

Tucker's two run RBI double adds a new line to the Lancer softball history books:

	<u>R:</u>	<u>H:</u>	<u>E:</u>
New Mexico State (20-17 Overall, 4-5 WAC):	0-0-0-0-0-0=0	3	1
California Baptist University (18-25 Overall, 5-7 WAC)	0-0-0-0-0-2-0=2	5	2

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Riverside, CA (John C. Funk Stadium)-

As the California Baptist University softball program makes their transition to NCAA Division one competition there will be new lines added to an already storied program's history book. One such entry will be first Western Athletic Conference series victory. Besides that entry will go New Mexico State ,conference defending champion & April 12-13 2019 (this weekend's dates), thanks to a two out two run RBI double from Cheyann Tucker which gave CBU a 2-0 lead after six innings. Kelley Springstead then retired the Aggies in order to preserve a victory. She went the distance allowing three hits and striking out seven on 108 pitches.

In the Lancers second Mackenzie Budinger singled with one out and Ally Johnson reached on an error. However Aggies starting pitcher Samaria Diaz erased the threat with a strikeout of Makenna Stram and popout by Molly Kolander.

Then in the fifth Stram had a one out opposite field double to left field and advanced to third on Kollander's groundout. Brittany Galvez struck out on a check swing call which had the Lancers faithful a little irritated with home plate umpire Louis Barraza to end their inning.

It was a two out rally consisting of an opposite field single from Caitlyn Lloyd & another single from Budinger who went 2-2 with a run setting the stage for Tucker. CBU's 5'3" senior catcher from Burleson, Texas drove a 3-1 pitch the opposite way to right field scoring Lloyd & Budinger. That was more than enough support for Springstead as New Mexico State went down in order punctuated by Stram's knee high catch to end the game.

Tucker said after the doubleheader "It was a huge moment and I'm just so happy to help us come thru and get this series. Good things happen when the ball is put into play and so we're just trying to focus on good contact and work from there. This is definitely a big confidence boost for us,"

New Mexico State could only muster four base runners against Springstead with only one getting past second base in game one.

In game two (a non conference game) the Aggies got two 1st inning runs against Lancers starting pitcher Gianna Lopez who put up zeros until the NMSU 7th when Kelsey Horton

homered to left field. Tucker drove a 1-2 pitch from Chloe Rivas over the left center field wall to pull CBU at the time within one run at 2-1 during the Lancers fourth inning. It was her first blast of 2019 and career second home run. Unfortunately that was all the offense California Baptist University could muster in a 3-1 defeat.

New Mexico State did have to work their way out of a bases loaded jam in the CBU third inning. Kolander led off the frame with a walk and advanced to second on Sophie Perea's groundout. Deanna Alarcon singled to right field and Kolander was put out at home attempting to score by Sarai Mejia. Hailie Rosario & Lloyd had back to back singles before Budinger popped out to end the threat.

Afterwards I spoke with Lancers coach Bill Baber who remarked "With everything they've (NMSU) done in this conference to get our first series win against them is just fantastic. It's been frustrating to get a win on Friday but yet not be able to grab one on Saturday and claim the series. I hand it to these players who just kept fighting despite everything that's been thrown at them. All year we haven't been able to get that key hit and as time goes by without one it gets tougher. For Cheyann to come thru there was huge. I feel like we have a lot of momentum now and could see it in the girls as they came off the field after that last game. To see their fight day in and day out, that's what I'll remember about this group."

Lancers Notables (Game 1):

WP: Kellye Springstead (16-14)>CG, 3 Hits, 7 K's, 108 pitches
Mackenzie Budinger> 2-2 with a run
Cheyann Tucker> 1-3 with a go-ahead two run double in the 6th

Aggie Notables (Game 1):

LP: Kayla Green (7-5)> 1 ⅓ IP, 3 Hits, 1 K

Lancers Notables (Game 2):

LP: Gianna Lopez (2-9)>CG, 3 Runs, 7 Hits, 0 BB's, 1 K, 2 HBP
Caitlyn Lloyd> 2-3
Cheyann Tucker> 2-3 with a HR (1)

Aggie Notables (Game 2):

WP: Chloe Rivas (1-1)> 3 ⅓ IP, 3 K's, 1 HBP
Save: Samaria Diaz> ⅔ IP with a BB
Kelsey Horton>2-4 with a HR
Nikki Butler>2-3 with 2 RBI

