

Redbirds win three in USF Tournament

Written by Emily Warner, Daily Vidette Sports Editor
Monday, 13 February 2012 15:24

The ISU softball team started its season with a bang this past weekend at the USF Tournament in Tampa, Fla.

Literally.

In the first at bat of the 2012 season, junior Lauren Kellar hammered out a solo home run en route to the Redbirds defeating Maine and eventually going 3-1 for the weekend, with their only loss coming at the hands of No. 2/4 Florida.

“I wish we would’ve been a little more competitive versus Florida,” ISU head coach Melinda Fischer said. “But in the same respect, to come away with three wins, two of those which were run-rule games, and ten winning a game in extra innings, I think is huge for us right now.”



ISU 5, Maine 4 (8 innings)

Kellar’s home run to open the game was good enough for the lead for three innings until the Black Bears countered in the fourth inning with a solo home run to tie the game 1-1. An RBI single from Maine in the fifth inning gave the Black Bears the lead, 2-1.

But ISU regained the lead in the bottom of the fifth as junior Jhavon Hamilton hit a two-run single to give the 'Birds a 3-2 advantage. But Maine had the answer half an inning later with another solo long ball to tie the game and an RBI to put the Black Bears up 4-3.

Redbirds win three in USF Tournament

Written by Emily Warner, Daily Vidette Sports Editor
Monday, 13 February 2012 15:24

With two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning, Hamilton hit a solo home run to tie the game at 4-4 and send it into an extra inning.

The Redbirds scored their winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning with an RBI single at the bat of sophomore Nichelle Harrison.

ISU 9, Long Island 0 (5 innings)

“Maybe a trace of nervousness ... trying a little bit too hard, a little bit too hyped up,” Fischer said of her in their first performance. “But I for sure thought we settled in against Long Island and took advantage of some pitching issues they had and also some mistakes they made, so that was good to see.”

ISU plated five runs in the first inning off of two hits, two wild pitches, and an LIU error. The Redbirds scored twice in the second inning, both off of wild pitches, to increase their lead, 7-0.

The 'Birds capped off their scoring in the bottom of the fourth inning with back-to-back homers from junior Elizabeth Kay and senior Liz Andrews to give the Blackbirds a 9-0 deficit that would seal their fate.

Senior pitcher Jordan Birch earned the win, striking out eight and allowing just one hit.

Florida 11, ISU 0 (5 innings)

Redbirds win three in USF Tournament

Written by Emily Warner, Daily Vidette Sports Editor
Monday, 13 February 2012 15:24

The Redbirds had a rough outing in their lone game Saturday. ISU was in scoring position to start off the game when the 'Birds had runners on first and third with two outs. But a strike out quickly ended the inning and the scoring opportunity.

The Gators crossed the plate five times in the bottom of the first, in large part thanks to a grand slam and a three-run shot in the second inning that increased Florida's lead to 8-0.

Florida tallied up three hits and three runs in the fourth inning, pushing its run total up to 11 while the Redbirds had yet to score.

Despite having two runners on base in the fifth inning, ISU could not plate a run and got shut out in five innings.

"They are a very good team, they did a lot of things well. It's hard to spot them five runs in the first inning and really be competitive in the ball game," Fischer said.

ISU 11, Florida Gulf Coast 0 (5 innings)

The Redbirds redeemed themselves in their final game of the tournament on Sunday, getting off to a 4-0 lead in the first inning off of three hits. The 'Birds doubled their lead in the second inning, establishing an 8-0 advantage over the Eagles.

ISU capped off its scoring in the fifth inning when Andrews hit a three-run homerun to put the Redbirds ahead 11-0.

Redbirds win three in USF Tournament

Written by Emily Warner, Daily Vidette Sports Editor
Monday, 13 February 2012 15:24

Birch had 10 strikeouts in the contest and earned her third win.

ISU will travel to Tempe, Ariz. this weekend to compete in the Littlewood Classic where it will face off against 2011 national champion Arizona State.