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(Neb)-Eagles Play Mavs Tough, But Get Swept At Home

By: John Axtell Posted at: 04/07/2019 09:03 PM

[Box Score 1](#) [Game 2](#)

CHADRON, Neb. -- Chadron State held Colorado Mesa University below its team season batting average for the second straight day Sunday, but was still swept by the nationally-ranked Mavericks 16-4 in 5 innings and 6-5 in the series finale.

Mesa, which swept the Eagles 6-0 and 12-7 on Saturday, improve to 31-6 overall and a Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference-best 24-3 while CSC fell to 10-26 and 7-20.

Sundays first game saw the Eagles lead 2-1 going into the 3rd inning when Mesa scored 13 times on 7 hits, 6 walks, a hit batter and an error.

Among the 6 walks was a rare penalty against CSC. Starting pitcher [Cassidy Horn](#) left the game with no outs, then re-entered after after one out. The umpires allowed her to take 4 warmup pitches, then assessed them all as balls because she wasn't allowed any warmup pitches under those circumstances. The result was a bases-loaded walk entered in the book as intentional.

Chadron State's runs came on a pair of 2-run homers, one by [Haleigh Hoefs](#) in the 1st and one by [Kayla Michel](#) in the 3rd. Kimbri Herring, who got both wins on Sat, took the win again to improve to 14-3 while Horn fell to 5-6.

In the second game, the teams traded the lead early. Mesa scored once in the top of the 1st, but Michel answered with a 2-run single in the bottom of the inning. The Mavericks responded with 2 runs of their own in the 2nd, but the Eagles regained the lead with 3 runs in their half of the inning on a bases-loaded walk to [Bailey Rominger](#) and a 2-run single by Hoeffts.

Sophomore pitcher [Gabby Russell](#) held Mesa without a hit from the 3rd to 2 outs in the 5th, but a 2-out throwing error after hit batter and an errant pickoff allowed the tying run to score and Alexa Samuel followed with a 2-run homer.

CMU's McKenzie Surface, who entered in the 3rd, retired the last 9 CSC hitters in order to improve her record to 13-0. Russell, gave up on 7 hits and 3 earned run, took the hard-luck loss to drop to 0-8.

The Eagles are only about a game and a half behind eighth-place Black Hills State, who they meet at home the final week of the season, although Chadron State's record has them currently at the bottom of a six-car pileup in the bottom half of the league.

Three weekends, or 12 games, remain in the conference schedule, with CSC needing to pass three of its final four opponents for postseason play.

Chadron State is scheduled to host Dixie State University next weekend. The Trailblazers, who are moving to NCAA Division I members, are 4th in the RMAC. They received votes in the national poll early in the season but not after dropping series to Mesa and Colorado School of Mines