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**SOFTBALL**

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## Softball's Upset Of #9 Nebraska Highlights First-Day Split At NFCA Leadoff Classic

Flames top Huskers, 5-2, then fall to New Mexico, 5-4.

Feb. 22, 2002

[Box Score](#)

**Columbus, Ga.** - The UIC softball team took on the nation's best on Friday and took one out along way as they opened play with a 1-1 record at the 2002 NFCA Leadoff Classic, which features 13 teams ranked in the top 25.

The Flames kicked things off with first upset of the event as they toppled #9 Nebraska, 5-2. UIC would then come up just short of a perfect day in the nightcap, falling to New Mexico, 5-4.

The Flames, who entered the tournament averaging seven runs a game, showed off their firepower in the first inning versus Nebraska, plating all five of their runs. Sophomore [Amanda Rivera](#) started the rally with an RBI single, before freshman [Sara Hernandez](#) highlighted the frame with a grand slam.

Sophomore [Alison Aguilar](#) (3-1) got the job done in the circle for the Flames from there, holding the Cornhuskers to just two runs on six hits in her seven innings of work. It was her third consecutive win after opening the season with a loss.

Ironically, Aguilar was the last UIC pitcher to take out a top 25 team as she shutout #11 DePaul last season.

Leigh-Ann Walker was tagged with the loss for the Huskers.

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Freshman Sara Hernandez launched a grand slam in the Flames' upset of #9 Nebraska

In the second game, the Flames looked to have it stuck in automatic as they plated three runs in the bottom of the first inning versus the Lobos.

Rivera tallied her second RBI of the afternoon with a single to get UIC going with sophomore [Jacquelyne Vaca](#) capping the frame with a two-run single.

The Flames would lead 4-2 in the fifth when New Mexico would score three runs of starter [Alycia Creese](#), the final two scoring on a two-out error by leftfielder [Cameron Astiazaran](#).

UIC, which pounded out 11 hits in the game, would have the bases loaded in bottom of the seventh with two outs, but Lobo hurler Amy Dumas would get [Kristin Cumbo](#) to ground out to end the game.

Dumas would pick up the win for New Mexico while Creese was pegged with the loss, allowing three earned runs and 11 hits in seven innings of work.

For the day, senior [Jennifer Tiffany](#) went 3-for-8 at the plate while extending her career-best hitting streak to 11 games. Senior [Amber Stachura](#) was also 4-for-8 with an RBI.

The Flames will look to continue its upset trend on Saturday morning as they wrap up play in pool two by taking on #4 LSU at 9:00 a.m.

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