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A National Powerhouse

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The Dayton Flyers volleyball squad earned the top seed in this weekend’s Atlantic 10 Women’s Volleyball Championship at Halton Arena at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Dayton (28-1/12-1), ranked 16th nationally, captured the A-10 West Division title with a 12-1 league mark. The Flyers are looking for their fourth A-10 title in five years. The winner receives an automatic berth in the 2007 NCAA tournament.

Xavier (22-8/11-2) gets the second seed after posting the next-best record in the league with an 11-2 ledger in A-10 play. A member of the A-10 West Division, Xavier defeated two ranked programs this season, including rival Dayton, for the first time in program history. The top two seeds earn a bye in the first round of the championship.

The defending A-10 champion, Saint Louis (22-6/10-3), will defend its title as the third seed after posting a 10-3 mark while competing in the West Division. The Billikens were also the third seed last season when they won their first conference title since joining the league just one year earlier.

Temple (14-17/9-4) earned the A-10 East Division title with a division-best 9-4 record and will be the fourth seed. The Owls have four A-10 titles overall and are looking to take home the hardware for the first time since 2002.

Fordham (15-19/5-8) and George Washington (13-16/5-8) round out the field as the fifth and sixth seeds, respectively. Both share the same 5-8 record in the East Division; however, Fordham earns a higher seed due to a regular season sweep over the Colonials. The Rams are making their second-straight appearance in the championship and looking for their first-ever title, while George Washington is making its first appearance since 2003 and is hoping for its fifth title.

Saint Louis will face George Washington in the opening round at 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 16, followed by a Temple-Fordham matchup at 7:30 p.m.

The first-round winners will meet the top seeds, Dayton and Xavier, in the semifinals on Saturday, Nov. 17, beginning at 5 p.m. The championship match will be played on Sunday, Nov. 18, at 1 p.m.

Tickets to the Atlantic 10 Women’s Volleyball Championship will be available at the Halton Arena ticket office the day of the matches. A single-day ticket may be purchased for $6 for adults or $3 for A-10 students, children 18 and under, and senior citizens. A three-day pass is available for $15 for adults.