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Jerry Laizure

"WE ARE THE (NATIONAL) CHAMPIONS!"–Coach Patty Gasso and her crimson-clad softball stalwarts made the most of the University of Oklahoma's first appearance in the Women's College World Series over the Memorial Day weekend. With a 3-1 final game victory over perennial fast-pitch softball power UCLA, the Sooners joyfully claimed the first NCAA title ever won in OU women's athletics. Having previously dispatched WCWS opponents California, Southern Mississippi and Arizona, Oklahoma became only the second non-West Coast team to win a softball national championship (Texas A&M claimed the title in 1983 and 1987). The OU women's victory over UCLA came just a day after the UCLA baseball team ended the OU men's season in the NCAA regional tournament. Both NCAA events were held in Oklahoma City. See "Prologue" on inside front cover.