



2006 Big 12 Softball Championship

ASA Hall of Fame Stadium

Oklahoma City, Okla. ~ May 12

Game 14 -- No. 5 Oklahoma 4, No. 7 Missouri 0

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. - Two freshmen - pitcher D.J. Mathis and designated player Samantha Ricketts - led No. 5 seed Oklahoma to a 4-0 victory over No. 7 seed Missouri. With the win, OU advances to the Big 12 Softball Championship title game on Sunday. The Sooners will face No. 6 seed Kansas in a winner take all showdown at 3 p.m. CT.

Mathis threw a complete-game three-hitter from the mound, striking out one with four walks. Ricketts was 3-for-3 at the plate, with one RBI.

OU (38-18-1) jumped out to an early 3-0 lead, scoring one run in the first inning, followed by two in the second. Junior outfielder Norrelle Dickson led off the game with a bunt single. After a sacrifice and groundout, she scored on a single by Ricketts up the middle. In the second, the Sooners started with junior first baseman Mariee Mena reaching on a fielding error and then stealing second base. Sophomore catcher Susan Ogden advanced the runner to third with a single. A single by junior second baseman Stacia Aleman scored Mena. Junior Jade Prather, who had pinch run for Ogden, scored the second run on a single by freshman third baseman Traci Dickenson.

Oklahoma will be making its first title game appearance since 2003. The Sooners will play in the championship game for the fifth time overall, having won the Big 12 crown in 2001 and 1996. Prior to this year, the lowest seed to win the league title was No. 3 Texas a year ago. OU will be the fifth No. 5 seed to play in the finals, while Kansas is the first No. 6 seed to play in the game. The Jayhawks (33-24) advanced to the title game in Big 12 postseason softball action for the first time in school history.

Oklahoma Quotes

Head Coach Patty Gasso...

"It's really the team that's the hottest. We have really come together these last two weeks and have carried it into the postseason. Everyone is feeling it, the pitching staff, offensively we are getting clutch performances and our defense is playing great. If those three areas are going well, you will win games. We are getting production all the way through the line-up, everyone is contributing from top to bottom and that is what makes all of this so rewarding. We are feeling confident, but we know that we will have our hands full tomorrow with Kansas."

Pitcher D.J. Mathis...

I felt pretty good once I was settled in and made a few adjustments. It's nice to have the top seeds out of the championship, but we're hot enough right now that I think we would have been able to handle them. Kansas is a good team and we will have to bring our A-game tomorrow.

Missouri Quotes

Head Coach Ty Singleton...

"D.J. Mathis did a great job pitching for Oklahoma. On the week, I was really proud of Jen Bruck and her effort of having to throw so much. I thought she did a really nice job of battling through so many games. We're proud of her efforts. I would like to wish Oklahoma and Kansas a great day tomorrow."