



# MEDIA RELATIONS

## Mid-Continent Conference Media Relations

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**mid-con.com**

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## Top-seeded Oral Roberts wins its first Mid-Con Men's Basketball Championship with an 85-72 victory over #6 Chicago State

TULSA, OKLA. - After falling on a last-second shot in the Mid-Con Championship game a year ago, top-seeded Oral Roberts redeemed itself with its first-ever Mid-Continent Conference men's basketball championship with an 85-72 victory over #6 seed Chicago State in the final of the 2006 Toshiba Mid-Continent Conference Men's Basketball Championship at John Q. Hammons Arena at the UMAC in Tulsa, Okla. The Golden Eagles have earned the conference's bid into the NCAA Tournament and will find out their opponent when the bracket is announced on Sunday, March 12 at 6 p.m. on CBS. It is ORU's first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1984.

The first half proved to be a dogfight as there were five ties and neither team led by more than four. **Michael Henderson** connected on a jumper with 1:41 remaining to tie the game at 31-31, then **Marin Mulic** added a three-pointer to give CSU a three-point advantage. However, ORU cut the halftime deficit to one point thanks to a **Mickey Michalec** jumper. The two squads traded buckets for the first five of the second period before the Golden Eagles ran off an 18-0 spurt to give ORU a commanding 62-44 lead. Oral Roberts led by as many as 23 in the second frame and finished the contest with a 13 point margin.

**Ken Tutt** guided the ORU offense with 25 points on 8-for-12 shooting and was 4-for-6 from three-point range on the way to earning Tournament MVP honors. Larry Owens was 6-for-8 from the field en route to 24 points. He also chipped in four rebounds, three assists, a blocked shot and a steal. **Caleb Green** posted a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds. David Holston had a team-best 21 points to lead Chicago State. Tutt was joined on the All-Tournament team by teammates Green and Owens, as well as CSU's Parran and IUPUI's **George Hill**.

The Golden Eagles enter the NCAA Tournament with a 21-11 mark overall and a 13-3 effort in conference play. CSU's season closes with an 11-19 record and an 8-8 record in Mid-Con action.

The Mid-Continent Conference is comprised of nine member institutions - Centenary College of Louisiana, Chicago State University, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), Oakland University, Oral Roberts University, Southern Utah University, Valparaiso University and Western Illinois University. The conference has two associate members in swimming & diving. The league offers championships in 19 sports.

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### 2005-06 ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Caleb Green, Oral Roberts  
George Hill, IUPUI  
Larry Owens, Oral Roberts  
Royce Parran, Chicago State  
Ken Tutt, Oral Roberts (MVP)

**2006 Toshiba Mid-Continent Conference Men's Basketball Tournament**  
**Game #7: #1 Oral Roberts (21-11) vs. #6 Chicago State (11-19)**  
**Final Score: Oral Roberts 85, Chicago State 72**

**Oral Roberts Quotes & Notes**

**COACH SCOTT SUTTON:**

*General game comments:*

"I'm so pleased for our players and our program and our University that they are going to get to experience the NCAA tournament. There's nothing like it. I've grown up around basketball all my life and I've been to countless NCAA tournaments. To be able to take this group there is awfully special. I'm awfully proud of how they've battled this year and a very disappointing ending to last season and to come into this tournament with the focus and determination like they've been just makes me proud."

*On Larry Owens:*

"Larry is a special player. If he didn't have Caleb Green on this team or even Ken (Tutt), he could average 20 points a game. I really believe Larry has a bright future playing professional basketball wherever that may be. I wouldn't be one bit surprised to see him playing in the NBA some day because he is so versatile."

*On the experience of losing last year's championship game:*

"I really think it helped us this year, without question. We were so devastated and the pain never went away until we won this game tonight. For me at least...I don't know how the other guys felt, but I knew that (winning tonight) was the only way that I could get over that loss."

"I told them at half time, 'do you want to feel like the same way we did last year when we came in this same locker-room?' There weren't any magical words I told them at half-time, they just went out and played, that's all they needed to do."

**KEN TUTT:**

*On the difference from last year to this year:*

"We didn't want to go through what we went through last year. We came together and as a team and worked hard all off season just to get back to the opportunity to get a win and go to the NCAA tournament."

**LARRY OWENS:**

*On his clutch shooting tonight:*

"It was all about confidence. I knew I had it in me. When Ken Tutt went down with the injury earlier in the year I knew I needed to step up and continue to elevate my game."

*On ORU's chances in the NCAA tournament:*

"I know if we step up and play hard and we guard and play 40 minutes, I feel we can play with anyone in the country."

**ORAL ROBERTS NOTES:**

- ORU advances to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1984.
- Caleb Green posted his 15<sup>th</sup> double-double of the season
- Tonight's win marks the first time this season ORU has won when trailing at the half.

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**Chicago State Quotes & Notes**

**COACH KEVIN JONES:**

*General game comments:*

"I thought our kids played hard. The game plan first half was executed properly. We tried to come and do the same thing in the second half, but it's obvious when you look at the stat sheet, it's hard to win a game anywhere anytime when you're 8-13 [from the line] and they're 27-35."

*On ORU's chance to possibly win a game in the NCAA Tournament:*

"We played against the Louisville's, Illinois, UCLA, Ohio State. If Owens, Green and Tutt come to play like they played tonight, they can play with anyone...First of all, they shouldn't be a 16 seed. Whoever plays ORU is going to have their hands full. They got a very good team. In fact, I would be very surprised if he doesn't have a chance to win maybe two games this year."

*On the future of Chicago State men's basketball:*

"We're putting ourselves in a position to where hopefully it doesn't come down to the last game deciding whether we go to the tournament...We're building. I feel really good about what we're doing and the direction that this program is going."