

Cougars Have Record-Setting Year

Written by Rick Strunk
Monday, 23 June 2014 09:09

Alexander Central recently completed a phenomenal season in softball, as the Cougars completed a perfect 35-0 season and won their fifth North Carolina High School Athletic Association fast-pitch championship.

As a result, Alexander Central has qualified for several team entries and a number of individual additions to the NCHSAA Record Book.

The Cougars are currently riding a 66-game winning streak, which is still active and is the second longest in the history of the sport, behind an 83-game streak that Central Cabarrus put together spanning 2004-06.

Alexander Central scored a state record 426 runs in the season and had a state record 442 hits, giving the Cougars the top team batting average in the Record Book of a sizzling ,480. The Cougars' 110 doubles in the season is second all-time and the 38 home runs they hit rank in fourth place.

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Among some of the new individual listings, Vada Sherrill set a state record for runs scored in a season with 60 and Taylor Wike, who had a team-high .628 batting average, scored 58 for a tie for third on that list.

Wike also set a new state RBI mark with 64 runs driven in during the season and finished her career with 166, just four off the all-time RBI record. Wike is now 10th in career batting average at .524.

Her 184 runs scored in her career is second all-time, behind Murphy's Brittany Henry, and her 222 hits in a career is second to Henry's 240, established in 2008-11. Wike also pounded out 24 doubles during the '14 season, which is second to Henry, and she is second in career doubles to Henry as well.

Bailey Rhoney hit safely in 33 consecutive games, dating back to last year, for the longest consecutive game hitting streak in softball. Pitcher Kiana Millsaps earned 42 consecutive victories, putting her on that performance listing.

Our thanks to head coach Monte Sherrill and Alexander Central sports information director Jonathan Watts for compiling information and documenting all of these outstanding achievements.