



University of Great Falls
ARGONAUTS

SPORTS INFORMATION * NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Mike Miranto, Sports Information Director, (406) 791-5208

Lady Argos Take Split At Minot State, Qualify For Postseason Play

Minot, ND – For the first time in program history, the University of Great Falls softball team has qualified for postseason play after closing out their 2010 regular season with a 2-2 split on the road at Minot State. The Lady Argos, who sit at 16-13 after this past weekend's action, advance to the California Pacific Conference Championships and will be the #3 seed in the three-team round-robin style double elimination tournament which begins this Friday at #1-seeded Simpson University in Redding, CA. Joining UGF and the host Red Hawks (34-17) is the #2-seeded Holy Names Hawks who finished the season at 22-18.

"We're certainly excited about the chance to compete in the postseason for the first time," said an elated **Gary Ehnes**, the fourth-year head coach of the Lady Argos. "We had a chance to compete with a few of the teams out of the Cal-Pac earlier this year and we are right on par with them. It's going to be a fun weekend."

The tournament is part of an NAIA "unaffiliated grouping" of teams whose conferences do not have enough softball playing members to secure an automatic bid of their own. The California Pacific Conference (5 teams) and Frontier Conference (1 team) make up the grouping. The two-day, pressure-packed event starts on the Redding campus this Friday, April 30. The double-elimination format features three "pool play" games on day 1 with "if necessary" games on Saturday, May 1. The tournament schedule is as follows:

Friday, April 30

12 Noon - #3 Great Falls vs. #1 Simpson

2:00 PM - #2 Holy Names vs. #3 Great Falls

4:00 PM - #1 Simpson vs. #2 Holy Names

Saturday, May 1 (If 3 teams remain)

2:00 PM - #3 vs. #2

4:00 PM - Winner previous game vs. #1

Saturday, May 1 (if 2 teams remain)

2:00 PM - Lower seed vs. Higher seed

4:00 PM - If necessary

In their game action vs. Minot State, sophomore **Stacy Gray (Spokane, WA)** hit the first home run of her career, a solo shot in the top of the seventh inning of game one on Saturday, breaking a 4-4 tie and providing the eventual winning margin, snapping Minot's 17-game winning streak in the process. The win came despite 18 strikeouts from Minot's **Mandy Greenberg** who was dealing from the pitcher's circle. She struck out 14 of the first 15 Lady Argo batters to come to the plate, allowing her Lady Beavers to jump out to a 4-0 lead.

That all changed in the sixth, as the Lady Argos collected back-to-back run-scoring extra base hits from **Anna Owen (Toledo, WA)**, who doubled, and **Sarah DeVore (Hardin, MT)**, who homered. Those hits tied the game at 4-4 and set the stage for Gray's heroics an inning later.

Freshman pitcher **Alyse Sifuentes (Patterson, CA)** picked up the win in relief of starter **Lindsay Cline (Helena, MT)**. Sifuentes pitched the final 2 1/3 innings, keeping the Lady Beavers off the scoreboard while allowing just two hits.

Game two on Saturday, saw the Lady Argos jump out to a 7-0 lead after three innings, en route to a shortened 8-0 win in six innings, due to the eight-run mercy rule. **Ashley Densmore (Vancouver, WA)** picked up the shutout in the pitcher's circle, allowing two hits while walking three and striking out two over her six innings of work.

Junior **Britannie Thibodeaux (Lake Stevens, WA)** went 2-for-4 at the plate with a game-high two RBIs while freshman **Nickole Lapka (Libby, MT)** hit the first home run of her career which came in the pinch-hit form.

"We picked up two quality wins on Saturday," Ehnes commented. "I couldn't have been happier after those two games. Minot is a very good team and we overcame a lot to get the first win. I've never seen anything like that. Their pitcher was dominating us but we battled through and got to her in the late innings."

Ehnes' fear was that Saturday's action would take a lot of his team which proved true as Minot scored two victories on Sunday, by scores of 12-2 and 9-1. Nevertheless, the Lady Argos had clinched their postseason spot the day before.

"We're excited for the challenge ahead," Ehnes said. "We've played a pretty competitive schedule and if we come to play this weekend we have as good a shot as anybody to advance."

Should the Lady Argos come out on top of the tournament this weekend, they'll advance to the NAIA Softball National Championship at Wilson Morgan Softball Complex in Decatur, AL on May 20-26.