



2006 Big 12 Softball Championship ASA Hall of Fame Stadium Oklahoma City, Okla. ~ May 12

Game 11 -- No. 2 seed Nebraska 1, No. 8 seed Oklahoma State 0 (8 inn.)

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. - Senior second baseman Jessica Yoachim looped a single over the outstretched arm of the OSU third baseman to drive in the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning as No. 2 seed Nebraska (42-9) posted a 1-0 victory over No. 8 seed Oklahoma State (21-29). The contest was the first game of the day on Friday at the Big 12 Softball Championship.

The Cornhuskers advance to play No. 6 seed Kansas (32-24) in the 4:30 p.m. CT matchup on Friday. The contest will be televised live by FSN in many Big 12 markets and other areas across the nation. Oklahoma State is eliminated from the Championship.

The game was scoreless until the eighth inning, as the two starting pitchers - NU's Ashley DeBuhr and OSU's Jessica Hoppock - combined to hold the offenses to a total of five hits. In the bottom of the last frame, senior pinch-hitter Katie Linke started with a single up the middle. Senior KoKo Tacha was inserted as a pinch-runner and reached third base after a throwing error on a sacrifice bunt by senior centerfielder Lizzy Aumua. Tacha then scored the winning tally on Yoachim's base hit.

DeBuhr allowed two hits over eight innings, striking out nine with no walks. She improves to 24-7 on the season with the victory. Hoppock allowed five hits, with two walks and 10 strikeouts. She finishes the year with a 14-23 mark.

Nebraska Quotes

Head Coach Rhonda Revelle...

"Our team really hung in there. I have to tip my hat to Jessica Hoppock, she threw a brilliant game by mixing her speeds. She was able to slide in the screwball to catch our leftys looking and we were unable to adjust to that. I give her a lot of credit. I give our girls credit because we kept fighting. Ashley threw another great game, our defense backed up her up very well. We will take any win, no matter what the score is or how many innings it takes."

Nebraska's Jessica Yoachim...

On not being walked ... "Coach Revelle said work to get on base and it crossed my mind to load the bases and it would be an easier out for them if there was a hard ground ball in the infield. I am surprised that they didn't to walk me because it would have been a benefit for their defense to load the bases up."

On frustration during the game... "Everyone on our team was getting a little frustrated because it took us until the eighth inning to score. It wasn't the ideal game, but a win is a win."

Oklahoma State Quotes

Head Coach Margaret Rebenar...

On hope of going to regionals... "It's been an outstanding championship. This was an excellent game that could have gone either way. Whether the committee looks into that, honestly I can't speak for them. I do know that they do place emphasis on the latter part of the season and the latter part of our season has gone very well."

On Jessica Hoppock's performance today... "It was a very tough loss. Jessica was my MVP of this championship but you couldn't have asked a pitcher to do a better job. She's had to do a good job all week. She's been an outstanding pitcher for us. She stepped up and did exactly what we asked of her. The game could have gone either way here with Nebraska."

On today's game... "Overall we did a great job. For the most part, we played errorless ball. Jessica did a great job. Our hitters stepped in and did a nice job. If you look at the numbers, that's what it reflects as well. In the overall picture, we don't look like we've had an outstanding year, but we finished strong."

OSU's Jessica Hoppock...

"I thought it was a really good, hard-fought game. Too bad it ended like that but everybody played their heart out so I can't be mad at that loss because it was a close game."