

SIUE's Emma Henderson Shines With Two Home Runs, But Cougars Women's Softball Team Falls to Illini

by Eric Hess

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CHAMPAIGN - SIUE softball's [Emma Henderson](#) blasted her first two home runs of the season Wednesday in a 19-9 loss at Illinois.

The Cougars dropped to 10-21 overall and next faces Eastern Illinois in a three-game series Friday and Saturday.

[Emma Henderson](#) finished with four RBIs after getting the start at first base.

"One home run was a line drive out of the park to right field and the other was a towering shot to left field," said SIUE Head Coach [Ben Sorden](#). "I was happy for her hitting her first home run and then following it up."

SIUE recorded 11 hits overall, including three from [Paige Rocha](#). The Cougar junior extended her NCAA Division I-leading hitting streak to 24 games. Among her three hits was her Ohio Valley Conference-leading 14th double.

[Danielle Shuey](#), who scored three times, also had two hits.

"I thought we were aggressive at the plate," said Sorden. "We were attacking good pitches, especially the second time through the order."

[Anna Henderson](#) collected three RBIs with a sacrifice fly to open the scoring in the first inning, a single in the third inning and an infield out in the fifth.

The fifth inning was huge for the Cougars. A five-run rally put the Cougars within striking distance. Along with [Anna Henderson](#) infield out, [Grace Lueke](#) singled home a run and set up [Emma Henderson's](#) three-run blast to left.

Illinois, 13-16, had firepower of its own, collecting 20 hits against the Cougars. A seven-run sixth put the game out of reach.

SIUE also committed three errors.

"We need to play clean defense," added Sorden.

[Sydney Baalman](#), 1-10, took the loss for the Cougars. Lauren Wiles improved to 5-6 for the Illini.