



2006 Big 12 Softball Championship

ASA Hall of Fame Stadium

Oklahoma City, Okla. ~ May 10

Game 3 -- #8 Oklahoma State 2, #1 Texas 1

Third baseman Shianne Cruce hit a two-run home run in the top of the fourth to give No. 8 seed Oklahoma State (21-27) a 2-1 upset over top-seeded Texas (49-6). The Cowgirls won their second game of the evening and advance to Thursday's 5 p.m. game against the winner of No. 4 seed Texas A&M vs. No. 5 seed Oklahoma.

Texas will play an elimination game Thursday at 2 p.m. against the loser of the Texas A&M vs. Oklahoma contest.

Cruce's homer, her second of the year, came off of Texas starter Meagan Denny (17-5). First baseman Kim Kaye also scored after walking prior to Cruce's at bat. Texas cut the lead in half with third baseman Crystal Saenz' run in the bottom of the seventh. Saenz reached base on a fielder's choice, advanced to second on Desiree Williams' walk and then scored on Chez Sievers' single. Amber Hall popped up to second base to end the game, leaving two on base.

Denny pitched 4.1 innings, giving up two hits, along with the two runs and striking out eight. Texas ace Cat Osterman came in to finish the game. She struck out seven with no hits, runs or walks in 2.2 innings.

OSU's Jessica Hoppock (14-21) earned her second win of the night with another outstanding effort. She went the distance, giving up one earned run off of six hits. She also struck out four while walking three. In two complete games of the tournament, Hoppock has given up only one run and nine hits while recording 16 strikeouts with just four walks.

No. 7 seed Missouri also pulled off an upset 3-0 over No. 2 seed Nebraska as the top two seeds lost their opening game for the first time in Big 12 Softball Championship history.

Oklahoma State Quotes

Coach Margaret Rebenar

"We have been playing well the last couple of weeks. We had a great weekend down in Texas only losing 1-0 to Cat (Osterman). We are playing well and our team knows they have the capability to beat anybody in the country and we're just in here loose and doing the very best we can."

Pitcher Jessica Hoppock

"We expected to see (Meagan) Denney just because we had seen Cat twice this year and we had hit her more than any other Big 12 team had. We thought we had a good opportunity of coming out and playing well."

Texas Quotes

Coach Connie Clark

"I think they will come back stronger. We talked about it being gut-check time. You give Oklahoma State credit, they came out and had to win back-to-back games today and they competed very well against us.

We talked about trying to figure out how to get the intensity going in the early innings, I thought we did a great job in the second half of the game and you have to get that done early. I think we have the fire power in the lineup to get that done and were just kind of waiting around a little bit."

Pitcher Meagan Denny

"It wasn't just one pitch or just one swing, it was just that there were a bunch of things. There was one bad pitch I did give up that was inches away from being the perfect pitch. Really it was a matter of inches more than a pitch. Our intensity level was not very high the entire game. It started getting up there late but you have to have it the whole game."