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Eastern Michigan University

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Softball Suffers Setback to No. 24 Notre Dame
Eagles fall to the Fighting Irish, 12-2, in five innings

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SOUTH BEND, Ind. (EMUeagles.com) -- The Eastern Michigan University softball team fell to No. 24 Notre Dame University, 12-2, in five innings at Melissa Cook Stadium in a mid-week road contest, March 26.

With the loss, EMU falls to 8-17 overall, while the Fighting Irish improve to 20-7 on the season.

The Eagles were the first to get on the scoreboard when Jenn Lucas single to center field and was advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt from Lindsay Smith. Abby Davidson continued to be clutch at the plate for the Green and White, working the count to 3-2 before lacing a double down the right field line, scoring Lucas. Amanda Stanton extended the EMU lead to 2-0 when she forced a Notre Dame error, plating Davidson for the unearned run.

The Fighting Irish used a big third inning to take the lead with eight runs on five hits and two Eastern errors. A leadoff walk and a bunt single put runners in scoring position for Katey Haus who made up for the ND error in the top half of the inning by forcing an EMU defensive error and knotting the score at 2-2. With one out, the Fighting Irish used two walks and two singles to take the 5-2 advantage over Eastern before the Eagles recorded their second out of the inning.

Junior hurler Lindsay Rich went on in relief of Lauren Wells before a round tripper over the right field fence extended the Fighting Irish lead to 8-2 to close out the third inning.

Notre Dame continued to show its offensive power in the bottom of the fourth inning when two doubles led to a ninth
run, forcing Head Coach Melissa Gentile to make her second pitching change of the contest. With runners on second and third, freshman Alyssa Huntley surrendered a hard hit single to the shortstop, plating the 10th run of the contest for ND.

The Fighting Irish tacked on two final runs in the fourth inning on a fielder’s choice and a bases loaded walk, taking the 12-2 lead and securing the five-inning mercy over EMU after retiring the Eagles in order in the top half of the fifth.

Eastern notched just four hits on the contest and only one RBI from Davidson, while Wells (1-7) suffered the loss in the circle going 2.1 innings.

Senior Laura Winter picked up her 14th victory of the season, hurling just one inning, while Notre Dame grabbed nine hits and 11 RBI with two players each driving in three RBI.

The Eagles open up Mid-American Conference competition against Ohio on Friday, March 28, with first pitch of game one slated for 1 p.m. on the campus of the University of Michigan. Eastern will take on Akron Saturday, March 29, at 2 p.m. at the Wilpon Complex before going up against the Zips in a second MAC contest Sunday, March 30, at 1 p.m.