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Eastern Michigan University

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Eagles Suffer Extra-Inning Setback to Penguins, 5-4

YSU scores once in the ninth to tie before scoring in the 10th to sneak past EMU



Photo by Walt Middelton Photography

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CINCINNATI, Ohio (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University baseball team saw its ninth-inning lead slip away as the Eagles fell, 5-4, to Youngstown State University in 10 innings Saturday night, March 8, at Marge Schott Stadium on the campus of the University of Cincinnati. After a pinch-hit solo home run by [Michael Mioduszewski](#) in the top of the ninth, EMU was three outs away from the victory until the Penguins tied the contest in the bottom half of the inning.

It was the first extra innings setback for the Eagles (4-8) this season after they won the season-opener over nationally-ranked Clemson in 10 innings. The win for YSU propels the Penguins to 2-9 on the 2014 season.

[Sam Ott](#) had his best performance at the dish all season long, going 3-for-4 with one run scored. The Eagles notched four runs on eight hits while committing two errors. Mioduszewski's solo blast in the ninth was the first home run of his career.

[Ryan Lavoie](#) got the start on the mound for the Green and White, lasting six innings while allowing three runs on eight hits, punching out four. Out of the bullpen, [Charlie Land](#) (0-3) suffered the loss after pitching the final 2.2 innings. The junior allowed two runs on six hits and two walks.

Youngstown State tallied 15 hits to get five runs, and the Penguins also committed one error. Phil Lipari and Kris Moules recorded three hits each to lead YSU while teammate Brent Gillespie went 2-for-5 with a pair of RBI.

Josh North (1-0) picked up the victory for the Penguins as YSU's bullpen surrendered just one run and two hits in 5.2 innings. Eastern was able to get three runs and six hits off of YSU starter Jared Wight.

The Eagles started the scoring with a two-out rally in the top of the first. Ott started it off with a single before [Lee Longo](#) was hit by a pitch for the fifth time this season. With two runners on, [Adam Sonabend](#) singled to left field to plate Ott. [Mitchell McGeein](#) kept the inning alive with a single of his own that scored Longo to put the Green and White up 2-0.

Eastern increased its lead to three with a run in the second. [Ty Gilmore](#) walked to begin the inning, and the starting third baseman stole a pair of bases to advance just 90 feet away from home. While [Nick Rotola](#) fouled out, [John Rubino](#) came through with a sac fly to left that allowed Gilmore to cross the plate.

The Penguins tied the contest by scoring once in the fourth and twice in the bottom of the seventh. A double by Moules knocked in a teammate during the fourth before YSU was able to get the first two runners on base in the seventh. With a pair of Penguins on the corners, Youngstown State tried a suicide squeeze, but [Devon Bronson](#) made a great play on the bunt attempt, flipping to Sonabend to get the lead runner out at the plate. However, two Penguins remained in scoring position, and Gillespie brought them in to score with a single up the middle to tie the game at three.

In the ninth, Mioduszewski pinch hit for [Adam Dennison](#); the move by Head Coach [Jay Alexander](#) paid off as the redshirt-freshman sent a bomb over the fence to give his team the one-run advantage. For the bottom half of the inning, Land returned to close things out. However, three straight singles loaded the bases, putting the winning run on second. With the game on the line, Rubino made a diving play at short to start a double play. The tying run scored, but the quick turn left the Eagles one out away from sending the game into extras. The go-ahead run advanced to third and a hit batsman put runners on the corners; nonetheless, Land was able to force a groundout to keep the contest knotted at four.

YSU put the leadoff runner on base with a single in the bottom of the 10th. Two batters later, the Penguin came around to score to end the extra-inning affair.

EMU will play a doubleheader in Cincinnati on Sunday, March 9. In game one, the Eagles will square off against the University of Cincinnati Bearcats at 1 p.m. The second contest will see Eastern looking to get revenge on Youngstown State.