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Sports

Lethal offense lifts RV Taylor to pair of wins

By Sean Douglas

Playing in the friendly confines of Gudakunst Field for the first time in the 2021 campaign, RV Taylor, the top hitting team in the Crossroads League, remained red-hot, recording its second straight doubleheader sweep with a pair of victories over Trinity International. A trio of three-run home runs by Lauren Kanai, Maddi Evans, and Ashton Whitman resulted in a run-rule, 15-6 triumph in game one, before a stellar performance from Kanai in the nightcap resulted in a 4-0 shutout victory.

Coming into the doubleheader with a League-leading 104 hits, the Trojans (10-4) added a plethora of knocks to that tally, recording 26 in the two-game series, nine of which went for extra bases. Emma West led the way in the hitting department, finishing five-for-eight in the leadoff spot, while

Kanai, Evans, Whitman, Kara Tucker, and Caitlyn Grim each finished with three.

Evans was locked in at the plate in the opener, finishing three-for-three, scoring three runs, driving in five, and falling a triple short of the cycle. Her five runs batted in tied her with Kristin Mihalic for the team lead with 14. Whitman also put together one of her best offensive performances of the young season in the first game, hitting two-for-four with three runs scored and four RBI.

TIU (2-2) scored the first two runs in the opener with single tallies in the first and third innings, but the Trojans blew the game wide open in the bottom half of the third. After Evans opened the scoring for TU on a Trinity International error, Kanai crushed her third home run of the season to left field, giving the Trojans a 4-2 advantage. A Whitman RBI double brought home Taylor’s fifth

run of the frame, before Evans’ three-run bomb increased Taylor’s lead to 8-2 after three innings of play.

Trinity International scored four runs in the top of the fifth inning and threatened to do even more damage, but Cassy Lewis recorded the final out of the frame to keep the Trojans’ lead intact. Lewis recorded her second save of the season, pitching a scoreless 1.1

innings and allowing just one hit.

The Trojans got all four runs back in their half of the fifth, highlighted by an Evans two-run double and a Tucker two-run single. In the

bottom of the sixth, Whitman capped off the Trojans’ offensive explosion with her first long ball of the season, securing the run-rule victory.

Evans (5-1) recorded her fifth win of the campaign, striking out eight in 4.2 innings of work.

The Trojans scored all four of their runs in the first three innings of the nightcap, which would prove to be all they would need. West scored on a passed ball in the first inning, Lexi Abruzzo hit an RBI double and scored on an error in the second, and Nicole Brindle crossed home plate in the third inning on another TIU miscue.

Kanai (4-2) shined in her six innings of work in the circle, giving up just two hits and one walk while striking out six. Jessica Doctor also made her first appearance of the season, allowing one hit and striking out the final batter she faced to end the contest.



Taylor’s Emma West gets set to swing in the Trojans’ doubleheader sweep of TIU on Tuesday (Photo Credit - Taylor University)

Local sports schedule

Tuesday, March 16

4 p.m.—SB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Taylor University  
Game 2—SB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Taylor University

Wednesday, March 17

1 p.m.—MBB—Lawrence Tech @ Indiana Wesleyan University  
Game 2—MBB—Lawrence Tech @ Indiana Wesleyan University  
1 p.m.—MS—Indiana Wesleyan University @ West Virginia Institute of Technology  
3 p.m.—WS—Indiana Wesleyan University @ West Virginia Institute of Technology  
5 p.m.—BTF—Oak Hill @ Southwood  
5 p.m.—GTF—Oak Hill @ Southwood

Thursday, March 18

8:15 p.m.—MB—Bethel University @ Indiana Wesleyan University (2021 NAIA Men’s Basketball National Championship Round of 16)  
6 p.m.—MT—Indiana Wesleyan University @ University of Northwestern Ohio  
6 p.m.—WT—Indiana Wesleyan University @ University of Northwestern Ohio  
7 p.m.—WV—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Judson College

Friday, March 19

1 p.m.—MBB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Goshen College  
Game 2—MBB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Goshen College

2 p.m.—MBB—Mount Vernon Nazarene University @ Taylor University  
Game 2—MBB—Mount Vernon Nazarene University @ Taylor University  
2 p.m.—MT—Tiffin University @ Indiana Wesleyan University  
2 p.m.—WT—Tiffin University @ Indiana Wesleyan University  
3 p.m.—ML—Taylor University @ Madonna University  
3 p.m.—SB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Goshen College  
Game 2—SB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Goshen College  
4 p.m.—SB—Grace College @ Taylor University  
Game 2—SB—Grace College @ Taylor University  
4 p.m.—WB—Southeastern University @ Indiana Wesleyan University (2021 NAIA Women’s Basketball National Championship Round of 16)  
6 p.m.—MT—Indiana Wesleyan University @ University of Northwestern Ohio  
6 p.m.—WT—Indiana Wesleyan University @ University of Northwestern Ohio  
7 p.m.—WV—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Judson College

Monday, March 22

9 a.m.—WG—Taylor University @ Nevel Meade Collegiate

University

Game 2—MBB—Mount Vernon Nazarene University @ Taylor University  
1 p.m.—F—University of Saint Francis @ Indiana Wesleyan University  
1 p.m.—MBB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Goshen College  
Game 2—MBB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Goshen College  
1 p.m.—SB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Bethel University  
Game 2—SB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Bethel University  
1 p.m.—SB—Taylor University @ University of Saint Francis  
Game 2—SB—Taylor University @ University of Saint Francis  
3 p.m.—MT—Campbellsville University @ Indiana Wesleyan University  
3 p.m.—WT—Campbellsville University @ Indiana Wesleyan University  
4 p.m.—WV—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Trinity Christian College  
7 p.m.—F—Concordia University @ Taylor University

Time to get IU back to winning Big Ten Titles



SPORTS TALK

Jim Brunner



for 8 years at New Castle and IU, and he is as competitive as they come.

He is a known personality, not the latest hot coach at some no name school. Hire him this week and let him start recruiting by next Monday.

I saw a list of 17 head coaches for IU to consider. It even had IWU’s Tonagel listed. He would only take the job if I replaced Don Fischer as “The Voice of the Hoosiers” and that’s not going to happen.

Archie out.

Stevie in.

Time to get IU back to winning Big Ten Titles and National Titles in B-Town.

It had to happen, and it finally did Monday of this week.

Archie Miller was let go after four bad years of basketball at Indiana University.

Archie did one thing that will keep him in the record books forever. He became the first IU coach in over 100 years to have four straight seasons of a .500 or less record in the Big Ten.

Now who?

Steve Alford.

He is the last IU player to win a national title as the captain at IU.

He was also Mr. Basketball here in the state, so he knows Indiana basketball for-

wards and back-wards.

I watched him play