



## ***News Release***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sunday, May 10, 2009

CONTACT:  
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### **2009 NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

INDIANAPOLIS—The University of Florida was named the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Division I Softball Championship today when the NCAA Division I Softball Committee announced the 64-team field. The Gators, champions of the Southeastern Conference, are 55-3 and will play Florida A&M University, an automatic qualifier from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, May 15, in front of a home crowd in Gainesville.

Thirty conferences were awarded automatic qualification, and the remaining 34 slots were filled with at-large selections to complete the bracket. The top 16 teams were seeded nationally and will play at campus sites this weekend.

Team pairings were determined by geographical proximity, with the exception that teams from the same conference were not paired during regional competition, when possible.

The SEC led all conferences with nine teams in the championship, while the Big 12 placed seven and the Big Ten and the Pacific-10 each placed six. California State University, Fresno, remains the only team to be selected to all 28 championships. Seven teams are making their initial appearances in the tournament: Bradley University, James Madison University, the University of Kentucky, North Dakota State University, Radford University, Sacred Heart University and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Only nine schools have been crowned the NCAA Division I softball champion since the tournament started in 1982, and all are in this year's bracket.

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**DATES/SITES/PAIRINGS:**

\* Indicates host institution

Gainesville Regional – May 15-17 at Gainesville, Florida

\*No. 1 Florida (55-3) vs. Florida A&M (30-30)

Lehigh (36-16-1) vs. Texas A&M (31-20)

Tallahassee Regional – May 15-17 at Tallahassee, Florida

California (35-18) vs. Mississippi St. (28-26)

Oklahoma St. (34-20) vs. \*No. 16 Florida St. (41-14)

Louisville Regional – May 15-17 at Louisville, Kentucky

No. 9 Arizona (41-14) vs. Tenn.-Martin (38-22)

Purdue (29-18) vs. \*Louisville (47-9)

Palo Alto Regional – May 15-17 at Palo Alto, California

Cal Poly (39-10) vs. Nevada (39-17)

Portland St. (29-24) vs. \*No. 8 Stanford (44-9)

Ann Arbor Regional – May 15-17 at Ann Arbor, Michigan

\*No. 5 Michigan (41-10) vs. Miami (OH) (32-22)

Cleveland St. (35-16) vs. Notre Dame (41-15)

Waco Regional – May 15-17 at Waco, Texas

La.-Lafayette (43-11) vs. \*Baylor (37-20)

Texas St. (39-16) vs. No. 12 Northwestern (31-13)

Knoxville Regional – May 15-17 at Knoxville, Tennessee

\*No. 13 Tennessee (38-16-1) vs. James Madison (35-14)

Nebraska (34-17) vs. Jacksonville St. (38-12)

Tuscaloosa Regional – May 15-17 at Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Texas (38-18) vs. Chattanooga (30-22)

Mississippi Val. (37-14) vs. \*No. 4 Alabama (47-9)

Amherst Regional – May 15-17

No. 3 Washington (41-10) vs. Sacred Heart (25-26)

Cornell (42-11) vs. \*Massachusetts (38-8)

Atlanta Regional – May 15-17

Iowa (42-14) vs. Auburn (29-27)

Boston U. (41-16) vs. \*No. 14 Georgia Tech (41-13)

Columbus Regional – May 14-16

\*No. 11 Ohio State (44-9) vs. Canisius (27-22)

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BYU (39-16) vs. Kentucky (32-21)

Chapel Hill Regional – May 14-16

\*North Carolina (45-11) vs. Campbell (38-14)

Radford (40-13) vs. No. 6 Georgia (39-10)

Norman Regional – May 15-17

\*No. 7 Oklahoma (40-14) vs. North Dakota St. (35-18)

Tulsa (38-15) vs. Arkansas (27-27)

Tempe Regional – May 15-17

LSU (32-16-1) vs. Cal St. Fullerton (29-19)

San Diego St. (33-18) vs. \*No. 10 Arizona St. (40-16)

Columbia Regional – May 15-17

No. 15 DePaul (37-12) vs. Bradley (25-26)

Illinois (29-15) vs. \*Missouri (45-9)

Los Angeles Regional – May 15-17

Fresno St. (36-18) vs. UNLV (31-19)

Long Beach St. (34-19) vs. \*No. 2 UCLA (41-9)

**CHAMPIONSHIP  
STRUCTURE:**

The Division I championship provides for a field of 64 teams. The championship will be three weekends of competition. Four teams will participate at each of 16 regional sites in a double-elimination tournament. Sixteen teams were seeded and placed at one of the regional sites.

