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EMU Women's Softball: Softball Gears Up for Dayton Tournament

Eastern Michigan University

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Softball Gears Up for Dayton Tournament

Eagles set to play four games at the UD Softball Stadium

HEADING BACK NORTH: After taking a week-long break following a rigorous spring schedule, the Eagles will participate in the Dayton Tournament in Dayton, Ohio March 14-15. The Green and White will take on host, the University of 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.

EAGLES SEE GLOOM IN THE SUNSHINE STATE: Eastern Michigan completed its 2014 spring trip with a 2-8 record, recording wins over Florida International and Bethune-Cookman. The Eagles were unable to tally a win at the FGCU Tournament, going 0-5 and falling to in-state rival Oakland University in a mid-week contest.

The Green and White were led by senior Amanda Stanton, who grabbed a .231 batting average with six hits and seven RBI, including a three-run round tripper against Bethune-Cookman to propel the team to a 9-8 extra inning win, while freshman Alyssa Huntley picked up her first collegiate win pitching six innings against Florida International.

HUNTLEY GRABS FIRST COLLEGIATE WIN: Freshman Alyssa Huntley picked up her first collegiate win when the Eagles defeated Florida International 5-4 in nine innings. The freshman hurler went 7.0 innings in the circle, surrendering three earned runs and fanning two batters before senior Lauren Wells grabbed her first save of the season, pitching the eighth inning for the Eagles.

The freshman pitcher has made six appearances for the Green and White while tallying 11 strikeouts in 15.2
innings of work this season.

**SENIOR SHINES IN SPRING TRIP:** Senior Amanda Stanton led the Eagles in their 10-game spring game trip with six hits and seven RBI. Stanton gave the Green and White their second lead of the day against Florida International in the top of the fifth inning when she lined a double to the right center wall, knocking in two runs for EMU.

The senior shortstop helped Eastern to a 9-8, nine inning victory over Bethune-Cookman with two hits, two runs and four RBI. With two outs in the top of the second inning, Stanton singled up the middle to set up the Eagles’ first run of the contest before driving a one-out three run home run just to the right of the left field foul pole to tie the score for the third time in the contest.

Stanton used a team-high .333 on-base percentage and a .385 slugging percentage to help the Eagles to their two victories of the trip. The Homer Glenn, Ill. native also tallied three walks and was hit by a pitch one time while laying down two sacrifice bunts. On defense, Stanton had 12 putouts and 24 assists for the Green and White.

**KEEPING THE STREAKS ALIVE:** Although the Eagles have struggled to put runs on the scoreboard, they have not had any problems getting runners on the basepath. This season, EMU has stranded 115 batters while scoring just 51 runs.

Going into the Dayton Tournament this weekend, Eastern looks to keep its hitting streaks and reaching base streaks alive as two Eagles tally multi-game hitting streaks and five have reached base multiple games in a row. Sophomore Mady Hostetler and junior Jenn Lucas both hold two-game hitting streaks heading into the weekend, while Hostetler has reached base in one way or another in the past five games for the Green and White. Lucas and senior Lindsay Smith each head into the tournament having reached base the past four games for the Eagles, while freshman Katy Wyman and senior Amanda Stanton have made their way to a base in the past two contests.

**FIELDING WOE S:** Eastern has not shied away from facing tough competition in the first 19 games of the season; however, the Eagles could have kept games closer had they not committed 30 errors in the field thus far.

The Green and White has allowed 34 unearned runs to cross the plate, while six Eagles have had multiple blunders on the season. Furthermore, the opposition is hitting at a .315 clip against EMU pitching, while Eastern is managing just a .192 batting average and has just 90 compared to the opponents’ 163.

**FINDING THE RIGHT FIT:** First year Head Coach Melissa Gentile has been switching things up in the lineup so far this season as the Eagles have only used the same lineup twice. Eastern has turned in 18 different lineup cards in its 19 games this season. Furthermore, only Amanda Stanton has started every game at shortstop, while the other eight positions on the field have seen a combination of different starters.

Senior Lindsay Smith has led off a team-high 10 times, while Jenn Lucas has been the first in the batters box nine times for EMU.

**HELPING THEMSELVES:** It is not too often you see a pitcher hitting in collegiate softball. However, Eastern has had its starting pitcher in the batting lineup in all 19 games this season. In 12 of the first 19 contest, the Green and White has had its starting hurler in the cleanup spot to help put a few runs of their own on the board.

