

NO. 2-SEED CALIFORNIA EDGES NO. 4-SEED STANFORD, 8-7, IN THIRD-PLACE MATCH
Giacomo Cupido, Ayal Keren, Aleksa Saponjic each score two goals for California

LOS ANGELES – No. 2-seed California earned an 8-7 victory over No. 4-seed Stanford in the MPSF Tournament's third-place match on Sunday afternoon at UCLA's Spieker Aquatics Center.

California (22-4) received two goals each from Giacomo Cupido, Ayal Keren and Aleksa Saponjic.

Paul Rudolph led Stanford (19-7) with a game-high three goals.

Stanford claimed a 1-0 lead with 2:47 left in the first quarter before pushing its margin to 2-0 with a goal from Forrest Watkins just 63 seconds into the second period.

California tied the contest, 2-2, with quick consecutive goals from Saponjic (6:19) and Giacomo (5:27) in the second quarter. Stanford regained the lead (3-2) on a goal from Rudolph with 34 seconds to play before halftime.

After California tied the game, 3-3, with 7:09 to play in the third quarter on a goal from Balarin, the Golden Bears never trailed. California claimed a 5-3 lead with 2:57 left in the third frame, taking advantage of goals from Luka Saponjic (4:49) and Keren (2:57).

Stanford cut California's cushion to 5-4 with a penalty goal from Jacob Smith at 2:31 in the third quarter. Each team scored one more goal in the third period.

The Golden Bears pushed ahead, 7-5, with a goal from Keren just 18 seconds into the final period.

Stanford answered with a 6-on-5 goal from Rudolph at 3:14 in the fourth quarter. Cal increased its margin to 8-6 after Cupido scored the second of his two goals on a 6-on-5 opportunity.

The Cardinal converted on a 6-on-5 play with 18 seconds to go in the game, trimming California's lead to 8-7.

California goalkeeper Justin Parson finished with six saves. Stanford's Brian Pingree tallied seven saves in the cage.

California 8, Stanford 7

	1	2	3	4	F
Stanford	1	2	2	2	7
California	0	2	4	2	8

Stanford Goals: Paul Rudolph 3, Ryan Brown, Travis Noll, Jacob Smith, Forrest Watkins

Stanford Saves: Brian Pingree 7

California Goals: Giacomo Cupido 2, Ayal Keren 2, Aleksa Saponjic 2, Marin Balarin, Luka Saponjic

California Saves: Justin Parsons 6

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