



Monday, March 5, 2001

OU advances to semifinals in Mid-Con Tournament

OU senior Beth Zeone (Dunlap, Ill.) scored 31 points, including 18 in the second half, to lead the Golden Grizzlies to a 76-68 win over No. 8 seed Valparaiso in the first quarterfinal game of the Mid-Continent Conference Women's Basketball Tournament on Saturday, March 3.

"It felt good to get the win under our belt," Oakland head coach Beckie Francis said. "We are the No. 1 seed, which puts a bulls-eye on our jerseys. I am very proud of our effort today, and pleased that we held off an unbelievable run by Valparaiso."

Oakland, the 2000-01 Mid-Con regular-season champion, improves to 19-9 overall and advances to semifinal play Monday, March 5, against No. 5 seed IUPUI. The game begins at noon at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Ind.

IUPUI defeated No. 4 seed Southern Utah 58-53 in the second quarterfinal. The win, which was IUPUI's first in three tries in the Mid-Con Tournament, improves the Jaguars' record to 11-17 on the season.

For fans unable to see Monday's game, they can hear all the action, as called by announcer Jon Bloom, by tuning in to the live audio webcasts on the [OU athletics](#) site. Archived broadcasts of the women's postseason games also are available on the web after the tournament is over.

In the opening minutes of Saturday's game, Oakland jumped out to a 13-2 and extended that lead to 17 points by halftime. Zeone had two of her three first-half three-pointers in the opening run and scored 13 points by the break.

Valparaiso didn't roll over after the break and closed to within four points with 11:00 left in the game. Valparaiso junior Marlous Nieuwveen (Liederdorp, Netherlands) led the second-half charge, scoring 21 of her team-high 25 points in the second stanza along with four blocked shots.

Every time Valparaiso closed the gap to within a couple possessions, Zeone had an answer. She made 10 free throws in the second half, including six in the final 41 seconds. Her 31 points tie for fifth on the Mid-Con's single-game tournament list, while her five three-pointers tie for second and her 12 free throws tie for third.

Oakland sophomore Katie Wolfe (Cedar Springs, Mich.) contributed 11 points, seven boards and nine assists in the win. Junior Sarah Judd (Eastpointe, Mich.) had 12 points and four blocked shots off the bench. Wolfe's nine assists are fourth on the Mid-Con Tournament game list. Both Wolfe and Judd were named first-team all-conference selections last week, while Zeone was a second-team honoree.

Valparaiso sophomore Jeanette Gray (Valparaiso, Ind.) had 12 points and six steals in the game, including five steals in the first half. Her six steals tie for fourth on the Mid-Con Tournament single-game list. Valparaiso closed its season at 7-22.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, March 5, 2001
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, March 5, 2001
Article Start Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003