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EMU Softball Shut Out By Buffalo in First MAC Road Contest, 7-0

The Eagles look to come back strong in series finale Sunday, April 13 against the Bulls

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BUFFALO, N.Y. (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University softball team was shut out for the ninth time this season, falling to the University at Buffalo, 7-0, in a Mid-American Conference match up at Nan Harvey Field Saturday, April 12.

With the loss, Eastern falls to 9-25 overall and 0-7 in the MAC. Meanwhile, Buffalo improves to 19-17 overall and 3-2 in conference play.

The Eagles managed just two hits in the seven inning contest with Lindsay Smith and Katy Wyman coming away with the Green and White's only base hits, while Abby Davidson tallied a walk for EMU. The Bulls out hit the Eagles, 6-2, with three home runs, two of which came from leadoff hitter Sammi Gallardo.

Gallardo got the Bulls offense rolling early with a leadoff home run over the right field fence in the bottom of the first inning before a single from Karly Nevez would prove to be detrimental to the Eagles. After singling to right field, Nevez advanced to second on a groundout and made an attempt to steal third, which forced an EMU throwing error by the catcher and allowed Nevez to come around and score for Buffalo.
The Bulls extended their lead to 3-0 in the bottom of the third inning with a second homer from Gallardo. Buffalo used its third round tripper of the contest in the bottom of the fourth inning when Jessica Taylor launched a two out, two-run homer over the center field wall to give the Bulls the 5-0 advantage over the Green and White and forcing Head Coach Melissa Gentile to bring in Lauren Wells in relief of starting pitcher Lindsay Rich.

Buffalo put runs on the scoreboard for the third-straight inning when the Eagles intentionally walked Gallardo to lead off the inning and Hayley Barrow grabbed the Bulls second walk of the inning. Savanna Norcio dug in with two runners on and singled to deep left field, allowing pinch runner Kenzie Koch to score from second base. With runners on first and third, Buffalo notched a double steal when pinch runner Alexis Curtiss stole second and Norcio crossed home for Buffalo's seventh and final run of the contest.

Rich suffered the loss in the circle for EMU, going 3.2 innings with five hits and four earned runs, while Wells closed out the final 2.1 innings, allowing one hit and two earned runs. Ace pitcher Tori Speckman hurled all seven innings for the Bulls with ten strikeouts and just two hits for her fifth shutout of the 2014 campaign.

The Eagles and Bulls will conclude their two game series Sunday, April 13 as EMU will look to pick up its first MAC victory. First pitch from Nan Harvey Field is slated for 1 p.m.