2003 NCAA Division III Softball Regional

Dragon Field; SUNY Cortland; Cortland, N.Y.

Game 1: Elms College vs. William Paterson Univ.; Friday, May 9, 2003

FINAL SCORE: William Paterson 5, Elms 1

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Senior Sam Kszepka (New Egypt, NJ/Allentown) tossed a three-hitter and senior Katie Morris (Deptford, NJ) recorded three hits as William Paterson University (N.J.) defeated Elms College (Mass.) 5-1 in the opening game of the NCAA Division III Softball regional at SUNY Cortland. The Pioneers (28-10-1) advance to play top-seeded Cortland in a game played later Friday. The Blazers (28-6) drop into the loser's bracket and will play at 10 a.m. against an opponent to be determined. Elms is making the school's first-ever NCAA tournament appearance in any sport.

Kszepka struck out seven and walked none to improve her record to 9-1. Freshman Kristi Guzzo (Springfield, MA/Cathedral) fell to 15-4 with the loss. She gave up 13 hits and five runs and walked one.

Freshman Danielle Patlen (Kinnelon, NJ) was 2-for-3 with two RBI for William Paterson. Senior Pam Migliaccio (Rockaway, NJ/Morris Hills) was 2-for-2 with an RBI and freshman Maria Browne (Park Ridge, NJ) was 2-for-4.

William Paterson took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third. Migliaccio led off with a triple and Morris doubled down the right field line with two outs. The Pioneers added a run in the fourth when senior Morgan Dunlap (Jefferson Township, NJ) hit a leadoff triple to center and scored on a two-out bunt single by Migliaccio.

The Pioneers broke the game open with three runs in the fifth. Kszepka singled with the bases loaded to bring in a run and Patlen hit a two-run single to center later in the inning.

Elms scored in the sixth. Junior Tina Fontaine (Granby, MA) doubled and went to third on a groundout. Freshman Lauren Stauch (East Nassau/New Lebanon) drove in a run with a grounder to second. Stauch was safe on an error on the play. Another error put runners on first and second, but Kszepka recorded a strikeout to end the threat.

William Paterson 5, Elms 1

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Elms (28-6): Kristi Guzzo (L, 15-4) and Kristin Tassey
William Paterson (28-10-1): Sam Kszepka (W, 9-1) and Morgan Dunlap

2B - Tina Fontaine (E), Mindy Coxe (WP), Katie Morris (WP)
3B - Morgan Dunlap (WP), Pam Migliaccio (WP)
HR - none