For the first time in school history, the CSS softball team earned a bid to the NCAA National Tournament. The #5-seed Saints will face #4-seed Washington University in the opening round of the Indianola, Iowa bracket.

The region bracket’s top seed is No. 1-ranked St. Thomas whom the Saints faced earlier this season. Rounding out the bracket are #2-seed Wartburg, #3 Louisiana College, #6 Fontbonne (Mo.), #7 and host school Simpson College, and #8 seed Concordia-Wis.

The Saints also picked up individual honors within the region as three players were named to the NFCA Midwest All-Region Team. Senior Laura Heise and junior Erica Bond were chosen for the first team while senior Kristi Erickson picked up second team honors.

CSS won the UMAC post-season tournament for the fifth consecutive season last weekend at Martin Luther College. This was the Saints’ tenth UMAC title

Heise was also named the UMAC Player of the Year for the fourth consecutive season. Bond, Erickson, Heise, Rilee Dawson and Dre Thomas were named UMAC all-conference while Joann Juten received honorable mention honors. Thomas and Sara Kneis were named to the UMAC all-defensive team.

Heise’s current 1,096 career strikeout total lands her third among all-time NCAA-III pitchers. Battling Heise for the race to the top is Salisbury University’s Kristi Erickson. Heise’s current 1,096 career strikeout total lands her third among all-time NCAA-III pitchers. Battling Heise for the race to the top is Salisbury University’s Kristi Erickson. Heise’s current 1,096 career strikeout total lands her third among all-time NCAA-III pitchers. Battling Heise for the race to the top is Salisbury University’s Kristi Erickson. Heise’s current 1,096 career strikeout total lands her third among all-time NCAA-III pitchers. Battling Heise for the race to the top is Salisbury University’s Kristi Erickson. Heise’s current 1,096 career strikeout total lands her third among all-time NCAA-III pitchers. Battling Heise for the race to the top is Salisbury University’s Kristi Erickson. Heise’s current 1,096 career strikeout total lands her third among all-time NCAA-III pitchers. Battling Heise for the race to the top is Salisbury University’s Kristi Erickson. Heise’s current 1,096 career strikeout total lands her third among all-time NCAA-III pitchers. Battling Heise for the race to the top is Salisbury University’s Kristi Erickson. Heise’s current 1,096 career strikeout total lands her third among all-time NCAA-III pitchers. Battling Heise for the race to the top is Salisbury University’s Kristi Erickson.

Jody Yurczyk has narrowed the gap to two, closing in on the Saints’ career leader in stolen bases, Keely Behning (2000-01), who has 52. Yurczyk currently has 50.