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EMU Women's Softball: Eastern Falls to Ball State in 2014 Season Finale

Eastern Michigan University

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MUNCIE, Ind. (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University softball team (13-37, 4-15 MAC) fell to Mid-American Conference West Division leader Ball State University (32-17, 12-5) in its final contest of the 2014 season. The Eagles fell 11-3 in a five-inning mercy to the Cardinals Sunday, May 4.

Freshman Michelle Kriegshauser and sophomore Abby Davidson each had multi-hit games for the Green and White with two hits apiece, while Amanda Stanton and Lindsay Rich each drove in one run. Senior Lauren Wells (1-14) suffered the loss in the circle, pitching 2.2 innings in her final career game as an Eagle. Wells will rank fourth all-time in EMU laurels with 349 strikeouts and ninth all-time with 389.2 innings of work.

Emily Dabkowski and Taylor Rager propelled the BSU offense, going 2-for-3 with three RBI and 1-for-3 for three RBI, respectively. Jennifer Gilbert and Shelbie Scamihorn also contributed to the Cardinal runs, driving in two apiece, while Selena Ryna had one RBI.

After being shut out the previous day, the Eagles got out to a fast start in the first inning, scoring two runs on two hits to take the 2-0 lead. With one out in the book, Kriegshauser singled through the left side of the field, advancing Lindsay Smith, who drew a walk in the previous at-bat, into scoring position. Smith crossed home when Rich drove a single to the opposite field before Jenn Lucas reached on a fielding error, plating Kriegshauser.

Ball State came within one in the bottom half of the inning when Gilbert launched a solo home run over the right
center wall, bringing the score to 2-1, in favor of Eastern. The Cardinals used two walks and a single to center field in the bottom of the second inning to knot the score at 2-2, but Eastern answered back in the top of the third when Stanton ripped her third homer of the season over the right field fence to give EMU the 3-2 lead.

BSU took its first lead of the game in the bottom half of the third inning after Lauren Wells intentionally walked Gilbert and issued a second unintentional walk to move runners into scoring position. Sammi Cowger was hit by a pitch to load the bases before Shelbie Scamihorn drove a single up the middle, plating two runs and giving Ball State the 4-3 lead.

The BSU defense kept the Eagle offense off the scoreboard in the top of the fourth inning before scoring five runs on five hits and one EMU error to take the 9-3 lead. Ball State extended its lead to 10-3 in the bottom of the fifth inning on three-straight singles before a Gilbert sacrifice fly brought in the Cardinals’ 11th run, securing the mercy over EMU.

Eastern concludes Head Coach Melissa Gentile's first season with a 13-37 overall record and a 4-15 Mid-American Conference record. Davidson led the Eagles in the 2014 season with a .285 batting average, while Stanton brought in a team-best 25 RBI in her senior season with the Green and White. Kriegshauser tied the EMU single game record with her three doubles against Valparaiso, April 2. The freshman tied all-time doubles leader McKenna Russ' three doubles against IPFW, April 1, 2009.