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Baseball Rallies To Beat No. 14 Georgia Tech, 11-4

Flames score nine times with two out in the top of the ninth.

Feb. 17, 2007

[Box Score](#)

Atlanta, Ga.- The UIC baseball team exploded for nine runs with two outs in the top of the ninth inning to rally for an 11-4 victory over 14th-ranked Georgia Tech at Russ Chandler Stadium on Saturday.

Rookie right-hander [Steve Crnkovich](#) pitched five innings of one-run relief to earn his first collegiate victory for the Flames (2-3).

[Larry Gempp Jr.](#) went 3-for-5 with two RBI and two runs scored.

[Ryan Zink](#) went three innings, giving up three runs, in his first start since June 3, 2005 after recovering from an arm injury last season.

Trailing 3-0 in the sixth, [Brett Schaefer](#) led off the inning with a long ball over the left centerfield wall to put UIC on the board. The home run was the first of Schaefer's career.

The Flames scored again in the sixth after [David Cales](#) drove in Gempp from third on a fielder's choice to cut the deficit to 3-2.

Georgia Tech (2-3) added a run in the bottom of the eighth to take a 4-2 advantage into the ninth.

With the bases loaded and two out in the ninth, [Jake Carr](#) hit a ground ball that went through the legs of Yellow Jacket shortstop Michael Fisher to bring Cales and [Nick Rainwater](#) home and even the score.

What followed was a five-run Flames outburst. Gempp delivered a bases-loaded two-run single to give UIC a 6-4 lead. RBI singles from [Mike Kaffel](#) and [Ben Trotter](#), a wild pitch and another Georgia Tech error brought in runs to put UIC ahead by seven.

That's how the game ended as Cales came on to retire the side in the bottom of the ninth.

"I was very pleased, after yesterday's performance, that we came back out today and played very competitively and hung in there," said UIC head coach [Mike Dee](#) of his team's showing following an 11-2 loss the day before. "It showed that we weren't going to be intimidated, so I was really pleased by that. The fact that we won is an obvious bonus.

"It was important today that we re-establish that we had confidence in ourselves, get after this game and play aggressively."

The victory was UIC's first win over a ranked opponent since a 4-1 decision at No. 18 Ole Miss on March 3, 2006.

UIC and No. 14 Georgia Tech conclude their series on Sunday at 12:00 p.m. CT.

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Steve Crnkovich pitched five innings in relief to earn the win against No. 14 Georgia Tech.

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