



2007 Big 12 Softball Championship

ASA Hall of Fame Stadium

Oklahoma City, Okla. ~ May 12

Game 8 -- No. 2 Oklahoma 7, No. 3 Missouri 1 -- (Missouri eliminated)

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Oklahoma used its potent offensive attack and the pitching of 33-game winner Lauren Eckermann to beat Missouri 7-1 in the semifinals of the 2007 Big 12 Softball Championship at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium.

The Sooners (51-6) advance to the championship game against No. 8 seed Texas Tech while Missouri (38-22) was eliminated from the tournament.

Eckermann threw a two-hitter and gave up only one run with four strike outs and one base on balls a day after pitching a one-hit shutout over Kansas. The OU offense supported her well with four runs in the second and three more in the fifth. Jen Bruck was charged with the Missouri loss after allowing five hits, four runs, one earned in two innings.

The Tigers hurt themselves with two errors, a wild pitch and a passed ball which led to three OU unearned runs in the second. Susan Ogden led off the Sooners' second frame with a double down the left field line. Jade Prather pinch ran for Ogden, went to third on the wild pitch and scored on Lindsey Vandever's left field single. Savannah Long bunted herself on base and moved Vandever to second. Traci Dickenson reached on a fielder's choice while Long went to second on a throwing error by the pitcher as Vandever advanced to third. A fielding error put Norelle Dickson on base and scored Long and Vandever. Dickenson then scored on a passed ball.

Ogden singled to left field with one out in the fifth and was followed by back-to-back home runs by Jamie Fox and Lindsey Vandever.

Oklahoma Quotes

Coach Patty Gasso

"I thought it was a complete team effort and every part of our game was working for us. Defensively we made some really big-time plays that gave us a lot of momentum. Lauren handled things so well on the mound getting ahead in the counts. Offensively we struck at the right time and have been getting some timely hits in this tournament."

Senior Jamie Fox

On today's game:

"Today was awesome. We came out and we wanted to dominate from the beginning and that is exactly what we did. Our defense was extraordinary and everyone did their job on offense. Today was so much fun to be playing softball because everyone came out on fire."

On playing in the title game:

"We want to come out with the exact same attitude for the second game. We know that it is the championship game but we don't want to look at it in that way because we don't want to put any pressure on ourselves. We're going to go out and have fun and go after it knowing what is on the line and know that it is all or nothing."

Missouri Quotes

Coach Ehren Earleywine

"When you're playing a team like Oklahoma, you can't make any mistakes. We had to play near perfect softball to win and we were far from perfect. The second inning we threw the ball around and gave them three unearned runs and you just can't do that against Oklahoma. It started a momentum and a snowball that we couldn't stop. We just got beat soundly."