EMU Women's Softball: Softball Concludes 2014 Home Slate Against IPFW

Eastern Michigan University

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Softball Concludes 2014 Home Slate Against IPFW

Eastern will conclude its 2014 home schedule when it takes on IPFW before traveling to Rochester, Mich. to face the OU Golden Grizzlies.

Eastern Set to Play Two Mid-Week Non-Conference Contests:
The Eagles will close out their 2014 home slate when they go up against the powerful IPFW (33-13) squad Tuesday, April 29 before taking the short jaunt to Rochester, Mich. to play Oakland University (15-19) on its home turf. The Green and White will meet up with the Mastodons at Varsity Field for a doubleheader starting at 3 p.m. before traveling to OU in search of its second win over the Golden Grizzlies Wednesday, April 30 at 2 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 as well as radio for fans against IPFW. Providing coverage of the game against the Mastodons will be Greg Steiner and Sean Hostetter.

Fans can follow along with the Eagles’ single game against Oakland University by heading to EMUEagles.com for live stats, provided by the Golden Grizzlies.

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

Eastern Secures First MAC Road Victories:
The Eastern Michigan University softball team posted a 2-2 record this past weekend, picking up victories against both the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University. The wins marked the first Mid-American Conference road victories for the Green and White in the 2014 season.

Senior Amanda Stanton led the Eagle offense with a .455 batting average, tallying five hits with two RBI and two
runs, while Alyssa Huntley and Lindsay Rich each grabbed wins in the circle for the Green and White.

RICH COMES UP BIG IN WEEKEND CONTESTS: Junior hurler Lindsay Rich helped the Eagles pick up their first Mid-American Conference road victories this past week, grabbing a save against the University of Toledo before earning the victory against Bowling Green in a cross-divisional contest. The right-handed hurler posted a 0.70 ERA on the week, giving up just one run in 10 innings of work while picking up her first MAC victory. In game two against the Rockets, 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 freshman Alyssa Huntley. Rich came up with a huge swinging strikeout to end the contest and secure the Eagles’ second MAC victory of the 2014 campaign, along with her second save of the season. Rich came back Saturday, April 26, to pitch six complete innings against Bowling Green with three strikeouts and just five walks. The Perrysburg, Ohio native grabbed her first MAC victory of the season, shutting out the Falcons, 3-0.

Along with leading the Eagle pitching staff, Rich posted a .300 batting average on the week with three hits, including two home runs, four RBI and two runs for the EMU offense. The junior helped herself in Saturday’s contest against BGSU with a two-run round tripper bringing the Green and White lead to 3-0 and securing the shutout victory.

KRIEGSHAUSER DOUBLES DOWN: Freshman Michelle Kriegshauser has turned into somewhat of a double machine for the Green and White offense as of late. The freshman outfielder currently sits in a tie for the 2014 NCAA single-game record after notching three doubles against Valparaiso University, April 2.

Since then, Kriegshauser has tacked on seven more doubles and ranks 22nd in the nation and fourth in the Mid-American Conference with 0.35 doubles per game. The New Lenox, Ill. native leads the Eagles with her 13 doubles on the season, which also ties for fourth in conference standings.

SACRIFICE FOR THE TEAM: The Eagles have recently started to implement the "get them on, get them over, get them in" style of play when they are at the plate. Against Western Michigan, April 18, freshman Taylor Wagner laid down two sacrifice bunts to advance the runner on first and added her third against Northern Illinois, April 19. As a team, Eastern has put down 43 sacrifice bunts, which ranks third in the conference. Senior Lindsay Smith leads the Eagles with eight sacrifice bunts, while Amanda Stanton has laid down six sacrifice bunts for EMU this season.

