

Braves Advance To Area IV Finals

Written by Staff Reports
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Logan Walden, pitching on two-days rest, continued his impressive run as he lifted the Gaston Braves to a 4-2 win over Caldwell County Post 29 in game in the fifth and decisive game of the best-of-five Area IV American Legion baseball semifinal series at M.S. Deal Stadium Friday night. Gaston (19-6), which trailed 2-0 in this series, came back to win

three straight against Post 29. The Braves advance to the Area IV finals where they will meet Cherryville. Game 1 of the best-of-7 series Saturday night at Fraley Field.

Cherryville advanced by eliminating Shelby in five games Friday night. Walden held Caldwell hitless through the first five innings and he allowed just two hits through the first six. And Caldwell's first two hits in the sixth were bunt singles. Despite the loss, Caldwell (26-8) will participate in the state championship which begins Aug. 1 at M.S. Deal Stadium.

Trailing 4-1, Caldwell mounted a two-out rally in the bottom of the ninth. David Martin singled and Josh Murphy drew a walk.

Tanner Dillard doubled to score Martin to make the score 4-2, but Zech Wiggs came on in relief to retire the side, earn the save and winning the series. He retired Dylan Poarch on a ground ball out with runners on third and second to secure the win. Wiggs also played a huge role offensively for the Braves with four hits in four plate appearances with two runs scored. Jacob Hatton took the loss allowing four runs on 12 hits with no walks and six strikeouts in going the distance.