



2006 Big 12 Softball Championship

ASA Hall of Fame Stadium

Oklahoma City, Okla. ~ May 13

Kansas Wins First Big 12 Softball Championship Title

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. - An all-senior top of the sixth inning scoring output, led by second baseman Jessica Moppin's game-winning RBI, lifted the Kansas Jayhawks to a 4-2 victory over Oklahoma in the finals of the Big 12 Softball Championship. It is the first Big 12 softball crown in KU history.

KU (34-24) earns the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Division I Softball Championship with the win. The Jayhawks will be making the 10th NCAA appearance in school history. The Sooners fall to 38-19-1 with the loss and await a potential at-large NCAA selection, which would be the 14th in school annals. NCAA pairings will be announced on Sunday, May 14 at 2:30 p.m. CT, televised live on ESPNEWS.

In the deciding frame, senior Serena Settlemier led off with a single up the middle. Senior Ashley Goodrich pinch ran and advanced to second on a bunt single by senior Destiny Frankenstein. Moppin followed with her double to score Goodrich and then senior outfielder Heather Stanley drove in the Jayhawks' fourth run as Frankenstein scored on a sacrifice fly to left field.

The game began with both teams posting two runs in their half of the first inning. The contest was then scoreless until the decisive sixth inning. Settlemier was the starter for KU, but lasted only one inning. Junior Kassie Humphreys replaced her and gave up just one hit over the final six frames, with seven strikeouts and one walk. Freshman D.J. Mathis tossed a complete-game for OU, allowing eight hits and two earned runs with two strikeouts.

Kansas is the fifth different team to win the Big 12 Softball Championship in the 11-year history of the event. A different school has won the crown in each of the last five seasons, after three schools (Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas) captured the first six titles. KU is also the lowest-seeded team to win the softball crown.

Kansas Quotes

Head Coach Tracy Bunge...

"I really saw our team come to play today with a level of intensity and a level of confidence that I haven't seen very often. They were loose. They were relaxed. They had fun before the ballgame. They were not tight. They were going to play hard and they were going to play well and whatever happened, happened. We swung the bats well. We really made D.J. Mathis come over the plate. We didn't chase like the last time we saw them. I thought D.J. Mathis threw a good game out there and Oklahoma did a lot of good things. We had some highlight moments with plays from Jessica Moppin and Val Chapple, defensively. It was obviously a great performance from Kassie Humphreys on the mound. It just was a solid overall team effort. It is an absolutely fun day. I'm so proud of this team and so proud of my seniors in particular.

Pitcher Kassie Humphreys ...

"We got ahead in the first inning, coming out with a strong start. They bounced back so we took it as a 0-0 game. We just went up there and the defense stopped every ball possible. We kept the intensity up. We knew that we had it. We believed in ourselves the whole time. Although we waited until a little longer to get it done, we never doubted ourselves for a second. It was just a good atmosphere to be in the whole time.

Oklahoma Quotes

Head Coach Patty Gasso...

"We ran into a good team with Kansas. They are fighting to get into the NCAA tournament, especially with all of their seniors. We are still a hot team and hopefully regional selection hosts will see that when choosing sites. A lot was on the line today for both teams. I thought it was a hard fought game that was exciting to watch with all the defensive plays. D.J. threw well enough, but when Humphreys came in she threw really well; credit to Kansas for that. Nothing has changed because we are still a hot team going into the postseason. Right now I am disappointed because we were so close. The biggest prize is on the horizon and that is getting back into the College World Series."

Outfielder Kristin Vesely...

"We did some good things in the tournament. Right now we're hot and on a roll. We want to be peaking at the right time of year going into the post-season. We have a taste in our mouth of what it's like to lose and we're going to take that feeling as motivation going into regionals."

2006 BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP ~ ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Serena Settlemier, Kansas, P, Sr. (MVP)
Kassie Humphreys, Kansas, P/1B, Jr.
Jessica Moppin, Kansas, 2B, Sr.
Kristin Vesely, Oklahoma, OF, Sr.
Amber Spaulding, Oklahoma, UT, Jr.
Samantha Ricketts, Oklahoma, C, Fr.

D.J. Mathis, Oklahoma, P, Fr.
Jen Bruck, Missouri, P, So.
Ashley DeBuhr, Nebraska, P, Jr.
Lacey Darity, Oklahoma State, OF, Sr.
Megan Gibson, Texas A&M, P/1B, So.
Jami Lobpries, Texas A&M, IF/OF, So.