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Eastern Michigan University

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Abi Clark and Michelle Kriegshauser knocked in two RBI apiece for the Green and White

MADERIA BEACH, Fla. (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University softball team picked up its first shutout of the 2015 season, blanking Columbia University, 6-0, at the EMU Madeira Beach Spring Invitational Saturday, Feb. 21.

Junior Abi Clark and sophomore Michelle Kriegshauser led the Eagles with two RBI apiece, while Clark went 2-for-4 at the plate and scored once. As a team, the Green and White out-hit Columbia, 8-5. Senior hurler Lindsay Rich earned her second win of the season, going the distance for the second time and her first shutout of the season.

For the Lions, Liz Caggiano went 2-for-3 at the plate, while Tonia Wu suffered the loss in the circle tossing just 1.1 innings before Kayla Maloney came on in relief, throwing 5.2 innings with five strikeouts.

Clark picked up right where she left off the previous day, ripped a two-run homer in the top of the second inning that allowed EMU to take the early advantage over Columbia. Senior Jenn Lucas followed it up with a solo home run of her own to extend the Eastern lead to 3-0.

Columbia threatened to score in the bottom of the third inning when back-to-back walks and an Eagle error loaded the bases with two outs. Rich came up big for the Green and White, striking out Taylor Troutt with an outside pitch to close out the inning and prevent any runs from scoring.

Eastern Michigan tacked on a fourth run in the top of the fifth inning when Haley Hostetler walked and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Brandice Olmos. Kriegshauser executed a perfect single to right field that allowed Hostetler to touch home, extending the Eagle lead to 4-0.
The Eagles kept their offense going in the top of the seventh inning when Hostetler made her way to third before Kriegshauser laid down a perfect suicide squeeze that scored Hostetler, giving EMU the 5-0 lead. After Kriegshauser made it to second on the play, Rich lined a single into center field that brought in pinch runner Angel Schilke.

Columbia attempted to push some runs across the plate in the bottom of the seventh inning, but a jumping catch by Hostetler at shortstop closed the game and secured the EMU shutout.

The Eagles will close out the EMU Madeira Beach Spring Invitational Sunday, Feb. 22 when it takes on UMass-Lowell at 11 a.m. and Siena College at 2 p.m.