



## Norse on verge of doing something very special



NKU batter Sam Del Vecchio watches as the ball eludes Lewis catcher Brittany DiPietro in the top of the seventh inning Saturday. The passed ball allowed Amanda Smith to score from third base and helped NKU pull out a 1-0 win against Lewis.

## NKU softball team one victory away from capturing GLVC title

EAST PEORIA, Ill. - Four weeks ago, the Northern Kentucky University softball team owned a 16-16 overall record after suffering a devastating 5-4 loss at home to Kentucky Wesleyan.

At that point, making the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament appeared to be a longshot for NKU.

Now, just four weeks later, NKU is just one victory away from capturing the GLVC Tournament championship.



Cara Parker (6) guns down Katie Healy for the last out.

April Ehlers tossed a four-hit shutout Saturday as NKU advanced to the championship round of the GLVC Tournament with a 1-0 win against Lewis.

NKU (30-21) tallied the game's only run in the top of the seventh inning when Amanda Smith scored from third base on a passed ball. Lewis threatened in the bottom of the inning and had a runner at second with two outs, but Ehlers retired pinch-hitter Katie Healy for the final out.

NKU is unbeaten (3-0) during the double-elimination GLVC Tournament and needs just one win to capture its

first championship since 2005. The Norse will again meet Lewis – which knocked off Indianapolis in an elimination game Saturday night – at 1 p.m. Sunday.

If Lewis defeats NKU in that game, the two teams will meet again in a winner-take-all contest at 4 p.m.

The GLVC Tournament champion receives an automatic berth in the NCAA Division II Tournament. NKU and Lewis are expected to receive berths, regardless of Sunday's results.



NKU's April Ehlers celebrates after getting the final out against Lewis.

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Photos by Jeff McCurry, NKU Sports Information



Amanda Smith slides in safely with the game's only after a passed ball in the top of the seventh inning of NKU's 1-0 win against Lewis in the GLVC Tournament. Umpire Dennis Price (right) signals safe after Lewis pitcher Courtney Lyons applies the tag too late.

