

Canadians smoke Cubans in women's baseball World Cup action

Edmonton's Luchanski leads way in convincing win

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Team Netherlands' Kirsten Vierdag, left, slides safe into home plate past Team Venezuela catcher Neydmar Guzman during women's baseball World Cup game action at Telus Field on Thursday. Venezuela won 14-6.
Photograph by: Larry Wong, Larry Wong/Edmonton Journal

EDMONTON - Edmonton's Nicole Luchanski started and finished the offence for Team Canada on Thursday at Telus Field.

Luchanski, Canada's leadoff batter, singled to start the bottom of the first inning and eventually came around to score the game's first run. Later in the inning, she also delivered an RBI-single to cap a six-run outburst.

In addition, Luchanski had a run-scoring triple and scored in the third inning, and completed the scoring with a run-scoring single in the sixth inning as Canada mercied Cuba 12-2 at the women's baseball World Cup.

Overall, Luchanski went four-for-five in the game with two runs and three RBI as Canada improved to 6-0 to remain one-game ahead of a pair of 5-1 teams — the United States and Japan. Canada concludes round-robin play at 7:30 p.m. Friday against Japan.

Right-fielder Stephanie Savoie and centre-fielder Rebecca Hartley each knocked in two runs and scored once for Canada while reliever Heidi Northcott of Rocky Mountain House pitched two innings in relief.

The playoffs begin Saturday morning, with the semifinals at 3 and 7:30 p.m. The championship final is set for 5 p.m. Sunday at Telus Field.

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