

Hogan Sisters Hit It Big

Monroe, La.- The ULM softball team experienced a rare occurrence in the NCAA earlier in the season on Geo-Surfaces field on March 15, 2017, in a game against non-conference opponent Incarnate Word when two sisters, Ana and Hunter Hogan, matched each other for their first recorded collegiate career home runs.

Hunter, an outfielder, started her college career at Wichita State before transferring to ULM as a sophomore in spring 2016.

Ana, an infielder, is a freshman who started playing as a Warhawk in spring 2017. Ana chose ULM because she liked how close the team was and how much of a family it was.

The Hogan sisters, only two years apart, are from Colwich, Kan. They took their first at-bats in T-ball, and always played for the same organization.

The sisters are close and playing together. In high school the Hogans played together for two years and both played in the outfield at one point. Hunter thought high school that was the last time she would get to play with her sister. So being able to play together now means that much more.

"We're nine hours from home, but I still have someone here that has my back and knows what I'm going through.," said Hunter. "Being able to be on the field with her is awesome because I get to see all of her success. Getting to watch her play really pumps me up and it bring meaning to family and the game for me."

"I know that I always have at least one person on my good side all the time," said Ana. "It's so helpful when I'm down and can know that my sister is here and she has my back no matter what. The two of us have a competitive streak, but most of the time we end up telling each other that we're proud of each other, more than saying that one of us beat the other at something."

The recruiting process with the two sisters was a little bit different. The younger sister, Ana, was being recruited by the Warhawks and once she committed, older sister, Hunter, decided to transfer from Wichita State.

The girls had a connection with head coach Corey Lyon because Lyon's daughter, Cheyanne, had played with Hunter when they were children.

"You can tell that they are harder on each other than anyone else on the team and they expect more out of each other," said Lyon. "But you can also tell that they are sisters and they do have a different relationship than the rest of their teammates."

On March 15, 2017, sisters Hunter and Ana Hogan joined a list of 17 sisters in the NCAA who hit home runs in the same game. (records range from 2001-2017)

"The energy around the girls was electric after they both hit their home runs," said Lyon. "Obviously, everyone was happy about the home runs in general, but the sisters had a different energy around them. The running joke was that Hunter wasn't going to let Ana have all the glory for that game."

It was under the lights on Geo-Surfaces field where a treat was waiting for the Warhawks as Ana hit the first home run of her career as a Warhawk for a two-run homer in the fourth inning. Hunter, followed with her first collegiate career home run later in the sixth inning.

“I was able to hit home runs during fall ball (when it didn’t really count) but hadn’t ever hit one during the spring. I guess I was just waiting for her to get here,” said Hunter.

When Hunter came down the third base line her sister was there to embrace her after her home run.

“We were hugging at home plate and the team was surrounding us, I almost cried because it was such a cool feeling,” said Hunter. “Not because of the home run, but because I got to do it with my sister.”

The home runs from the two sisters was just the offensive pop that the Warhawks needed in the game to solidify the teams’ 15th win of the season with a 6-1 mark.

“They both have a love for the game and a love for each other that is unlike anything else,” said Lyon.

“We love having the Hogan sister complex on the team, they always keep us on our toes, especially when they both hit home runs in the same game.”