



Bradley Braves
26-26 Overall
#4 Seed in Columbia

NCAA Regional Championship - Columbia, Mo.

#15 Seed DePaul vs. Bradley

May 15, 2009 - 2:30 p.m.

Next:

Bradley faces winner of Mizzou / Illinois on May 16 at Noon

DePaul faces loser of Mizzou / Illinois on Saturday at 2:30 p.m.



#15 DePaul Blue Demons
37-13 Overall
#1 Seed in Columbia

Bradley Notes:

- > Bradley University earned its 10th consecutive win of the season and fifth consecutive win in postseason play to push them into the winners bracket of the NCAA Tournament's Columbia Regional. The 10 straight wins ties the second longest win streak in school history. The Braves won 10 in-a-row in 1997 and the club's 16 straight wins in 1994 stands as the longest win streak in school history.
- > Bradley improved to 2-2 vs. ranked teams this season. The Braves upended #25 Kansas on Feb. 14 in Orlando.
- > The Braves improved to 4-9 this year vs. teams from the state of Illinois, however Bradley is 2-0 vs. the state in postseason play. Bradley earned a 5-3 win over Southern Illinois in the semifinals of the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament.
- > Bradley is now perfect in NCAA play in school history. The Braves are making their first NCAA Tournament appearance and are now 1-0 following today's 1-0 win.
- > Since Friday's win against DePaul was their first NCAA contest in school history, there were of a number of "firsts" for the Braves today. Lindsay Watkins became the school's first base-runner in postseason history with her first-inning walk. Julie Sherman recorded the school's first NCAA Tournament hit in the second inning. She then promptly stole second base and was driven home by Anne Creighton for the first RBI and run.
- > The RBI for Creighton was just her ninth of the year. Creighton entered the game hitting just .186 on the season.
- > Of course the story on Friday was the great performance by Bradley senior pitcher Ashley Birdsong. The right-hander allowed just three hits through seven innings and struck out eight, while walking just one.
- > Birdsong has now won all 10 of Bradley's games during this current 10-game winning streak and has earned five shutouts. She has pitched 71.0 innings during the stretch and has allowed just nine earned runs during that remarkable stretch.
- > The Missouri Valley Conference Tournament MVP is now 20-10 on the year after opening the year 10-10.

DePaul Notes:

- > DePaul suffered its first NCAA Tournament opening-round loss since an 8-6 defeat to Notre Dame in 2004. DePaul has lost opening-round games just once since 1997.
- > DePaul endured just its fifth shutout loss of the season but have now been shutout in back-to-back games. DePaul fell to Notre Dame 1-0 in the Championship Game of the Big East Tournament on May 9.
- > Becca Heteniak fell to 4-3 all-time in NCAA competition. The right-hander also fell to 24-8 on the year despite allowing just one run over 7.0 innings.
- > The Blue Demons are now 36-28 all-time in NCAA Tournament play and fall to 6-2 vs. teams from the state of Illinois.
- > Amber Patton, the nation's leading hitter (.509) coming into Friday went 0-for-3 with a strikeout on Friday. Patton has gone hitless in a game just seven times this season, however she went 0-for-3 in the Blue Demons' 1-0 loss to Notre Dame in the Big East Tournament finale.