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Softball Unable to Clinch a Win at the FGCU Tournament

EMU fell to LIU Brooklyn, 9-4, in its final game of the FGCU Tournament

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FORT MYERS, Fla. (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University softball team was unable to clinch a win at the FGCU Tournament, falling to LIU Brooklyn, 9-4, in its final contest of the 10-game spring break stretch Sunday, March 2.

With the loss, the Eagles fall to 6-13 on the season. Meanwhile, LIU Brooklyn improves to 6-12 overall.

The Blackbirds brought their offense in the rematch contest between the two teams, driving in five runs on five hits and leaving three runners stranded in the bottom half of the first inning. LIU Brooklyn led off the inning with a hit batter and a single through the left side of the field before the Eagles retired the next two hitters. With two outs, the Blackbirds lined back-to-back singles to opposite fields, bringing in two runs while a third-straight single loaded the bases.

With the bases loaded, Nikki Schroeder worked from behind in the count to draw and walk, plating Kayla Gloady. Senior Madison Zymkowitz extended the Blackbird lead to 5-0 when she singled to left field before EMU was able to retire the final out of the inning.

The Green and White looked to make its comeback in the top of the third inning when Mady Hostetler drew a leadoff
A walk and Jenn Lucas singled to left field to put runners on first and second for senior Lindsay Smith. After fouling off the first two pitches, Smith lined a double to the center field wall, allowing Hostetler and Lucas to cross home and bring Eastern within three. The Eagles were unable to chip away at the score any further as the Blackbirds sat down the next three batters in order to close out the inning.

A second leadoff walk in the top of the fourth inning proved to be detrimental to LIU Brooklyn when Amanda Stanton advanced Abi Clark to second base with a sacrifice bunt before Hostetler brought Clark around to score on a single to left field.

The Blackbirds found another big scoring inning in the bottom of the fourth, notching four runs on four hits, while capitalizing on two EMU errors to take the 9-3 advantage.

The Eagles used two more walks in the top of the sixth to put runners in scoring position, while a groundout moved Stanton just 60 feet away from home plate before a wild pitch brought the senior shortstop in to score.

Eastern was unable to muster any offense in the final inning of the contest as the Eagles fell 9-4 to LIU Brooklyn to close out their spring break trip. Junior Lindsay Rich (2-6) suffered the loss in the circle, pitching 3.1 innings, while Lauren Wells threw 2.2 innings in relief with two strikeouts. Smith led the EMU bats with two doubles and two RBI, while Lucas, Stanton and Hostetler accounted for EMU's final three hits of the contest.

The Blackbirds were led by Gloady, who went 3-for-4 at the plate with three RBI, while Zymkowitz tallied two RBI. Shelley Proctor (6-8) grabbed her sixth win of the season going 3.0 innings, while Alyssa Lanktree-Dotson hurled 2.0 innings in relief and Cassie Vondrak closed out the final two innings of the contest in the circle.

The Eagles will head north to participate in the Dayton Tournament in Dayton, Ohio March 14-15. The Green and White will take on host Dayton, Friday March 14 at noon before playing IUPUI on back-to-back days and closing out the tournament against in-state rival Oakland University on Saturday, March 15 at 4:30 p.m.