



NKU hits UW-Parkside with offensive barrage in sweep

Parker homers twice in opener as Norse post 12-3 win; NKU completes sweep with 8-0 victory

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. – Cara Parker hit a pair of home runs as the Northern Kentucky University softball team posted a 12-3 victory against Wisconsin-Parkside in the first game of a doubleheader Sunday.

NKU completed the sweep with an 8-0 win in the second game. The Norse improved to 24-20 overall, 12-10 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

NKU is now in sole possession of sixth place in the GLVC standings and is just percentage points behind Lewis in the chase for fifth place. The top eight teams qualify for the GLVC Tournament, and NKU is on the verge of clinching a berth in that event for the first time since 2006.

After Wisconsin-Parkside took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning in the opener, NKU answered back with solo homers from Shatona Campbell and

Parker to gain a 2-1 advantage.

Wisconsin-Parkside struck for two more runs in the second inning to grab a 3-2 lead. In the bottom of the fourth, Jessica Farris launched a three-run homer to give NKU a 5-3 advantage.

NKU used a seven-run outburst in the bottom of the fifth inning to earn the victory in walk-off fashion. Parker's three-run homer

over the center-field wall capped the scoring and gave the Norse the mercy-rule win. NKU finished with 16 hits, with Farris, Campbell, Sam Del Vecchio and Gretchen Lorenz each collecting three hits.

Parker, a senior third baseman, now has six home runs this spring. Chelsie Roy picked up the victory to improve to 12-8 this season.

In the second game, NKU starter April Ehlers limited Wisconsin-Parkside to two hits in five innings and added a three-run homer of her own to spark the Norse offense. Parker added two more hits for NKU, which ended the game in the bottom of the fifth inning with a pair of runs.

Farris scored the winning run from third base when Wisconsin-Parkside pitcher Mandi Andrews uncorked a wild pitch on a 3-2 delivery to Campbell.

NKU's two wins against Wisconsin-Parkside, coupled with the sweep of Lewis on Saturday, marked the first time since 2006 the Norse have swept a GLVC weekend.



NKU's Jessica Farris (23) scores the winning run in the second game.



NKU's Cara Parker is congratulated by head coach Kathy Stewart after hitting a three-run homer to cap the Norse's 12-3 win against Wisconsin-Parkside in the opener Sunday afternoon. Parker homered twice in that victory.

On Saturday, NKU defeated Lewis by scores of 5-1 and 1-0.

NKU returns to action Thursday with a doubleheader at Tiffin. The Norse return home Saturday to meet Bellarmine at noon. NKU will also recognize its seniors during the Bellarmine doubleheader on Saturday.

NKU closes out the regular season April 27 with a non-conference home doubleheader against Ohio Dominican at 2 p.m.

The GLVC Tournament begins May 1 at East Peoria, Ill. The winner of that event receives an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.