



Monday, March 10, 2003

Women advance to Mid-Con final

Oakland University's women's basketball team upset No. 2 seed Chicago State to advance to the Mid-Continent Conference Tournament final for the third year in a row. The No. 6 seeded Golden Grizzlies defeated the Cougars for the third time this season to become the lowest seed in women's conference tournament history to qualify for the championship game.

In a rematch of last year's championship, Oakland will play Valparaiso for the tournament title and an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament. The title game, which will be televised on Fox Sports Chicago, Fox Sports Detroit and Fox Sports Midwest, begins at 6 p.m. EST Tuesday, March 11, at Kansas City's Kemper Arena. Fans can listen to a live broadcast of the game from the [OU Athletics](#) Web site.

In Monday's semifinals, Oakland posted a 60-52 win over Chicago State to win its fourth straight game, while No. 4 Valparaiso upset top seed Western Illinois, 49-45. This is the first time in tournament history where none of the top three seeds will appear in the championship game.

Oakland and Chicago State both started the semifinal game slowly, with each scoring just four points in the first four minutes. Back-to-back 3-pointers from OU senior guard Katie Wolfe (Cedar Springs, Mich.) gave Oakland a 20-14 advantage and capped an 8-0 run that gave the Golden Grizzlies the lead for good. OU led by as many as seven points on a pair of occasions late in the first half, but saw Chicago State (13-16) score the last five points of the half to cut Oakland's lead to 28-26 at the half.

In the second half, Oakland used an 11-3 run, fueled by six points from freshman guard Jayme Wilson (Shawnee, Kansas), to push its lead to 10 points (43-33) with 7:37 left in the game. Chicago State never got closer than seven points the rest of the way.

Wolfe led the Golden Grizzlies with 20 points, followed by Wilson, who had 19. Sophomore forward Amanda Batcha (Waterford, Mich.) pulled down a team-best 12 rebounds. Wilson tied the Mid-Con Tournament record by making 10-of-10 free throws. She is only the fifth player in league tourney history to make as many as 10 free throws without a miss.

Oakland shot just 40 percent from the field (20-50), but outscored Chicago State by a 17-8 count at the free throw line.

Wolfe, the league's top scorer, finished the game with 2,056 career points. She needs just 50 points to become the conference's career scoring leader (Oral Roberts' Krista Ragan tallied 2,105 from 1997-2002).

In Saturday's quarterfinal game, the Golden Grizzlies upset No. 3 seed UMKC, 81-62. Wolfe scored a tournament single-game record 41 points to pace Oakland to the win, eclipsing former teammate Sarah Judd's 38-point effort, which was set in last season's Mid-Con title game. Wolfe made 17-of-26 shots from the floor, including a 3-of-6 effort from 3-point range, in her offensive explosion. The 41 points represented a career high and a Mid-Con season high.

Oakland (13-15) entered the Mid-Con Tournament with its lowest seed in four appearances, but still managed to reach the championship game for the third straight season. Last year, the Golden Grizzlies defeated Valparaiso, 52-40, in the Mid-Con Tournament final to advance to the Division I NCAA Tournament for the first time in team history. Oakland then lost to Vanderbilt, 63-38, in the first round of the NCAAs.

OU's men's basketball team was defeated by Southern Utah, 66-55, in the first round of this year's Mid-Con Tournament.

SUMMARY

OU's women's basketball team upset No. 2 seed Chicago State to advance to the Mid-Continent Conference Tournament final for the third year in a row. The No. 6 seeded Golden Grizzlies become the lowest seed in women's conference tournament history to qualify for the championship game.

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