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Softball Advances At Horizon League Tournament With A 10-1, Six-Inning Over Butler

Top-seeded Flames to take on #3 Loyola on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. in tournament semifinal.

May 14, 2004

[Box Score](#)

Chicago, Ill. - The top-seeded UIC softball team advanced at the 2004 Horizon League Softball Tournament on Friday evening with a 10-1, six-inning triumph over #5 Butler at Flames Field.

With the win, the Flames (37-21) advance to the semifinal round where they will meet city-rival Loyola on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Co-Head Coaches [Sarah O'Malley-Fisher](#) and [Tom Gray](#) also recorded career win No. 100 with the victory.

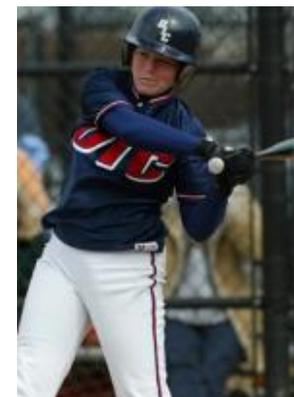
The Bulldogs (17-38-1) will now drop into the loser's bracket where they will meet with winner of #6 UW-Green Bay and #7 Detroit at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday.

UIC's bats were smoking on Friday, despite a long day filled with rain and delays. The Flames totaled 13 hits in six innings, with six of those knocks coming of the extra-base variety.

Sophomore [Nicole Shepard](#) led the way with a 3-for-4, RBI effort with a double and a triple to her credit. Junior [Cameron Astiazaran](#) (2-for-

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Sophomore Nicole Shepard went 3-for-4 with three RBI versus Butler.

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4), junior [Sara Hernandez](#) (2-for-3, 2 RBI) and senior [Alycia Creese](#) (2-for-4, 2 RBI) also recorded multi-hit outings for the Flames.

Freshman [Tonya Maosi](#) ended the game via run-rule with her first career home run in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Horizon League Co-Pitcher of the Year [Alison Aguilar](#) picked up the win to move to 14-7 the season. She allowed just one run on two hits, holding the Bulldogs off the scoreboard and without a hit for the first five innings.

Butler's Melissa Benter was tagged with the loss and is now 8-11 on the year.

The Flames wasted little time getting on the board on Friday as Creese's two-out, double in the bottom of the first inning staked the team to a 1-0 lead.

UIC added three more runs in the third for a 4-0 advantage. Hernandez drove in one with a double and then Shepard would later plate two more with a double of her own.

The score moved to 5-0 in the fourth on an RBI single by Hernandez.

Held hitless until the sixth, Butler mounted a rally in the frame and eventually scored on a single by Heather Ryan. The Bulldogs would follow by loading the bases, but Aguilar was able to pitch her way out of the jam.

In the bottom half of the sixth, the Flames ended the game by run-rule by taking a five-spot on the scoreboard, with all five tallies coming with two outs.

Hernandez kept the frame alive with a walk and would score on a long single by Horizon League Player of the Year [Amanda Rivera](#), who also walked three times in the contest. Creese followed with an RBI double. Sheperd then added a run-scoring triple, setting up Maosi's game-ending homer to right.

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