



Tuesday, November 12, 2002

OU hosting Mid-Con Soccer Tournament

Oakland University's men's soccer team is hosting the Mid-Continent Conference Tournament Nov. 15-17. The Golden Grizzlies are the No. 1 seed in the tournament after having captured their first outright Mid-Con regular-season title.

Oakland (7-6-3, 3-1-1) clinched at least a share of its third straight Mid-Con regular-season title with its 4-0 win over UMKC 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.

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.

No. 2 Western Illinois and No. 3 Valparaiso will square off in the first semifinal game at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 15, followed by No. 1 Oakland and No. 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

Oakland University's men's soccer team is hosting the Mid-Continent Conference Tournament Nov. 15-17. The Golden Grizzlies are the No. 1 seed in the tournament after having captured their first outright Mid-Con regular-season title. The 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.

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