EMU Women's Softball: Softball Drops Home Finale to IPFW

Eastern Michigan University

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The Eagles were unable to hang with the Mastodons, falling twice at Varsity Field

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YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUeagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University softball team dropped its final home contest of the 2014 season, falling twice to non-conference foe, IPFW Tuesday, April 29. The Eagles were mercied, 9-0, in game one before falling 7-4 in game two to the Mastodons.

With the loss, EMU falls to 12-34 overall, while IPFW improves to 35-13 overall. Sophomore Abi Clark led the Green and White offense at the plate with three hits and one RBI, while Myranda Barnes, Amanda Stanton and Jenn Lucas each had two hits and one RBI for Eastern.

Larissa Franklin was the story of the day for the Mastodons, going 7-for-8 at the plate with three RBI, while Caitlyn DeLong drove in four runs in game one and Ashleigh Bousquet brought in three in game two for IPFW.

**Game One: IPFW 9 Eastern Michigan 0 (5 Innings)**

After three scoreless innings, IPFW used three hits, including a home run, and two EMU errors to score six runs in the top of the fourth inning. Two-straight singles to right field and a homer from DeLong allowed the Mastodons to take a 9-0 lead in the top of the fifth inning.

Eastern found some offense in the bottom of the fifth when Miranda Kramer walked Lindsay Rich and Lucas notched the Eagles only hit with a short single to the edge of the center field grass. With two runners on and behind in the
count, Kramer came back to strike out Lindsay Smith, grabbing her 11th fanned batter to close out the contest.

Lucas tallied the Green and White’s only hit of the contest, while Rich was the only other base runner for Eastern Michigan. Rich (5-14) suffered the loss in the circle, tossing 3.2 innings, while Abbie Minsker and Alyssa Huntley both saw time in the circle in relief.

Seven of the Mastodon’s nine batters scored a run for IPFW, while Franklin went 3-for-3 at the plate with three RBI and DeLong brought in four runs on two hits and scored twice. Kramer picked up her 17th win of the season with 11 strikeouts and surrendered just one hit and one walk in five innings of work.

**Game Two: IPFW 7, Eastern Michigan 4**

IPFW continued to strike offensively in game two when Franklin doubled down the left field line and scored on a single to right field. The Eagles answered back in the bottom half of the inning with a Barnes leadoff single through the left side of the field and advanced to second on a Taylor Wagner sacrifice bunt. Barnes moved just 60 feet from home when Michelle Kriegshauser grounded out to second base. Stanton ripped a ball up the middle of the field to score Barnes and knot the score at 1-1 in the first.

Eastern picked up a run in the second inning when Lucas doubled down the right field line before scoring on a Clark single to right field, giving EMU the 2-1 lead over the Mastodons. The Eagles lead did not last long as Dani Pugh launched a two-run round tripper over the left field fence, allowing IPFW to take the 3-2 lead in the top of the third.

Clark led off the bottom of the fifth with a single and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt. The sophomore first baseman touched home when Barnes tapped a shallow single to left field, knotting the score at 3-3.

IPFW used back-to-back two-out doubles in the top of the sixth inning to take the 6-3 lead, forcing the second EMU pitching change of the contest. A single through the left side of the field plated one final run in the inning to extend the Mastodon lead to 7-3.

A leadoff triple from Stanton in the bottom of the sixth turned into a run when Lucas ripped the ball to the shortstop, bringing the scored to 7-4, IPFW. Eastern was unable to push any runs across the plate in the seventh inning as relief pitcher Kaitlyn Bierre retired the Eagles in order and picked up her first save of the season.

Clark led the EMU bats in game two with three hits and one RBI, while Barnes and Stanton each had two base hits and one RBI apiece. Wells (1-12) suffered the loss in the circle, pitching 3.1 innings in relief.

Once again, Franklin led the Mastodon offense going 4-for-5 at the plate, while Ashleigh Bousquet had three RBI and Pugh had two RBI on one hit. Megan Flenniken went six full innings with six strikeouts to tally her 17th victory of the season for IPFW.

The Eagles will be back in action Wednesday, April 30 when they travel to Rochester, Mich. to take on the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies in a doubleheader. First pitch is slated for 2 p.m.