



Softball | 2/10/2019 9:50:00 PM | Shawn D. Smith, Director of Athletic Communications

Morales Launches Extra Inning Grand Slam to Lift Golden Eagles to Sunday Split



MINOT, N.D. - University of Minnesota Crookston softball senior [Maggie Morales](#) (Sr., 1B, Tucson, Ariz.) crushed the ball over the right center fence for a grand slam in extra innings of the second game of the day to help send the Golden Eagles to a Sunday split. Minnesota Crookston opened Minot State University 9-6 Sun., Feb. 10 at the Air-Supported Dome in Minot, N.D. The Golden Eagles fell 7-5 in the first game of the day to Black Hills State University. Minnesota Crookston moves to 2-2 with the win. The Golden Eagles are off to their best start since the 2008 state. Minnesota Crookston is in their first season under Head Coach [Trevin Coates](#). Minot State moves to 4-3 with the loss. Black Hills State is 1-3 on the 2019 season.

"Our team did a good job moving past the first game and combining a total team effort with everyone picking each other up," Owen said. "Different teammates stepped up at different times when we needed it the most."

GAME ONE

Minnesota Crookston dropped their first game of the day as they fell in a hard-fought game with Black Hills State, 7-5.

[Zoya Coates](#) (Sr., RHP, Jordan, Minn.) got the start in game one for the Golden Eagles and put forth another solid outing for Minnesota Crookston. Pitlick allowed just one earned run on four hits with three strikeouts and no walks. Despite the strong performance, she was saddled with the loss on the day as she gave up the game-winning run.

[Mikayla Jones](#) (Sr., RHP, Huxley, Iowa) came in to relief for the Golden Eagles. Jones allowed five runs on eight hits in three innings of work.

Minnesota Crookston scored five runs on seven hits on the day. The Golden Eagles were propelled by [Jordan Peterson](#) (So, C/UT, Lakeville, Minn.), who went 1-of-3 with three RBIs on a bases-clearing double. Peterson also scored a run in the game. [Rocky Bjorge](#) (Sr., 3B/1B, Pine Lake, Minn.) went 1-of-3 for the day with one RBI. [Hannah Macias](#) (Fr., OF, West Covina, Calif.) finished the hit going 1-of-3 with two RBIs. [Maggie Morales](#) (Sr., 1B, Tucson, Ariz.) finished the game 1-of-3 with one run scored.

Alex Wiley earned the win for the Yellow Jackets after pitching five innings with one run allowed on four hits. Wiley notched four strikeouts and three walks. Darlan Gottfried earned the two-inning save after allowing four runs on three hits with four walks and one strikeout.

Black Hills State was led by Kindall Bethke, who went 4-of-4 with one RBI and two runs scored. Samantha Schoen went 3-of-3 with two runs scored for the Yellow Jackets.

Black Hills State opened up the scoring in the top of the third as they broke a scoreless tie as Schoen crossed home plate on a throwing error.

The Yellow Jackets added a run in the top of the fourth as Brittany Hennrickson, a triplet on Black Hills State, hit an infield single to plate Bethke to move their lead to 2-0.

The Golden Eagles cut the deficit to 2-1 in the bottom of the fourth as [Hannah Macias](#) hit an infield single to drive in [Abby Pula](#) (Dr., UT, Gilroy, Calif.).

Black Hills State increased their lead to 3-1 in the top of the fifth when Wiley singled up the middle to drive in Schaen.

The Yellow Jackets added to their lead in the top of the sixth when Caitlyn Graves hit a sacrifice fly to right field to plate Makenzi Strong and improve their advantage to 4-1.

Minnesota Crookston sliced into the lead 4-2 in the bottom of the sixth when Peterson scored on a [Hannah Macias](#) ground out.

The Yellow Jackets added three runs in the top of the seventh guided by a two-run home run by Maddi Fidler.

Minnesota Crookston looked to respond in the bottom of the seventh. The Golden Eagles were able to cut the lead to 7-5 as Peterson cleared the base paths with a double to drive in Morales, Pula, and Bjorge. The Golden Eagles loaded the bases and had an opportunity to go ahead. However, [Haley Strachan](#) (Sr., OF, Phoenix, Ariz.) struckout by Gottfried halted the comeback for Minnesota Crookston ended the game.

GAME TWO

Minnesota Crookston picked up a 9-6 win in extra innings in game two of the day as they took on Minot State. The Golden Eagles came back in bonus softball led by a grand slam by Morales as they scored five runs in the top of the eighth inning.

Pitlick moved to 1-2 on the season as she came on in relief to get the win after throwing 31 innings. She allowed two unearned runs on two hits with two strikeouts.

