

## Softball

draws, the more media, again, it's just good overall.
We love that fact."
Fifth-seeded Florida ( 50 12) will face 13th-seeded Baylor (47-14) in the tournament opener Thursday, followed by
games between Oregon (54.7

1) and dighth-seeded Florida State ( (55-7); sixth-seeded
Louisian-Lafayette (49-13) Louisiana-Lafayette (49-13)
and 14th-seeded Kentucky (49-17); and second-seeded Alabama (50-11) and sevent seeded Oklahoma (50-11).
Alabama coach Patrick Alabama coach
Murphy said the game b
tween Kentucky and Louisiana-Lafayette will offer has developed across the U U .
The Ragin' Cajuns' starting pitcher, Christina Hamilton, is from Leesville, Louisiana,
while Kentucky's top starter while Kentucky's top starter
Kelsey Nunley, is from Sodd Kelsey Nunley, is é
Daisy, Tennessee.


not have the tradition, but they build it day by by day
day by day by day," Louisiana-Lafayeytte co Michael Lotief said. "You see the same opportunities that on the West Coast being afforded to athletes across the country. When you see . equity spread throughout the ntire country, you're going
o see the quality of softball get better," Oregon is seeking to become the sixth Pac-12 team and enters the tournament as the favorite, although not a
prohibitive one. The Ducks
have outscored their oppo-
nents 40-6 in five NCAA tour-
nament games so far and nament games so far and have three All-Americans in
itcher Cheridan Hawkins, hird baseman Courtney Ce Oklahoma lost to Alabama in the 2013 WCWS championship series before rolling
o the program's second national title last season. Gon rom that team are (amon

| others) All-America pitcher | first time since 2004. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Keilani Ricketts, but the | Louisiana-Lafayette, from the |
| Sooners' current ace, Kelsey | Sun Belt Conference, repre- |
| Stevens, pitched well in lead- | sents the programs from out |
| ing Oklahoma past Tennessee | side the so-called "power" |
| in a super regional that pitted | conferences that long for a |
| last year's two finalists. | chance on the big stage. |
| The Sooners also have | "I think a seed is just a |
| ceived a boost from the re | number," Kentucky senior |
| turn from injury of Lauren | Emily Jolly said. "We all took |
| Chamberlain, who has hit 72 | the same road here ... and I |
| career home runs, including | think of all of us as equals. |
| 11 this season in only 36 | We all think that we can |
| games. | anyone on a given day. |
| Kentucky is the only tea | There's n |
| in the field making its first | think can just absolutely de- |
| WCWS appearance, although | molish us." |
| Florida State is back for the |  |
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