



MEDIA RELATIONS

Mid-Continent Conference Media Relations

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Sixth-seeded Oakland upsets #2 IUPUI for a spot in the 2006 Toshiba Mid-Con Women's Basketball Championship game

TULSA, OKLA. - #6 seed Oakland posted its second consecutive upset win of the 2006 Toshiba Mid-Con Women's Basketball Championship as the Golden Grizzlies downed second-ranked IUPUI, 66-54, in John Q. Hammons Arena at the UMAC in Tulsa, Okla. to advance to the Mid-Con Championship game. OU will square off against #1 seed Western Illinois on ESPNU on Tuesday, March 7 at 12:30 p.m. Oakland will make its first appearance in the title game since 2003, a 48-46 loss to Valparaiso.

The Jags and Golden Grizzlies started the first half on a breakneck pace as both squads looked to take an early advantage. Oakland took an eight point lead at the 9:56 mark, 22-14, but IUPUI stormed with a 16-3 run to take a 35-30 lead with 48 seconds remaining before the half. **Nicole Piggott** would break the streak with a key three-pointer on OU's final possession to make the score 35-33 at the break.

Oakland turned up the defense in the second half as IUPUI could only manage 29.0% shooting but the contest remained tight. The Jaguars built the lead to six but OU would come storming back thanks to the play of Piggott, **Lakeshia White** and **Jayme Wilson**. They spearheaded a 10-0 run to give Oakland its first lead of the second stanza, 58-51, with 4:26 left. IUPUI's **Kia Hayes** and **Jernisha Cann** scored two quick buckets to get the Jaguars within four, but Wilson knocked down a clutch three and **April Kidd** added a steal and a lay-up to push the advantage back to eight at 62-54. The Golden Grizzlies then knocked down their free throws to cement the win.

OU was led by **Anne Hafeli**'s 19 points, including six three-pointers, and five rebounds, while Piggott added 16 points on 6-of-9 shooting, five rebounds and two assists. Wilson was Oakland's other double figure scorer with 15 points. She also chipped in nine rebounds, four assists and a couple of steals. IUPUI was led by Cann's 15 points and 16 rebounds, while Hayes also hit double-figures with 15 tallies.

Oakland's record improves to 14-15 with the win, including an 8-8 mark in conference play. IUPUI wraps up its season at 17-11 with an 11-5 record in Mid-Con play.

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.

2006 Toshiba Mid-Continent Conference Women's Basketball Tournament

Game #6: #2 IUPUI (17-11) vs. #6 Oakland (14-15)

Final Score: Oakland 66, IUPUI 54

IUPUI Quotes & Notes

COACH SHANN HART:

General Comments:

"Our game today was certainly not one of our better performances. I thought our first half start start was a good start for us. It was important to jump out on them early and get a lead. We certainly did not get the lead I had anticipated us getting in the first half."

"I said to them in practice yesterday, 'I don't care if we don't score but two points, but as long as we play defense and they get 1 point, we still win the ballgame.' I felt like if we rebounded and played defense, we could win. We didn't do either one of these today and it was the difference in the ballgame."

On the play of Oakland's Anne Hafeli:

"When you don't make shots, you have to guard, you have to defend. We didn't do that. We knew Hafeli was a three point shooter and we missed four easy lay-ups in a row...then we let her come back and make three trey's and they went up 9 in less than 30 seconds...we just didn't guard."

KIA HAYES:

On Oakland's defense in the 2nd half:

"I don't really think they were doing much more than they were doing at the beginning of the game, we just couldn't knock down shot and missed a lot of open lay-ups. We weren't playing defense in order to bring the offense to us."

JERNISHA CANN:

On the pressure of being a freshman in the Mid-Con tourney:

"Coming in there was a little bit of pressure, but after awhile I got used to it and it was more of a mental thing. Pretty soon you're not going to be a freshman, so you have to start somewhere."

IUPUI NOTES:

- Jernisha Cann's 16 rebounds ties her career high and ties for the 3rd best rebounding performance in the history of the Mid-Con tournament.
- Cann's 15 points and 16 rebounds gives her a team-high sixth double-double on the year.
- Brooke McAfee finishes her career as the 2nd leading shot blocker in NCAA history (447).
- Brooke McAfee is the only female player in NCAA history to lead the nation in blocked shots in two separate years.

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Oakland Quotes & Notes

COACH BECKIE FRANCIS:

General game comments

"It was a war. IUPUI is a really good team... We really respect them... IUPUI is a good she team. She is a good coach. I'm just proud of my players."

On comparing their team with last year's Oakland men's team:

"Our teams are close... We really appreciate the men sticking around and cheering us on. They showed us that we can do it."

On matching up with the size of Western Illinois in the championship game:

"What we do is we worry about what we do, and we worry about them having a mismatch problem with us, because we start speed and outside shooting. So they have to come out and worry about guarding us."

ANNE HAFELI:

On teammate Lakeshia White's performance:

"She is a great spark off the bench... She is so aggressive and intimidating when rebounding. You know anytime she comes into the game she is going to grab some big boards for us."

On their position in the championship game:

"I think we are in a great position. WE are really prepared and things are clicking."

NICOLE PIGGOTT:

On the comparison of their team with last year's Oakland men's team:

"The tournament is pretty much anybody's game... You come in here with a zero-zero record; you lose one and your out. It doesn't matter what seed you are... The men proved it last year... You look at that and you are kind of inspired."