

SIUE baseball opens at home with series against NIU

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EDWARDSVILLE – SIUE baseball opens the home portion of its schedule Friday with the start of four-game nonconference series with Northern Illinois.

The Cougars and Huskies will open the series with a 3 p.m. contest Friday afternoon. Saturday the teams will play two games with the first pitch scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday's finale also is scheduled for a 1 p.m. first pitch.

SIUE is 4-4 after splitting its first eight games, all coming away from home. Northern Illinois is 2-5. The Huskies are 1-1 in true road games this season.

The series is the start of a nine-game home stand for the Cougars, which is the longest of the season.

"It's going to be nice to be back home," SIUE Head Coach [Sean Lyons](#) said. "The weather should be good. Hopefully we'll get some fans out to see the 2017 version of Cougar baseball."

The series is the final nonconference weekend series before [Ohio Valley Conference](#) play begins, also at home.

"It is helpful to get a nonconference weekend at home ahead of starting the OVC season," Lyons added.

The Cougars enter the weekend with the fourth-best team earned run average in the OVC at 4.25 and Lyons noted that the rotation will remain unchanged for the third consecutive weekend.

"[Nelson Martz](#) has shown he deserves to be at the top, and [Brock Fulkerson](#), [Danny Ehram](#) and [Brendan Miller](#) have pitched well," Lyons said. "When we go down to three-game series there will be some decisions to be made."

Ehram leads the team with two wins in his first two starts. Martz is 1-1 in his first two outings. Mason McReacken and [Devin Colley](#) each have a pair of saves.

"To this point our guys have been able to throw strikes," he continued. "That gives everyone a chance moving forward."

[Alec Skender](#) is hitting .344 to lead the team in hitting among regulars. He has a team-high 11 hits. [Keaton Wright](#) is the RBI leader with seven.

[Live stats](#) are available for all four weekend games. Radio coverage will depend on SIUE women's basketball.

Probable Pitching Matchup

Game one: SIUE RHP [Nelson Martz](#) (1-1) vs. NIU RHP William Anderson (0-2)

Game two: SIUE RHP [Brock Fulkerson](#) (0-1) vs. NIU RHP Joe Hawks (0-1)

Game three: SIUE RHP [Danny Ehram](#) (2-0) vs. NIU RHP Nathan Thomas (1-0)

Game four: SIUE (0-0) vs. NIU RHP Donovan Sims (1-0)

