



Parker's power, Ehlers' pitching lifts NKU to 3-0 win



Cara Parker connects for a two-run home run off Ferris State pitcher Holly Bruntjens in the fourth inning of NKU's 3-0 victory Friday in the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional Tournament. Parker also doubled in a run later in the game to account for all of the scoring.

Norse open NCAA Tournament play by blanking Ferris State

By Mike Anderson, NKU Sports Information

UNIVERSITY CENTER, Mich. - Cara Parker provided the offense while April Ehlers shut down the opposition as the Northern Kentucky University softball team posted a 3-0 victory over Ferris State in the opening game of the NCAA Midwest Regional Tournament on Friday.



April Ehlers delivers to the plate against Ferris State.

NKU (32-21) advances to take on Saginaw Valley State (36-9) at 10 a.m. on Saturday in the double-elimination event. Saginaw Valley State defeated Lewis, 2-1, on Friday in the other first-round contest.

Ehlers (19-12) struck out five of the first six batters she faced en route to a nine-strikeout, two-hit shutout over the Bulldogs. The sophomore also received plenty of help from her defense to retire 12 straight batters during one stretch.

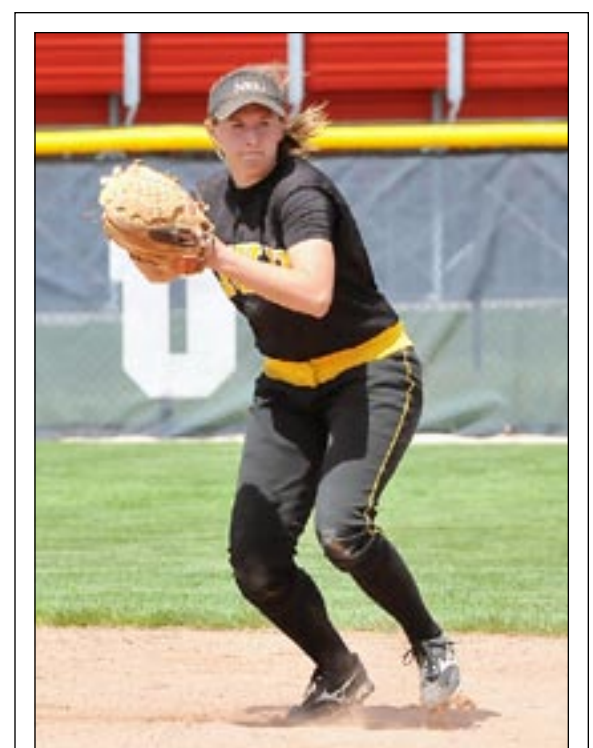
Parker, meanwhile, was a firecracker for the Norse at the plate, getting the offense going in the fourth inning after Amanda Smith looped a single to center field to start things off. Sha-

tona Campbell grounded into a fielder's choice before Parker belted a two-run blast over the left-field wall to give the Norse the 2-0 advantage.

The senior third baseman, starting her 162nd straight contest for the Norse, struck again in the sixth inning, driving in a run with a double to the center-field fence.

The Norse picked up seven hits on the day, with Gretchen Lorenz slapping a pair of two-out base hits.

NKU improved to 10-2 all time against Ferris State. The Bulldogs fell to 33-9 overall this spring, with two of those losses coming to NKU this season.



Rose Broderick prepares to gun down a Ferris State base runner on Friday.

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Photos by Jeff McCurry, NKU Sports Information



April Ehlers recorded her 19th win of the season on Friday.



Cara Parker fields a grounder for the final out of the game.



Score by Innings		R	H	E
Northern Kentucky...	000 201 0 -	3	7	0
Ferris State.....	000 000 0 -	0	2	1

Northern Kentucky		IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	WP	BK	HP	IBB	AB	BF	FO	GO	NP
Ehlers, April	W,19-12.....	7.0	2	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	22	23	3	9	96

Ferris State		IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	WP	BK	HP	IBB	AB	BF	FO	GO	NP
Holly Bruntjens	L,13-8.....	7.0	7	3	2	0	4	0	0	1	0	25	27	7	7	83