EMU Women's Softball: Softball Prepares for MAC Contests Against CMU

Eastern Michigan University

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Softball Prepares for MAC Contests Against CMU

The Green and White looks to pick up its first conference victory of the season with a win over Central Michigan Saturday, April 5 at 2 p.m.

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**EASTERN READIES FOR FIRST TRUE HOME GAME:** The Eastern Michigan University softball team looks to play its first true home game this weekend as it is scheduled to take on Mid-American Conference West Division leader Central Michigan University in a conference showdown on Varsity Field. The Eagles are slated to play the Chippewas Saturday, April 5 at 2 p.m., while first pitch of the single game Sunday, April 6 is scheduled for 1 p.m.

**FINDING THE GAME AT HOME:** Fans can follow along with the action from Varsity Field by heading to EMUEagles.com. The Eagles will provide live stats for fans as well as radio for the single games both Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 6.

Fans are also encouraged to follow @EMUSB on Twitter for live updates and can join in on the conversation using #timetoshine.

**EAGLES SNAP SIX GAME LOSING STREAK:** The Green and White snapped a six-game losing streak when it picked up an 11-7 victory over Valparaiso University, April 2. EMU used a big seventh inning, which included five runs on six hits and one Crusader error, to grab its first victory since March 18 when the Eagles defeated Youngstown State, 6-3.

In game two, Eastern out-hit Valparaiso 12-11 and drew 10 walks compared to the Crusaders' one. The Eagle offense was led by Lindsay Rich and Amanda Stanton who each brought in two runs, while Lindsay Smith had one RBI going 2-for-2 at the plate with two walks and two runs. Michelle Kriegshauser continued her dominance over opposing pitchers, going 3-for-4 at the dish with one RBI, one walk and two runs scored, while Jenn Lucas continued her eight game hitting streak with two base hits for the Eagles.
ETCHING HER NAME IN EMU LAURELS EARLY: Freshman Michelle Kriegshauser has had the hot bat for the Eagles this past week as her three doubles in game one against Valparaiso University, April 2, not only tied the 2014 NCAA single-game record but also ties for first in EMU laurels. Former Eastern standout McKenna Russ set the Green and White standard almost exactly five years prior to Kriegshauser when she notched three doubles against IPFW, April 1, 2009.

Furthermore, 12 of the New Lenox, Ill. native's 18 hits have come in the past week as she is hitting at a .632 clip since Friday, March 28. The freshman right fielder has notched a team-best 12 hits in 19 at-bats with four doubles, one home run and three RBI, while also drawing two walks on the week. Kriegshauser has a 1.000 slugging percentage and a .667 on-base percentage in the past week after going 6-for-7 at the plate in the Eagles two contests against Valpo, April 2.

Additionally, she went a perfect 5-for-5 in a doubleheader against Ohio Friday, March 28. The freshman ripped her first career home run over the right center fence, while also tallying one double between the two contests. The New Lenox, Ill. native also drove in a RBI against the Bobcats and scored a pair of runs for EMU.

KEEPING THE STREAKS ALIVE: As of late, the EMU bats have started to come to life for a few Eagles as junior Jenn Lucas holds an eight game hitting streak and senior Lindsay Smith has tallied a hit in the past four games for the Green and White. Additionally, Amanda Stanton, Michelle Kriegshauser and Abi Clark have each notched a hit in the past two contests for EMU.

Lucas comes into Eastern's contest against Central riding an 11 game reached base streak, while Smith has reached base in the past four contests and Stanton has reached in the past three for the Eagles.

MAKING A NAME FOR HERSELF IN THE MAC: Freshman Michelle Kriegshauser is hitting at a .500 clip in MAC competition with six hits, one RBI and two runs scored, while also holding an .833 slugging percentage and a .538 on-base percentage. The freshman outfielder put up a team-leading .462 batting average in the Eagles' six contests on the week with six hits, two runs scored and one RBI while also tallying five putouts and no errors in right field. Kriegshauser ended the weekend with a .769 slugging percentage and a .500 on-base percentage, recording at least one hit in all but one contest for EMU.

PATIENCE PAYS OFF: The Eagles used patience at the plate in the mid-week matchup with Valparaiso, securing a season-high 10 walks which in turn led to three runs for the EMU offense. Abby Davidson, Lindsay Smith and Lindsay Rich each grabbed two walks in the contest, while four other Green and White players notched one walk apiece.

Both of Rich's walks lead to Eastern runs, while Lauren Wells bases loaded walk in the first inning brought in the Eagles' first run of the contest.

WELLS FINDS HER RHYTHM IN THE CIRCLE: Senior Lauren Wells was the only Eagle pitcher that was able to silence the powerful bats of Ohio in Eastern's first Mid-American Conference contest of the 2014 campaign, March 28. The Lowell, Ind. native went 3.1 innings and allowed just three runs, striking out four.

The senior got the ball in game one against Akron, throwing a season-best seven innings for her second complete game of the season. Wells fanned a season-high eight batters while allowing just four hits and two runs in seven innings of work, keeping the powerful Akron offense at bay. Despite being 0-2 on the week, Wells posted her best week of the season with 12 strikeouts and just 12 hits in 13.0 innings pitched, including a four hit appearance against Akron.

