



Friday, March 2, 2001

## OU women No. 1 going into Mid-Con Tournament

Oakland University heads into this weekend's Mid-Continent Conference Women's Basketball Tournament with the Mid-Con regular-season title and as the top seed for the second year in a row.

For fans unable to see the tournament March 3-6 at the Allen County Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Ind., 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 games also will be available on the web after the tournament is over.

The Golden Grizzlies will take on No. 8 seed Valparaiso (7-21, 4-12) in the first quarterfinal on Saturday, March 3. Oakland ended its regular season 18-9 overall and 12-4 in the conference and swept the two meetings against the Crusaders. Prior to this season, Valparaiso had never been lower than the No. 5 seed.

Oral Roberts (17-10, 11-5) finished in a three-way tie for second place, but earned the second seed thanks to its season sweep of Oakland. The Golden Eagles will face No. 7 seed Youngstown State (10-17, 6-10), last season's Mid-Con Tournament Champion. Oral Roberts swept Youngstown State in this season's series. The No. 2 seed is the best seed ever for the Golden Eagles. Prior to this season, the Penguins had never been seeded lower than third in the Mid-Con Tournament.

Western Illinois (16-11, 11-5) is the No. 3 and will face No. 6 seed Chicago State (9-18, 7-9) in the quarterfinal round. Western Illinois was part of the three-way tie with Oral Roberts and Southern Utah at 11-5. The Westerwinds won the tiebreaker over Southern Utah by virtue of its season sweep of Chicago State. This is the second season in a row, and the third time overall, that Western Illinois has earned the No. 3 seed. Chicago State has never been better than a No. 8 seed in the Mid-Con Tournament prior to this season.

In the last quarterfinal game, No. 4 Southern Utah (16-11, 11-5) will square off against No. 5 IUPUI (10-17, 8-8). Southern Utah ended up on the short end of the three-way tie with Oral Roberts and Western Illinois. The Thunderbirds split with Oakland, Oral Roberts, Western Illinois, IUPUI and Chicago State this season. Western Illinois swept Chicago State to earn the higher seed. This is Southern Utah's second time since joining the Mid-Con that it has been the No. 4 seed. The Thunderbirds rebounded from being the No. 7 seed last season. IUPUI's has improved its seed each season it has made the Mid-Con Tournament, with the No. 5 seed being the highest the Jaguars have ever achieved.

### SUMMARY

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