Written by Jackie Finlan
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Fullback Jess Sexauer (with ball) scored three tries for Army.

Blaine, MN - Army women overwhelmed New Mexico today during the Round of 16 at the DI College Championships. The cadets put up 76 points to UNM's 5 for a berth to the quarterfinal against North Carolina tomorrow. UNC advanced after holding onto a 12-10 win over San Diego earlier today.

"We knew New Mexico is a forwards-dominate team, and we were prepared for that," Army coach Will Riddle said. "We got quick, clean ball and took advantage of that. We played well."

Scrumhalf Marie Timm did an excellent job distributing the ball and helped unleash the always stellar Annie Lee, allowing the wing to score two tries on the day. All American fullback Jessica Sexauer also played well and ran in three five-pointers. The rest of the scores came from every position on the field, and the cadets got an opportunity to really stretch their legs.

The big first-half lead allowed Riddle to work in his subs. Front row reserves Karley Marquet and Elizabeth Olcese at prop and Gina Knapp at hooker filled in wonderfully, continuing the scrum's dominance without hesitation.

Even though the match was one-sided, Riddle pointed out that the team's discipline at the tackle area and in the ruck needs shoring up, as there were too many penalties for careless play.

Responding to whether he'd prefer a more competitive match in the first round, Riddle said: We'll take a win in the playoffs no matter how it comes. It allowed us to get some key players out of the game and rested for tomorrow.

Army was able to see the final few minutes of the North Carolina v UC San Diego game, which the Tar Heels won by two points. Riddle expects a nice battle in the backs in tomorrow's quarterfinal, with the victor awarded with a trip to Palo Alto for a semifinal against the winner of pool B.