



Thursday, May 16, 2002

OU loses first game of NCAA Tournament

Oakland University's **softball team** headed into its first NCAA Tournament appearance on a high note. However, the University of Washington spoiled the Golden Grizzlies fun as the Huskies handed OU an 8-0 loss in the first game of the NCAA Region 6 Tournament in Ann Arbor on May 16.

Oakland, the No. 6 seed in the regional, moves to the consolation bracket to play Canisius at 11:30 a.m. Friday, May 17, at the University of Michigan's Alumni Field in Ann Arbor. The Golden Grizzlies will have to win the second game of the tournament to keep their season alive.

With the lose to Washington, Oakland drops to 25-37-1, while the Huskies improve to 45-16.

Washington jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning and increased its lead to 5-0 as UW scored three runs in the second inning. Oakland was able to keep the No. 1 seed scoreless in the third inning, however, Washington scored three runs in the fourth inning to mercy OU by the final of 8-0.

Washington scored eight runs on eight hits and committed no errors, while OU was held scoreless but recorded two hits and committed four errors.

Collecting OU's two hits were juniors Ericka Burns and Nicole Schulte. Burns was 1-3 from the plate and Schulte was 1-1 as she recorded the only double of the game. Collecting the loss was sophomore Jaymie Voss as she gave up seven runs on seven hits in three and one third innings pitched.

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.

Forty-eight teams compete in the NCAA Softball 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

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