



PAUL MOSELEY/FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/TNS

TCU players celebrate a 13-4 win against Texas A&M in Game 1 of the NCAA Super Regional at Lupton Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas, on Saturday, June 6. TCU is one of eight teams to advance to the 2015 College World Series, which begins today (Saturday) in Omaha, Nebraska.

College World Series Begins Today

Things To Know About CWS Contenders

BY ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The College World Series field is full of pedigree. A record-tying four of the teams are from the powerful Southeastern Conference, and each of the eight has made it to Omaha at least three times in the last decade. As for individual talent, well, there's an abundance of it.

The first pitch is Saturday. Here are some things to know:

CHAMP IS BACK: Vanderbilt will defend its national championship, and with three of their eight draft picks taken in the first round, the Commodores must be considered one of the favorites. Vandy has outscored opponents 53-7 while sweeping through its five regional and super-regional games and is batting .354 with nine home runs in the NCAA Tournament.

NATIONAL SEEDS: Four of the eight national seeds reached the CWS. The survivors are No. 2 LSU, No. 4 Florida, No. 5 Miami and No. 7 TCU. Six of the eight teams were top seeds in their regionals; Arkansas was a No. 2 and Virginia a No. 3.

FEELING A DRAFT: Four of the top eight picks in this week's Major League Baseball draft, and six first-round selections in all, will be playing in Omaha. Vanderbilt's Dansby Swanson (Diamondbacks) and LSU's Alex Bregman (Astros), both shortstops, went 1-2. Arkansas outfielder Andrew Benintendi (Red Sox) and Vandy pitcher Carson Fulmer (White Sox) went 7-8. Florida shortstop Richie Martin (Athletics) was the 20th pick and Vandy pitcher Walker Buehler (Dodgers) the 24th. It's the most first-rounders in the CWS since there were seven in 2008.

SEC IS REPRESENTING: This marks the fourth time a single conference has had four teams in the CWS. The SEC tied the record it set in 1997 and matched in 2004 by sending Arkansas, Florida, LSU and Vanderbilt. The Atlantic Coast Conference had four teams make it in 2006.

GOING DEEP: One of the biggest story lines is whether the new flat-seam ball will help produce more home

A Closer Look At The Eight College World Series Qualifiers

BY ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A capsule look at the eight teams competing in the College World Series, which starts Saturday at TD Ameritrade Park. (Capsules in order of CWS opening games. Coaches' records through super regionals):

Arkansas (40-23)

Coach: Dave Van Horn (524-293, 13 years at Arkansas; 840-450, 21 years overall). Road to Omaha: Won Stillwater Regional; beat Oral Roberts 8-6, beat Oklahoma State 7-5, beat St. John's 4-3. Won Fayetteville Super Regional; beat Missouri State 18-4, lost to Missouri State 3-1, beat Missouri State 3-2. 2015 record vs. CWS teams: 2-7. Last CWS appearance: 2012. All-time record in CWS appearances: 11-14 in 7 appearances.

Meet the Razorbacks: C Tucker Pennell (200, 0 HR, 7 RBIs), 1B Clark Eagan (284, 2, 30), 2B Rick Nomura (294, 4, 19), 3B Bobby Wernes (280, 5, 26), SS Michael Bernal (260, 4, 30), LF Joe Serrano (285, 4, 35), CF Andrew Benintendi (380, 19, 55), RF Tyler Spoon (331, 6, 54), DH Brett McAfee (280, 2, 22). Starting pitchers: RHP Trey Kilian (3-4, 4.74 ERA), RHP Keaton McKinney (6-2, 3.27), RHP Jackson Lowery (7-1, 3.16). Relievers: RHP Lance Philips (2-3, 3.38), RHP Jacob Stone (3-2, 4.41), RHP Josh Alberius (1-2, 3.77), RHP Zach Jackson (5-0, 1.91, 9 saves).

MLB Alumni: Cliff Lee, Randy Jackson, Tom Pagnozzi, Johnny Ray, Dallas Keuchel, Drew Smyly, Les Lancaster, Kevin McReynolds. Short hops: James Teague, who started the super regional-clinching win Sunday, is out with an injury to his right (throwing) elbow. The Hogs already have lost starter Dominic Taccolmi to an undisclosed injury. Another starter, Keaton McKinney, had a corsicle shot in his right hip this week. ... Hogs overcame 11-12 start to make CWS.

Quoteable: "Because we're there. That's the main reason. We've got a shot. We go up there, anything can happen." — Van Horn, on how the Hogs can win the CWS with injury-riddled pitching staff.

