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Baseball Falls Just Short Against No. 1 Vanderbilt, 2-1

RHP Zach Peterson holds top-ranked Commodores' potent offense to lowest output in nearly a year.

March 9, 2007

[Box Score](#)

Nashville, Tenn.- Senior right-hander [Zach Peterson](#) held the nation's top-ranked team at bay during seven innings of work, helping the UIC baseball team give No. 1 Vanderbilt all it could handle on its home turf in the Flames' narrow 2-1 loss at Hawkins Field on Friday night.

Pitching against a potent Commodore offense that came in averaging over eight runs per game and outscored its opponents 125-44 in its previous 15 contests, Peterson was firing on all cylinders. He fanned seven Vanderbilt hitters and didn't allow a walk, giving up just two runs during his outing.

UIC (4-6) lit up the scoreboard first. [Mike Kaffel](#) hit his first collegiate home run with one out in the second inning, sending a solo shot over the right centerfield wall to put the Flames ahead early.

Vanderbilt (16-0) would answer in their half of the second. Alex Feinberg hit a two-out RBI double down the right field line to even the score.

The next inning the Commodores gained the advantage on Dominic de la Osa's solo homer to left.

That's all Vanderbilt would muster, as UIC pitching limited the Commodores to their lowest run output since they managed just two runs against Auburn on March 24th, 2006.

Vandy starter David Price was excellent on the mound as well, holding the Flames to just four hits during a complete-game performance.

The Flames threatened in the ninth, getting the tying run just 90 feet away from home plate.

[Nick Rainwater](#) laid down a bunt that he turned into a single to lead off the final frame. [Jake Carr](#) singled with one out to move Rainwater into scoring position, and a double-steal that erased Carr but moved Rainwater to third set up a game-tying situation for the Flames' best hitter, [Larry Gempp Jr.](#) But a called third strike on Gempp put to rest UIC's hopes for a comeback.

UIC resumes its series against Vanderbilt on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. CT. Flames fans can watch the game online at www.vucommodores.com.

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Mike Kaffel homered for the Flames against No. 1 Vanderbilt.

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