

SIUE Softball Eliminates Austin Peay From OVC Tournament

by Eric Hess

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OXFORD, Ala. – Eighth-seeded SIUE softball opened the 2022 Ohio Valley Conference Tournament with a big win, eliminating No. 5 seed Austin Peay 8-3 at Choccolocco Park.

The Cougars now move on to the six-team, double-elimination portion of the tournament with their next game set for 5:30 p.m. against No. 4 seed Southeast Missouri.

After dropping three straight games at Austin Peay to end the regular season this past weekend, SIUE clawed back in the league championship with an 11-hit effort on offense and a standout performance in the circle by [Kelsey Ray](#).

Austin Peay, which ended its season with a 30-23 record, got off to a strong start off SIUE starter [Lexi King](#). The Governors scored three runs in the first inning. Ray entered the game and allowed no runs on four hits over the final 6 2/3 innings.

SIUE's offense came alive in the third inning. [Piper Montgomery](#) singled to open the inning. After [Kylie Lane](#) pinch ran for her, [Micah Arps](#) singled to advance Lane to third base. Arps made it two runners in scoring position with a stolen base as King, a first team All-OVC performer, singled home Lane. After King stole second, Arps would score on a wild pitch. Lauren Yslava singled to left field to score King and make it 3-3.

Yslava, a second team All-OVC outfielder picked up her second RBI of the game in the fifth with a sacrifice fly that drove home [Bailey Concatto](#), also a second team All-OVC honoree.

With a 4-3 lead, SIUE doubled its scoring in the sixth, plating four runs.

It was led off by a home run to right center field near the scoreboard from [Aerin Talley](#), the first round-tripper of her collegiate career.

That bounced Austin Peay starter Jordan Benefiel from the game in favor of Harley Mullins, who surrendered three more runs to the Cougars highlighted by a two-run double by King.

SIUE kept Austin Peay's top three hitters in the lineup to no hits, including an 0-for-4 game for OVC Player of the Year Lexi Osowski.

Concatto, King and Montgomery each had two hits for the Cougars as SIUE outhit Austin Peay 11-6.