Furthermore, the Green and White has found other ways to bring in the runner, using sacrifice hits as junior Jenn Lucas ranks second in the MAC and 49th in the nation with three sacrifice hits on the season. As of April 20, Lucas is just one sacrifice fly behind conference leader Alexandria Basquez of Ohio and five behind national leader Alexa Peterson of Oregon. Lucas is not the only Eagle who ranks nationally for sacrificing herself at the plate as Smith ranks 64th in the nation and fifth in the conference for her 0.21 sacrifice hits per contest.

STILL LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT FIT: Head Coach Melissa Gentile has continued to switch up the lineup in all 44 games the Eagles have played as she has only handed in the same card on seven occasions.

Junior Jenn Lucas has made the most appearances in the leadoff spot with 16, while Abby Davidson has batted in the first and third spot on 14 occasions. Junior pitcher Lindsay Rich has also made 14 appearances on the lineup card in the cleanup spot, while senior Amanda Stanton has hit in the four hole a team-best 19 times.

This past weekend, Gentile decided to mix things up in the field once again as Stanton and Lucas switched spots in the middle infield. Stanton has made 43 starts at shortstop and made her first start of the 2014 campaign at second base, while Lucas has started at three different positions this season. The junior infielder has made a team-best 34 starts at second base, while starting eight times in center field and once at short. Davidson has made 38 starts at third base, while senior Lindsay Smith has made 42 starts in the field for EMU, 29 in center and 13 in left field.

Left field has been a position with a lot of change as of late for the Eagles as well. Sophomores Myranda Barnes and Elaine Whitbeck have been battling out for the spot as they have made 12 and 13 starts, respectively. This past weekend, Barnes started three contests in the left field spot, while also leading off for the offense for the first time this season.
Sophomore Mady Hostetler has made an appearance in all three outfield positions, the most coming at center field with seven. Furthermore, Michelle Kriegshauser, Davidson and Smith have been on the card in seven different spots in the order, while five other Eagles have appeared in six of the nine spots in the batting order.

**CLIMBING THE ALL-TIME RANKINGS:** The pitching duo of Lauren Wells and Lindsay Rich is making its way up the Eastern Michigan all-time pitching lists.

Wells's 343 career strikeouts rank fourth all-time at Eastern Michigan, while her 370.2 innings of work rank 10th in EMU laurels. The senior left-handed hurler needs just 32 strikeouts in the Green and White's final seven contests to break into the top three in strikeouts and tie with former EMU ace Jenna Ignowski.

Rich has been making a name for herself this season as the Eagles' ace pitcher with a team-high 33 appearances and 14 starts. The junior right-hander has thrown 131 innings this season and has tallied 81 strikeouts to bring her career total to 199. Those 205 strikeouts rank 11th all-time in EMU laurels.

**IPFW AT A GLANCE:** The Tuesday doubleheader between the Eagles and the Mastodons will be the first time in six days that IPFW has played a contest after having its weekend series against Concordia cancelled due to inclement weather.

The Mastodons post a 33-13 overall record this season, having played six opponents on EMU's 2014 slate. IPFW holds a 4-3 record against Mid-American Conference opponents, most recently sweeping Bowling Green State University in a three-game series in Fort Wayne, Ind., April 23.

As a team, IPFW is hitting at a .274 clip with junior Larissa Franklin hitting a team best .437. Franklin leads the team with 66 hits, while classmate Dani Pugh has knocked in 48 RBI on the season. Pugh's 48 RBI in 46 games gives her 1.09 RBI per game which ranks 25th in the nation and first in the Summit League standings. The Mastodons have spread the wealth at the plate this season with three other players tallying 20 or more RBI so far this season, while five players have had multiple home runs. Franklin not only holds the team standard in hits but has crossed the plate 40 times and has swiped 15 bases on 22 chances for IPFW.

