

Bears Face Wingate In Playoff Opener

Written by Staff Reports
Thursday, 08 May 2014 21:56

The Lenoir-Rhyne Softball Team is set to face Wingate in the opening round of the 2014 NCAA Division II Southeast Region Tournament on Friday at 4:00 p.m., at Haines and Carolyn Hill Stadium.

Lenoir-Rhyne, making its ninth straight postseason appearance, is 39-13 on the year while Wingate is 36-18. The Bears are seeded fifth while Bulldogs are the fourth seeded.

The winner will face either top-seeded North Georgia (43-9), the fourth-ranked team in the nation, or No. 8 Mount Olive (24-24) on Saturday.

Wingate leads the all-time series with Lenoir-Rhyne, 36-31, and won all three games against the Bears this year including a 1-0 victory in the 2014 Food Lion South Atlantic Conference Tournament. The two teams are meeting for the first time ever in postseason play.

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Lenoir-Rhyne, currently ranked No. 24 in NCAA Division II, is 17-17 all-time in the national tournament. The Bears also clinched a share of the 2014 South Atlantic Conference Regular Season Championship with Anderson.

L-R is led this season by sophomore pitchers Maryann Hoskins (Havelock, N.C.) and Brandi Hole (Sandy Ridge, N.C.) and senior shortstop Jody Mizelle (Colerain, N.C.).

Hoskins is 19-8 on the year with a 1.38 earned run average, 10 shutouts and 206 strikeouts while Hole leads the SAC in ERA (1.03) to go along with a 20-5 mark and 131 strikeouts.

Mizelle leads the Bears in several offensive categories including batting average (.384), runs scored (48), triples (four), home runs (12), runs batted in (42), total bases (127) and slugging percentage (.686).

Tickets for this weekend's regionals will be \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students per day. Children under the age of three will be admitted free. Tournament passes will also be sold for \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students.

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The winners of the two Southeast Regional Tournaments will meet at the highest remaining seed on May 16-17 in a Super Regional with the Division II Championship on May 22-26 at Moyer Sports Complex in Salem, Va.

Tournament Central

2014 NCAA Division II Southeast Region

Softball Tournament

(at Dahlonega, Ga. - Haines & Carolyn Hill Stadium)

Friday, May 9

Game 1 - No. 5 Lenoir-Rhyne (39-13) vs. No. 4 Wingate (36-18), 4:00 p.m.

Game 2 - No. 8 Mount Olive (24-24) at No. 1 North Georgia (43-9), 6:30 p.m.

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Saturday, May 10

Game 3 - Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, Noon

Game 4 - Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser, 2:30 p.m.

Game 5 - Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 winner, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 11 (Championship)

Game 6 - Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 1:00 p.m.

Game 7 - 3:30 p.m. (if necessary)

(at Anderson, S.C. - Smethers Field)

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Friday, May 9

Game 1 - No. 3 Armstrong Atlantic State (30-12) vs. No. 6 USC Aiken (32-14), 2:00 p.m.

Game 2 - No. 7 Georgia College (34-15) at No. 2 Anderson (42-10), 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 10

Game 3 - Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 11:00 a.m.

Game 4 - Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser, 1:30 p.m.

Game 5 - Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 winner, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 11 (Championship)

Game 6 - Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner, Noon

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Game 7 - 2:30 p.m. (if necessary)

Photo Courtesy: Haily Jarman, L-R Athletics