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EMU Women's Softball: Rowing and Softball Combine for Morning Workout on Ford Lake

Eastern Michigan University

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YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com) -- The Eastern Michigan University rowing and softball squads teamed up for a morning workout on Ford Lake Friday, Nov. 7.

EMU Rowing Head Coach Kemp Savage invited Head Softball Coach Melissa Gentile and her squad out to Ford Lake to try their hands at rowing and use it as a team building exercise. Rowing Graduate Assistant Beatrice Korte and volunteer assistant coach KC Anderson helped the softball team learn the different strokes and led the two different boats on the water.

"After a little bit of a rough patch going for the first few strokes the softball team was able to get some good strokes together," said Savage. "It was great to see the progress from learning as an individual, to moving the boat. As a team as they learned that it isn't what you are individually doing that will keep the boat moving but being with the team keeps you moving forward, even when you are facing backward."

The softball team split up between the Varsity 8 boat and a 16-person barge where they had the opportunity to learn rowing strokes and work together as a team to get the boats moving forward. Members of the rowing team as well as the staff members instructed the softball team through every phase from how to get into the boat, to positioning their oars, and finally moving as one unit through the water. While learning to row, the softball team was able to feel the ultimate level of teamwork needed to get the boat to move faster down the lake and establish a sense of camaraderie with the rowing team.
"I'd like to thank the EMU rowing team and Coach Savage for a great experience on the water this morning," said Gentile. "Our team quickly learned the importance of working together, communication, and how crucial it can be to follow at times. There were a lot of laughs, lessons, and camaraderie between the two teams."

Both teams will kick off their championship seasons in the 2015 calendar year as the softball team heads to College Station, Texas for the Texas A&M Tournament, Feb. 13, while the rowing team makes its way to Clemson, S.C., Feb. 21, for the Clemson Scrimmage.