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Softball Edges Out Youngstown State, 4-3, In Regular-Season Finale

Flames take two-of-three from Penguins heading into next week's Horizon League Tournament.

May 4, 2003

[Box Score](#)

Chicago, Ill. - The UIC softball team will head to the 2003 Horizon League Tournament riding high, following a 4-3 victory over Youngstown State on Sunday afternoon in the regular-season finale at Flames Field.

With the victory, the Flames (19-35, 11-7) took the weekend series and spoiled the Penguins (34-15-1, 13-5-1) bid for their first-ever Horizon League title.

YSU needed a win over UIC on Sunday to claim the crown, but now must settle for a second-place finish as Loyola (31-21, 16-5) laid claim to the regular-season championship after completing a weekend sweep of Detroit this afternoon with a 5-3, 12-inning triumph.

The Flames play inspired softball right out of the gate on Sunday, plating all four runs in the first two innings off Penguin ace Kelly Murphy.

Sophomore [Sara Hernandez](#) (1-for-2, 2 RBI) drove in UIC's first run with a single in the first to score [Cameron Astiazaran](#) (2-for-3, 2R). [Michelle Miller](#) (2-for-4, 2 RBI) padded the Flames lead in the second with a two-run single, before Hernandez made it 4-0 with a sacrifice fly.

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Freshman Michelle Miller went 2-for-4 with two RBI on Sunday versus Youngstown State.

Youngstown State began to chip away at UIC's lead in the fifth inning as an RBI triple by Tiffany Patteson made it 4-1. Liz Holt then cut the Flames' lead to one in the top of the sixth with a two-run homer to left-center field off UIC starter [Alycia Creese](#).

The Penguins put the lead-off runner aboard to start the seventh inning, but first baseman [Brittany McIntyre](#), playing her third different position of the series, made a stellar defensive play to quickly squelch the Penguins' rally hopes.

With Patteson on first and no outs, Charlene Kudlock attempted to sacrifice bunt Patteson into scoring position. Kudlock bunted the ball in the air to far down the first base line, though, and a diving McIntyre snagged the ball, then fired to first to double-up Patteson.

Creese, who was making her first start since March 30th at Loyola, picked up her second win of the season in the circle, going the distance while allowing three runs on seven hits.

Murphy (20-5) was tagged with just her fifth loss of the year after surrendering four runs on nine hits.

The Flames will be back in action on Thursday at the 2003 Horizon League Championship in Cleveland, Ohio. Game time and opponent are to be determined.

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