

WKU SOFTBALL

WKU's White, Houge earn CUSA honors

The Daily News

Western Kentucky softball's Erica Houge and Annie White earned Conference USA's Week 4 Pitcher and Player of the Week, respectively, the conference announced Monday.

Both performances helped extend the Hilltoppers' win streak to 10 games and posted a perfect 9-0 record at the WKU Softball Complex during non-conference play. In addition, the weekend brought the program's 47th and 48th wins over Power Four opponents with two wins over Big 10 opponent, Illinois.

Monday's announcement is Houge's second Pitcher of the



WKU ATHLETICS

Western Kentucky junior Annie White (above) left was named the Conference USA Player of the Week on Monday, and WKU sophomore Erica Houge was named CUSA Pitcher of the Week.

Week honor this season and third of her career. The award comes after the Collins, Iowa native threw the Hilltoppers' 14th no-

hitter in program history against IU Indy on Sunday.

Throwing a seven-inning complete game,

Houge only needed 90 pitches to earn the win, averaging just over 12 pitchers per inning. Against the Jaguars, she

struck out a total of six while not allowing a Jaguar baserunner past first base.

Across her three appearances, Houge earned three wins and threw two complete games. In her 18 total innings of work, she only gave up two hits and one earned run and also posted a 0.39 ERA while opponents only managed a .036 batting average.

White's Player of the Week honor is both her first this season and in her career. The award comes after a weekend that saw her post a .529 batting average, struck out only once in 21 plate appearances, and went 9-for-17 at the plate scoring seven total runs.

The Paducah native also slashed a .529/.600/1.1059 while also smashing two home runs, one of which helped set the team's single game program record for home runs with six against IU Indy on Friday.

Her best performance was during the five-inning, 12-3 win over Illinois as the junior contributed five RBIs and went a perfect 3-for-3 at the plate including a three-run home run.

The pair continue the 2026 campaign with a conference series against visiting Missouri State starting on Friday. First pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the WKU Softball Complex.

WKU WOMEN'S TENNIS

Lady Toppers down Tennessee State 6-1

The Daily News

Western Kentucky's women's tennis team beat Tennessee State 6-1 on Monday at the Warren County Tennis Facility at Michael O. Buchanon Park.

The Lady Toppers claimed the doubles point for the sixth time this season with wins from Barbara Olvera/Virginia Madueño and Isabelle Einess/Elizabeth

Sobieski, before picking up singles wins at the No. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 positions from Einess, Madueño, Andra Sirbu, Olvera and Ariadna Fernandez to improve to 8-6 this season with the victory over the



WKU ATHLETICS

Western Kentucky freshman Virginia Madueño won in both singles and doubles in Monday's 6-1 women's tennis win against Tennessee State at the Warren County Tennis Facility at Michael O. Buchanon Park.

Tigers (0-6).

"Good win for us. I think this is eight out of the last 11 matches after we started off 0-3 this year," WKU coach Greg Davis said in a news release. "To go 8-3 in the

next 11 matches - we're starting to play better. I really think we've still got a lot left in the tank. I think we can still improve another 30-40% between now and the end of the season, so that's exciting,

That part of it is very exciting.

"Some really difficult matches ahead coming up, one being Ball State coming in here Thursday. They're a team that has good wins over Cincinnati and Cornell so far this season. They're an extremely good team. Then, the following week, to have Sam Houston coming in - our first conference match - that's going to be difficult. These next two matches are going to be a real test."

Olvera and Madueño improved to 7-5 together in doubles this season and 5-4 at the No. 2 position. Einess and Sobieski improved to 4-2 together

in doubles this season. The duo has won the last four matches they have completed together and are now 3-0 at the No. 3 position.

Einess improved to 8-5 in singles play this season, with all matches being played at the No. 1 position. Madueño claimed her 11th straight singles win to improve to 12-1 overall this season and in her college career. The true freshman is now 2-0 at the No. 3 position.

"I try to have fun in every match and just keep fighting until the end, and supporting my team," Madueño said. "I think that's the best."

Sirbu is now 8-6 in sin-

gles this season after her win Monday, including 2-0 at the No. 4 position.

"Staying calm was one of the things, going out there and competing and fighting and being present on the court and active," Sirbu said.

Olvera improved to 8-5 with her fourth straight win. She is 5-1 from the No. 5 position. Fernandez moved to 8-5 in singles this season and has wins in back-to-back matches. She is 7-4 from the No. 6 position.

The Lady Toppers are now 52-31 in singles matches this season. WKU is 6-3 at home this season and are 3-1 in the current six-match homestand.

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Public Notices

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