[Zoya Coates](#) (So, RHP, Greene, Iowa), a mid-year transfer from Des Moines Area Community College, got the start and put the Golden Eagles in position to win. Coates allowed two earned runs on seven hits in 4-2 innings of work. Minnesota Crookston scored nine runs on 12 hits, while Minot State plated six runs on nine hits. The Golden Eagles were lifted by Morales, who was 2-of-4 with five RBIs and one run scored. Peterson went 2-of-3 with two runs scored. [Hannah Macias](#) finished the game 2-of-5, while Bjorge was 2-of-2 with one RBI and one run scored.

Laura Mendez suffered the loss for the Beavers after allowing five earned runs on nine hits.

Minot State was led on the game by Brandi Wright, who was 2-of-4 with two RBIs. Maggie Mercer went 2-of-5 for the game.

The Golden Eagles raced out of the gate in the first inning as Morales was walked with the bases loaded to plate Mika Rodriguez (Dr., 2B/SS, Laveen, Ariz.). A [Samantha Proctor](#) (Dr., C, Champlin, Minn.) sacrifice fly to left field drove in Peterson to extend the lead to 2-0.

Minnesota Crookston added to their lead in the second stanza when Bjorge was walked with the bases loaded to plate Coates and extend the advantage to 3-0.

Minot State finally was able to get on the scoreboard in the bottom of the fourth when Zoya Robbins hit a single to the pitcher to drive in Lauren Cowden. A Wright infield single plated Melissa Estasa to cut the deficit to 3-2.

The Beavers knotted the game up 3-3 in the bottom of the fifth when Arianna Asen scored on a throwing mishap at short stop.

Minot State took the lead from the Golden Eagles 4-3 when Julie Stueben scored on an Ima Cortezas ground out.

The Golden Eagles had an opportunity in the top of the sixth as [Allison Martinson](#) (Fr., UT, Crofton, Md.) absolved and [Lacey Roberts](#) (Fr., OF, West Covina, Calif.) was hit by a pitch. Peterson was then hit by a pitch to pack the bases with Golden Eagles with two outs. The Beavers got Pula to fly out as they held the 4-3 advantage going into the bottom of the sixth.

After Pitlick made quick work of the Beavers line-up in the bottom of the sixth, the Golden Eagles came up to the plate for a final chance to either even the hit or take the lead. Bjorge opened the frame with a single up the middle, to give Minnesota Crookston the game-tying run on the base paths. A Morales double up the middle moved Bjorge over to third to give the Golden Eagles two runners in scoring position.

A [Hannah Macias](#) infield single juiced the bases with runners for Minnesota Crookston with one out. Martinson came up and grounded into a fielder's choice, reaching first but Bjorge would be tagged out at home as the bases remained loaded with two outs. [Lacey Roberts](#) came through for Minnesota Crookston with a single through the left side to plate pinch-runner [Lacey Roberts](#) (Fr., RHP/1B, Las Vegas, Nev.). Mendez struck out Rodriguez to keep the game knotted up 4-4 going into the bottom of the seventh.

Mercer reached on a single to open up the bottom of the seventh for Minot State. The Golden Eagles were able to get out of any trouble as Pitlick retired two batters, and Mercer was thrown out by Peterson behind the dish, sending the game into extra innings.

Peterson opened up the top of the eighth with a single to try to start things up for Minnesota Crookston. A Pula infield single drove in Rodriguez to put the Golden Eagles ahead 5-4. Mendez dealt Bjorge a walk to load up the bases with no outs for Minnesota Crookston. Morales came up in a big moment for the Golden Eagles as the senior, powered one over the fence in right center as she delivered a grand slam to drive in herself, Peterson, Pula, and Bjorge. The home run put Minnesota Crookston up 9-4 and chased Mendez from the circle. The Beavers were able to get out of any further damage and get to the bottom half of the eighth stanza.

Minot State put up one last change in the bottom of the eighth. Wright singled up the middle to drive in Karlee Coughlin to cut the lead to 9-5. Later in the frame, Haley Hernandez came in to score on an error. Pitlick was able to preserve the win with a strike out of Mercer as the Golden Eagles were victorious 9-6.

"We had good focus despite a few ups and downs in that game," Owen said. "It ended up paying off in the eighth, giving us a big inning we know our offense is capable of."

The Golden Eagles return to action Feb. 12 with games against Bemidji State University and Minnesota State University Moorhead in West St. Paul, Minn.

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PLAYERS MENTIONED

#3 Rocky Bjorge 1B / 5'7" / Sophomore / R	#8 Mikayla Jones P / 5'3" / Junior / R
#26 Maggie Morales 1B/OF / 5'7" / Junior / R	#11 Paige Pitlick RHP / 5'7" / Sophomore / R
#22 Samantha Proctor C/DF / 5'8" / Sophomore / R	#2 Jordan Peterson C/UT / 5'7" / Freshman / L
#1 Haley Strachan OF / 5'2" / Junior / L	#7 Hannah Macias OF / 5'2" / Freshman
#10 Allison Martinson UT / 5'5" / Freshman	#12 Darlan Gottfried R/PB / 5'10" / Freshman

