

Orf, Ratliff Lead SIUE in Big Baseball Win at Western Illinois

by Joe Pott
April 19 2023 7:06 AM



MACOMB, Ill. – [Brennan Orf](#) hit a pair of home runs and drove in three and [Kyle Ratliff](#) finished with four hits and three RBIs to lead SIUE to an 11-1 road win at Western Illinois in eight innings.

The Cougars are now 21-14. Western Illinois fell to 4-27.

"This was a really clean, solid victory today in all aspects of the game," SIUE Head Coach [Sean Lyons](#) said. "It was good to see the guys take care of business."

SIUE scored in each of the first three innings. After an RBI-hit from Ratliff in the first, [Josh Ohl](#), [Avery Owusu-Asiedu](#), Ratliff and [Braedyn Brewer](#) all had RBIs in a six-run second inning. Orf blasted the first of his two home runs in the third inning, a two-run shot, to stretch the lead to 9-0.

Western Illinois loaded the bases with a hit, a walk and a hit batter against SIUE starter [Zeus Ponder](#). A second walk forced in the Leathernecks' only run of the game.

Ponder (2-1) pitched three innings, allowing a run on two hits. He struck out two. [Ian Benner](#) and [Jacob Kampf](#) each worked two scoreless innings and [Hayden Cooper](#) pitched a scoreless eighth inning.

"We pitched it well all the way through," Lyons said. "From Zeus at the start to Benner to Kampf to Cooper, they did well."

[Braedyn Brewer](#) picked up an RBI-hit in the sixth and Orf hit his second home run of the game in the eighth for the 11-1 final.

"Offensively we got some really good at-bats highlighted by the two home runs from [Brennan Orf](#) and [Kyle Ratliff](#) with four hits," Lyons added. "Our goal is to play good, clean baseball and we did that today."

Ratliff was 4-5 with the three RBIs. Orf was 2-3 with the two home runs and two walks. He leads the Cougars with 12 homers. Ohl and Brewer each had a pair of hits.

The Cougars outhit the Leathernecks 11-3.

"This gives us the chance to see some other guys tomorrow against Blackburn and get guys some confidence heading into a big OVC weekend," Lyons said.

SIUE plays host to Blackburn Wednesday night at Simmons Complex. First pitch is slated for 5 p.m. [Garrett Helsel](#) will make the start for the Cougars.