



Monday, November 12, 2001

Women's soccer team qualifies for NCAA Tournament

For the first time in its history since moving to Division I athletics, Oakland University's **women's soccer team** has qualified for the NCAA Tournament.

The Golden Grizzlies accomplished this feat by beating Oral Roberts in the Mid-Con Championship game Sunday afternoon, 3-0 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The win is OU's second consecutive Mid-Con Tournament title.

OU midfielder Anita Rapp, the Mid-Con Co-Player of the Year, scored the game-winner at the 17:55 minute mark and earned the tournament's Most Valuable Player honor. Oakland finishes the regular season at 16-3-1, while Oral Roberts falls to 11-8-1.

Oakland took a 1-0 lead into halftime on Rapp's unassisted goal. The Golden Grizzlies added to its lead as senior forward Ashley McGhee scored her second goal of the tournament and 14th of the season just five minutes into the second half. The final goal of the game came from senior midfielder Gail Wilson at the 75:08 minute mark. Sophomore Sarah Buckland made six saves for her ninth shutout of the season.

"The girls played hard and it was good to see the senior tri-captains each score a goal in the championship game," said O'Shea. "Our defense was solid by not allowing a goal against a quality team such as Oral Roberts.

"We are very excited about going to the NCAA tournament. It's great to accomplish goals set at the beginning of the season, winning the regular and postseason Mid-Con Championships. We look forward to representing Oakland University in the NCAA tourney."

Four Oakland players made the All-Tournament team -- Rapp, McGhee, Wilson and Buckland. Rapp was MVP with three goals, including two game-winners, and one assist for the tournament. McGhee scored two goals, while Wilson had one. Buckland made eight saves and allowed no goals in the two games.

In its first tournament game, Oakland (16-3-1) will face Cincinnati (18-3-0) on Friday, November 16 in South Bend, Ind. at 5 p.m.

For team rosters, schedules and statistics, visit the **women's soccer team** pages on the **Oakland University Athletics** Web site.

SUMMARY

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