

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS

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GOLDEN SUNS FALL 4-1 TO VALDOSTA STATE IN FINAL DAY OF GSC CROSSOVER

DECATUR, Alabama – Arkansas Tech Golden Suns Softball concluded play in the 2009 Gulf South Conference Crossover Tournament here on Monday at Wilson-Morgan Park with a 4-1 loss to eighth-ranked Valdosta State.

With the loss, Tech's record drops to 29-19 overall on the season and 12-8 in the GSC, while VSU improves to 36-5 overall and 12-1 in the GSC. Tech finished the four-day crossover tournament with a 1-5 record.

VSU's Alyssa Shirley put the Lady Blazers on top with a two-run homer of Tech freshman **Morgan Rodgers** (Mansfield, Texas) in the top of the first inning after Marti Little reached on a two-out error by junior third baseman Taylor Gates (Paris, Texas).

Tech's only run of the game came on a solo blast by Gates leading off the bottom of the second inning to pull the Golden Suns within 2-1.

Neither team would score until the top of the seventh inning when Little once again reached on a two-out error by freshman shortstop **Stephanie Lasley** (Greenbrier, Ark.) before Shirley knocked her second home run of the game over the left field wall, extending VSU's advantage to 4-1.

Despite not allowing an earned run, Rodgers (11-10) was handed the loss. The right-hander tossed seven innings, giving up four unearned runs on five hits, with two walks and three strikeouts.

Margaret Carter (11-3) earned the win for VSU, allowing one run on six hits, while walking two and fanning six in seven innings.

The Golden Suns out-hit the Lady Blazers 6-5, but committed three errors to VSU's one.

Gates, Rodgers, senior rightfielder **Sarah Pratt** (Garland, Texas), sophomore second baseman **Shanda Jameson** (Mansfield, Texas), junior catcher **Roxie Palacios** (Crosby, Texas) and senior centerfielder **Krista Cifuentes** (Clinton, Ark.) all had a hit in the game for the Golden Suns.

Shirley paced Valdosta with going 2-for-3 with the two homers and 4 RBIs.

The Golden Suns will be back in action on Thursday, April 9 when they host Northeastern State in a non-conference doubleheader scheduled for 2 p.m. at the Chartwells Women's Sports Complex. In addition to hosting Northeastern State on Thursday, Tech will also celebrate National Student-Athlete Day with a cookout at 4:15 p.m.

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