

Lady Choctaws win first MC GSC championship

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The Mississippi College softball team won the school's first-ever Gulf South Conference softball championship on May 7 with an 18-5 victory over Alabama Huntsville. The victory gave MC the automatic qualifying bid for their first trip to the NCAA Division II Tournament.

One day later, Mississippi College was named the #4 seed in the South Region 1 and found out they would head to Pensacola, Florida, for the double-elimination tournament.

The Lady Choctaws (34-18) headed for tournament play in Florida, where they saw two familiar faces at the four-team regional, as West Florida served as the #1 seed and host, while Valdosta State was the #5 seed and played MC in the opening game on

May 11. The final team in the regional was #8 seed Claflin, who earned the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference automatic bid.

MC faced both UWF and VSU in three-game road series this season, winning 2-of-3 games on each weekend.

The Mississippi College softball team wrapped up the 2017 season at the NCAA South Regional 1 at the end of last week at the University of West Florida Softball Complex. The Lady Choctaws (35-20) opened the day with a



5-3 win in an elimination game over Claflin, but Valdosta State ended MC's season with an 8-0 victory on Friday night.



Photos special to *The Clinton Courier*

The MC Lady Choctaws softball team recently won the Gulf South Conference championship and played in the NCAA D2 Tournament in Pensacola, Florida.

The Lady Choctaws traveled to Pensacola back in February, dropping the first game of the set 13-4 before bouncing back for a couple wins (5-1 and 4-1).

The Lady Choctaws went to Valdosta, Georgia, to open April, again bouncing back from a series-opening loss to grab 2-of-3 games. Each of the three contests was decided by one run.

After opening the season at 10-11, following a run-rule loss (16-6) to Union on March 12, the Lady Choctaws closed strong, winning 11 straight games and going 24-7 down the stretch, including winning all three games at the GSC Tournament in Huntsville, Alabama.

Four Lady Choctaws earned All-GSC honors this season, led by senior Tylan Buckley, junior Katherine Lee and freshman Carly Crawford earning First Team nods. Senior Haley Thompson rounded out the all-conference selections with a spot on the Second Team.

At the GSC Tournament, sophomore Kristen Qualls was named the Most Outstanding Player after going 7-for-12 with four RBI and five runs scored, including the game-winning home run on that Saturday against Lee. Seniors Megan Everett and Thompson, sophomore Adrianna Morgan and Crawford joined Qualls on the All-Tournament Team.

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