



A weekend to shout about! NKU claims GLVC title



Members of the NKU softball team celebrate after capturing the GLVC Tournament championship with a 10-2 win against Lewis on Sunday. The Norse won the GLVC Tournament for the first time since 2005 and earned the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

NKU continues roll, defeats Lewis, 10-2, for GLVC championship

EAST PEORIA, Ill. - Three consecutive one-run victories put the Northern Kentucky University softball team into Sunday's championship round of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament.

But NKU needed no late-inning heroics to claim the GLVC Tournament championship. The Norse pounded out three home runs en route to a 10-2 victory against Lewis in the finals Sunday. NKU (31-21) collected 11 hits and won the GLVC Tournament championship for the first time since 2005.

Lewis (38-18) took a brief 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning when Courtney Lyons hit a home run over the left-field wall. NKU, however, loaded the bases in the bottom of the inning after singles from Amanda Smith and Cara Parker, and a walk to Sam Del Vecchio.



Gretchen Lorenz prepares to launch a two-run homer.

That brought freshman Ashley Gates to the plate. Gates drove the first pitch from Lyons over the left-field wall for a grand slam and a 4-1 NKU lead. Gates now has 12 home runs, which is an NKU single-season record.

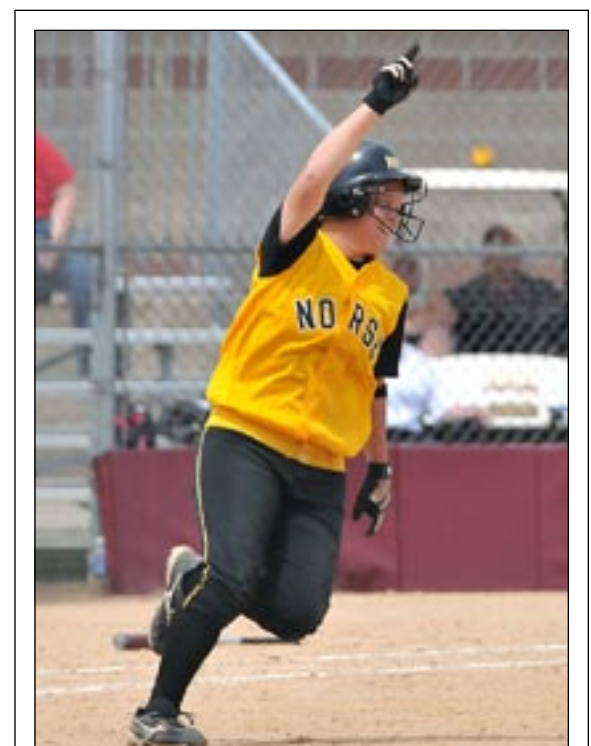
Rose Broderick launched a three-run homer in the fourth inning to extend the Norse's advantage to 7-2. Gretchen

Lorenz hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the sixth to make it 9-2, and Shatona Campbell's run-scoring single up the middle later that inning brought in Jessica Farris to end the game due to the eight-run mercy rule.

April Ehlers collected her 18th win of the season as NKU defeated Lewis for the fourth time this spring. The Norse also earned the

GLVC's automatic bid to the NCAA Division II Tournament and will participate in the Midwest Regional next weekend.

NKU has not been to the NCAA Division II Tournament since 2006. In 2004 and '05, the Norse captured regional championships.



Gretchen Lorenz reacts after hitting a home run against Lewis on Sunday.

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Photos by Jeff McCurry, NKU Sports Information



Cara Parker (middle) reacts after watching Ashley Gates' drive leave the park for a first-inning grand slam Sunday against Lewis.



2009 GLVC SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

