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Owl Athletic Release
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First Day of CCCAA Softball Championships Open Up

Riverside, CA (Softball) The opening round of the 2008 California Community College State Softball Championships began on Friday at Orange Terrace Park in Riverside, CA. Defending champion Mt. SAC (South #2) looked like they were ready to compete for back to back titles staying undefeated through day one, while Cerritos looked ready to win their first as they won their first two contests by 16 runs combined.

Opening Round

Cerritos vs San Jose City – San Jose City (42-8) would record the first blow in the opening round, but it was all Cerritos after that, as the Falcons cruised to a 9-1 victory in the opening round of the 2008 CCCAA Softball State Championships.

San Jose's Debbie Duran would get the game rolling with a solo shot over the left-field fence in the top of the second inning, but Cerritos came roaring back in the bottom of the same inning with five runs (four earned).

After giving up the solo home-run in the top of the second Cerritos starting pitcher Jessica Navarro (23-5) cruised, striking out 7 batters against just one walk, while giving up no runs the rest of the way.

The Falcons would add two more in the fourth and another pair in the sixth as they improved to 38-5 on the season. Cerritos short-stop Jenel Guadagno would finish the game 3 for 4 with 3 RBI's.

Cerritos moves on in the winner's bracket drawing Siskiyou tonight at five, while San Jose City will fall into the loser's bracket with a game against Long Beach tomorrow at noon. The winner will continue on, while the loser will be sent back home.

Siskiyou vs Long Beach City -- The Eagles (50-3) and Vikings (32-14-1) opened up the 2008 California Community College Athletic Association Softball State Championships with a pitchers duel. Both Siskiyou's Jackie Imhof (25-2) and Long Beach's Sadie Barton (21-8) were near perfect in the game, but Barton would end up with the loss thanks to a defensive miscue in the bottom of the fourth inning as Siskiyou won 1-0.

After Siskiyou's short-stop Ali Paz ripped a one-out double to center-field, the Long Beach defense tried to catch Paz in a pickle, but Viking's short-stop Rose Vargas overthrew the third baseman, allowing Paz to score the lone run of the game. Imhof would finish the game giving up just two hits and striking out six batters.

Siskiyou continued on in the winner's bracket and will face Cerritos College at 5:00 PM, while Long Beach remains a game away from elimination and draws San Jose City in the loser's bracket Saturday at 12:00 PM.

Cypress vs Shasta – The #1 team from the South (Cypress, 52-2), and the #4 from the North (Shasta, 39-14) went toe to toe for the first four innings of their opening round match-up, but the Chargers would pull away in the fifth and sixth innings as they advance in the winner's bracket with a 4-0 win over the Knights

Shasta starting pitcher Michael Eustance (22-9) would baffle the Cypress bats to begin the game, giving up just one hit through the first four innings. The Chargers finally figured things out in the bottom of the fifth when left-fielder Kayla Van Dieren cranked a one-out double that rolled all the way to the left field fence.

After Cypress' Lisa Armenta got on first thanks to a fielder's choice, the Chargers would take advantage of a throwing error from Shasta third baseman Corrie Nishikida that scored both Armenta and Van Dieren to give the Chargers a 2-0 lead.

Cypress would put the game away for good one inning later, when center-fielder Amanda Fama launched a two-run home-run over the left field fence, giving Cypress their 4-0 lead. Cypress starter Alyse Freight (33-2) would finish the day with four strike-outs and just one walk, in her complete game shut-out of the Knights.

Sacramento City vs Mt. SAC – In the final game of the opening round, Mt SAC (South, #3) and Sacramento City (North, #2) battled to the end, with the Mounties prevailing in extra innings 6-3.

Sacramento City (45-5) would strike first as Lindsey Brun's double down the left-field line gave the Panthers a 1-0 lead after one inning. The Mounties wouldn't find their offensive rhythm until Alycia Romero's double to left-center field in the fourth inning tied the game up at one a piece.