Virginia (39-22)

Coach: Brian O'Connor (553-199-2, 12 years at Virginia and overall). Road to Omaha: Won Lake Elsinore Regional; beat Southern California 6-1, beat San Diego State 3-1, beat Southern California 14-10. Won Charlottesville Super Regional; beat Maryland 5-3, beat Maryland 5-4. 2015 record vs. CWS teams: 2-2. Last CWS appearance: 2014. All-time record in CWS: 7-6 in 3 appearances.

runs at TD Ameritrade Park. The total last year was three, same as in 2013. There is no shortage of power this year. Miami's David Thompson and Arkansas' Benintendi have 19 homers apiece to lead the nation, and Florida's JJ Schwartz has gone deep 18 times. Vanderbilt is sixth nationally with 66 homers, Miami is 11th with 62 and Florida is 13th with 60.

SLICK-FIELDING FLORIDA: The Gators are the best defensive team in the nation with their .985 fielding percentage. No one is better than third baseman Josh Tobias, who has committed one error in 131 chances.

PITCHING POWER: TCU,

Meet the Cavaliers: C Matt Thaiss (.332, 9 HR, 60), 1B Pavin Smith (.313, 6, 41) and Robbie Coman (.301, 1, 21), 2B Ernie Clement (239, 1, 20), 3B Kenny Towns (.298, 5, 60), SS Daniel Pinedo (.300, 6, 28), LF or DH Kevin Doherty (.231, 1, 22), CF Adam Haseley (.252, 1, 19), RF Joe McCarthy (.225, 1, 9). Starting pitchers: RHP Connor Jones (7-2, 2.96 ERA), LHP Brandon Waddell (3-5, 4.15), RHP Alec Bettinger (5-5, 4.80), LHP Nathan Kirby (5-2, 2.28). Relievers: RHP Derek Casey (4-1, 3.06), LHP Kevin Doherty (3.25, 3-1), LHP David Rosenberger (3-0, 5.46), RHP Tommy Doyle (1-1, 3.63), RHP Josh Shurz (4-2, 1.95, 14 saves). MLB Alumni: Ryan Zimmerman, Ricky Horton, Javier Lopez, Mark Reynolds, Mark Reynolds, Phil Gosselin, Sean Doolittle, David Adams.

Short Hops: Kirby, out since April 17 with a strained back muscle, could return for the Cavaliers' second game in Omaha ... Cavaliers are 5-0 in the NCAA Tournament after having lost three straight in the ACC Tournament. ... All four CWS appearances have come since 2009.

Quoteable: "What we went through this season is a great lesson. You can't take winning for granted. If you stick by the players and continue to believe in them and work with them, it is amazing what they can accomplish." — O'Connor.

Florida (49-16)

Coach: Kevin O'Sullivan (341-171, 8 years at Florida and overall). Road to Omaha: Gainesville Regional; beat Florida A&M 19-0, beat USF 8-2, beat FAU 2-1. Gainesville Super Regional; beat Florida State 13-5, beat Florida State 11-4.

2015 record vs. CWS teams: 7-3. Last CWS appearance: 2012. All-time record in CWS: 11-17 in 8 appearances.

Meet the Gators: C Mike Rivera (261, 3 HR, 44 RBIs) or JJ Schwartz (.332, 18, 71), 1B Peter Alfonso (.304, 3, 25), 2B Dalton Guthrie (286, 2, 24), 3B Josh Tobias (.373, 5, 41), SS Richie Martin (.292, 5, 33), LF Harrison Bader (.292, 15, 61), CF Buddy Reed (.313, 3, 43), RF Jeremy Vasquez (.350, 2, 18) or Ryan Ranson (.305, 1, 23), DH Rivera or Schwartz. Starting pitchers: RHP Logan Shore (9-6, 2.50 ERA), LHP A.J. Puk (9-3, 3.96), RHP Alex Faedo (5-1, 3.36). Relievers: LHP Bobby Poynter (5-2, 2.73), RHP Dane Dunning (5-2, 3.95), LHP Kirby Sneed (1-0, 3.19), RHP Aaron Rhodes (2-0, 3.86), RHP Taylor Lewis (6-1, 1.24, 7 saves).

