

No. 8 Eagles roll to regional title

Written by Jim Ecker

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The Kirkwood Eagles have such a good-hitting team that Lexi Quandt hit ninth in the batting order Monday in the regional finals with a .347 average.

On most teams, she'd hit in the middle of the order.

Five Eagles were hitting above .400. Chasney Jenkins was well over .500. As a team, the club was hitting .410 when the day began. They lead the nation with 109 home runs (a school record) and are averaging more than 10 runs per game.

"We were saying in the dugout before the game that we would hate to be on any other team besides Kirkwood," said third baseman Alicia Crivaro. "This is the best junior college in the conference and I can't imagine playing for another team, just because of our competitiveness.

"I would be scared if I were on the other team," she said.

The eighth-ranked Eagles left Southwestern quaking in their spikes, 17-3, in the lopsided championship game of the regional tournament at Kirkwood Monday.

Kirkwood (43-8) will host North Platte (Neb.) in the district playoffs this Friday at 2 p.m. in a best 2-of-3 series, with the winner advancing to the national tournament.

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PHOTO BY JIM ECKER FOR THE YACHT "Winning doesn't start with a win!" Jim Ecker, head coach of the No. 8 Eagles, celebrates with his team after winning the regional title. The Eagles, coached by Ecker, defeated the No. 1 team in the regional tournament. Ecker, who has coached for 20 years, is proud of his team's success. The Eagles' victory was a testament to their hard work and dedication. Ecker, who is a former player, knows the challenges of the sport. He has been coaching for 20 years, and his team has won several titles. The Eagles' victory was a testament to their hard work and dedication. Ecker, who is a former player, knows the challenges of the sport. He has been coaching for 20 years, and his team has won several titles.