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No. 16 Texas Tech Needs Overtime to Sneak Past EMU Soccer

The Eagles held an early 1-0 lead, but a second-half goal and overtime goal gave TTU the 2-1 decision.

The Eastern Michigan University soccer team took No. 16 Texas Tech University to overtime, but it was the nationally-ranked Red Raiders (3-0-0) who scored in the 93rd minute to claim the 2-1 victory over the Eagles (2-2-0) Sunday, Aug. 31. The neutral site match took place at Alumni Stadium on the campus of the University of Notre Dame as part of the Notre Dame Invitational.

Angela Vultaggio got the Eagles out to an early lead with a goal in the fifth minute, and starting keeper Megan McCabe (2-1-0) made three first half saves to help EMU hold on to a one-goal lead at halftime. However, Texas Tech knotted the match with a goal in the 56th minute, and the Red Raiders found the net just three minutes into overtime to leave South Bend with their national ranking and perfect record intact.

McCabe stopped 5-of-7 shots on goal as the Red Raiders sent 16 total shots her direction throughout the contest. The second half score by TTU was the first goal allowed by the junior keeper all season and snapped a 235-minute shutout streak, an impressive mark to start the 2014 campaign.

For the EMU attack, Bianca Rossi registered a game-high five shots, while seven other Eagles attempted to put a mark on the scoreboard. The Green and White took 12 shots, landing three on goal while having four chances on corner kicks.
Briana Rohmer scored the second half goal that eventually forced overtime, and Paige Strahan tallied the game-winner from six yards out to give Texas Tech the victory in extra time. The Red Raiders out-shot EMU, 16-12, sending seven shots on target. In goal, Lauren Watson (3-0-0) made two saves to pick up the victory.

Eastern wasted no time proving they belonged on the pitch with the nationally-ranked Red Raiders, scoring in the fifth minute to gain the early advantage. Vultaggio made an aggressive move to steal the ball from the approaching keeper after a lead by Megan Trapp. Winning the battle from eight yards out, the Chesterfield, Mich. native sent a strike in the back of the net for her first goal of the season.

The Eagles continued on the offensive as Rossi fired three shots off in a seven-minute span to keep Texas Tech on its heels. Two minutes later, the Red Raiders answered with three-straight shots of their own. Nonetheless, the EMU backline defended well, and McCabe made a save to keep EMU ahead. The Arlington Heights, Ill. native stopped two more shots before the end of the first 45 minutes, and the Green and White looked up at the scoreboard to see a one-goal advantage at the break.

In the first half, Coach Scott Hall’s squad attempted nine shots compared to just seven by Texas Tech. The Eagles also took three corner kicks, while TTU had only two opportunities in the corner.

The second half started off choppy with multiple fouls, including a yellow card from Texas Tech's bench. After the aggressive start, Texas Tech found the equalizer as Rohmer finished a rebound from 10 yards out to tie the contest at one goal apiece.

As the game remained at a 1-1 standstill, Texas Tech tried to claim the lead with less than five minutes remaining in regulation. Despite the effort, McCabe was there to make the save. In the waning minutes of the second half, the Eagles had the final chance to score and win the game. Madison Hirsch sent a corner kick into the box, but Molli Krick’s shot missed wide as the contest went to extra time with the game tied after 90 minutes.

In overtime, TTU was on the attack right away. One shot was blocked and McCabe saved another through the first 75 seconds of the period. However, one minute later Strahan went on a run, receiving a cross from McCullough to beat McCabe, giving the Red Raiders the win and ending a valiant effort by the Eagles.

Next up for the Green and White is by far the longest road trip of the season. The Eagles will hit the West Coast, soaring 2,373 miles into Oregon for two matchups against Pacific-12 Conference foes. First, EMU will square off against the University of Oregon, Sept. 5, under the lights of Pape Field for a 7 p.m. local first touch. Wrapping up the excursion, Eastern takes on Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore., Sept. 7 at 1 p.m. PDT.