

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS

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GOLDEN SUNS SWEEPS DOUBLEHEADER AT DELTA STATE, MOVES INTO FIRST PLACE TIE IN THE GSC WEST DIVISION

CLEVELAND, Mississippi – Arkansas Tech Golden Suns Softball moved into a first place tie in the Gulf South Conference West Division standings here Monday after sweeping both ends of a doubleheader against Delta State at University Field.

Tech opened the doubleheader with a 5-0 victory and then posted a 2-1 win in eight innings in the nightcap to sweep the season series from the Lady Statesmen for the first time in school history.

With its two wins and Arkansas-Monticello's split Monday at Ouachita Baptist, the Golden Suns (35-19 on the season) moved into first place tie in the GSC West Division standings with a 16-8 mark, while UAM is 12-8 in the West Division standings.

In the first game, Tech jumped on the board in the first inning thanks to a lead-off triple from senior rightfielder **Sarah Pratt** (Garland, Texas) and a squeeze bunt by sophomore first baseman **Tiphani Moon** (Eules, Texas).

Tech's lead grew to 5-0 in the fifth inning thanks to five hits and two DSU errors. In the inning, Pratt drove in the first run on her infield single and then sophomore second baseman **Shanda Jameson** (Mansfield, Texas) followed with an RBI single. After Jameson's single, Moon followed with an RBI single up the middle and the final Tech run was scored after a throwing error by DSU catcher Kristi Basso.

The five run cushion would be enough for junior hurler **Casey Hammons** (Carthage, Texas) to throw her 15th complete game and fifth shutout of the season. In seven innings, Hammons (16-6) allowed five hits, while walking two and striking out seven. The shutout was Tech's second consecutive in the series as freshman **Morgan Rodgers** (Mansfield, Texas) threw one in Sunday's second game of the series.

Pratt, Moon and junior catcher **Roxie Palacios** (Crosby, Texas) each had two hits, while Pratt scored two runs in the win. The Golden Suns finished with 10 hits for the game.

Edie Oliver (17-10) took the loss as she tossed five innings and allowed eight hits and five runs (four earned runs), while striking out two and walking none.

Meanwhile, in the nightcap, Tech took a 1-0 lead in the fifth inning thanks to two errors, a stolen base and a walk by DSU hurler Kate Moreland. The Lady Statesmen's second error by Courtney Clark allowed senior leftfielder **Kacie Visina** (Rowlett, Texas) to score from second after reaching on a walk and stealing second base.

In the bottom of the fifth, DSU broke an 18 inning scoreless streak in the series as they used a three hits and an error by the Golden Suns to plate a run to tie the game.

The game would remain tied until the top of the eighth inning when Pratt scored an unearned run when DSU second baseman Courtney Chism committed an error on a play by Palacios.

Rodgers (14-10) earned the win as she tossed 5.2 innings and allowed two hits and one unearned run, while walking none and striking out one. Hammons pitched 2.1 innings and allowed four hits and no runs, while striking out three.

Moreland (4-6) took the loss as she tossed eight innings and allowed six hits and two unearned runs, while walking one and striking out none.

For the game, both teams collected six hits, but DSU committed three errors, while Tech had one error.

Pratt and junior third baseman **Taylor Gates** (Paris, Texas) each had two hits in the victory. Basso and Chelsea Carr each had two hits in the loss.

Tech will return to action on Thursday, April 23, when they close out the home portion of its schedule with a doubleheader against Central Baptist beginning at 2 p.m. at the Chartwells Women's Sports Complex. The game will mark Senior Day for Tech's three-member senior class – Visina, Pratt and centerfielder **Krista Cifuentes** (Clinton, Ark.).

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