

## Cougars Advance To State Finals

Written by Staff Reports  
Saturday, 25 May 2013 09:10

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The Alexander Central High softball team snapped a 2-2 tie in the sixth inning and defeated Southeast Guilford 4-2 Friday night to win the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Class 4A western championship in a two-game sweep. The win moves Alexander Central (31-1) into the state finals in Raleigh next weekend. The Cougars will play either Wake Forest-Rolesville or West Johnston in the finals. Wakeforest-Rolesville defeated West Johnson 7-0 in game one of that best-of-three series.

The Cougars snapped a 1-1 tie with two runs in the sixth. Amanda Sports was hit by a pitch to start the inning and Christina Krider reached on a bunt single. Mia Blochaviak came up next and hit a line drive into center field that was nearly caught, but was ruled a trap. That allowed the go-ahead run to score. Taylor Wike then doubled to score another run that gave Alexander Central a 3-1 lead.

Wike was 2-4 with an RBI; Averi Miller was 2-4 with a triple; Christina Krider had three hits. The Cougars pounded out nine hits. Southeast Guilford (24-5) made seven hits, but committed four errors.

Winning pitcher Kiana Millsaps (22-0) went the distance, gave up two earned runs with no walks and a strikeout. The state title series will also be a best-of-3 and is scheduled to begin on Friday near Raleigh. Game times and field assignments at Walnut Creek will be determined by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. The Cougars are looking for their eighth state championship and their first since 2011.

### **RED TORNADES DOWN WEDDINGTON IN GAME ONE**

The Hickory High (18-10) baseball team won its fifth game in a row Friday night by knocking off Weddington 8-6 Friday night at Washam Field in game one of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Class 3A western finals. The Red Tornadoes can wrap up the western championship in this best-of-three series with a win this afternoon at Weddington. The teams are scheduled to play at 2 p.m.

Hickory pounded out 11 hits Friday night, and built a 7-3 lead after four innings. Nick Guarino, who struggled at times, picked up the win. He coughed up six runs, four earned, on 10 hits, he struck out one and walked two in 4.2 innings. Weddington knocked Guarino out of the game in the fifth.

Jeremy Schellhorn tripled to lead off the frame and he scored on Chris Simpson's ground ball to first. A throwing error by Davis Hanvey kept the inning alive. The Warriors (21-10) capitalized when Jake Ferry's single to center scored Sean Collins and Phillip Fincher to pull Weddington within 7-6.

Simpson knocked in two runs for the Warriors in the loss. Three different Warriors pitchers (Collins, Cameron Smetak and Tyler Penner) combined to walk five, strike out four, hit one and uncork four wild pitches. A wild pitch handed Hickory an insurance run in the bottom of the fifth. Collins, who coughed up four runs in three innings, suffered the loss. Tyler Pait settled things down for Hickory and picked up the save. Joseph Sadowski was 2-4 with two RBIs; Andrew Baker was 2-4 and drove in three runs.

In the eastern finals, Greenville-Conley (26-2) has a 1-0 lead on Hillsborough-Orange (25-3) in

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that best of three series. Friday night's game was rained out. They are scheduled to play at 1 p.m. today. Game three, if necessary, will be played at 4 p.m. Conley won the opener 4-3 in eight innings on Thursday.

If Weddington beats Hickory today, game three will be played at Washam Field Monday night at 7 p.m. The west and east champions will meet next weekend in a best-of-three series for the state title.

### **GIRL'S SOCCER STATE FINALS SATURDAY AT N.C. STATE**

**CLASS 3A**  
ST. STEPHENS v. RALEIGH-CARDINAL GIBBONS, 11 A.M.

**CLASS 2A**  
SWANSBORO v. SOUTH IREDELL, 2 P.M.