

Lobos end their season in the state semi-finals



By Greg Perkins

A tumultuous couple of days leading up to what became their final game of the year saw the Lobos boys team have their season come to a close at the hands of Coolidge by a final of 62-48 in the 3A state championship semi-final game played on Saturday.

During a crazy week for preparation, Snowflake was listed in the state championship game thanks to an AIA decision to kick Coolidge out of the state tournament due to some fan behavior in the Coolidge vs Chinle game played on Feb. 20. That game won by the Bears saw poor behavior from fans, which resulted in a suspension by AIA for the postseason for the Coolidge team. Once a judge intervened and basically overruled the AIA decision, the semifinal game was rescheduled for Saturday afternoon at 3:45 p.m.

The 10th ranked Lobos played hard but they were unable to keep up with the hot shooting point guard from third seeded Coolidge, who also had two dominant post players controlling the boards.

Snowflake made a bit of a run late in the third quarter, but in the end Coolidge advanced in the bracket to the state final game where they will see Palo Verde Magnet who won their semifinal game on a last second 3-point shot.

Lobos win one in the Ben Franklin Classic

By Greg Perkins

The Lobos opened the baseball season at the Ben Franklin Pre-Season Classic tournament over the weekend. They played three games coming away with a win, a loss and a tie in the three outings.

The team started with an 8-2 win over ALA Ironwood on Thursday afternoon. The Lobos broke a 2-2 game open with 6 runs in the sixth inning to get the win.

Edge Bryant went 1 for 2, Nate Hall was 1 for 4 and Julian Barrera was 1 for 4 with a double.

Kyler Matthews pitched six innings giving up just two runs on two hits with eight strikeouts and walked five.

Friday’s game ended in a 6-6 tie with Combs. Snowflake trailed 4-2 after two innings and was behind 5-2 going into the bottom of the fourth where they took the lead with 4 runs. Combs fought back to tie the game at 6-6 in the fifth inning. Neither team scored in the sixth.

Tate Matthews went three for three with a double. Graham Bawden was 1 for 1, as was Curtis Hollum. Kasen Rogers went 1 for 3, Nate Hall went 1 for 2, Jaxon Merrill was 1 for 3.

Graham Bawden and Curtis Hollom combined to give up six runs on five hits with five total strikeouts and walked four runners.

Snowflake’s final game of the tournament came on Saturday where they dominated Paradise Honors with a 10-0 shutout win. Nine third inning runs decided the game early. Snowflake had eight hits in the game.

The Lobos will play at Tuba City on Tuesday this week, then will host Coolidge on Thursday.

Lady Lobos close stellar season with loss to Tuba City

By Greg Perkins

The Lady Lobos consecutive game winning streak came to an end in the Copper tournaments championship game on Saturday night.

Snowflake had won 26 consecutive games entering the final contest with Tuba City, who came in with an impressive record of 28-3 including a 19-game winning streak.

Winning 26 games in a row in high school is a challenge for any team. Snowflake had dominated pretty much every opponent in their path since their only loss in an early season tournament. The one team who came the closest was Tuba City who Snowflake defeated 61-10 on Dec. 16.

Turns out that game was a precursor to the title game. Snowflake led by 4 after the first eight minutes but saw the Warriors battle back to just a 1-point deficit by the half, thanks to a banked in 3-point shot at the buzzer, which energized the 14,000 plus fans at Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Snowflake extended their lead back to 3 heading into the final eight minutes. Down the stretch in the fourth, Tuba City managed to make just enough free throws to get the lead, then a late game steal and final layup gave Tuba City the title by a final of 59-54.

Snowflake lost just two games all year, unfortunately one of those losses was their final game.

Still, they put up 30 wins in what will be remembered as a great season and a runner up in the Copper tournament championship by the Lady Lobos.

Lady Lobos open the season against the Bears

By Greg Perkins

The Lady Lobos opened their softball season with a homefield 11-4 win over visiting Coolidge.

The Bears started the scoring with a single run in the top of the first. That lead held until Snowflake took control with 4 runs in the third, then added 5 more in the fourth. Coolidge added 1 in the fourth and 2 in the fifth. The Lobos finished the game off with single runs in the fifth and sixth inning.

Snowflake finished with 12 hits and made just two errors. Coolidge countered with nine hits but made four errors.

Kloe Burden went 1 for 3 with a triple; Kashlynn Cantrell, 3 for 4; Kelsey Scarbrough, 2 for 4; Riley Perkins, 1 for 4; Paisley Solomon, 1 for 4; Brodie Cates, 2 for 3 with a triple; and Brittyn Butler was 2 for 4.

Kashlynn Cantrell pitched all seven innings giving up four runs on nine hits with one walk and nine strikeouts.