MLB Alumni: David Eckstein, Mark Ellis, Rob Murphy, Matt LaPorta, Steve Lombardozzi, Mike Perez, Al Rosen, Mike Stanley, Robby Thompson, Brad Wilkerson. Short Hops: Gators have hit 60 homers in 65 games after going deep 26 times in 63 games last year ... Florida's best finishes in eight CWS appearances were national runner-up in 2005 and 2011 ... Schwartz is the NCAA Tournament leader in home runs (4), RBIs (11) and total bases (26).

Quoteable: "If you are going to win a championship, then a couple guys really have to get hot. Obviously [Schwartz] is getting to that point where he is carrying us a little bit right

at 2.38, is among four teams with ERAs under 3.00. Vanderbilt, behind Carson Fulmer's 152 strikeouts, leads the nation with 9.7 Ks per nine innings. Florida's A.J. Puk is striking out 12.3 per nine innings. Cal State Fullerton's strikeout-to-walk ratio is 4.9-to-1 largely because Thomas Eshelman has walked only seven batters in 131 1/3 innings this season and 18 in 370 2/3 career innings.

ON THE RUN: LSU, TCU and Vanderbilt rank among the best base-stealing teams in the nation, with each swiping more than 100. Bregman's 37 steals are most of any player in the CWS. TCU's Cody Jones has 31.

now." — O'Sullivan.

Miami (49-15)

Coach: Jim Morris (980-379-3, 21 years at Miami; 1,484-646-4, 33 years overall). Road to Omaha: Won Coral Gables Regional; beat FIU 6-2, beat Columbia 8-3, lost to Columbia 3-0, beat Columbia 21-3. Won Coral Gables Super Regional; beat VCU 3-2, beat VCU 10-3.

2015 record vs. CWS teams: 3-4. Last CWS appearance: 2008. All-time record in CWS: 47-38 in 23 appearances.

Meet the Hurricanes: C Zack Collins (.303, 15 HR, 70 RBIs) or Garrett Kennedy (.329, 7, 51), 1B Christopher Barr (.306, 1, 32), 2B George Iskenderian (.367, 3, 55), 3B David Thompson (.333, 19, 87), SS Brandon Lopez (.303, 0, 23), LF Jacob Heyward (.313, 3, 20), CF Ricky Eusebio (.297, 2, 29), RF Willie Abreu (.300, 6, 47), DH Collins or Kennedy. Starting pitchers: LHP Andrew Suarez (9-1, 2.96), LHP Thomas Woodrey (7-2, 3.06), RHP Enrique Sosa (7-4, 4.07), LHP Danny Garcia (7-1, 3.25). Relievers: RHP Cooper Hammond (5-1, 1.85), RHP Sam Abrams (2-0, 1.21), RHP Danny Brigi (1-0, 1.82), RHP Derik Beauprez (3-2, 5.28), LHP Michael Mediavilla (3-2, 1.89), LHP Bryan Garcia (5-2, 2.68, 10 saves).

MLB Alumni: Ryan Braun, Mike Piazza, Pat Burrell, Aubrey Huff, Charles Johnson, Alex Cora, Alex Fernandez, Jon Jay, Danny Graves, Neal Heaton, Chris Perez, Gaby Sanchez, Greg Vaughn.

Short Hops: The top fielding team in the nation has committed one error in six NCAA tournament games ... Hurricanes have won 19 of their last 22 games ... Miami is top-scoring team at CWS, at 8.4 runs a game.

Quoteable: "Our players don't know what's getting ready to hit them, something that they will remember for the rest of their lives." — Morris.

LSU (53-10)

Coach: Paul Mainieri (414-159-3, 9 years at LSU; 1,278-651-8, 33 years overall).

Road to Omaha: Won Baton Rouge Regional; beat Lehigh 10-3, beat UNC-Wilmington 2-0, beat UNC-Wilmington 2-0. Won Baton Rouge Super Regional; beat Louisiana-Lafayette 4-3, beat Louisiana-Lafayette 6-3. 2015 record vs. CWS teams: 3-2. Last CWS appearance: 2013. All-time record in CWS: 35-22 in 16 appearances.

