

Cougars Eyeing Another State Title

Written by Mike Kelly
Friday, 03 June 2011 22:51

Alexander Central took a serious step towards its seventh state championship on Friday.

The Cougars defeated North Davidson, which won the Class 4A title last season, 6-2 in game one Friday night at the Walnut Creek Softball Complex in Raleigh. They followed that up by blanking Holly Springs 3-0 in game two. The win moves Alexander Central (30-1) into Saturday's championship game. The Cougars will play either Holly Springs or North Davidson at 1:30 pm.

Those teams square off at 11 am. North Davidson eliminated Clayton 3-2 in nine innings. Holly Springs defeated Clayton 1-0 in the opening round of the state tournament.

Chelsea Wilkinson had a stellar day on the mound for Alexander Central. She won both games on Friday. She went the distance and struck out 13 batters against North Davidson. She also helped her own cause with two hits, including a home run and three RBI. She followed that up with a masterful performance against Holly Springs as she fired a one-hit shutout with 15 strikeouts.

RODON BLANKS RAMS

Winning pitcher Carlos Rodon fired a two-hit shut out as Holly Springs knocked off T.C.

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Roberson 4-0 Friday night in game one of the Class 4A state championship series at Five County Stadium in Zebulon, NC.

Rodon, who is 11-0 on the year, lowered his earned-run-average to 1.40. Rodon had eight strikeouts and helped his own cause at the plate by going 2-3 with an RBI. The Golden Hawks (26-2) scored all the runs they needed by scoring twice in the third inning.

Kendal Thorpe had a two-run single in the sixth that put the contest out of reach. Game two of this series begins at 2 pm Saturday afternoon. A third game, if necessary, will follow. The Rams (25-5) haven't won a state championship since 2002.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
2011 STATE FAST PITCH SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Walnut Creek Softball Complex, Raleigh
June 3-4, 2011**

CLASS 1-A STATE SEMIFINALS

Pamlico 2, Princeton 1, final
East Surry 6, Murphy 2, final

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WINNER'S BRACKET FINAL

Pamlico 2, East Surry 1

ELIMINATION GAME

Princeton 5, Murphy 4, 8 innings

LOSERS' BRACKET FINAL

East Surry (26-5) vs. Princeton (22-6) ,Saturday at 11 am (Field 3)

CHAMPIONSHIP

Pamlico (26-4) vs. 11 am game winner, Saturday at 1:30 pm (Field 3); if needed, a second game will follow at 4 pm

CLASS 2-A STATE SEMIFINALS

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Eastern Randolph 1, Swansboro 0, final
Canton Pisgah 14, Central Davidson 9, final

WINNER'S BRACKET FINAL

Canton Pisgah 10, Eastern Randolph 2

ELIMINATION GAME

Swansboro 2, Central Davidson 0

LOSERS' BRACKET FINAL

Swansboro (23-7) vs. Eastern Randolph (29-3) ,Saturday at 11 am (Field 4)

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CHAMPIONSHIP

Canton Pisgah 23-4) vs. 11 am game winner, Saturday at 1:30 pm (Field 4); if needed, a second game will follow at 4 pm

CLASS 3-A STATE SEMIFINALS

Greenville D.H. Conley 5, Southern Vance 0 , final
East Rowan 10, Crest 0, final (5 innings, 10 run rule)

WINNER'S BRACKET FINAL
D.H. Conley 4, East Rowan 3

ELIMINATION GAME
Southern Vance 6, Crest 0

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LOSERS' BRACKET FINAL

East Rowan (25-3) vs. Southern Vance (24-4), Saturday at 11 am (Field 2)

CHAMPIONSHIP

D.H. Conley (25-4) vs. 11 am game winner, Saturday at 1:30 pm (Field 2); if needed, a second game will follow at 4 pm

CLASS 4-A STATE SEMIFINALS

Holly Springs 1, Clayton 0, final
Alexander Central 6, North Davidson 2, final

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WINNER'S BRACKET FINAL

Alexander Central 3, Holly Springs 0, (8 innings)

ELIMINATION GAME

North Davidson 3, Clayton 2 (9 innings)

LOSERS' BRACKET FINAL

North Davidson (28-2) vs. Holly Springs (23-2) ,Saturday at 11 am (Field 1)

CHAMPIONSHIP

Alexander Central (30-1) vs. 11 am game winner, Saturday at 1:30 pm (Field 1); if needed, a second game will follow at 4 pm

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STATE 1-A BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES—GAME ONE

SOUTH STANLY 3, EAST COLUMBUS 2

STATE 2-A BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES—GAME ONE

RANDLEMAN 14, EAST RUTHERFORD 6

STATE 3-A BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES—GAME ONE

SOUTH POINT 12, NORTHEAST GUILFORD 6

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STATE 4-A BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES—GAME ONE

HOLLY SPRINGS 4, T.C. ROBERSON 0