

ASU Track Wraps Up Regional Competition

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Appalachian State University track program will have one qualifier making his way to the NCAA Championships in Des Moines, IA, June 8-11.

Malcom Styers, the Southern Conference Field Athlete of the Year, advanced on Friday night in the hammer throw. He finished in an 11th-place tie with a throw of 201-feet, eight inches. Otherwise, the Mountaineers had a pretty tough time at the East Regional Championships at Indiana University in Bloomington.

On Saturday, Dennis Moore, who reached the semifinal round in the 200-meter dash, came up short on Saturday as he finished 18th in 21.61 seconds. And the ASU 4x100 relay team finished 16th in 40.68. The cut-off was 40.,22 by Grambling, which finished 12th.

The top 12 finishers in each event advanced to nationals. Next to Styers, ASU's best effort came in the high jump as Darius Purcell, the SoCon champion in that event, finished 15th.

RAMS-SOUTHEAST GUILFORD HEADED FOR DECISIVE THIRD GAME

T.C. Roberson missed its chance to nail down the Class 4A Western Regional title Saturday night.

Southeast Guilford, which got pounded by the Rams 11-1 Friday night in the completion of a suspended game in Asheville, turned the tables on TCR (25-5) Saturday by pounding the Rams 12-3 and evening up that best of three series at a win a piece. A decisive third game will be played Monday night at 7 pm in Asheville. The winner advances to the state finals June 3-5. Friday night Alex Ledford of the Rams set a new school record in home runs with 16 (breaking the old mark of 15 set by Cameron Maybin of the San Diego Padres), and he also tied the record for most home runs in a season in western North Carolina. Ledford also has 58 RBI this season, tying the state record originally set by Josh Hamilton of the Texas Rangers in 1998, when he played for Athens Drive.

CREST RALLYS TO BEAT TIGERS

The Crest Chargers are on their way back to the state tournament, denying Fred T. Foard (22-5) its first trip to state in 13 years.

The Chargers wiped out a 2-0 deficit in the seventh inning and rallied to beat the Tigers 5-2 in eight innings in the Class 3A Western Semifinals in Newton, NC, Saturday night. Three bunts, a hit bats man, and a throwing error ignited the Crest rallied in the top of the seventh, tying the game 2-2.

Losing pitcher Lexi Shubert had only given up one hit until that point. Catcher Amanda Baker, who was hitless on the night, came through with a lead-off triple in the eighth, and eventually scored what proved to be the winning run on Sumer Kale's infield single.

The Tigers made two costly errors in the last two innings, Emily Kale fired a three-hitter and got the win for the Chargers.

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In Class 4A, Alexander Central will play North Davidson, the defending champion 4A champion in Raleigh in the opening round of the state tournament Friday, June 3. North Davidson made its way back to Raleigh by knocking off Southwest Guilford 3-1 in the western semifinals Saturday night.