

While Kentlake rises, Capital surprises

State trips assured, Falcons and Cougars meet in semis

DOUG DROWLEY; For the News Tribune

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All the Kentlake Falcons could talk about was how energizing the first day was at the West Central/Southwest District fastpitch tournament at Sprinker Recreation Center on Friday.

Tired or uplifted, both Kentlake and surprising Capital earned state tournament berths with two victories Friday. The Falcons and Cougars will meet at 2 p.m. today in one semifinal.

"We are excited to be in this situation," Kentlake coach Greg Kaas said. "This is our third (district) semifinal in three years. And it's our seventh trip to state in the school's nine years in existence."

The other 2 p.m. semifinal will feature Curtis, out of the South Puget Sound League South, and Greater St. Helens League champ Prairie. The Vikings dumped division rival Rogers, 6-4, in one quarterfinal while Prairie dumped Narrows League champion Wilson, 3-2.

Prairie built an early 3-1 lead over Wilson, then had to hold on. The Rams had a chance to tie it in the bottom of the sixth, trailing 3-2. With runners at first second and two outs, Alyssa Tachell grounded a ball to Falcons first baseman Samantha Burgara-Strain.

Burgara-Strain bobbled the ball, allowing Tachell to reach first safely. Meanwhile, Taylor Darneille never stopped running from second for Wilson. But Burgara-Strain recovered and fired home, where Darneille was tagged out to end the threat.

Kentlake earned its spot in the semis with a 10-0 victory over North Kitsap in the first round followed by a 9-1 thumping of SPSL North rival Auburn Riverside in the quarterfinals. Kentlake has lost one-run semifinals to Wilson and Olympia the past two years.

The Falcons evened the season series with the Ravens at 2-2, erasing an early 1-0 deficit with a nine-run outburst in the bottom of the fifth inning. The frame got rolling when Lauren Nielsen tripled down the left-field line to get the game even.

"I think Lauren's hit broke it open," Kentlake sophomore **Felicia Harris** said. "Once we scored, we just kept hitting."

The Falcons actually got only three hits in the fifth inning, but they took advantage of walks and some fielding miscues by Auburn Riverside. **Breanne Bilbrey broke it open with the second triple of the inning for Kentlake, driving home three runs.**

"Lauren and **Breanne** put some energy on the ball and just lifted us up," Kaas said. "Lauren's hit, especially, just really energized us. That was great."



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With an Auburn Riverside runner on base, Kentlake's **Felicia Harris** delivers a pitch at the 4A district fastpitch tournament Friday. Harris and the Falcons advanced to the semifinals with a pair of wins.

Kentlake 10 vs. North Kitsap 0

at Sprinker Rec. Center (Tacoma)

May 19, 2006

	1	2	3	4	5	6	-	R	H	E
Kentlake	1	0	0	1	5	3	-	10	10	1
North Kitsap	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	1	3

10-run rule

Highlights

Kelsey Reynolds and Kaylee Powell; Rachel Kramer, Aubun Duncan (6) and Melody Griffin. WP — Reynolds. LP — Kramer. Kentlake highlights — Breanne Bilbrey, 3-4, 2 RBI; Kaylee Powell, 1-1, RBI, 3B; Kelsey Reynolds, 6 IP, 0 hits, 0 runs, 9 Ks, 0 BBs. Records — Kentlake 22-4,

Kentlake 9 vs. Auburn Riverside 1

at Sprinker Rec. Center (Tacoma)

May 19, 2006

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	-	R	H	E
Auburn Riverside	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	-	1	4	2
Kentlake	0	0	0	0	9	0	x	-	9	8	2

Highlights

Amanda Fitzsimmons, Vashela Naranjo (5) and Vanessa Bryant; Felecia Harris and Kaylee Powell. WP — Harris. LP — Fitzsimmons. Auburn Riverside highlights — Kaity Sellers, 3-3, RBI. Kentlake highlights — Breanne Bilbrey, 3 RBI, 3B; Lauren Nielsen, 2-4, RBI, 3B; Kaylee Powell, 2-2. Records — Auburn Riverside 22-3, Kentlake 23-4.