

Cougars Hand Creighton Loss, Fall to Loyola in Eight Innings

by Eric Hess

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EDWARDSVILLE - SIUE softball closed out the 2024 Cougar Invite with the final two games of the 12-game tournament Sunday, defeating Creighton 5-2 and dropping an eight-inning decision to Loyola 8-7.

"I'm really proud of how the team responded after a tough day yesterday," said SIUE Head Coach [Ben Sorden](#). "I thought they battled in the Loyola game. We just came up a little short at the end."

SIUE finished the weekend with a 2-3 record and now stand 8-10 heading into the Ohio Valley Conference regular season. The Cougars begin league play next weekend at Lindenwood.

The Cougars jumped ahead in the Creighton game with a three-run rally in the second inning. [Emma Henderson](#) scored on a wild pitch. [Piper Montgomery](#) walked and scored. Kaylynn Salyers also walked and scored. [Amber Morgan](#), making her first start of the season, added an RBI single.

SIUE would never trail, adding an RBI double from [Paige Rocha](#) in the fourth and a sacrifice fly from Montgomery in the fifth.

"In the Creighton game, we played clean defense," said Sorden.

The clean defense behind SIUE pitcher [Kelsey Ray](#) helped the Cougar right-hander to a complete game. She struck out one and scattered six hits.

"I thought [Kelsey Ray](#) was phenomenal all weekend," added Sorden.

The final game of the tournament turned out to be the one that kept people on the edge of their seats.

Loyola, 8-8, smacked a grand slam in the first inning by Teagan Sopczak.

But the Cougars stormed back with one in the first and then tied the game 5-5 with a four-run rally of their own in the fourth. RBI doubles by [Grace Lueke](#) and Montgomery highlighted the inning.

SIUE took a 7-6 lead in the fifth led by three straight hits by [Jenna Herron](#), Lauren Yslava and [Harley Limberger](#).

Loyola tied the game in the sixth and added the game winner in extra innings on a sacrifice fly by Sydney Barnett.