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Eastern Michigan University

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Softball Splits with Toledo Securing First MAC Road Victory

Freshman Alyssa Huntley picked up her fourth win of the season and second MAC victory

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TOLEDO, Ohio (EMUeagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University softball team secured its first Mid-American Conference road victory of the 2014 season, splitting with the University of Toledo Friday, April 25. The Eagles fell 8-1 in game one before coming back and scoring 11 runs in game two to take an 11-5 win over the Rockets.

With the split, Eastern moves to 11-31 overall on the season and 2-12 in the MAC, while Toledo moves to 17-32 overall and 7-11 in conference play.

Freshman Michelle Kriegshauser led the Eagle offense at the plate with three hits and two runs, while Lindsay Rich and Myranda Barnes both drove in two runs for the Eagle offense. Senior Lauren Wells (1-10) suffered the loss in game one, going four complete innings while freshman Alyssa Huntley (4-4) picked up her fourth win of the season tossing 6.2 innings in game two for the Green and White.

Game One: Toledo 8, Eastern Michigan 1

The Eagles looked to get something going in the top of the first inning when Taylor Wagner drew a walk and Kriegshauser knocked a single to center field with only one away, but freshman Emily Anderson retired the final two outs of the inning on swinging strikeouts before EMU was able to push a run across the plate. The Rockets used a single and a hit batter to put runners in scoring position before Celeste Fidge singled to deep center field, plating
Chandler Rice and giving Toledo the 1-0 lead over Eastern.

The UT offense continued its threat on the Eagle defense in the bottom of the second inning when an error allowed Olivia Reeder to reach first and a single from Sammy Emery moved pinch runner Mareshah Scott just 60 feet from home. With one out on the board, the Eagles were unable to freeze a quick Scott at third base as she touched home on a ground out to third base to extend the Rocket lead to 2-0.

Two walks and a stolen base scored a third run for Toledo in the bottom of the third inning, while miscues in the field once again plagued the Eagles as Ashley London touched home to give the Rockets a 4-0 lead over EMU.

The Green and White started to show some offense in the top of the fourth inning when Amanda Stanton doubled to the right center wall and two, two-out walks loaded the bases for Wells. The senior hurler helped herself when she drew the third-consecutive walk of the inning to bring in Eastern's only run of the contest.

UT answered back to the Eagles run in the bottom of the fifth when back-to-back extra base hits allowed Toledo to take the 5-1 lead over Eastern. The Rockets continued to build on their lead after an EMU pitching change when a double and two-straight singles scored three runs to extend the UT lead to 8-1. Relief pitcher Abbie Minsker settled in after that and retired three-straight batters to end the inning.

Eastern was unable to score any runs in either the sixth or seventh inning as the UT defense sat down six-straight batters to secure the 8-1 victory in game one of the doubleheader. Stanton and Kriegshauser were the only EMU players to tally a hit in the contest, while Wells brought in the lone RBI for the Green and White. Wells suffered the loss in the circle, throwing four complete innings for Eastern Michigan. Fidge continued to lead the Toledo offense with two hits and two RBI, while the Rockets outhit EMU 9-2 in the seven-inning contest.

**Game Two: Eastern Michigan 11, Toledo 5**

Eastern got its offense rolling early in game two when Barnes led off with a walk and Kriegshauser drove a double to the center field wall to score Barnes from third base. Stanton followed it up with a bunt single that would plate Kriegshauser before Rich extended the Eagle lead to 4-0 on a two-run homer.

Toledo chipped away at the Eagle lead in the bottom half of the inning scoring two runs with two outs to come within two of Eastern Michigan. The Rockets used three hits and one EMU error in the bottom of the second inning to add three runs and take the 5-4 lead over the Green and White.

The Eagles took the lead for the second time in the top of the sixth inning when Kriegshauser doubled to right center and Stanton was hit by a pitch to put runners in scoring position for Jenn Lucas. Lucas dug in and ripped the ball at the UT right fielder, causing an error and allowing both Kriegshauser and Stanton to touch home.

EMU started a two-out rally when Rich singled to center field to move Lindsay Smith, who drew a walk to lead off the inning, to third base for Lucas. Lucas laced a single to center field, scoring Smith and bringing the Green and White lead to 7-5. After loading the based on an UT error, Aoife Duffy was hit by a pitch, allowing Rich to cross home. Eastern plated three final runs on back-to-back singles by Abby Davidson and Barnes to take the 11-5 lead heading into the bottom of the inning.

Toledo battled in the bottom of the seventh, loading the bases with two singles and a hit batter. With bases loaded and two outs, Head Coach Melissa Gentile brought Rich in to pitch for Huntley. Rich came up with a huge swinging strikeout to end the contest and secure the Eagles' second MAC victory of the 2014 season.
Barnes and Rich led the EMU offense in game two with two RBI apiece, while Kriegshauser went 2-for-4 at the plate and scored two runs for the Green and White. Huntley grabbed her fourth win of the season in the circle, pitching 6.2 innings while Rich posted her second save of the season with one strikeout.

Eastern Michigan will be back in action Saturday, April 26 when it heads to Bowling Green, Ohio to take on the Falcons in a 2 p.m. single game at Meserve Field.