

SIUE Volleyball Upended by Belmont

by Joe Pecoraro
October 11 2021 2:37 PM



EDWARDSVILLE - A season-best performance in the opening set was not enough to keep the high-powered Belmont attack at bay, as SIUE volleyball fell to the visiting Bruins in four sets on Friday night (25-13, 20-25, 25-27, 21-25).

The first set saw the Cougars register both individual and team season-highs, led by Sydney Hummert's seven first-set kills. As a team, the Cougars hit a season-high .517 in the opening frame and outscored the Bruins by a 12-point margin. The margin stands as the largest margin of victory in any set this season. SIUE's dominance would end abruptly in the second set, as a .306 hitting performance from the visitors saw them claim a 25-20 second set win. The third set saw both sides trading blows, as neither squad could gain ground on the other; however, it would end up being the Bruins who would steal the third set, requiring extra points to do so. The fourth set followed a similar trajectory as the second, as a lengthy Bruin scoring run and outstanding defensive efforts proved too much for the Cougars to overcome, closing the set and the match with a 25-21 win.

Individually, the Cougars were led by [Savannah Christian](#), who registered 14 kills and hit at an outstanding .303 clip. Following closely behind were [Sydney Hummert](#), who notched 11 kills on the night, and the trio of [Julia Treichel](#), [Ainsley Ranstead](#), and [Annie Ellis](#), who each recorded seven kills. Three Cougars registered double-digit kills, led by [Alyse Drifka's](#) 18. Drifka also notched her seventh double-double of the season with a 20-assist, 18-kill outing. [Grace Beekman](#) followed closely behind Drifka with 19 assists, while [Jessica Vineyard](#) led the Red & White in blocks with an error-free four.

SIUE, which drops to 4-13 overall and 1-5 in Ohio Valley Conference play, will close out the weekend with a rematch against Belmont (5-11, 3-3 OVC). First serve is scheduled for tomorrow at 2 p.m., and the match will be streamed live on ESPN+.