Mt. SAC would continue swinging a hot bat in the fifth, as they recorded two more runs, giving the Mounties a 3-1 lead going into the bottom of the sixth. With their backs against the wall, the Panthers responded, with a two spot of their own, sending the game into extra innings after both teams failed to rally for a run in the seventh.

It wouldn't take much longer however; as Mt. SAC (36-16) blew the game wide open with another Romero double, this time to dead center-field. Three batters later, the

Mounties scored two more runs (both unearned), as they advanced through the winner's bracket, getting a chance to play Cypress College later in the evening.

As for Sacramento City, the Panthers are dropped down to the elimination bracket, and will face Shasta College tomorrow at 12:00 PM.

Winner's Bracket

Siskiyou vs Cerritos – After picking up an impressive 9-1 win over San Jose City in the opening round, the Falcons (42-5) continued to dominate in the winner's bracket with an 8-0 run rule win in five innings over Siskiyou (50-4).

Cerritos' starting pitcher Jessica Navarro got things off on the right foot, helping her own cause with a fielder's choice RBI in the first inning. The Falcons kept it going in the second with another three runs, and another two in the third to take a commanding 6-0 lead.

With a comfortable lead at her back Navarro, the Southern California Player of the Year, continued to dominate in the circle. Navarro (24-5), gave up just three hits, all while striking out five batters to pick up her 24th win of the season.

Cerritos would put the game away for good in the top of the fifth, when Stephanie Lomeli drove in the game winning run with a single to right-center field. With the win, Cerritos advances further into the winners bracket drawing Mt. SAC tomorrow night at 7:00 PM. Siskiyou will move down to the elimination bracket and gets the right to face the winner of the Sacramento City vs Shasta game tomorrow at noon. Siskiyou game is scheduled for 2:00 PM.

Cypress vs Mt. SAC – The final game of the opening round of the 2008 CCCAA Softball State Championships didn't disappoint, as the Mounties staved off a late inning comeback by the Chargers to take their second game of the day 3-0.

While the Mounties continued on their momentum from their extra-inning victory earlier in the day, Cypress struggled to get their offense moving as they were no-hit through the first five innings. While Cypress was slow in going, the Mounties were taking advantage of every opportunity they could scoring the first run of the game on a passed ball in the bottom of the first inning.

Mt. SAC would add another in the fourth when sophomore Mandy Pongs launched a two out solo home-run to right-center field, giving the Mounties a 2-0 cushion. They would continue to add to that in the sixth with a sacrifice fly that put Cypress in a 3-0 hole going into the top of the seventh.

With things looking grim, Cypress made their best push of the day with runners on first and second, and the tying run at the plate in the form of catcher Lisa Armenta and two outs. Facing a 1-0 count, Armenta sent a deep fly ball to left field, that looked as if it

would clear the fence, but Mt. SAC left fielder Randie Baldwin made a game saving catch to end the game, and push Mt. SAC into the semi-finals.

With the loss, Cypress will move to the elimination round and await the winner of the the Long Beach City and San Jose City game at noon. The Chargers will get the winner at 2:00 PM tomorrow afternoon, while the Mounties will get all afternoon to rest as they face Cerritos at 7:00 PM, with the winner advancing to the championship game.

Saturday's Schedule

Game 7: Long Beach City vs San Jose City (*Elimination Game*) – 12:00 PM / Field 6

Game 8: Sacramento City vs Shasta (*Elimination Game*) – 12:00 PM / Field 5

Game 9: Cypress vs Winner Game 7 (*Elimination Game*) – 2:00 PM / Field 6

Game 10: Siskiyou vs Winner Game 8 (*Elimination Game*) – 2:00 PM / Field 5

Game 11: Winner Game 9 vs Winner Game 10 (*Elimination Game*) – 5:00 PM / Field 5

Game 12: Cerritos vs Mt. SAC - 7:00 PM / Field 6

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