The Mastodons not only hit the ball hard, but they have a pitching staff that keeps opposing batters at just a .195 batting average. Both starting pitchers for IPFW hold ERAs under two. Two ace pitchers have emerged in the Mastodon lineup as senior Megan Flenniken and junior Miranda Kramer, both rank nationally in strikeouts. Kramer, the Mastodons southpaw, has pitched a team-best 162.1 innings with 260 strikeouts, which ranks fourth in the nation while her 11.4 fanned batters per game ranks third nationally and her two shutouts rank second. Flenniken, a right-handed hurler, has tossed 121.1 innings for IPFW with 114 strikeouts and giving up just 96 hits in 25 appearances, including 12 complete games.

**SERIES HISTORY:** The Mastodons holds a 7-5 all-time series lead over Eastern Michigan after sweeping the Eagles in the 2013 season.

IPFW mercied the Green and White in five innings in game one after an eight-run first inning. EMU scored two runs in the top of the fifth, but the Mastodons tacked on two final runs in the bottom half of the inning to take a 10-2 victory. Then-junior Amanda Stanton was the only Eagle to tally a hit against the left-handed Miranda Kramer.

In game two, the Eagles were the first to light up the scoreboard, notching one run in both the first and third innings, but IPFW battled back with one run in both the fourth and the fifth to knot the score at 2-2. The Eagles took a 4-2 lead heading into the bottom of the seventh, but were unable to hold off the Mastodons who scored two runs to again tie the score. IPFW used a single through the left side of the field by then-freshman Hilary Kartman to secure the 5-4 victory over EMU. Amanda Herron led the Eagle offense foing 3-for-5 at the dish with one RBI and two run, while Courtney Nicholson and Aoife Duffy each added two hits for the Green and White.

**SCOUTING OAKLAND:** The Golden Grizzlies are just below .500 on the season with a 15-19 overall record. Most recently, OU swept Youngstown State, April 26-27, in a three game series. Oakland will take on Detroit Tuesday,
April 29 before hosting the Eagles.

As a team, the Grizzlies are hitting at a .263 clip Jackie Kisman's .380 batting average leading the way. Senior Erika Polidori leads the team in nine offensive categories including: Hits (35), doubles (11), home runs (5), RBI (21), total bases (61), slugging percentage (.565), on-base percentage (.425), walks (18), runs (20) and stolen bases (12).

Oakland relies on two underclassman to anchor its pitching staff as Kaley Waalkes and Erin Kownacki have combined for 34 appearances, 183 innings, 18 complete game and 114 strikeouts. Waalkes, a freshman, holds a 3.09 ERA and a 7-5 overall record, while Kownacki has a 3.11 ERA and a 7-11 record in 2014.

**LAST TIME OUT AGAINST THE GOLDEN GRIZZLIES:** The Eagles hold a 16-4-1 all-time series lead over Oakland University. EMU and OU have met twice this season with each team coming away with one victory.

OU struck first in the first meeting of the season in Fort Myers, Fla. The Golden Grizzlies scored four runs in the top of the third inning before the Eagles battled back to score three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. EMU would be unable to score any further runs, while OU tacked on one final security run in the top of the seventh to take the 5-3 win, Feb. 26.

Oakland and Eastern met up for the second time at the Dayton Tournament, March 15, when the Eagles were able to take a 6-1 victory over the Golden Grizzlies. EMU scored one run in both the first and third inning before taking a 5-0 lead in the fifth inning. OU scored its only run of the contest in the bottom of the fifth, but Eastern tacked on one run in the seventh to take the 6-1 win. Junior Lindsay Rich picked up her third victory of the season, while Abby Davidson went 3-for-4 at the plate and Amanda Stanton drove in two RBI

**ON DECK:** Eastern will hit the road for its final weekend of the regular season when it travels to both Ohio and Indiana for Mid-American Conference competition. The Eagles will first take on Miami Friday, May 2 in a doubleheader before heading to Muncie, Ind. to play two single games against MAC West leader, Ball State. EMU is slated to take on the Cardinals Saturday, May 3 at 2 p.m. before wrapping up the series Sunday, May 4 at 1 p.m.