

Sports

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Warriors fall in TIC finals



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

LA's Gavin Smithwick swings during the TIC Tournament finals.

AHOSKIE - Lawrence Academy's baseball team reached the finals of the Tarheel Independent Conference Tournament last week at Ridgecroft School.

The Warriors (10-9 overall), the No. 3 seed in the event, defeated Hobgood Academy in the first round and then upset No. 2 seed Northeast Academy in the semifinals.

Unfortunately for Lawrence, that's where their run ended. A 10-run fourth inning helped No. 1 seed Ridgecroft pull away for a 14-3 victory in the championship game on May 2.

The Rams held a 4-0 lead after two innings in the championship game, but Lawrence came back to plate three runs in the top of the third stanza to slice the deficit to one run.

The Warriors had just two hits against Ridgecroft freshman pitcher Bryce Stevens, but Lawrence was not able to take advantage of six walks and two errors by the home team.

A synopsis of the other tournament games follow:

SEMIFINALS
Lawrence 8,
Northeast 1

A six-run fourth inning and solid pitching helped Lawrence Academy turn back North-

east Academy in the TIC semifinals May 1.

Eighth-grader Sawyer Mizelle was solid on the mound for the Warriors. In seven innings, he struck out 11, walked no one, and allowed five hits and one run.

Northeast held a 1-0 lead before Lawrence took the lead with two runs in the top of the fourth inning.

The Warriors finished with eight hits, as Mizelle and sophomore Charles Atkins each had two hits and an RBI.

Adding one hit each for Lawrence were Tayloe Powell, who drove in three runs; Dylan Harrell, Gavin Smithwick and Evan Swain.

Lawrence was able to take advantage of six errors and five walks by the Eagles.

FIRST ROUND
Lawrence 10,
Hobgood 0

MERRY HILL - Lawrence

Academy scored in every at-bat (one run in the first and fourth innings and four in the second and third frames) to shut out Hobgood Academy in the opening round of the tournament on April 30 at home.

Owen Price, Joseph White and Evan Swain led the Warriors with two hits each, while Tayloe Powell, Dylan Harrell and Sawyer Mizelle collected one hit each.

Powell, a freshman, earned the win on the mound for Lawrence. In five innings, he allowed just three hits with nine strikeouts and three walks.

The Warriors made no errors in the field, while Hobgood committed three miscues.

Lawrence Academy's two tourney wins mean the Warriors will have a first-round home game Thursday in the playoffs.

Senior Night victory gives Bertie girls 2nd

WINDSOR - A victory in their final regular-season home game Thursday gave the Bertie High School softball team second place in the North-eastern Coastal 2A Conference.

The Falcons defeated Hertford County 3-0 two days after falling to the Bears 4-3 to split the season series.

The win on Thursday, which came on Senior Night for Jessi Mizelle, Brie Forehand and Lauren Dunlow, sealed second place in the conference for the Lady Falcons (7-3 NEC, 10-9 overall).

In that game, Bertie took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third inning.

Forehand led off the frame with a single but was forced out at second base on Lindsey Dickens' fielder's choice. Dickens stole second and third and scored when Mizelle reached on an error with two outs. Stephanie Castelloe singled but the frame ended on a flyout.

The Falcons tacked on two insurance runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Forehand tripled and scored on a passed ball. One out later, Alyssa Byrum and Mizelle singled. With two outs, Cowand singled home a run.

Byrum was the winning pitcher, allowing just a single in the second inning and a double in the seventh. Byrum finished with nine strikeouts and no walks.

"I am proud of the girls because they stayed focused every play and played relaxed and not tense," said Bertie coach Jackie Copeland.

The Falcons will entertain Carrboro at 5 p.m. today (Wednesday) in the first round of the Class 2A state playoffs.

APRIL 31
Hertford Co. 4,
Bertie 3

AHOSKIE - Bertie could not recover from a 3-0 deficit, as its rally came up one run short against Hertford County.

A two-run home run by D.L. Watford was part of a three-run first inning for the Bears.

Bertie sliced the deficit to one run with two runs in the top of the third inning on a hit by Lindsey Dickens, a sacrifice fly by Stephanie Castelloe and Jessi Mizelle reaching on an error. Dickens stole two bases in the frame while Mizelle added another.

The Bears added their final run in the bottom of the third stanza to make it 4-2.

The Falcons cut the deficit to a run again in the top of the seventh when Dickens reached on an error and scored on a triple by Alyssa Byrum with two outs. After an intentional walk to Mizelle and a stolen base, HCHS pitcher Emily Merritt coaxed a flyout ended the Bertie comeback bid.

Byrum led Bertie with two hits, while Dickens, Castelloe, Miranda Meldick (triple), Rachel Hoggard and Taylor Scott added one hit each.

Byrum suffered the loss on the mound. She allowed six hits, struck out eight and walked two.



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie pitcher Scoop Hoggard makes an off-balance throw to first as Alden Cottle watches.

Falcons

From B1 Conference's third seed for the postseason.

Wells worked the first three innings and allowed two hits and one run with seven strikeouts and two walks.

Cottle got the win in relief after toiling the final three innings. He gave up three hits and one run with five strikeouts and two walks.

Cottle, Jarrett Burden, Nate Cheeseboro, Caleb Damo and Trenton White led Bertie's offense with one hit each.

THURSDAY
HCHS 6, Bertie 4

WINDSOR - Bertie held a 2-0 lead after three innings, but Hertford County rallied with all six runs combined in the fourth through sixth

frames to defeat the Falcons on their Senior Night (Nate Cheeseboro, Isom Collins, Jared Speight and Scoop Hoggard).

Bertie finished with 11 hits, as Trenton White led the way with four, while Alden Cottle added three and Caleb Damo collected two. Hoggard and Aydan Harmon had the other hits.

Hoggard started on the mound for Bertie and lasted four innings. He struck out seven, walked two and gave up three hits and two runs.

White suffered the loss in relief after going in two frames. He surrendered five hits and four runs (one earned) with four strikeouts and three walks.

MAY 1
Bertie 12, HCHS 2

AHOSKIE - Alden Cottle fired a two-hitter with six strikeouts and one walk, and Bertie finished with 12 base hits en route to a North-eastern Coastal Conference victory on the road.

Cottle and Scoop Hoggard each finished with three hits for the Falcons, while Trenton White added two hits and Caleb Damo, Jarrett Burden, Zack Castelloe and Evan Wells provided one hit each.

Cottle smashed a two-run home run as part of a four-run fourth inning for Bertie, which had six extra-base hits. Cottle also doubled, as did Hoggard (twice), Damo and White.

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