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Eastern Michigan University

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Softball Drops Fifth-Straight at the Hands of Michigan State

The Eagles fell on a solo home run in the bottom of the sixth inning to the Spartans

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EAST LANSING, Mich. (EMUEagles.com) — The Eastern Michigan University softball team dropped its fifth-straight game, falling at the hands of Michigan State University, 1-0, in a mid-week non-conference contest.

With the loss the Green and White fall to 9-27 overall on the season, while the Spartans improve to 10-28 overall.

The Eagles could not manage a hit off of senior pitcher Kelly Smith who tossed her first career no-hitter and 21st in MSU softball history. Freshman Sarah Gutknect led the Spartans, going 2-for-2 at the plate, while Nielsen tallied the only RBI of the contest.

EMU looked to get some offense going in the top of the second inning when Smith issued a walk to Lindsay Smith before hitting Jenn Lucas with a pitch to put runners in scoring position for the Green and White with two outs. Smith retired the final out the inning on a strikeout, leaving two runners stranded for the Eagle offense.

The lone run of the contest came in the bottom of the sixth inning when Nielsen drove a leadoff home run over the outfield wall. Senior Lauren Wells (1-9) suffered the loss in the circle, despite giving up just three hits to Michigan State. Wells threw 5.1 innings with three strikeouts, while Abbie Minsker came on in relief for 0.2 innings.
Eastern will return to the friendly confines of Varsity Field for a weekend doubleheader against Western Michigan, April 18, before taking on Northern Illinois in two single games, April 19-20. The Eagles’ doubleheader against Western Michigan will hit the airwaves of Eagle All-Access with Greg Steiner and Sean Hostetter providing coverage.