EMU Women's Softball: Softball Ready for Mid-Week Doubleheader

Eastern Michigan University

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Softball Ready for Mid-Week Doubleheader
The Eagles will take on Youngstown State at 3 p.m.

CONTINUING THE ROAD SCHEDULE: The Eastern Michigan University softball team will continue its 26-game road stint Tuesday, March 18 when it heads to Youngstown, Ohio to take on the Penguins in a mid-week doubleheader. First pitch against Youngstown State is slated for 3 p.m. with the second game to start a half hour following the final out of the first contest.

EAGLES PICK UP ONE IN DAYTON: The Green and White grabbed one victory in Dayton, Ohio this past weekend, going 1-2 at the Dayton Tournament, March 14-15. After cancelling one contest due to inclement weather, EMU fell to the Flyers in its only Friday competition before coming back and taking a 6-1 victory over the Oakland Grizzlies on Saturday. The Eagles used strong hitting from Abby Davidson and timely miscues by the OU defense to tack on early runs against the Grizzlies, while a strong outing in the circle for Lindsay Rich shut down the Oakland offense. The junior right-handed hurler gave up just two hits and tied a season-best seven strikeouts.

EMU SHOWS OFF STRONG LEADOFF HITTING: The Green and White have had no troubles getting their leadoff hitters on base through the first 22 games of the season. Eastern currently has five current student-athletes hitting .300 or better when in the leadoff spot.

Sophomore Abby Davidson holds a .400 batting average, going 4-for-10 when in the leadoff spot to start the inning, while Mady Hostetler is 3-for-7 (.429) and Katy Wyman is 4-for-11 (.364) when they are the first batter of the inning. In her three changes as a leadoff hitter, sophomore Aoife Duffy has had two hits for a .667 batting average, while Michelle Kriegshauser rounds out the group, going 3-for-10 (.300).

SENIORS STEP UP WITH RUNNERS ON BASE: Seniors Lindsay Smith and Amanda Stanton have stepped up
when they are up to bat with runners on base. Smith is hitting at a team-high .350 (7-for-20) with runners on base, while driving in seven runs this season, which is good for second on the team. Stanton has a team-best 10 hits when runners are on base as well as a team-high 11 RBI on the season. The senior short stop is hitting at a .345 clip (10-for-29), while Abby Davidson holds a .318 batting average with runners on base.

**PINCH HITTING AT ITS FINEST:** While the Eagles have only used a pinch hitter on six occasions this season, they have come through big for the Green and White. As a team, EMU is hitting an impressive .333 as pinch hitters, while Abi Clark and Lauren Wells have each tallied a hit. EMU is outhitting its opposition when it comes to pinch hitting as opponents are batting only .188 in pinch hit appearances.

In her one pinch hit appearance, Wells drove a single to the left center gap and advanced the runner into scoring position. Clark has been called upon to pinch hit twice for the Eagles this season, going 1-2 in her opportunities. The sophomore transfer made back-to-back pinch hitting appearances as she notched her first career hit donning the Green and White with a single the the left center wall that allowed Elaine Whitback to cross the plate in the bottom of the eighth inning against N.C. Central, Feb. 8. The hit knotted the game at 1-1 before Jenn Lucas doubled to the same spot later in the inning to hand the Eagles a 2-1 victory.

**BRINGING IN THE RUNNER:** With a runner on third and less than two outs the Eagles have been stellar at finding ways to get her across the plate. As a team, Eastern is hitting .516 with a runner on third, while the opposition is hitting .479. The Green and White has brought the runner in on 16 of its 31 chances this season with every student-athlete holding a .300 or better batting average in the situation.

Senior Amanda Stanton posted three RBI in four chances, while Lindsay Smith has drove in a run in two of her three opportunities. Junior Jenn Lucas and sophomore Myranda Barnes are each 2-for-5 (.400) with a runner on third and five other Eagles have tallied one RBI with a runner on third and less than two outs.

**CLIMBING THE MAC CHARTS:** The Eagles are slowly making their way up the charts in the Mid-American Conference as they tie for fourth, drawing 58 walks on the season and ties for sixth in the league with 22 doubles.

The Green and White pitching staff has also made its way up the standings in the conference as it has had 36 looking strikeouts, which is good for third in the league.

Although the team is currently sixth in the West Division, the Eagles are working to improve upon their record and make their way to the top of the charts.

**SCOUTING YOUNGSTOWN STATE:** The Penguins come into the mid-week doubleheader with an 11-8 overall record, most recently picking up a win against Coppin State, March 15.

Sophomore Miranda Castiglione leads the Penguin offense with a .435 batting average including 27 hits, 13 RBI and 19 runs. The sophomore infielder has a team-high four home runs with a .694 slugging percentage and a .485 on-base percentage and has only struck out two times in her 62 at-bats. Senior Haley Knight ranks second on the team with a .333 batting average and a team-high five doubles. Sarah Ingalls and Sarah Dowd have eached reached double-digit RBI with 13 and 11, respectively.

Senior hurler Casey Crozier wrote her name into the Youngstown State record book this past weekend when she picked up her 47th career win to become the all-time wins leader. The right-handed pitcher is 6-2 on the season, throwing a team-high 54.1 innings with seven complete games and 63 strikeouts. Crozier also holds a team-best 2.19 ERA, while junior Kayla Haslett has made nine appearances and six starts for the Penguins with 19 strikeouts.

**SERIES HISTORY:** Tuesday's contest will mark the seventh and eighth time the two teams have met on the field with Youngstown State and EMU splitting last season's doubleheader at Varsity Field.

The Eagles snapped a 13-game losing streak with their 5-3 victory in game one before falling to the Penguins, 13-3, in game two. Jenn Lucas led the Green and White offense in game one, going 2-for-3 with three RBI, while Lindsay Rich picked up the win, throwing 3.1 innings of relief. Kayla Haslett suffered the loss for Youngstown State before
Casey Crozier helped the Penguins bounce back in game two with three strikeouts and three earned runs.

**ON DECK:** The Eagles will be back in action in a mid-week road doubleheader against Notre Dame Wednesday, March 26. Game one is set to start at 5:30 p.m. The games will complete the 26-game road stint before the team has its regular season home opener Friday, March 28 against Mid-American Conference foe Ohio.