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Eastern Michigan University

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Seventh Inning Hit Parade Secures Game Two Victory over Valpo

The Eagles split the doubleheader in Valparaiso, Ind. falling in game one before securing a victory in game two.

VALPARAISO, Ind. (EMUEagles.com) - The Eastern Michigan University softball team snapped a six-game losing streak, defeating Valparaiso University, 11-7, in game two of the doubleheader. The Eagles fell 13-3 in game one in just six innings but brought their offense late in game two to grab their ninth victory of the 2014 campaign.

With the split, Eastern moves to 9-22 overall on the season. Meanwhile, Valpo moves to 8-23 overall.

Freshman Michelle Kriegshauser continued to be strong for the Green and White at the plate, going 6-for-7 at the plate, while her three doubles in game one tied the 2014 NCAA single-game record.

Game One: Valparaiso 13, Eastern Michigan 3 (6 inn.)

The Eagles got out to a fast start against Valpo when Lindsay Smith singled down the right field line and scored on a Michelle Kriegshauser double to the right center gap. The Green and White extended its lead to 2-0 in the top of the fourth inning as Abi Clark grabbed a leadoff single to right center before Amanda Stanton doubled to the center field wall to move Clark into scoring position. Freshman Katy Wyman knocked a long sacrifice fly to center field, allowing Clark to tag up and score from third base.
The Crusaders had a big fourth inning of their own when Kaitlyn Ranieri doubled to left center and advanced to third on a groundout to the opposite side of the infield. Senior Amanda Wisniewski knotted the score at 2-2 when she lined her seventh home run of the season over the left field fence.

EMU tacked on one final run in the top of the fifth inning when Jenn Lucas drove a leadoff double down the left field line and advanced to third on an Abby Davidson bunt down the third base line. With runners on first and third, Lucas and Davidson pulled a double steal handing Eastern the 3-2 lead over Valparaiso.

Once again, Valpo answered back in the bottom half of the inning scoring five runs on three hits and one Eagle error to take the 7-3 lead over Eastern Michigan. The Crusaders tacked on six final runs on four hits, including a three-run homer to secure the 13-3 six inning mercy over the Green and White.

Kriegshauser led the EMU offense with three doubles, which ties the 2014 NCAA single-game record, in three at bats for her second perfect contest at the plate. The freshman outfielder grabbed three of the Eagles' seven hits on the afternoon, while four other EMU players each tallied one hit apiece and Wyman drove in the only other RBI. Junior Lindsay Rich suffered the loss in the circle, throwing 4.1 innings with four strikeouts, while Lauren Wells and Abbie Minsker each hurled 0.2 innings of relief work.

Amanda Korb drove in a team-high four RBI, while Wisniewski brought in three runs and both Janelle Bouchard and Tarah McShane each tallied two RBI. Left-handed pitcher Taylor Weissenhofer grabbed the win for Valpo, hurling six innings with six strikeouts and no walks.

**Game Two: Eastern Michigan 11, Valparaiso 7**

The Eagles used a big first inning to take an early lead over Valpo, scoring four runs on two hits and one Crusader error. Davidson earned the leadoff walk before Smith reached base on a throwing error by the second baseman to put runners on first and third for Kriegshauser. The freshman outfielder secured the second walk of the inning to load the bases before a third walk proved to be detrimental to the Valpo defense. The Green and White took the 3-0 lead over Valparaiso when Amanda Stanton ripped a double to the opposite field. Lucas extended the EMU lead to 4-0 when she followed up Stanton's double with a single to center field, forcing Valpo's head coach to make a pitching change.

The Crusaders cut the lead to just two in the bottom of the second inning, bringing in two runs on two hits and tacking on a third run in the bottom of the third to come within one of the Green and White.

Eastern again capitalized on walks issued by the Valparaiso pitching staff in the top of the fourth inning when Aoife Duffy reached on a dropped fly ball by the short stop before Davidson was walked to put runners in scoring position for the Eagles. Both Duffy and Davidson advanced 60 feet on a passed ball and Smith drew the second walk of the inning to load the bases for EMU. Valpo secured its second out of the inning on an infield fly, but a third walk would bring in the Green and White's sixth run of the contest.

Again, the Crusaders answered back in the bottom half inning when two singles brought Valparaiso within just one of Eastern. After a scoreless fifth inning, Eastern tacked on a sixth run, again on a bases loaded walk to extend its lead to 6-4.

Valpo took its only lead of the contest in the bottom of the sixth inning when the first two batters of the inning reached base and a muffed throw allowed Taylor Lawson to touch home. The Crusaders knotted the score at 6-6 on a wild
pitch before using a single up the middle from Bouchard to take the 7-6 lead over the Eagles heading into the final inning.

The EMU offense came out hot in the top of the seventh when Lucas drew the teams 10th walk of the contest followed up by a Duffy single up the middle. Davidson followed up Duffy's single with a double to the center field wall, scoring Lucas and knotting the score at 6-6 before Smith continued the hit parade with a single through the left side of the field, plating Duffy. The hits continued when Kriegshauser singled to left center, allowing Davidson to score, giving the Green and White the 9-7 advantage.

Rich tried to lay down a bunt with two strikes, which would go foul, but Smith, who had a big lead on third, touched home on a throwing error by the third baseman. Abi Clark secured the Eagles sixth hit of the inning when she singled to center field, scoring Kriegshauser, extending the EMU lead to 11-7.

Rich did just what she needed to do in the bottom of the seventh inning, striking out the first batter before a groundout to third base put the second out on the board. With a runner on second, Rich came up big with her second strikeout of the inning, allowing Eastern to snap a six-game losing streak.

Coming on in relief of Alyssa Huntley, Rich (4-11) grabbed the win pitching 1.2 innings with two strikeouts, while Stanton and Rich both tallied two RBI for the Eagles. Eastern out-hit Valparaiso 12-11 and drew 10 walks compared to the Crusaders one.

Mollie Linderman (1-5) suffered the loss in the circle for Valpo, pitching 6.1 innings in relief, while Bouchard tallied two RBI and Korb went 3-for-4 at the dish.

The Eagles will be back in action Saturday, April 5 when they take on Central Michigan in a Mid-American Conference contest. First pitch of the single game is slated for 2 p.m. from Varsity Field.