Meet the Tigers: C Kade Schivicque (.347, 6 HR, 45 RBIs), 1B Chris Chirba (.355, 11, 58), 2B Jared Foster (.284, 9, 34), 3B Connor Hale (.343, 4, 56), SS Alex Bregman (.312, 9, 49), LF Jake Fraley (.308, 2, 34), CF Andrew Stevenson (.356, 1, 21), RF Mark Laird (.323, 1, 23), DH Chris Ciambra (.309, 3, 27). Starting pitchers: RHP Alex Lange (11-0, 1.89 ERA), LHP Jared Poche (9-1, 2.91), RHP Austin Bain (2-2, 3.54). Relievers: RHP Hunter Newman (3-0, 0.53), RHP Parker Bugg (1-2, 1.80), RHP Doug Norman (5-1, 2.16), RHP Jesse Stallings (1-2, 2.23), RHP Russell Reynolds (6-0, 2.97), LHP Zac Person (2-0, 3.34), RHP Jake Godfrey

BEST WHEN IT MATTERS MOST: Cal State Fullerton, Arkansas and Virginia all overcame rough patches on the road to Omaha. The Titans were 11-12 in late March and 21-20 on April 25. Since then they're 18-3. Arkansas started 9-2, lost 13 of its next 19 to stand 15-15 on April 4, and is 25-8 since. Virginia struggled

(7-1, 4.70).

MLB Alumni: Ben McDonald, Todd Walker, Albert Belle, Paul Byrd, Brad Hawpe, Aaron Hill, Mike Fontenot, Kevin Gausman, DJ LeMahieu, Russ Springer, Brian Wilson.

Short Hops: LSU is the highest remaining national seed, at No. 2, and has been No. 1 in the major polls for 10 straight weeks ... Bregman, the No. 2 overall draft pick, was mired in an 0-for-15 slump before delivering a key hit in super regional ... LSU is 13-2 since May 8 and has won 30 of its last 35.

Quoteable: "This team deserves to go to Omaha. They've played at a high level all year. We haven't lost two games in a row, one time, the entire season." — Mainieri.

TCU (49-13)

Coach: Jim Schlossnagle (514-234, 12 years at TCU; 591-281, 14 years overall).

Road to Omaha: Won Fort Worth Regional; beat Sacred Heart 10-1, lost to North Carolina State 5-4, beat Stony Brook 8-3, beat North Carolina State 8-2, beat North Carolina State 9-8 (10 inn.), Won Fort Worth Super Regional; beat Texas A&M 13-4, lost to Texas A&M 2-1 (10 inn.), beat Texas A&M 5-4 (16 inn.). 2015 record vs. CWS teams: 1-0. Last CWS appearance: 2014. All-time record in CWS: 4-4 in 2 appearances.

Meet the Horned Frogs: C Evan Skoug (.286, 7 HR, 44 RBIs), 1B Jeremie Fagnan (.267, 4, 25), 2B Garrett Gran (.271, 1, 28), 3B Derek Odell (.303, 3, 39), SS Keaton Jones (.256, 2, 39), LF Dane Steinhauser (.282, 0, 23), CF Cody Jones (.371, 5, 33), RF Nolan Brown (.314, 1, 30), DH Connor Wanhnen (.320, 1, 37). Starting pitchers: LHP Tyler Alexander (6-2, 2.86 ERA), RHP Preston Morrison (11-3, 2.55), LHP Alex Young (9-2, 2.31), RHP Mitchell Traver (9-2, 1.60). Relievers: RHP Trey Teakell (2-1, 1.51), RHP Brian Howard (4-0, 3.20), RHP Riley Ferrell (1-3, 2.83, 14 saves), RHP Brian Tiegloff (3-0, 2.70), RHP Preston Guillory (1-0, 0.00).

MLB Alumni: Scott Atchison, Lance Broadway, Matt Carpenter, Sam Demel, Bryan Holaday, Brandon Finnegan.

Short Hops: Pitching staff's 2.38 ERA is second nationally ... Jones has reached base safely in 34 straight games ... Morrison's 36 career wins are most among active pitchers, as are his 453 career innings.

Quoteable: "They just never die. They just truly never die." — Schlossnagle, on Horned Frogs winning an extra-inning game in regionals and another in super regionals.

CS Fullerton (39-23)

Coach: Rick Vanderhook (160-78, 4 years at Fullerton and overall).

Road to Omaha: Won Fullerton Regional; beat Pepperdine 9-3, beat Arizona State 3-2 (14 inn.), beat Pepperdine 10-1. Won Louisville Super Regional; beat Louisville 3-2 (10 inn.), lost to Louisville 9-3, beat Louisville 4-3 (11 inn.).

2015 record vs. CWS teams: 0-0. Last CWS appearance: 2009. All-time record in CWS: 34-27 in 16

appearances.

