

USM Spire Sportswire

Monday, May 5, 2008

Baseball

One week ago, the men's baseball Spires had a chance to win the championship of the closely contested KCAC this week. Kansas Wesleyan KCAC record was 14-8. Friends University was 14-9. And USM was 13-9.

Our Spires final two games were in a Tuesday doubleheader in Salina, Kan, versus Kansas Wesleyan. College baseball games are seven innings rather than the familiar nine innings from major league baseball.

The first game was scoreless going into the bottom of the seventh. A KWU player hit a home run to win the game 1-0. In the second game, the Spires entered the bottom of the seventh leading 1-0 only to see KWU score two runs to win the game.

Despite the heartbreaking losses, Coach Rob Miller says the Spires exited the field with grace, "I want you to know that you can be very proud of how they have represented USM. They win with class and lose with dignity and pride."

KWU and Friends automatically earned slots in the NAIA Regional Tournament. This left the Spires in third place and needing to win the KCAC qualifying tournament in Salina, Kan., to get the third and final KCAC slot in the NAIA Regional.

On Thursday, the Spires started the double-elimination tournament (i.e. you get a second chance to win) against sixth place Ottawa. They were tied at the end of seven innings, but won 5-4 in the tenth inning.

On Friday, the Spires were shocked by fourth place Bethany, losing 23-3! So, the Spires had to play Ottawa again, winning 18-7.

This set up the final game on Saturday against Bethany. The Spires jumped out to a 10-2 lead after the first inning! But the Spires were stunned to see the relentless Bethany Swedes accumulate 16 runs to win the game 16-13!

So, our season is over with a final record of 24-23 and 13-11 in the KCAC.

Softball

On Thursday, our women's softball Spires traveled to the KCAC tournament in Salina in eighth place.

We lost the first game against first place Friends 6-0. In the second game, we played fifth place Southwestern and were tied at the end of seven. We went on to win in the eighth inning 6-5.

On Friday, we played second place Bethany and lost 13-2, exiting the tournament after two losses.

The season is over. The women's softball Spires' overall record is 6-26-1, and 3-12-1 in the KCAC.

See You in September

The *Spire Sportswire* will go into hibernation for the summer. But we will send out an email if there is sports news over the summer.