EMU Women's Softball: Eagles Victorious Over Bethune-Cookman after Nine Innings

Eastern Michigan University
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Senior Amanda Stanton brought the Eagles from behind with a home run in the top of the fifth inning.

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FORT MYERS, Fla. (EMUeagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University softball team grabbed a nine-inning victory over Bethune-Cookman in its fourth extra-innings contest of the 2014 season, defeating the Wildcats 9-8. With the win, EMU improves to 6-8 overall on the season, while the Wildcats fall to 2-12 overall.

Bethune-Cookman jumped out to the early 2-0 lead over Eastern in the bottom of the first inning when a two-out solo home run scored one before a walk and a hit batter put two runners on base for the Wildcats. Shamaria Engram drove a double through the left side of the field to bring in a second run before the final out of the inning popped up to the shortstop.

The Green and White answered back in the top of the second with a Lindsay Rich leadoff single to center field. Bethune-Cookman looked to get out of the inning unscathed recording two outs, but Amanda Stanton singled up the middle to put Rich in scoring position for sophomore transfer Abi Clark. The Clinton, Mich native pulled the ball to right field, allowing Rich to cross the plate and bring Eastern within one.

A second single to the opposite field from freshman Michelle Kriegshauser knotted the score at 2-2 before
senior Lindsay Smith was hit by a pitch to load the bases for junior Jenn Lucas. Lucas stepped up to the dish and lined a single to left field, bringing in both Clark and Kriegshauser to hand EMU the 4-2 lead.

The Wildcats fought back in the bottom half of the inning when a walk, a single and an error put runners on second and third before a suicide squeeze scored Destinee Williams. A second-straight bunt allowed a run to cross the plate for Bethune-Cookman when Kaitlin Alamprese used a push bunt to the pitcher to bring in Calesha Shelley and knot the score for the second time in the contest. Bailey Conner gave the Wildcats their second lead of the game when she singled through the right side of the field, scoring Kelsey Rodney.

The Green and White loaded the bases in the top of the third inning with a walk and two hit batters but were unable to capitalize as a fly out to center field closed the inning. The Wildcats tacked on a sixth run in the bottom of the third using two hits before a three-hit, one run inning pushed Bethune-Cookman out to a 7-4 advantage over Eastern.

Freshmen Taylor Wagner and Katy Wyman had back-to-back singles for the Eagles in the top of the fifth inning before Stanton drove a one-out three-run homer just to the right of the left field foul pole to tie the score for the third time in the contest.

Bethune-Cookman took its third lead of the contest in the bottom of the fifth inning scored an unearned run after Shelley reached on an error previously in the inning.

The Eagles battled from behind in the top of the seventh inning when Rich notched a leadoff double down the right field line. A Wyman sacrifice fly to center field brought in pinch runner Myranda Barnes to knot the score at 8-8 heading into the bottom half of the inning. Eastern retired the three outs it needed in the bottom of the seventh to send the game into the Green and White's fourth extra-inning contest of the season.

After a scoreless eighth inning, EMU loaded the bases with two outs in the top of the ninth with an error and two walks before a third-straight walk gave Eastern the go-ahead run and secure a victory as Bethune-Cookman was unable to push a run across the plate in the bottom of the ninth.

Stanton led the Eagles at the plate with two hits, two runs and four RBI, while Lucas notched two RBI on one hit and Rich tallied two hits for Eastern. Freshman Abbie Minsker (2-2) notched the win in the circle going 1.2 innings in relief, while Lauren Wells pitching 5.1 inning with four strikeouts and Rich hurled 2.0 innings for the Green and White.

Conner (1-6) tallied a game-high three hits, with two RBI while throwing two innings in the circle and suffering the loss for the Wildcats. Alamprese drove in two RBI with two hits for Bethune-Cookman, while the Wildcat offense tied a season-high 12 hits.

Eastern Michigan will continue its 10-game stretch Friday, Feb. 28 when it takes on Bethune-Cookman in a rematch at 10 a.m. to kick off the Eagles second FGCU Tournament. EMU will then go up against Hofstra at 2:30 p.m. from FGCU Softball Complex.