



Monday, May 20, 2002

Softball team ends with 1-2 NCAA record

Oakland University's **softball team** ended its season with a 1-2 record at the NCAA Tournament and as the first team in the university's history to ever win an NCAA Tournament game.

After losing to top-seed University of Washington, 8-0, on May 16, the Golden Grizzlies went on to beat Canisius, 3-1, on May 17 to advance to the NCAA Region 6 softball championship. The win marked the first time in the university's history that an OU team has recorded a victory in an NCAA Tournament game.

The **Golden Grizzlies** then were defeated by Central Michigan University, 2-1, on May 17 to end their season, sending them home from their first NCAA Tournament appearance. Oakland closes the season with a 26-38-1 record.

In the game against Central Michigan, OU was lead by junior Megan Piar, who was 1-2 from the plate with one RBI. OU's Julie Anderson recorded the loss as she gave up one run on two hits in two innings pitched.

Against Canisius, the Golden Grizzlies received strong defensive play and were paced by a two-hit, two-run performance by Nina Catanzaro and a one-hit and two-RBI performance from shortstop Erica Judge. Contributing to the win was Linnea Utecht, Ericka Burns, Jaymie Voss, Jennifer Granger and Lauren Seffens as they all recorded one hit. Nicole Marzano recorded her 10th win of the year as she pitched five and a half innings only giving up one run on four hits.

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 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

Oakland University's softball team ended its season with a 1-2 record at the NCAA Tournament and as the first team in the university's history to ever win an NCAA Tournament game. 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.

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