The regional winners will advance to super regional competition for a best-of-three series May 21-24 at eight campus sites.

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The remaining eight teams will advance to the WCWS, an eight-team, double-elimination tournament. The championship final will be a best-of-three-series. The WCWS will be conducted May 28 to June 3 at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** The NCAA Division I Softball Committee selected teams from the following eight regions to participate in the championship: Central, East, Northeast, South, Mideast, Midwest, West and Pacific. Thirty conferences have been granted automatic qualification for the 2009 championship.

**SEEDING, SITES:** Teams were selected to the field of 64 teams. The top 16 teams were seeded in order, and the remaining teams were placed in regional brackets to create balanced competition and avoid conference match-ups, when possible.

### **CONFERENCES RECEIVING AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION:**

America East – Boston U.  
Atlantic Coast – Georgia Tech  
Atlantic 10 – Massachusetts  
Atlantic Sun – Campbell  
Big East – Notre Dame  
Big South – Radford  
Big Ten – Michigan  
Big 12 – Missouri  
Big West – Cal Poly  
Colonial Athletic – James Madison  
Conference USA – Tulsa  
Horizon League – Cleveland St.  
Ivy Group – Cornell  
Metro Atlantic – Canisius  
Mid-American – Miami (OH)  
Mid-Eastern – Florida A&M  
Missouri Valley – Bradley  
Mountain West – BYU  
Northeast – Sacred Heart  
Ohio Valley – Tenn.-Martin  
Pacific-10 – UCLA  
Pacific Coast – Portland St.  
Patriot League – Lehigh

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Southeastern – Florida  
 Southern – Chattanooga  
 Southland – Texas St.  
 Summit – North Dakota St.  
 Sun Belt – La.-Lafayette  
 Southwestern – Mississippi Val.  
 Western Athletic – Fresno St.

**WCWS TV COVERAGE:**

Day	Date	Game	Time (CST)*	Network*
Thursday	5/28	1	Noon	ESPN
Thursday	5/28	2	2 p.m.	ESPN
Thursday	5/28	3	6 p.m.	ESPN
Thursday	5/28	4	8 p.m.	ESPN

Friday	5/29	5	6 p.m.	ESPN2
Friday	5/29	6	8 p.m.	ESPN2

Saturday	5/30	7	11 a.m.	ESPN
Saturday	5/30	8	1 p.m.	ESPN
Saturday	5/30	9	6 p.m.	ESPN
Saturday	5/30	10	8 p.m.	ESPN

Sunday	5/31	11	Noon	ESPN
Sunday	5/31	12	2 p.m.	ESPN
Sunday	5/31	13 (if needed)	6 p.m.	ESPN2
Sunday	5/31	14 (if needed)	8 p.m.	ESPN2

Monday	6/1	Championship Final Game 1	7 p.m.	ESPN2
Tuesday	6/2	Championship Final Game 2	7 p.m.	ESPN2
Wednesday	6/3	Championship Final Game 3 (if necessary)	7 p.m.	ESPN2

\*Please go to [www.ncaa.com/broadcast/tv/june](http://www.ncaa.com/broadcast/tv/june) for updates. Game times and networks are subject to change.

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**CHAMPIONSHIP NOTES:** 2008 Highlights: Arizona State University captured its first National Championship title defeating Texas A&M University, College Station 3-0 and 11-0 in championships series games one and two, respectively. Arizona State won the national title behind the pitching of Most Outstanding Player Katie Burkhart and all-tournament team honorees Kaitlin Cochran, Krista Donnenwirth, Lesley Rogers and Jackie Vasquez. Arizona State completed the series with a record of 6-0.

For complete championship details log on to [www.ncaa.com](http://www.ncaa.com).