

KCC softball draws No. 2 seed for nationals

Written by Metro Sports Report
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The Kirkwood Eagles have drawn the No. 2 seed for the NJCAA Division II national softball tournament and will face No. 15 seed Oakland (Mich.) in the first round Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in Clinton, Miss.

Jones County of Mississippi is the top seed.

Kirkwood, which placed fifth in the national tournament last year, enters this year's event with a 54-4 record.

The Eagles feature the most potent offense in the country and also have two of the top pitchers with Lexi Kinnaird and Angie McBeain.

Kinnaird (29-3, 1.30 ERA) leads the nation in victories and strikeouts (267). McBeain is 20-1 with a 1.62 ERA.

Kirkwood center fielder Taylor Nearad, who was the 2016 National Junior College Player of the Year, leads the nation this season in hits (111), runs (105) and doubles (35). She ranks third in triples (8), fourth in home runs (18), sixth in batting average (.531) and seventh in RBIs (77).

Catcher Maddie Hansen leads the nation with 92 RBIs. She ranks second in home runs (19) and fourth in batting average (.541).

First baseman DoniRae Mayhew ranks third in the country in RBIs (82) and seventh in home runs (17).

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DMACC is seeded fifth in the tournament, which will be held Wednesday through Saturday at Traceway Park.

CHAMPIONSHIP SEEDING

1. Jones County (Miss) 49-2, 2. Kirkwood 54-4, 3. Phoeniz 51-6, 4. LSU Eunice 48-11, 5. DMACC 46-7, 6. Kankakee (Ill.) 46-10, 7. Cowley County (Kan.) 43-15, 8. Johnson County (Kan.) 33-5, 9. Illinois Central 25-22, 10. Danville (Ill.) 34-17, 11. Lansing (Mich.) 40-13-1, 12. Mercyhurst North East (Pa.) 42-8, 13. Waubonsee (Ill.) 34-18, 14. Potomac State (W.Va) 26-13, 15. Oakland (Mich.) 42-12, 16. Pitt (N.C.) 25-12.