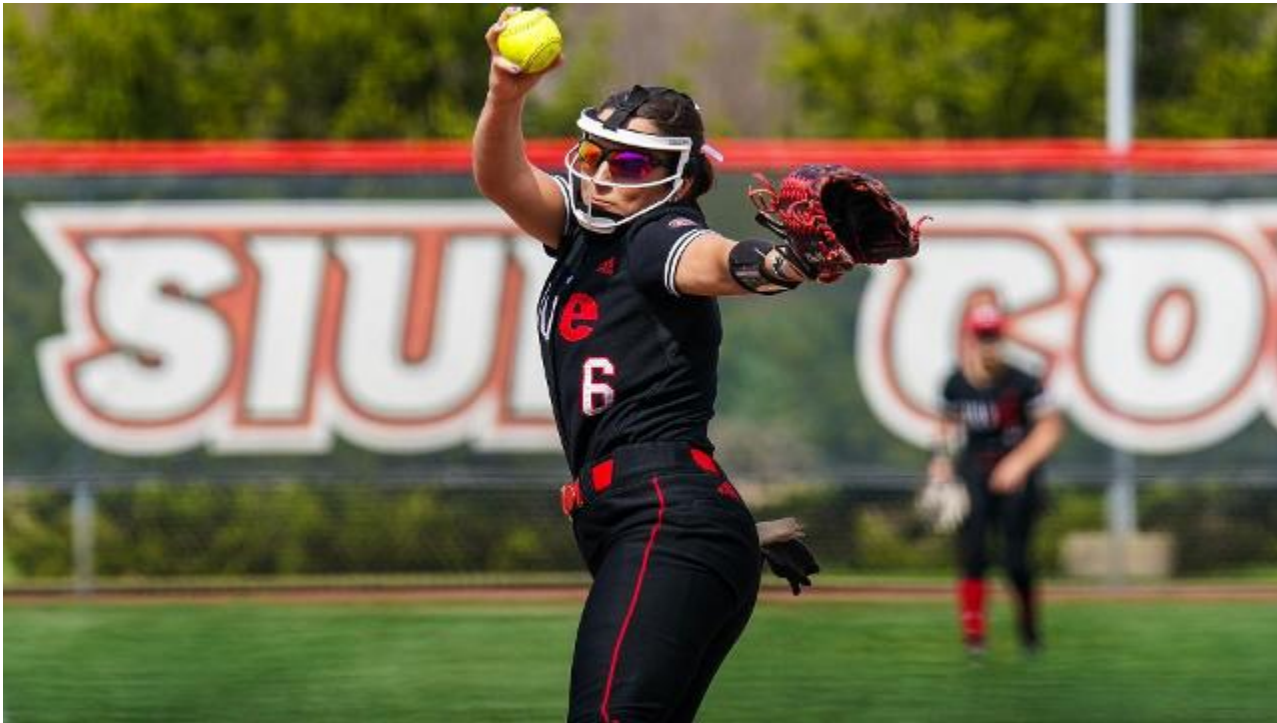


SIUE Softball Downs Evansville 6-3

by Eric Hess

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EVANSVILLE, Ind. - SIUE softball scored three runs in both the first and fourth innings Tuesday as the Cougars doubled up Evansville 6-3 in a nonconference battle at Cooper Stadium.

The Cougars improved to 18-22 for the season as [Kelsey Ray](#) went 6 2/3 innings for the victory. [Sydney Baalman](#) recorded the final out for SIUE and earned a save.

"Kelsey threw a fantastic game and was in control," said SIUE Head Coach [Ben Sorden](#). "Baalman came in and shut the door."

SIUE's offense got right to business in the first inning against Evansville starter-loser Sydney Weatherford. [Paige Rocha](#) and [Lexi King](#) began the game with singles. [Emma](#)

[Neuman](#) reached on a error as Rocha scored. [Hayley Palm](#) picked up an RBI on an infield out that brought home King. After [Micah Arps](#) drew a walk, [Piper Montgomery](#) added an RBI also on an infield out.

"I thought [Paige Rocha](#) and [Lexi King](#) coming out hot swinging hard set the tone for the game," said Sorden.

The score extended out to 6-0 in the fourth inning as the Cougars used a walk from Montgomery and four straight hits from [Madisyn Webster](#), [Grace Lueke](#), [Sherri Mason](#) and Rocha to plate three more runs.

Evansville, which finished with seven hits, broke up Ray's no-hit bid in the fourth inning on an RBI single by Jess Willsey. The Purple Aces, now 21-22, added two more in the bottom of the seventh before the Cougars closed out the game.

SIUE, which won its fifth straight game of the season against a Missouri Valley Conference opponent, returns to Ohio Valley Conference play this weekend. It is Alumni Weekend for the Cougars as the team entertains Tennessee Tech for a three-game series beginning Saturday.