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Eastern Michigan University

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Softball Drops Two on Day One of the FGCU Tournament

The Eagles were shut out by Bethune-Cookman, 6-0, before falling to Hofstra, 4-1

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FORT MYERS, Fla. (EMUeagles.com) -- The Eastern Michigan University softball team dropped two contests on day one of the FGCU Tournament as it was blanked 6-0 by Bethune-Cookman University in a rematch before falling 4-1 to Hofstra University Friday, Feb. 28.

With the losses, EMU falls to 6-10 overall on the season, while Bethune-Cookman improves to 3-12 overall and Hofstra moves to 5-1 overall.

Sophomore Abby Davidson led the Green and White offense, tallying three hits on the afternoon, while the Eagle offense struggled at the dish, not plating an RBI between the two contests.

Game One: Bethune-Cookman 6, Eastern Michigan 0

Bethune-Cookman got out to the early lead in the rematch game when a leadoff single followed by a walk put runners in scoring position for Bailey Conner, who singled up the middle to give the Wildcats a 1-0 lead before a double play closed out the inning.

After not surrendering a hit in the top of the second, Bethune-Cookman tacked on three more runs in the bottom half of the inning using two hits and one Eagle error.
A single to Lauren Wells in the bottom of the fourth and a double down the left field line gave the Wildcats a 5-0 advantage before a single up the middle extended Bethune-Cookman's lead to 6-0, forcing Head Coach Melissa Gentile to make a pitching change.

Eastern looked to get on the scoreboard in the top of the sixth inning when a leadoff double from Jenn Lucas and a one-out walk issued to Wells put runners in scoring position for the Green and White, but the Wildcats were able to come up with the final two outs of the inning to leave runners stranded for EMU.

The Eagles were unable to push a run across the plate, leaving seven runners on base and tallying five hits from five different players in seven innings. Wells (1-4) suffered the loss in the circle, pitching 3.1 innings while Abbie Minsker threw 2.2 innings in relief for the Green and White.

Conner led the way for the Wildcats for the second-straight game with two hits and two RBI, while Kelsey Rodney brought in two runs on one hit and Calesha Shelley went 3-for-3 at the dish. Conner (2-5) picked up her second win of the season in the circle, going the distance with three strikeouts and three walks.

**Game Two: Hofstra 4, Eastern Michigan 1**

For only the third time this season, Eastern was the first to light up the scoreboard after five and a half innings of scoreless softball. Freshman Katy Wyman laced a one-out single to right field before advancing to second on an Amanda Stanton groundout and moved just 60 feet away from the plate on a wild pitch. Sophomore transfer Abi Clark put the ball in play on the next at-bat, causing a Hofstra miscue and allowing the Eagles to take a 1-0 lead.

The Pride had an answer to the Green and White run in the top of the sixth when Erin Trippi launched a solo home run over the left field wall to knot the score at 1-1. Three-straight singles in the top of the seventh inning gave Hofstra its first lead of the game before Wells came on in relief for Lindsay Rich.

With runners on second and third, Wells walked her first batter to load the bases before a single up the middle extended the Pride lead to 4-1. The Eagles squashed the Hofstra scoring, recording three straight outs but not before a fifth run crossed the plate on a walk.

Two straight errors by the Pride in the bottom of the seventh inning and a groundout to shortstop put runners on second and third for the Eagles with two outs. The Green and White loaded the bases when Mady Hostetler was hit by a pitch, but a line out to third base closed out the game before EMU was able to push a run across the plate.

Davidson led the Eastern offense in game two with two hits, while Wyman and Clark each notched one for the Eagles. Rich (2-4) took the loss in the circle, hurling six innings while Wells closed the final inning of the contest.

Hofstra scattered 11 hits in the contest with Chloe Fitzgerald going 3-for-4 at the plate and Tori Roch notching two hits in three at-bats. Taylor Pirone picked up her second win of the season, pitching all seven innings for the Pride.

The Eagles will continue the FGCU Tournament Saturday, March 1 when they take on LIU Brooklyn at 12:15 p.m. before they look to avenge their loss against Hofstra in the nightcap.