



# News Release

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## NCAA All-North Central Region Tournament Team

<b>Melissa Negrete</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Nebraska-Omaha</b>
Courtney Reed	P	Emporia State
<b>Brianna Cataudella</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Nebraska-Omaha</b>
<b>Leslie Svoboda</b>	<b>IF</b>	<b>Nebraska-Omaha</b>
April Huddleston	F	Emporia State
Jennifer Dace	F	Emporia State
Sarah Kabes	IF	Minnesota Duluth
<b>Chanel Reaves</b>	<b>OF</b>	<b>Nebraska-Omaha</b>
<b>Cindy Smith</b>	<b>OF</b>	<b>Minnesota State</b>
Laura Pfautsch	OF	Emporia State
Miranda Campbell	DP	Emporia State
Lindsey Predovich	AL	Missouri Western
Amanda Johnson	AL	SW Minnesota St.

### This Week's Schedule

**NCAA Division II Softball Championship**  
**Firestone Stadium, Akron, Ohio**

#### Thursday, May 17

Lock Haven vs. Columbus State  
 C.W. Post vs. Angelo State  
 SIU-Edwardsville vs. Florida Southern  
**Nebraska-Omaha** vs. Cal St. Stanislaus

**NOTE:** Play continues at the tournament with games through Sunday and May 21. Scoring updates can be found on the www.ncaasports.com website.

**Nebraska-Omaha Wins NCAA Regional; Move onto Akron** - UNO scored four runs in the second inning and Cheris Kuster pitched three innings of one-hit relief to down No. 9 Emporia State, 5-3, Sunday to capture the NCAA II North Central Regional title and send the Mavericks to their sixth national tournament appearance.

Unranked UNO (34-18) swept through the eight-team tournament unbeaten at 4-0 as the No. 4 seed, along the way knocking off No. 1 seed Minnesota State and the No. 2 seeded Hornets. The Mavericks will make their first national tournament appearance since winning the title in 2001 under head coach Jeanne Scarpello.

The Mavericks broke out front in the bottom of the second on an RBI single by Brianna Cataudella, a run-scoring double by Alison Jergenson and a two-run single by Kellyn Kramolisch.

The Hornets sliced the lead in half with two runs on four hits in the top of the third and put their first two runners on base in the fifth against freshman starter Melissa Negrete (14-8) who started all four tournament games.

## North Central Conference Softball Standings

*Standings through Sunday, May 13*

	NCC Games				All Games			
	W	L	T	Pct	W	L	T	Pct
Minnesota State	10	1	0	.909	45	15	0	.750
Nebraska-Omaha	7	5	0	.583	34	18	0	.654
Minnesota Duluth	6	5	0	.545	31	23	0	.574
Augustana	5	7	0	.417	22	29	0	.431
St. Cloud State	5	7	0	.417	28	30	0	.483
North Dakota	4	8	0	.333	23	28	0	.451
South Dakota	4	8	0	.333	19	41	0	.451

**Note:** NCC standings are based on two games against each of the other teams in the league.

### Last Week's Results

**NCAA Division II Softball Championship,**  
**North Central Region**  
**Cadwell Park, North Mankato, Minn.**

#### Thursday, May 10

Emporia State 6, Central Missouri 2  
 SW Minnesota State 6, Minnesota Duluth 3  
 Nebraska-Omaha 3, Winona State 0  
 Minnesota State 4, Missouri Western State 1

#### Friday, May 11

SW Minn. St. 2, Emporia St. 1 (11inn., ESU out)  
 Minnesota Duluth 1, Central Mo. 0 (8, UCM out)  
 Missouri Western St. 7, Winona St. 0 (WSU out)  
 Nebraska-Omaha 8, Minnesota State 2

#### Saturday, May 12

Emporia State 4, Missouri Western St. 0 (MW out)  
 Minnesota State 4, Minnesota Duluth 1 (UMD out)  
 Nebraska-Omaha 5, SW Minnesota St. 1  
 Emporia State 5, Minnesota State 0 (MSU out)

#### Sunday, May 13

Emporia St. 4, SW Minnesota St. 0 (ESU out)  
**Championship:**  
 Nebraska-Omaha 5, Emporia State 3

Kuster retired three straight after the first batter reached on an error, melting UNO's lead to 4-3. She retired six of the final seven batters she faced, yielding only a lead-off single in the seventh.

Meanwhile, the Mavericks added an insurance run in the fifth when Brooke Wagner singled and scored on a single by Cataudella, who was named the tournament's most outstanding player. She batted .667 in the tournament.

Other NCC players on the all-tournament team included UNO's Negrete, Leslie Svoboda and Chanel Reaves as well as Minnesota State's Cindy Smith.