



Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Women win first Mid-Con Tournament title

Oakland University's **women's basketball team** claimed its first Mid-Continent Conference Tournament title and is going to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the team's history.

OU, the number two seed, defeated top seed Valparaiso 52-40 in the Mid-Con Tournament final on Tuesday, March 5, at the War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Ind., to earn an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament and a chance at the national title.

OU senior Sarah Judd (Eastpointe/Harper Woods Regina) broke the Mid-Con Tournament record for most points scored with 38 and was named the tournament MVP. Judd also earned her eleventh double-double of the season with twelve boards and one block.

This will be OU's first-ever trip to the NCAA Basketball Tournament, which begins Friday, March 15. Game time and seeding are yet to be determined. Oakland goes into the tournament with an overall record of 17-13.

The women's basketball team is only the second team in the university's history since moving to Division I athletics to qualify for an NCAA post-season tournament. The women's soccer team this past November was the first OU team to achieve this goal.

In Tuesday's championship game, Oakland never trailed, going on a 4-0 run to open the game and never looking back. Valpo, the Mid-Con regular-season champion, tied the score three times but could never overtake the lead.

OU was led by Judd, the only Grizzly in double figures. Freshman Amanda Batcha (Waterford/Kettering) made clutch shots to help OU advance while finishing with six points and eight rebounds. Junior Katie Wolfe (Cedar Springs/Cedar Springs) finished with four points and eight assists.

OU was 17-for-43 from the field, 1-for-4 from three-point range and made 17 of 18 free throws. Valpo finished 15-for-55 from the field, 3-for-12 from behind the arc and 7-for-9 from the free throw line. See the **photos** from the championship game.

Both Judd and Wolfe were named to the Mid-Con Tournament team. The week before, they were named to the Mid-Continent Conference first team for the 2001-2002 season.

This was OU's third appearance at the Mid-Con Tournament and the second year in a row it competed in the championship game. Last year, the Golden Grizzlies advanced to the finals by defeating Valparaiso 76-68 and IUPUI 80-73. But Oral Roberts proved too strong in the title game and beat OU 61-46.

In this year's **semifinal game**, the Golden Grizzlies defeated Oral Roberts 74-71 and were led by Judd, who scored 30 points and had five rebounds, five assists, three blocks and three steals. Wolfe scored 21 points, seven rebounds and four assists. Romica Clint (Toledo/Scott) added 18 points and a career-high 10 rebounds for her first double-double of the season.

In the **quarterfinals**, OU defeated IUPUI 63-53, marking Oakland's first win over IUPUI this season. Wolfe and Judd combined for 41 points.

For play-by-play webcasts of OU's women's basketball games — both live and archived — visit the **OU Athletics** Web site. The site also includes a team roster, statistics and profiles of the players and coaches.

You also can follow the Golden Grizzlies on their "**Road to the NCAA Tournament**" by visiting the Web page on The News @ OU that is dedicated to offering up-to-date stories and photos as well as related links concerning the team's historical first trip to the national tournament.

SUMMARY

Oakland University's women's basketball team claimed its first Mid-Continent Conference Tournament title and is going to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the team's history. Check out the **photos** from the Mid-Con Tournament championship game. OU, the number two seed, defeated top seed Valparaiso 52-40 in the Mid-Con Tournament final on Tuesday, March 5, to earn an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament and a chance at the national title.

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