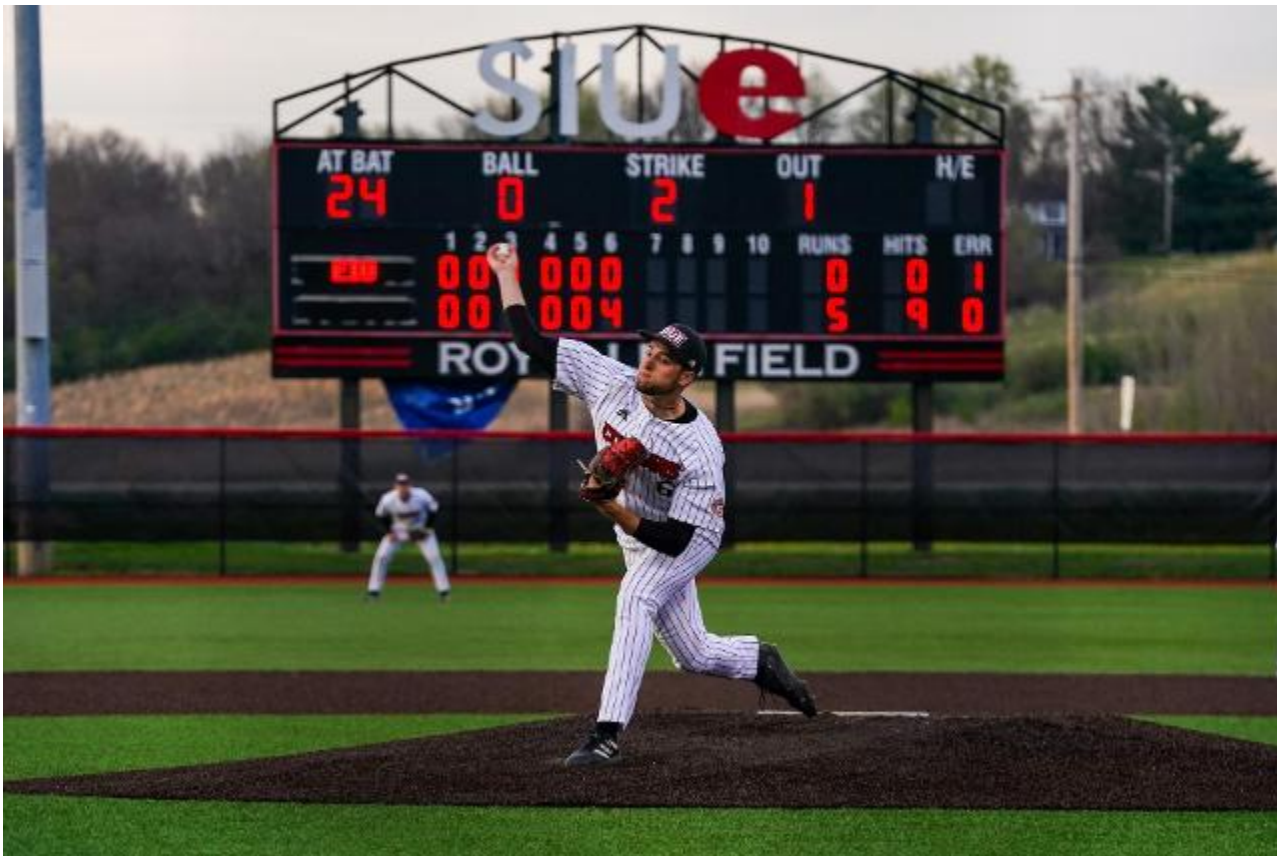


DeLong, Pitchers, Push Cougars Past Panthers

by Joe Pott
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EDWARDSVILLE – SIUE starter [Tyler DeLong](#) tossed 7 ²/₃ shutout innings Tuesday to lead SIUE to a 7-0 win over Eastern Illinois in the opener of a three-game Ohio Valley Conference series at Simmons Baseball Complex.

DeLong tied his career high with nine strikeouts, while the 7 ²/₃ innings set a new career mark. The right-handed pitcher did not allow a hit through the first 6 ²/₃ innings.

"What a great start by [Tyler DeLong](#)," SIUE Head Coach [Sean Lyons](#) said. "He got through the first couple of innings with some deep counts and a high pitch count, and then he settled in and made some great pitches to give us the start we needed to get this weekend going."

[Hayden Cooper](#) pitched the final 1 1/3 innings to preserve the shutout.

"Cooper did a nice job in closing it out," Lyons added. "And he'll be able to come back this weekend and help us again."

SIUE put up 13 hits, just two of which were extra-base hits.

"We had a good base-hit approach," Lyons said. "This was a really clean game. We were able to capitalize when we had the chance."

[Kyle Ratliff](#) opened the scoring with a two-out base hit in the third to drive home [Brennan Orf](#). [Ole Arntson](#) and [Josh Ohl](#) had RBI-hits in the sixth inning before [Drew Mize](#) drove in two with a two-out single up the middle.

Orf tripled to start the seventh and scored on single by [Brady Buntin](#). Ohl then doubled to start the eighth, advanced on a groundout and scored on a single by [Chase Bloomer](#).

"One of my highlights came in the eighth inning," Lyons said. "Get a double, get him over, get him in. It was good baseball. It was guys grinding out at-bats and we got some big RBIs. Overall, it was a really solid win and a good start to the series."

The Cougars and the Panthers continue the series with a 5 p.m. game Friday at Simmons Complex.