

Four-Run Eighth Lifts SIUE Softball Over Western Illinois

by Eric Hess
April 5 2023 4:34 PM



MACOMB - SIUE softball rallied for four runs in the top of the eighth Wednesday and defeated Western Illinois 6-4 at Mary Ellen McKee Field.

The second game was canceled due to heavy thunderstorms and lightning inudating Macomb as the Cougars led 3-1 in the second inning. The game will not rescheduled.

"It was a good confidence builder," said SIUE Head Coach [Ben Sorden](#).

Back-to-back doubles by [Paige Rocha](#) and [Lexi King](#) opened the eighth-inning scoring. [Madisyn Webster](#), who was placed on second to start the extra frame, scored on Rocha's at bat. King laced her double to nearly the same spot in left center to plate Rocha.

[Hayley Palm](#) delivered a single through the left side to drive home King. [Jenna Herron](#), pinch running for Palm, scored on a bases-loaded walk from [Piper Montgomery](#).

"I thought we had a good plan going up," said Sorden. "We had our hitters up in the eighth so it was time to step on the gas just a little bit. We took a couple a risks and they paid off."

Sorden said it was also gratifying how the Cougars were able to utilize the bench.

"It was a total team effort," he said.

SIUE collected 12 hits, including three from [Emma Neuman](#) and two each from Rocha, King and Montgomery. The Cougars also took advantage of eight Western Illinois walks, including four by [Abby Braundmeier](#).

[Kelsey Ray](#) went the distance to pick up the win for the Cougars and is now 4-7. She scattered eight hits while striking out six and walking no one.

"[Kelsey Ray](#) was on the attack all day long," Sorden said,

SIUE returns home for Ohio Valley Conference play this weekend against Tennessee State. The schedule is set for a 3 p.m. single game Friday and a 1 p.m. doubleheader Saturday.