Furthermore, the senior left-hander has dropped her ERA to just above 5.00, leading the Eagle pitching staff with a 5.04 ERA in 50 innings of work.

TAKING ON A NEW ROLE: Head Coach Melissa Gentile has been switching up the lineup all season long trying to find that perfect fit heading into MAC play. The first-year head coach may have found a good fit for the leadoff hitter in
sophomore third baseman Abby Davidson. Davidson was the leadoff hitter for the Eagles in five of their six games this past week, going 4-for-17 with three runs and three RBI.

The Westerville, Ohio native holds a .316 batting average so far this season when she leads off the inning for the EMU offense, posting six hits in her 19 opportunities. The sophomore third baseman is hitting at a .286 clip for the Eagles this season with a team-high 24 hits, including seven doubles, one home run and nine RBI.

**BETTER WITH RUNNERS ON:** The Eagles have struggled to put runners on the base path this season, hitting just .190 when bases are empty but have found a way to get the bat on the ball with runners on the bases. EMU is hitting .250 with runners on, including .217 with bases loaded in its first 31 games of the 2014 campaign.

Junior Jenn Lucas has been clutch with the bases loaded for Eastern, going 2-for-4 at the dish, while Lindsay Smith has posted one hit in her two opportunities with the bases loaded. Meanwhile, sophomore Abby Davidson is hitting a team-best .371 with runners on base, tallying 13 hits in 35 chances, and Amanda Stanton is currently posting a .357 batting average with runners on base and a team-best 15 RBI.

**STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE:** After an injury in practice put freshman catcher Taylor Wagner on the bench for MAC opening weekend, sophomore Aoife Duffy was called upon by Head Coach Melissa Gentile to power the battery in the weekend contests.

Duffy started all five games behind the plate for the Eagles last week with three hits in seven at-bats, including one double and scoring one run. The Powell, Ohio native forced an Akron error in game one that knotted the score at 1-1 on a sharply hit ball to center field. Duffy scored the Green and White's lone run in game two against the Zips when she doubled to the right center wall before Lindsay Smith ripped a double to left center that would score the sophomore catcher.

Duffy has appeared in and started 12 games for the Eagles behind the plate and is the only EMU hitter to be above .300 as she posts a .320 batting average in her 25 at-bats with eight hits, including one double and two RBI.

**TOUGH START TO MAC PLAY:** The Green and White was unable to find a win, going up against Ohio University and the University of Akron in the opening weekend of Mid-American Conference play. The Eagles first fell to the Bobcats in a doubleheader, March 28, before falling in matching 2-1 contests to the Zips, March 29-30.

**SCOUTING CENTRAL MICHIGAN:** Central Michigan is home to legendary head coach Margo Jonker who is in her 35th season as the Chippewas’ head coach. Jonker has seen 13 NCAA Tournament berths, including an appearance in the NCAA World Series as well as leading her team to more MAC titles than any other program in league history. Jonker is just the 11th Division I coach to clinch 1,000 victories and ranks as the seventh winningest coach in NCAA Division I history with 1,136 wins.

Starting third baseman Trista Cox leads the CMU offense as the only hitter to hold a batting average over .300. Cox is hitting at a .363 clip with a team-best 33 hits, including seven doubles and seven home runs. The junior infielder has also crossed the plate a team-high 19 times with a .670 slugging percentage and a .400 on-base percentage. The sister duo of Cory and Chelsea DeLamielleure has combined for 43 hits, including 14 doubles and 11 home runs while driving in 34 runs and scoring 28 times for the Chips. Cory ranks second on the team with a .287 batting average, while Chelsea is fifth with a .240 batting average and seven of the two's combined 10 homers.

The Chippewa pitching staff is led by freshman Rachael Knapp (7-1) who has a team-best 1.66 ERA and 85 strikeouts in 67.1 innings of work. Seniors Morgan Yunker (6-1) and Chelsea Sundberg (6-6) have each nabbed six wins on the season for Central, while Sundberg has pitched a team-high 75.1 innings and has thrown six complete games.

**SERIES HISTORY:** The Chippewas lead the all-time series, 66-30-1, against the Eagles after the two teams split the series a season ago. The Green and White picked up an 8-4 game one victory before being shut out by CMU, 3-0, the following day.
Eastern has been unable to sweep the series against in-state rival Central Michigan since the 2009 season when the Eagles took victories on back-to-back days, April 11-12, 2009. Since then, the Green and White has taken at least one game away from the Chippewas in two out of the last four years as EMU was swept in both 2010 and 2012 by the West Division foe.

In game one of last season's contest, three Eagles grabbed two RBI, including Amanda Stanton, while the Green and White out-hit the Chippewas 8-7. Former EMU standout pitcher Jenna Ignowski secured the win for EMU, pitching all seven innings, while Lauren Wells suffered the loss in game two, throwing 3.2 innings. Eastern was held to just two hits against Chelsea Sundberg who will return to the circle for this season's contest against the two squads.

**ON DECK:** Eastern will hit the road for a five-game stretch when it plays four Mid-American Conference games as well as one non-conference contest against Big Ten opponent, Michigan State. The Eagles are set to take on Kent State University in a MAC contest Friday, April 11 at 1 p.m. before heading to Buffalo, N.Y. Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13 for single game contests against the Bulls.