



Monday, November 4, 2002

Soccer team wins regular-season title

With a 4-0 win over UMKC Nov. 1 followed by a couple key conference losses, Oakland's men's soccer team captured its first outright Mid-Con regular-season title and will serve as the top seed and host of this season's Mid-Con Tournament, which is Nov. 15-17.

Oakland (7-6-3, 3-1-1) clinched at least a share of its third straight Mid-Con regular-season title with its win on Nov. 1. However, the Golden Grizzlies earned the right to host the tournament for the first time with Valparaiso's 2-1 loss at Western Illinois in the final league match of the season.

OU Freshman Chris Edwards (Glasgow, Scotland) led the way for the Golden Grizzlies against UMKC Nov. 1, scoring two goals in the game. This was his third two-goal performance of the season.

Western Illinois, Valparaiso and UMKC will join the Golden Grizzlies at the Mid-Con Tournament.

Western Illinois (8-9, 3-2) was guaranteed a spot in the tournament when IUPUI lost 4-2 to Oral Roberts Nov. 2, and the Leathernecks then clinched second place with their win over the Crusaders. Despite sponsoring men's soccer within the Mid-Con longer than any of the other teams, the Leathernecks have never won the conference tournament.

Valparaiso (5-9-2, 2-2-1) is the third seed in the tournament. The Crusaders entered last weekend in a first-place tie with Oakland, but fell to the number three spot after a loss to Western Illinois. Valparaiso has not appeared in the Mid-Con Tournament since hosting the event in 1998. However, the team won the title in 1996.

UMKC (6-9-1, 2-3) entered the season ranked first in the preseason coach's poll, but finished in a three-way tie for fourth place in the Mid-Con standings with Oral Roberts and IUPUI. With wins over both teams during the regular season, the Kangaroos won the tiebreaker and the right to play in the tournament as the fourth seed.

#2 Western Illinois and #3 Valparaiso will square off in the first semifinal game at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 15, followed by #1 Oakland and #4 UMKC at 2:30 p.m. The two winners will play on Nov. 17 at 1 p.m. for the Mid-Con Championship and an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament. All games are at Oakland's lower field soccer complex.

SUMMARY

With a 4-0 win over UMKC Nov. 1 followed by a couple key conference losses by other teams, Oakland's men's soccer team captured its first outright Mid-Con regular-season title and will serve as the top seed of the tournament Mid-Con Tournament. This season, the Grizzlies also earned the right to host the tournament for the first time.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, November 4, 2002
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, November 4, 2002
Article Start Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2003