

## **Justin Santich Hughes**

### **High School Career**

Justin Santich-Hughes, the native of Castro Valley, Calif., is a 2003 graduate of Castro Valley High School, where he lettered three years in baseball. An all-league selection, Santich-Hughes batted .361 as a senior, with three home runs and 30 RBI, helping his team to the North Coast Section semifinals with a school-record 26 wins. After graduating Castro Valley High School, Santich-Hughes was recruited to play baseball at then a top 10 baseball program in the country and recent College World Series participant San Jose State University.

### **Collegiate Career**

Santich-Hughes concluded his collegiate eligibility in 2007 following an exemplary four-year career for the Spartans behind the plate. The defensive stalwart posted a fielding percentage of .988 over four years, with nine errors in 732 chances, and finished with career-best totals offensively as a senior in batting average (.280), at-bats (125), runs (19), hits (35), doubles (5), runs batted in (21), walks (10) and hit-by-pitches (11), starting 45 of 51 games. His team-best 11 sacrifices moved him up to third on the all-time Spartan list with 35.

Santich-Hughes, a two-time Academic All-WAC honoree and three-time San Jose State University Scholar-Athlete, graduated with a bachelor's degree in history in May of 2008.

### **Coaching Career**

Santich-Hughes was promoted to interim pitching coach at San Jose State University to begin the 2008 season. That year the Spartan pitching staff was second in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) in Earned Run Average behind the College World Series Champion Fresno State Bulldogs.

They were also ranked first in the least amount of runs given up, earned runs given up, walks allowed, extra base hits given up, and second in batters struck out looking. Santich-Hughes also coached two individuals who finished ranked in the top 5 of conference in ERA (Max Peterson 3.69 and Scott Sobczak 3.96). Peterson was selected the All-WAC second team as a sophomore.

After one season as pitching coach at Cal State Monterey Bay, Santich-Hughes decided to go to graduate school and at the same time applied for the Head Varsity Coach job at Acalanes High School for the 2010 season. In his first year at Acalanes, the Dons returned to the NCS playoffs for the first time since 2007 and have gone on to win four North Coast Section Championships in 9 seasons, while posting a record of 160-79-1 (.667 winning percentage). Over that span the Dons had over 30 players go on to and play collegiately with 18 of those being at the Division 1 level.

After stepping down as head coach at Acalanes, Santich-Hughes assisted briefly at

both College Park High School and Benicia High School before settling into his current position as the Associate Head Coach and Recruiting Coordinator at Solano College.