



2007 Big 12 Softball Championship

ASA Hall of Fame Stadium

Oklahoma City, Okla. ~ May 11

Game 3 -- No. 2 Oklahoma 5, No. 7 Kansas 0 -- (Kansas eliminated)

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Pitcher Lauren Eckermann threw a one-hitter to lead No. 2 seed Oklahoma to a 5-0 win over No. 7 seed Kansas in game three of the 2007 Big 12 Softball Championship at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium.

The Sooners (50-6) advance to Saturday's semifinal round against No. 3 seed Missouri at 11 a.m. on Field 4. Kansas (33-24-1) was eliminated in its second game of the day after beating Iowa State in eight innings in the first session.

Oklahoma used a balanced attack with five different players scoring runs. Samantha Ricketts started the Sooners offensive effort with a single in the bottom of the second. Iver McDonald was put in to pinch run for Ricketts and stole second. Jamie Fox then drew a base on balls to put two on base. Lindsey Vandever doubled to score McDonald and Fox, advancing to third on a throw to home plate. After a Savannah Long walk, Norrelle Dickson reached on a fielding error that scored Vandever. Mariee Mena then popped up to the short stop to end the inning.

Amber Flores put the Sooners back on the board with a solo shot to left field with two outs in the fifth. The home run was her eighth of the season. Ricketts followed with her second single of the evening, advanced to second after a walk to Susan Ogden and then scored on a fielding error.

Eckermann picked up her 32nd win of 2007 while striking out six and walking two. Kassie Humphreys took the loss with five hits, five runs, three earned along with three strikeouts and four walks.

Oklahoma Quotes

Coach Patty Gasso

"I was a little concerned with the fact that we have been off for a while. To score early was really important for us. I thought Lauren (Eckermann) was exceptional and our defense was exceptional and our freshmen were exceptional as well. A lot of good things happened."

On the win:

"This is something we can build off of. We have been working hard in practice and finals are over so the players can exhale and we are ready to go. We had a couple of execution situations that we did not execute late in the game. Other than that, everything is on the mark and it is something that we can build on."

Lauren Eckermann

"We felt like we had something to prove, but our goal was to stick with our game plan and to stay with what we do. Our offense came out and scored early which was great and that takes the pressure off of me which is awesome."

On the team's play:

"Our defense came up with some awesome plays, and diving catches that were unbelievable. It was a great team win."

Kansas Quotes

Coach Tracy Bunge

"I think after a rough end of the regular season, our team bounced back and played really well. The first game against Iowa State was definitely a tough one for us and they played extremely well. Kassie Humphreys was a big part of the success of what she did on the mound and shutting them down, plus her two key RBI for us. We rode Kassie throughout the day and unfortunately she ran out of gas in the fifth inning. That is credit to Oklahoma and the offensive power that their team has. I have a lot of respect for what they have done throughout the year and it is obvious they are one of the best defensive teams in the country."