



Monday, May 13, 2002

OU to face Washington in NCAA Tournament

Oakland University's **softball team** will face one of the top teams in the country during its first-ever appearance in the **NCAA Softball Tournament**.

OU, the No. 6 seed in Region 6, will play Washington, the No. 1 seed in the region, in the first game of the regional tournament, which is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, at 11:30 a.m. at Alumni Field in Ann Arbor. The four other teams in the Ann Arbor regional include No. 2 Michigan, No. 3 Ohio State, No. 4 Central Michigan and No. 5 Canisius.

"I feel like we have nothing to lose and everything to gain. We may be the David among these Goliaths," OU head coach Steve Ogg said. "Of the remaining five teams, I feel we are the second home team and that is great for us. We should have a great crowd on hand following the Golden Grizzlies."

The OU/Washington game is the first game of the day May 16. Game two will feature Michigan vs. Canisius at 2 p.m., and the third game pits Ohio State against Central Michigan at 4:30 p.m.

If OU wins its first game, the **Golden Grizzlies** will play the winner of game five on Friday, May 17, at 7 p.m. If Oakland is defeated by the Huskies, the Golden Grizzlies will play the loser of game two on Thursday, May 16, at 7 p.m.

Oakland's softball team is the third team to qualify for an NCAA post-season tournament since the university moved to Division I athletics three years ago. All three NCAA Tournament appearances by OU teams came during the 2001-02 school year. Last November, the women's soccer team became the first OU team to achieve this milestone, while the women's basketball team accomplished this goal in March.

OU's **softball team** earned its first-ever NCAA Tournament trip by claiming the Mid-Con Tournament title with a 4-1 record. The Golden Grizzlies defeated UMKC in the championship game on May 4 for the title. Oakland currently is 25-36-1 through the 56-game regular season and the Mid-Continent Conference Tournament.

Tournament seedings and match-ups for the first round of the NCAA Softball Tournament were announced live on ESPN during the 2002 Softball Selection Show on May 12.

Forty-eight teams compete in the national tournament, with six teams competing at each of eight regional sites. The regional competitions take place May 16-19. The eight regional winners advance to the NCAA Women's College World Series May 23-27 at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City.

SUMMARY

OU's softball team will face one of the top teams in the country during its first-ever appearance in the NCAA Softball Tournament. OU, the No. 6 seed in Region 6, will play Washington, the top seed in the region, in the first game of the tournament. The four other teams in the Ann Arbor regional include No. 2 Michigan, No. 3 Ohio State, No. 4 Central Michigan and No. 5 Canisius.

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