EMU Women's Softball: Eagles Rally to Game Two Victory Over Youngstown State

Eastern Michigan University

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Eagles Rally to Game Two Victory Over Youngstown State
Abby Davidson led the Eagle offense with three hits and two RBI between the two contests

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (EMUeagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University softball team split a pair of contests against the Youngstown State University Penguins in a mid-week road doubleheader, March 18.

With the split, EMU moves to 8-16 overall, while YSU moves to 12-9 overall.

Abby Davidson led the Eagle offense tallying the only hit in game one before driving in two RBI in game two, while Michelle Kriegshauser knocked in two RBI for the Green and White in game two.

Game One: Youngstown State 7, Eastern Michigan 0

After four and a half scoreless innings and only five hits between the two squads, Youngstown State lit up the scoreboard in the bottom half of the fifth inning. The Penguins first two runs touched home when Sarah Dowd singled up the middle with bases loaded before Lauren Wells came in to pitch for Lindsay Rich. A second-straight single allowed YSU to take the 3-0 advantage, while a bases loaded walk issued to Maria Lacatena extended the Penguin lead to 4-0.

Youngstown State's defense retired the Eagles in order in the top of the sixth with two fly outs and one pop up. After a leadoff strikeout, Courtney Ewing and Miranda Castiglione notched back-to-back singles up the center of the field
before EMU recorded a second strikeout. With two outs on the scoreboard, Head Coach Brian Campbell called upon Sarah Ingalls to become the designated player for Darcella Blakey. The switch paid off for the sixth year head coach as Ingalls worked the count to 3-1 before driving a home run over the wall to give the Penguins a 7-0 lead over Eastern Michigan.

The Green and White managed only one hit in the contest when Davidson singled to second base to record a hit in two straight games in the top of the fourth inning as senior Casey Crozier and her defense dominated the EMU bats. Rich (3-8) suffered the loss in the circle, going 4.1 innings with three strikeouts, while Wells pitched 1.1 innings and Alyssa Huntley threw 0.1 innings of relief.

Just three days after breaking the all-time wins record, Crozier picked up her 48th career win throwing seven complete innings with five strikeouts and recording her third shut out of the season. Ingalls led the Penguin offense with four RBI, while Dowd brought in two runs for the YSU offense.

**Game Two: Eastern Michigan 6, Youngstown State 3**

The Eagles scored their first run in 16 innings when Lindsay Smith beat out a hard hit single to the short stop to lead off the third inning and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt from Huntley. Kriegshauser reached first on a fielder's choice when YSU overthrew third base trying to prevent Smith from advancing 60 feet. A throwing error from the third baseman allowed Smith to cross home and give Eastern the 1-0 lead before the final two outs of the inning were recorded.

The Penguins answered back in the bottom of the third inning when back-to-back doubles knotted the score at 1-1. The Green and White offense struck for the second time in the top of the sixth inning when Jenn Lucas notched a double down the right field line. Davidson and Amanda Stanton continued to be a deadly combination when the two produced back-to-back hits to bring in one run apiece, allowing Eastern to take the 3-1 advantage.

Once again the Youngstown State offense had a response to the EMU runs when a single to left field scored one run and a wild pitch knotted the score for the second time in the contest in the bottom half of the inning.

The Eagles used a strong seventh inning when Smith led off with a triple to deep right field before pinch hitter Abi Clark saw four straight balls to put runners on the corners with no outs. Kriegshauser doubled to the right center gap, plating Smith and Myranda Barnes to give Eastern the 5-3 lead. Davidson gave the Green and White a final security run with a single to right field before the final two outs of the inning were sat down in a pair of strikeouts.

Youngstown State battled in the bottom of the seventh inning loading the bases with only one out, but the Eastern defense buckled down retiring the final two outs of the contest and clinching the 6-3 victory.

Davidson led the Eagle offense with two hits and two RBI, while Kriegshauser had two RBI for the Green and White. Huntley (2-1) secured her second career victory pitching six full innings with three strikeouts, while Rich earned her first save of the season throwing the final half inning of the contest.

Kayla Haslett suffered the loss pitching six innings, while Caitlyn Minney tossed one inning for the Penguins. Two Penguins tallied one RBI apiece, while YSU outhit Eastern 10-8.

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.