Snowflake will play at Tuba City on Wednesday this week, then will compete in the Wrangler Classic Softball tournament hosted by Wickenburg this weekend.

Lady Wildcats dominate in championship game, winning 66-34 over the Apaches



By Greg Perkins

The Joseph City Lady Wildcats came home state champions and it wasn’t even close. Going up against the Fort Thomas Apaches last Friday, Joseph City earned their second consecutive 1A State championship trophy with their 66-34 win in the final game on Friday at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix.

The Lady Cats led by just 4 after the first eight minutes but expanded that lead to 31-18 at the break. The lead grew to 46-28 after three, and in the fourth the Wildcats put the game away, outscoring the Apaches 20-6 over the final eight minutes.

Audrey Neill certainly did her part. The senior finished with 33 points, 11 rebounds and six steals in the title game. Sister and teammate Amber was also pivotal, with key points and big rebounds, along with Mackenize Jesmer whose size on top of their 1-2-2 trapping defense gave the shorter Fort Thomas team problems throughout the contest.

Joseph City had been in the state title game the previous three years in a row but lost the first two of those chances. Last year they won the title, and this year backed that up with a convincing win over second seeded Fort Thomas.

Top seeded Joseph City finished up the season with a very impressive 33-3 overall record.

Joseph City is one of the best 1A clubs in state history, having made four straight championship games. The Wildcats made four straight from 1976 to 1979 as a “C” level team. St. Michael went to four in five years (1997-2001), and Seligman participated in six title games within a decade (1987-1998).



Lady Roadrunners go 0-5 in tourney

By Greg Perkins

The Lady Roadrunners opened the softball season at the River Valley Tournament over the weekend. They faced five teams total going 0-5 in those five outings.

Their tournament began with a 12-3 loss to Fernley, Nevada, on Thursday afternoon. Jaycee Greer went 2 for 2, Elena Philpott was 1 for 2 and Heide Bahe went 1 for 1. Philpott took the loss in the circle, giving up 12 runs on 13 hits with one walk.

That evening they fell to Needles, Calif., by a final of 6-0. Philpott had two hits. Heide Bahe and Emily Sanchez each had doubles. London Gardner worked the circle giving up six runs on eight hits with two strikeouts and walked three.

Friday’s two games were a 7-1 loss to Faith Lutheran from Nevada. followed by a 6-0 loss to Doral Academy Red Rock from Nevada.

Saturday, they played one game, which ended with a 10-5 loss to Legacy, Nevada.

Holbrook will play at Ganado to start their regular season game on Monday. Beginning Thursday, they will play in the Joseph City Tournament in their final games before spring break.

Baseball season begins for the Winslow Bulldogs



By K. Conner

The Winslow Bulldogs started their baseball season at home when the Sand Devils of Page come to town on Monday. At 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, they meet up with the Hornets of Ganado. The Bulldogs will then travel to Buckeye to take on the Odyssey Institute Minotaurs on March 6, then to Waddell on March 9, to take on the ALA-West Foothills Guardians.

Competing in the Ben Franklin Pre-Season Classic in Queen Creek, the Bulldogs would win one and drop two.

In game one the Bulldogs would face the Chargers of Ben Franklin. In the first inning the Chargers would score 2 runs, then 3 runs in the second, two runs in the third and in the fifth inning 3 runs. Winslow would score their only run of the game when Matthius Dick would score on an Ehren Leonard RBI single. The final score was Ben Franklin 10, Winslow 1. Winslow would use two pitchers Eli Farris with four strikeouts and Kari Willie with one strikeout.

In their second game of the tournament they faced the Warriors of ALA-Ironwood in Ironwood. In the top of the first the Bulldogs would score 5 runs starting with a Brody Knight RBI single, then base runner Farris would score on a wild pitch, Knight would score on a wild pitch then Samuel Crisp would steal home and finally Dick would score on a wild pitch.

The Warriors would score 2 runs in the bottom of the first. In the bottom of the second the Warriors would take the lead, scoring 6 runs. In the top of third the Bulldogs would close the gap scoring 2 runs when, with two outs, Farris would have an RBI single and Leonard with an RBI single. In the top of the fifth the Bulldogs would score the final 2 runs of the game for the win when Michael Magallanes would steal home and then Farris would have an RBI single, for a final score of Winslow 9, ALA-Ironwood 8. Winslow used two pitchers Leonard with three strikeouts and closer Knight.

In their final game on the tourney the Bulldogs faced the 2A Kingman Academy Tigers. The Tigers would strike first, getting 1 run. In the top of the second the Tigers would add to their lead scoring 2 runs. In the bottom of the second the Bulldogs would get their only 2 runs of the game when Farris would score on a wild pitch and Leonard would have an RBI double. The game would stay close until the top of the fourth inning when the Tigers would score 5 runs. In the top of the fifth inning the Tigers would score 2 runs, making the final score Kingman Academy 10, Winslow 2. Winslow used two pitchers Alex Reid with four strikeouts and Dick.

