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EMU Women's Softball: Softball Splits Twinbill in Miami

Eastern Michigan University

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Softball Splits Twinbill in Miami
The Eagles grabbed a 5-3 victory in game one before falling 3-2 in extra innings to the RedHawks in game two

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OXFORD, Ohio (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University softball team split its final doubleheader of the 2014 season, defeating Miami University, 5-3, in game one before falling to the RedHawks, 3-2, in nine innings in game two, May 2. The extra-inning contest marked the eighth time the Green and White have gone into extra this season and the Eagles’ fourth Mid-American Conference extra-inning game.

With the split, the Eagles move to 13-35 overall and 4-14 in the Mid-American Conference. Meanwhile, MU moves to 20-26 overall and 7-11 in MAC play.

Sophomore Myranda Barnes propelled the Eagle offense going 3-for-4 at the plate in game one with one RBI. Senior Lindsay Smith tallied three hits between the two contests and drove in one run. Freshman Abbie Minsker picked up her first conference victory, pitching two innings in relief, while Meagan Winkelseth grabbed her first collegiate RBI.

**Game One: Eastern Michigan 5, Miami 3**

The Eagles used two walks and a single up the middle by Abi Clark to load the bases with two outs in the top of the second inning. Two-straight singles from Barnes and Smith brought in one run apiece to give EMU the early 2-0 lead over the RedHawks.
Clark struck out to lead off the top of the fourth, but a dropped third strike allowed her to reach first and eventually come around to score on a Winkelseth single up the middle to give the Green and White a 3-0 lead. Winkelseth advanced to second on a passed ball and moved just 60 feet from home on a Barnes single to the left side of the field. The Eagles plated two runs when Michelle Kriegshauser forced a MU error, extending the Eastern lead to 5-0.

Miami started to chip away at the Eastern lead in the bottom of the fourth inning when three walks loaded the bases and a fielder's choice brought in one run for the RedHawks. A leadoff home run in the bottom of the sixth inning brought MU within three of the Eagles before Lauren Wells came on in relief of Minsker, giving up just one hit and stranding two Miami base runners to get out of the inning without any further damage.

Miami battled in the bottom of the seventh, putting runners on the corners with two outs before Allie Larrabee singled up the middle to come within two of EMU. With the tying run at the plate, Wells came up with a huge looking strikeout to secure the 5-3 victory.

Barnes led the Eagle offense, going 3-for-4 at the dish with one RBI, while Smith went 2-for-3 with one RBI, and Winkelseth drove in her first career run donning the Green and White. Minsker (3-4) picked up the win in the circle, throwing two full innings, and Wells grabbed her third save of the season, pitching two complete innings.

**Game Two: Miami 3, Eastern Michigan 2**

After securing the first out of the contest on a groundout, starting pitcher Lindsay Rich hit two batters to put runners in scoring position for the Miami offense. Junior Bree Lipscomb doubled deep into left field, allowing MU to take the 1-0 lead over Eastern Michigan.

The RedHawk defense dominated the Eagle offense sitting down EMU in order in five of the seven innings before Kriegshauser drove a one-out homer over the center field wall to knot the score at 1-1 in the top of the seventh inning, sending the contest into extra innings.

After a scoreless eighth inning, Smith knocked a one out double to right field and advanced to third on a Kriegshauser groundout. Smith touched home when Amanda Stanton dug in and laced a single to the opposite field, allowing Eastern to take the 2-1 lead.

The Eagle lead did not last as Kayla Ledbetter launched a leadoff round tripper over the left field fence to tie the score at 2-2 in the bottom of the ninth before a Taylor Shuey double to the right center wall plated the winning run for Miami.

Stanton and Kriegshauser each notched one hit and one RBI, while Smith and Katy Wyman tallied the only other hits for the EMU offense. Wells (1-13) suffered the loss in the circle, tossing 4.2 innings in relief with four strikeouts.

Ledbetter and Hailey Reed led the Miami offense with two hits apiece, while the RedHawks out-hit Eastern 10-4 in game two. Amber Logemann went the distance in the circle for Miami, striking out 12 batters and walking just one.

The Eagles will travel to Muncie, Ind. to battle MAC West Division leaders Ball State University Saturday, May 3 in a single game. First pitch is slated for 2 p.m.