



Thursday, November 13, 2003

OU hosting Men's Mid-Con Soccer Tournament

Oakland University's men's soccer team is hosting the Mid-Continent Conference Tournament Nov. 14 and 16. Oakland and UMKC both won their final conference matches and finished in a tie for the regular-season title, but Oakland will serve as the No. 1 seed in the Mid-Con Tournament due to its regular-season win over UMKC.

UMKC, Western Illinois and Oral Roberts will join the Golden Grizzlies at the Mid-Con Tournament. The tournament champion will receive the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Men's College Cup.

No. 2 seed UMKC will match up against No. 3 seed Western Illinois Friday, Nov. 14, at 11:30 a.m. in the first semifinal match of the tournament. Oakland then will square off against No. 4 seed Oral Roberts at 2:30 p.m. in the second game of the day. The winners of both games will go on to play for the conference title at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 16.

Admission and parking to the tournament are free. OU fans also will receive free hot dogs from Kowalski at Friday's game while supplies last.

Oakland (11-3-5, 5-1), the defending Mid-Con Tournament champion team, won a share of its fourth straight Mid-Con regular-season crown and enters this year's tournament with an eight-match unbeaten streak, going 6-0-2. The team started the season on a hot streak, winning their first six games, which included a season-opening win over then-No. 22 Portland to give head coach Gary Parsons his 300th career win. Oakland also was unbeaten against ranked teams this season to help the team earn a No. 12 national ranking, the highest ever in the program's history.

Co-captains Jason Perry (Southfield, Mich.) and Ryan Rzepka (Novi, Mich.) lead the top-ranked defense, allowing just 15 goals in 19 matches and only two in the last seven contests to lead the conference, and are ranked 22nd in the nation. Sophomore goalie Jeff Wiese (Omaha, Neb.) has posted a 0.71 goals against average to lead the Mid-Con this season and was ranked 19th in the nation as of last week (0.68).

The Golden Grizzlies have appeared in each Mid-Con Tournament since beginning league play in 1999 and won their first league tournament crown last year. Forwards Philip Braathen (Oslo, Norway) and Chris Edwards (Glasgow, Scotland) lead an Oakland offense that has combined for 14 goals in the last five games. They have combined for 47 percent of the goals. Braathen leads the team into the tournament with 21 points on eight goals, three of which have been game-winners, and five assists. Edwards leads the team with nine goals, three of those also has given Oakland a win. He has two assists and is second on the team with 20 points.

OU's women's soccer team will face the University of Michigan in the first round of the NCAA Women's College Cup on Friday, Nov. 14, on the campus of national No. 2 seed Notre Dame. The winner of the Oakland/Michigan game will go on to play the winner of the Notre Dame/Loyola game on Sunday, Nov. 16.

For more information on OU's soccer teams, visit the **OU Athletics** Web site.

SUMMARY

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