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EMU Softball Secures First Win of the Season Over Penn State

The Eagles used three hits in the first inning to earn a 2-1 victory over the Nittany Lions

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University softball team grabbed its first win of the 2015 campaign, defeating Penn State University, 2-1, to close out the Texas A&M Tournament Sunday, Feb. 15.

The win marks the first time Eastern Michigan softball has defeated a team in the Big Ten since EMU picked up a 6-3 victory over Michigan State, Apr. 11, 2012.

The Eagles (1-4) used just three hits in the top of the first inning to push two runs across the plate and secure the Green and White’s first victory of the 2015 season. Senior Lindsay Rich tossed her first complete game of the season, giving up just three hits in seven innings with three strikeouts and no walks.

Jessica Cummings suffered the loss in the circle for the Nittany Lions, throwing 1.1 innings and giving up two earned runs, while Marlaina Laubach threw 5.2 of relief without allowing a hit.

The Green and White got its bats going early when freshman Haley Hostetler led off the contest with a single up the middle and advanced to second on a Brandice Olmos sacrifice bunt back to the pitcher. With one out, sophomore Michelle Kriegshauser ripped a double up the middle, allowing Hostetler to touch home. A groundout to shortstop moved Kriegshauser into scoring position before Abby Davidson tallied the Eagles third hit of the inning with a single to center field that scored Kriegshauser.

After sitting the Nittany Lions down in order for two-straight innings and getting out of the fifth with no damage, Penn
State lit up the scoreboard for the first time in the contest in the bottom of the sixth inning when Reina Furuya led off the inning with a single up the middle. Furuya advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt before eventually scoring on an EMU throwing error with two outs.

In the final inning of the contest, Rich and the rest of the EMU defense sat down PSU in order to grab the 2-1 win over Penn State.

“I'm very proud of my team and overall I'm happy with our progression this weekend, remarked Head Coach Melissa Gentile. "We played some great competition this weekend and I felt like we battled more than the scores reflected and the lessons learned during these five games have made us better. We are looking forward to three more days of practice for a few adjustments and then on to Florida to continue this journey."

Eastern Michigan softball will host the first ever EMU Maderia Beach Spring Invitational Feb. 20-22 in Madeira Beach, Fla. The Eagles will first take on North Dakota Friday, Feb. 20 at 1:30 p.m. before concluding the day with Robert Morris at 4 p.m.