

## **Bears Win SAC Title, Earn NCAA Berth**

Written by Staff Reports  
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Sophomore shortstop Jody Mizelle (Colerain, N.C.) hit a walk-off home run to lead off the bottom of the seventh inning to give Lenoir-Rhyne (46-11) a 4-3 win over Anderson (38-13) in the championship game

of the 2012 Food Lion SAC Softball Tournament Sunday at Red Edmonds Field. The Bears, ranked No. 21 in the nation, also won their third straight league tournament title and received an automatic berth to the NCAA Division II Playoffs.

Lenoir-Rhyne was the top seed in the conference tournament while Anderson was seeded third. The Trojans fell behind by a 3-0 score but rallied to tie the game with three runs in the top of the fifth inning capped off by a two-run double from Rebecca Martin (Anderson, S.C.) before Mizelle's ninth home run of the year ended the contest.

L-R struck first with a run in the bottom of the third inning thanks to a pair of Anderson errors before pushing the lead to 3-0 with two runs in its half of the fourth.

Lenoir-Rhyne junior designated player Megan Laxton (Taylorsville, N.C.) had a run-scoring single in the fourth frame.

Senior Dawon Millwood (Hixson, Tenn.) improved to 32-6 on the season and won for the fourth time in as many tries in this year's conference tournament for the Bears. Meanwhile, the Trojans' Amber Duncan (Matthews, N.C.) fell to 23-10 with the loss.

Offensively, Mizelle led the way with two runs scored, two hits and an RBI while freshman outfielder Brittany Coursen (Virginia Beach, Va.) added a pair of hits as well for the Bears, who won their ninth straight contest.

The league tournament was also the seventh overall in school history for Lenoir-Rhyne. The Bears also won in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The 2012 Food Lion South Atlantic Conference Softball All-Tournament Team and Most Valuable Player award will be announced Monday by the conference office.

**Photo Courtesy: Bears Celebrate, L-R Athletics**

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