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--April 15, 2009--

Midwest Conference Softball

After One-Year Hiatus, MWC Classic Ready To Kickoff This Weekend

RIPON, WIS. -- After the 2008 version was rained out, the women of the Midwest Conference's North and South Division softball squads will all be sharing the diamond at this weekend's annual MWC Softball Classic. The cross-divisional play begins with four rounds of games taking place on Saturday, April 18th and wraps up with the final three rounds on Sunday, April 19th. All games will take place at Dawson Park located in Janesville, Wisconsin.

The MWC Classic provides a unique opportunity for teams from both the North (Beloit, Carroll, Lawrence, Ripon, St. Norbert) and South (Grinnell, Illinois College, Knox, Lake Forest, Monmouth) divisions to match-up with one another from opposing divisions in an effort to earn points toward each team's conference standings. Each school will play all five of the members of the opposing division once with each MWC Classic victory counting as a single point, as opposed to a regular season victory within a team's division counting as two points.

Defending MWC champion Ripon enters the weekend sharing honors as the North division leader with St. Norbert as both teams hold a 3-1 conference record, earning them six total points. Ripon opens up with what could potentially be Saturday's best match-ups as the Red Hawks will play Monmouth, who currently holds second place in the South. The Green Knights will also be tested early as its second game of the weekend will be against South pre-season favorite Lake Forest. Carroll enters the weekend coming off consecutive losses to St. Norbert, but will need to move forward quickly as the Lady Pioneers face current South Division leaders Monmouth and Grinnell Saturday. Lawrence kicks off the Classic against Monmouth Monday morning, while Beloit opens up against Grinnell.

Grinnell hopes to keep its undefeated conference record this weekend but will face plenty of challenges along the way including back-to-back Sunday games against the MWC's past two champions, St. Norbert and Ripon. Monmouth enters the weekend looking to stay near the top of the conference as well as the Fighting Scots currently hold the second spot in the South. Preseason division favorite Lake Forest will try to take advantage of every opportunity to earn points as the team has only played two conference games thus far and currently sits in third. Neither Knox nor Illinois College have been able to earn a point this year but will have ample opportunities to begin climbing the south division ladder throughout the weekend.

Throughout the Classic's seven-year existence the North holds a slight advantage in overall standings with a 92-83 record, while the South held the advantage in the 2007 Classic by winning 14-of-the-25 contests.

By: Ryan Andersen



--2009 MWC Classic Schedule--

Printable schedule and field directions available are at www.midwestconference.org.

All Games at Dawson Park

Saturday, April 18 - 9 a.m.

Field Location			
1	Monmouth College	vs.	Lawrence University

Saturday, April 18 - 11 a.m.

Field Location			
1	Lawrence University	vs.	Lake Forest College
2	Carroll University	vs.	Monmouth College
3	Beloit College	vs.	Grinnell College
4	St. Norbert College	vs.	Knox College

Saturday, April 18 - 1:00 p.m.

Field Location			
1	Illinois College	vs.	Beloit College
2	Lake Forest College	vs.	St. Norbert College
3	Monmouth College	vs.	Ripon College
4	Grinnell College	vs.	Lawrence University

Saturday, April 18 - 3:00 p.m.

Field Location			
1	Grinnell College	vs.	Carroll University
2	Knox College	vs.	Beloit College
3	Illinois College	vs.	St. Norbert College
4	Lake Forest College	vs.	Ripon College

Saturday, April 18 - 5:00 p.m.

Field Location			
1	Ripon College	vs.	Illinois College
2	Knox College	vs.	Carroll University

Sunday, April 19 - 10:00 a.m.

Field Location			
1	Beloit College	vs.	Lake Forest College
2	Grinnell College	vs.	St. Norbert College

Sunday, April 19 - Noon

Field Location			
1	St. Norbert College	vs.	Monmouth College
2	Ripon College	vs.	Grinnell College
3	Lawrence University	vs.	Knox College
4	Carroll University	vs.	Illinois College

Sunday, April 19 - 2 p.m.

Field Location			
1	Knox College	vs.	Ripon College
2	Illinois College	vs.	Lawrence University
3	Lake Forest College	vs.	Carroll University
4	Monmouth College	vs.	Beloit College

