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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Roos Host Jackrabbits in Non-Conference Action on Tuesday

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The UMKC softball team (11-27) will take a break from Western Athletic Conference play when it hosts South Dakota State (14-25) on Tuesday.

The first game of the doubleheader is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. CT at Missouri 3&2 Complex.

Follow

Live stats for UMKC's games are available at UMKCStats.com. For live radio stream, visit UMKCKangaroos.com/LiveEvents.

About the Roos

Redshirt junior **Kendra Leach** (Easton, Kan.) is batting a team-high .390 with seven doubles and four triples through 38 games. Leach also leads the team in RBIs, bringing home 17 base runners this season.

In the WAC, Leach ranks in the top-four in several categories, including batting average, on-base percentage (.467) and slugging percentage (.590). She also has a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage.

Shortstop **Morgan Byrn** (Lawrence, Kan.) has taken 45 total bases in the first 38 games of the season, going 27-for-95 at the plate (.284) while smashing a team-leading five home runs and accumulating a team-high 17 runs. Her five home runs are the fourth-most in the conference this season.

Infielder **Bri Sims** (Rowlett, Texas) has been given a team-leading 17 free bases this season. She is also second on the team in home runs after hitting her third bomb of the season over the center field wall against Grand Canyon on April 8 at Missouri 3&2.

Ashlin O'Brien (Fond du Lac, Wis.), **Kelsey Goodwin** (Broken Arrow, Okla.) and Leach have each hit a pair of home runs, while **Faith Willis** (Kearney, Mo.) and **Abbi Johnson** (Midwest City, Okla.) have each hit one out of the park this season.

Freshman **Sydney Garcia** (Kansas City, Mo.) has been caught stealing just once out of her nine stolen base attempts this season. Her nine attempts is the fifth-most in the

WAC this season. She also leads all UMKC newcomers at the plate, batting .261 with seven doubles and nine RBIs.

As a team, UMKC currently ranks third in the WAC in walks (97), steal attempts (40), doubles (38) and triples (6). The pitching staff has combined for 60 strikeouts, the fourth-most in the league this season.

When UMKC swept CSU Bakersfield to open WAC play, it was just the fourth time since joining the league that the Roos swept a conference opponent. The Roos also swept the Roadrunners and Seattle U last season and Utah Valley in 2015.

Byrn received WAC Hitter of the Week laurels on Feb. 27 after bombing three home runs in two games at the UTA Invitational. She went 7-for-14 from the plate over the course of five games and accounted for five of the team's 11 RBIs.

Freshman **Alex Larson** (Overland Park, Kan.) was named WAC Pitcher of the Week on Feb 20 for her notable performances against Rider at the Battle at the Beach on Feb. 18 and Feb. 19. Between the two games, Larson pitched 8.2 innings, giving up just five hits while throwing three strikeouts. The right-hander also posted a 0.00 ERA in both appearances.

Leach and Sims were each named to the 2017 Preseason All-WAC team in a poll by the league's coaches.

Sims, a 2016 All-WAC first team selection, returns to the field for UMKC this season with second-team members Goodwin and Byrn. The Roos finished 24-26 overall and 10-5 in the WAC in 2016.

Scouting the Opponent

UMKC leads the all-time series over SDSU, 17-8. The Roos swept the doubleheader in Brookings, S.D., last season behind big games by Leach and Sims.

The Jacks enter Tuesday's series on a three-game losing streak, dropping games to rivals South Dakota and North Dakota.

Up Next

UMKC will resume conference play at league-leading New Mexico State next weekend.

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