Meet the Titans: C A.J. Kennedy (.169, 0 HR, 19 RBIs), 1B Tanner Pinkston (.254, 0, 18), 2B Taylor Bryant (.194, 2, 11), 3B Jerrod Bravo (.312, 0, 24), SS Timmy Richards (.235, 1, 26), LF Josh Vargas (.340, 0, 15), CF Tyler Steib (.303, 0, 23), RF Dustin Vaught (.256, 0, 14), DH David Olmedo-Barrera (.328, 10, 45). Starting pitchers: RHP Thomas Eshelman (8-5, 1.58 ERA), LHP Connor Seabold (5-3, 2.84). Relievers: LHP Tyler Peitzmeier (5-3, 2.20, 16 saves), RHP Chad Hockin (0-0, 3.12), LHP Maxwell Gibbs (2-2, 3.38), RHP Willie Kuhl (2-0, 3.94), RHP Miles Chambers (5-3, 2.16).

MLB Alumni: Chad Cordero, Jeremy Giambi, Mike Harkey, Reed Johnson, Mark Kotsay, Brent Mayne, Mike Lamb, Phil Nevin, Brett Pill, Ricky Romero, Aaron Rowand, Kurt Suzuki, Tim Wallach.

Short Hops: Titans' five-year absence from the CWS was the longest in program history ... Vanderhook won a national title as a Fullerton player in 1984 and two more as an assistant in 1995 and 2004 ... Bravo has reached base in a school-record 44 straight games.

Quoteable: "I feel like the Titans are going home. We feel like we belong there. We knew it all along despite what people say about us and what happened at the beginning of the season. We're going there now, and that's all that matters." — Olmedo-Barrera, on reaching the CWS after an 11-12 start.

Vanderbilt (47-19)

Coach: Tim Corbin (563-269, 13 years at Vanderbilt; 664-405, 18 years overall).

Road to Omaha: Won Nashville Regional; beat Lipscomb 9-1, beat Indiana 6-4, beat Radford 21-0. Won Champaign Super Regional; beat Illinois 13-0, beat Illinois 4-2.

2015 record vs. CWS teams: 4-4. Last CWS appearance: 2014. All-time record in CWS: 7-4 in 2 appearances.

Meet the Commodores: C Karl Ellison (.213, 2 HR, 15 RBIs), 1B Zander Wiel (.316, 14, 65), 2B Tyler Campbell (.236, 2, 26), 3B Will Toffey (.305, 4, 46), SS Dansby Swanson (.350, 15, 62), LF Jeren Kendall (.289, 7, 37), CF Bryan Reynolds (.311, 5, 45), RF Rhett Wiseman (.318, 14, 47), DH Ro Coleman (.308, 1, 25). Starting pitchers: RHP Carson Fulmer (13-2, 1.82 ERA), RHP Walker Buehler (4-2, 2.97), LHP Philip Pfeiffer (5-4, 4.09). Relievers: LHP Ben Bowden (6-1, 3.06), RHP Kyle Wright (5-1, 1.06), RHP Colin Snider (0-0, 2.45), LHP Ryan Johnson (5-1, 3.02), LHP John Kilchowski (3-3, 2.97), RHP Tyler Ferguson (0-1, 6.30), RHP Jordan Sheffield (5-2, 2.90).

MLB Alumni: Joey Cora, David Price, Ryan Flaherty, Sonny Gray, Pedro Alvarez, Mark Kata, Scott Sanderson.

Short Hops: Defending national champion had three players among first 24 draft picks — Swanson (1), Fulmer (8) and Buehler (24) ... Vandy is batting NCAA Tournament-best .354 with nine homers in all five games ... Commodores' 13 shutouts lead nation.

Quoteable: "We're at the point in the season where we've just decided we're going to look in and play our best ball." — Swanson.

CWS Fans Encouraged To Text Stadium Staff If They Need Help

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Fans at the College World Series are encouraged to text guest services staff at TD Ameritrade Park if they encounter problems near their seats.

For assistance, fans should send a text to 69050. Type "CWS" and, after a space, state the issue and seat location.

Examples of problems guest services want to know about are impaired fans,

altercations and abusive language.

Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority President and CEO Roger Dixon said the text system has been tested at several events at the adjacent CenturyLink Center and has proved to be helpful.

Dixon encourages fans to report suspicious activity, saying, "If you see something, say something."

The College World Series opens Saturday at 2 p.m. with Arkansas playing Virginia.



KEEP INFORMED ABOUT PUBLIC NOTICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

Learn more at www.facebook.com/PublicNotices



We're all different, but we all need a place to live.



sdhousingsearch.com

SOUTH DAKOTA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



www.yankton.net