



Monday, March 5, 2001

## Top seed Oakland advances to Mid-Con finals

For the second straight game, Oakland had a tough time putting away a lower seed, but the Golden Grizzlies eventually outlasted No. 5 IUPUI, beating the Jaguars 80-73 in the first semifinal of the Mid-Continent Conference Women's Basketball Tournament.

The win moves Oakland's season record to 20-9, and puts the Golden Grizzlies in Tuesday's championship game.

"I'm really proud of the effort we made in the clutch," Oakland head coach Beckie Francis said. "IUPUI came back; they are a very scrappy team and have the most guts of any team in the league. They turned it into a possession by possession game, but our squad was the team that got the job done. We made our free throws in the end, and I am really excited about being in the championship game."

Oakland, the top seed, will take on No. 2 seed Oral Roberts Tuesday, March 6, in the Mid-Con final, which starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Ind. The game will be broadcast on the **OU athletics** site. Archived broadcasts of the women's postseason games also will be available on the web after the tournament is over.

Oral Roberts set a tournament record for fewest points allowed in a game, defeating No. 6 Chicago State, 54-35, in the second semifinal of the tournament. The win improves the Golden Eagles' record to 19-10 overall.

In Oakland's semifinal game, IUPUI jumped out to an early 4-0 lead on back-to-back baskets by sophomore Tiffany Kyser (Indianapolis, Ind.), but the Golden Grizzlies quickly erased that lead. Six different players scored in a 21-8 run that gave OU a nine-point lead at 21-12. The Golden Grizzlies built its lead to as many as 11 points on two occasions in the first half and took a 40-35 lead into the locker room.

OU shot 58.1 percent (18-31) from the field in the first half and were led by 12 points from senior Beth Zeone (Dunlap, Ill.) IUPUI stayed in the game thanks to some hot shooting from freshman Amy Muehlhausen (Logansport, Ind.), who had 13 first-half points.

IUPUI fell behind by a 52-42 score with 11:47 left in the second half, but the Jaguars came out of a timeout and made the game interesting. The Jaguars went on a 12-0 run, hitting three-pointers on four straight possessions. Junior Amy Frey (Indianapolis, Ind.) bookended two treys by senior Angie Watt (Princeton, Ind.) with a pair of her own, and IUPUI led 54-52 with 9:06 to play.

Oakland junior Sarah Judd (Eastpointe, Mich.) gave the Golden Grizzlies the lead for good with two free throws at the 6:36 mark. Behind some solid free throw shooting, Oakland built its lead back to 10 points (72-62) with 1:27 left. IUPUI cut the lead to as few as five points late in the game, but could get no closer.

Oakland made 27-of-32 free throws for the game, including 26-of-29 in the second half. Judd hit all nine of her freebies (all in the second half), while Zeone and freshman Jodi Young (Flushing, Mich.) each hit four free throws in the final 1:15 of the game.

Judd finished with a game-high 25 points to go along with 10 rebounds. She scored 15 points in the second half. Zeone added 16 points, while senior Jamie Ahlgren (Muskegon, Mich.) chipped in with 13 points.

IUPUI's Kyser had 13 points and 14 rebounds for her eighth double-double of the year, and her second of the Mid-Con Tournament. Watt had a team-high 22 points for the Jaguars in her final collegiate game, while Muehlhausen finished with a career-best 16 points. IUPUI closed the year with an 11-18 record.

### SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, March 5, 2001

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