Junior Lindsay Rich has has posted six hits on the season with two doubles and one home run, while senior Lauren Wells has notched three hits and one RBI this year.

**SCOUTING DAYTON:** The Flyers come into the weekend tournament with a 6-12 overall record after going 2-2 in the Colorado State Classic, March 7-9.

Senior outfielder Rachel Archer boasts a team-high .424 batting average for Dayton with 25 hits and 10 runs, while four other Flyers are hitting about .300 on the season. Junior Tiffany Ricks is hitting at a .344 clip and ties for a team-best 14 RBI. Senior Kasi Vazquez has been a threat at the dish for the opposition driving five home runs over the wall to bring in 14 runs, while Ricks has tallied three home runs and Katie Ryan has had two round trippers. As a team,
Dayton is hitting at a .281 clip with 23 doubles, 13 home runs and a .404 slugging percentage. The Flyers have had trouble in the circle, producing a 5.04 team ERA through the first 18 games of the season. Right-handed hurler Gabrielle Snyder (4-4) has made 13 appearances and five starts with a team-best 4.05 ERA, while Kayla English (2-5) has struck out a team-high 29 batters in 40.1 innings of work. Eastern is 3-7 all-time against the Flyers. The Eagles suffered a 5-3 setback against Dayton the last time the two teams met on the field, March 27, 2003.

THE JAGUARS AT A GLANCE: IUPUI is sporting a 6-9 record coming into the Dayton Tournament after having its last tournament in Cape Girardeau, Mo. cancelled. Sophomore outfielder Sarah Laurence leads the Jaguar offense with a .478 batting average, 22 hits and six doubles. Roni Patterson ranks second on the team with a .375 batting average and nine RBI. The freshman catcher has shown her speed on the basepath this season with two triples and four stolen bases on four attempts, while Ali Mosier has swiped a team-best six bases on seven attempts. As a team, the Jaguars have stolen 22 bases on 26 attempts and have given up just 15 bases on 19 attempts to opponents. IUPUI is out-hitting and out-fielding its opponents this season with a .295 batting average and a .955 fielding percentage compared the .261 average and .953 fielding percentage put up by its opposition. Furthermore, the Jaguars are out-hitting their opponents 118-99.

Jocelyn Oppenhuis (2-5) has been the anchor in the circle for IUPUI with nine appearances and seven starts. The redshirt-senior has pitched four complete games and struck out a team-best 26 batters in 40.1 innings of work. Sophomore Cassie Vodde (3-3) has also made nine appearances for the Jaguars with six starts. In 38.0 innings, Vodde posts a 3.50 ERA with 14 strikeouts and 12 walks. Finally, Emili Escamilla (1-1) has made seven appearances for the Jaguars with a 4.77 ERA in 14.2 innings in the circle.

Eastern and IUPUI are 1-1 all-time against each other with EMU falling 7-3 the last time out, March 13, 2004.

A LOOK AT OAKLAND: The Grizzlies hold a 10-8 record overall on the season and took a 5-3 victory over the Eagles in their first meeting of the season, Feb. 26 in Fort Myers, Fla. As a team, Oakland is hitting .254 with junior Jackie Kisman posting a team-best .386 batting average. Both Erika Polidori and Morgan Muron are hitting above .300 for the Grizzlies, while Polidori holds a .600 slugging percentage and only four strikeouts in 60 at-bats. Oakland has been a terror on the basepath for opponents, stealing 30 bases on 34 attempts with Polidori swiping seven of her own.

Kaley Waalkes (6-1) leads all pitchers on the weekend with a 2.04 ERA in nine appearances and eight starts. The freshman hurler has been named Horizon Pitcher of the Week once while striking out 26 batters in her 55.0 innings in the circle. Erin Kownacki (4-5) has gotten the nod in nine games for OU with 10 appearances. The sophomore thrower has pitched six complete games with a 3.80 ERA in 55.1 innings.

EMU and Oakland have met 20 times on the field with the Eagles holding a 15-4-1 edge over the Grizzlies.

ON DECK: The Eagles will be back in action in a mid-week road doubleheader against Youngstown State Tuesday, March 18. First pitch is slated for 3 p.m.