Lady Bulldogs have their season opener

By K. Conner

The Winslow Lady Bulldogs started softball season on Monday in St. Johns where they faced the Lady Redskins. The next day they returned home to host the Lady Sand Devils of Page, then the Lady Hornets of Ganado will come to town at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 5. On March 9, the Lady Bulldogs will travel to Waddell to take on the ALA-West Foothills Lady Guardians.

This last weekend they played in the 34th Annual Dorado Classic in Tucson where they played in six games coming away with three wins and three loses.

On day one they played three games starting with the Lady Sabercats of Sabino in Tucson. In the top of the first the Lady Bulldogs started their scoring when Kendra Ybarra scored on a passed ball. Kyah Wilcox hit an RBI double, followed by a Jewel Ben RBI double. Then Cassius Cody would also get an RBI double. Cody would end up scoring on a sacrifice bunt by Jaylyn Hartman. Livia Palfy had an RBI single and was brought home on a 2-RBI double by Angela Salazar, who would come home on an error. Winslow would score a total of 9 runs in the inning.

In the bottom of the second inning the Bulldogs would add to their lead on a Amatiel Gonzales RBI single. In the top of the third the Sabercats would get on the scoreboard when they would cross the plate on a passed ball. In the bottom of the third the Bulldogs would score 5 runs starting with a 2-run home run by Salazar then a Cody 2-RBI triple and a Gonzales RBI single. In the top of the fourth the Sabercats would score 5 runs, for a final score of Winslow 15, Sabino 6.

In the second game of the day the Lady Bulldogs would face the very tough 2A Wilcox Cowgirls. In the bottom of the first the Bulldogs would score first with a Ben RBI single. In the top of the second the Cowgirls would find their bats scoring 7 runs. In the top of the third the Cowgirls would stretch their lead scoring an additional 4 runs. In the bottom of the fourth the Bulldogs would get their final runs of the game when they scored 3 runs with a Cody RBI single then an Emily Wilbanks RBI single and finally when Gigi Vasquez would steal home. In the top of the fifth the Cowgirls would score 8 runs, making the final score Wilcox 19, Winslow 4.

In their final game of the day the Lady Bulldogs would face the 4A Lady Firebirds of Eastmark of Mesa. In the top of the first inning the Lady Bulldogs would score 2 runs starting with a sacrifice fly by Wilcox which allowed Ybarra to score, followed by a Gonzales RBI single. In the bottom of the inning the Firebirds would score 3 runs to take the lead. In the top of the second the Bulldogs would retake the lead with a 2-run home run by Salazar. In the bottom of the inning the Firebirds would again regain the lead when they would score 4 runs. It would not be until the top of the fifth inning that the Lady Bulldogs would score 5 runs to overtake the Lady Firebirds starting with RBI double by Hartman then an Alexis Muchmore RBI single then a Salazar 3-run RBI triple, for a final score of Winslow 9, Eastmark 7.

On Feb. 27, the Lady Bulldogs would play two games starting with the 6A Gila Ridge Lady Hawks of Yuma. In the bottom of the first inning the Lady Hawks would strike first with 3 runs. In the top of the second the Bulldogs would tie up the game scoring 3 runs starting with Madi Breeze RBI single and a Ybarra 2-run RBI double. In the bottom of the second the Hawks would score 2 runs to briefly take the lead. In the top of the third the Bulldogs would retake the lead, scoring 6 runs beginning with Ben scoring on an error, Tatum Upshaw RBI on a Fielder’s Choice, Cody scoring on a passed ball, a Breeze RBI single and Wilcox’s 2-RBI double. In the top of the fifth the Bulldogs would add to their lead, scoring 3 runs with a 2-run home run by Wilcox and a Gonzales RBI single, for a final score of Winslow 12, Gila Ridge 5.

In the second game of the day, the Lady Bulldogs would get shutout by the 4A Mica Mountain Thunderbolts who would get 3 runs in the first, 2 runs in the second, 5 runs in the third and 2 runs in the fourth. There were three Lady Bulldogs who did get singles: Salazar, Tatum Upshaw and Muchmore. The final score was Mica Mountain 12, Winslow 0.

In their final game of the tournament the Lady Bulldogs would face the El Dorado Lady Aztecs of El Paso, Texas. In the bottom of the first inning the Aztecs would score 4 runs. The Bulldogs would end the inning with a double play from Ben to Tatum Upshaw to Maci Flores. In the top of the second the Lady Bulldogs would get their only run of the game on a Ben home run. The Lady Aztecs would score 6 runs in the second and 3 more runs in the third. The final score was El Dorado 13, Winslow 1.