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**(S.D.)- BHSU Lose Two On Day 1 Of Desert Stinger**



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 02/08/2014 07:20 PM

(Las Vegas, NV)– The Black Hills State University softball team opened up their 2014 season in the annual Desert Stinger Tournament with a double-header beginning with a matinée with Western Washington University, followed by a night game versus Augustana College.

**GAME 1**

The Yellow Jackets suffered a 17-7 loss at the hands of Western Washington University who used 16 hits on way to the victory in their opening game of the weekend.

After three-innings, the Jackets were in striking distance, trailing only 4-3, before WWU used back-to-back 6-run innings in the sixth and seventh innings to close out the game.

A highlight for the Yellow Jackets was new Colorado transfer at third base, junior Alexis Shaffer, who finished 2-of-4 from the plate with a homerun. Infielder Cassie Smith also saw success on the offensive end after going 3-of-4 including a double and one run scored in the game.

Three WWU players hit homeruns in Alexie Levin, Emma Blauser, and Amanda Flores. Levin finished with a game-high five RBIs after going 3-of-4 from the plate to help her team to the win.

Outfielder for the Jackets, Nia Shumpert, went 2-of-3 from the plate, scored a run, and had a team-high two RBIs.

The winning pitcher on the day was WWU's Aspen Ison who went five innings and gave up five hits and three earned runs and the homerun to BHSU's Schaffer before striking out three Jackets in her five innings.

BHSU freshman pitcher, Savannah Eckhardt (Cedar City, Utah), was given the loss after going 1.2 innings and giving up four runs on four hits, including two homers. Sophomore Kaitlin Farrar pitched 4.1 innings for the Jackets and gave up eight hits and seven earned runs as she struck out two batters before freshman Stefanie Witman (Mt. Vernon, Wash.) closed out the game in the final inning.

**GAME 2**

The Jackets took on a familiar opponent in Augustan College (S.D.) in their second game that was under the lights with a 7 p.m. PST first-pitch. The game went all of five innings as Augustana used a seven-run seventh inning to take the victory, 12-2.

The game was close after the first two innings, tied 2-2. Augustana scored three runs in the third-innings before putting the game out of reach in the bottom of the fourth after their seven run performance.

While Augustana did not utilize the long ball like WWU in game-one versus the Jackets, they did use Sarah Kennedy and Jenelle Trautmann, to combine for four hits and three RBIs to lead their team.

Augustana pitcher, Karlee Koopman, held the Yellow Jackets to just two hits on the night and two runs after pitching the entire five innings to go with two strikeouts and one walk.

Senior catcher, Sara Schmid, led the Jackets with a two RBI triple on the offensive end in the second inning, hitting home Erica Everson who went 1-for-1 and a walk along with left fielder, Cassie Smith.

BHSU redshirt freshman, Brittany Geersen, was the losing pitcher after going 3.1 innings and giving up nine earned runs on eight hits and four walks, before striking out four Augustana batters. Eckhardt closed the game pitching the final two outs in the fourth inning.

Next up for the Jacket on day two of the tournament on Saturday, Feb. 8, BHSU plays Notre Dame de Namur (Calif.) at 5:30 p.m. MT, followed by host team, Montana State Billings, at 8 p.m. MT.

For all tournament news and information, including live stats and footage from the games visit the MSUB tournament headquarters, [here](#).