

## COUGARS CLAIM ANOTHER STATE TITLE

Written by Rick Strunk  
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Mia Blochaviak had three hits and Alexander Central scored in all but one inning en route to a convincing 10-2 decision over Wake Forest-Rolesville on Saturday to sweep the best-of-three North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A softball championship series at Walnut Creek Softball Complex. Bailey Rhoney, who was the winning pitcher in Saturday's game while yielding only three hits, was named the championship Most Valuable Player. Taylor Wike and Kiana Millsaps each had two hits for Alexander in a 10-hit attack, and Allison Scarboro went two for three for WF-R. Brittany Dahle was the losing pitcher. Alexander Central finished its season at 33-1, the best mark among any of the eight teams competing in the NCHSAA softball championships. The Cougars were in their sixth trip to Walnut Creek since 1996 and 11th all time to the finals, and have won a total of eight NCHSAA softball titles, four in slow pitch and now four in fast pitch. It's also their first state title since 2011. Wake Forest-Rolesville, in its third trip to the finals, finished at 20-5. In Friday night's series opener, Alexander Central took advantage of five Wake Forest-Rolesville errors and blew open a close game with four runs in the seventh, taking a 10-5 win. Blochaviak had three hits for the winners in that one.