



Stadium not satisfied with state

DOUG DROWLEY; For The News Tribune

Last updated: May 18th, 2008 01:26 AM (PDT)

It's a case of natural progression. Just ask the Stadium Tigers.

Friday, the Tigers earned their third consecutive trip to the Class 4A state fastpitch softball tournament. Saturday at Sprinker Recreation Center, Stadium won its first West Central District title.

And the Tigers did it by mowing through two of the district's perennial contenders. For the championship, Stadium beat Central Kitsap, 4-1, behind [Jordyn Kurtz's fourth complete-game performance of the weekend](#).

Kurtz scattered eight hits, and by the time she allowed a run to Central Kitsap (17-5) in the sixth inning, the outcome was pretty much decided.

["We definitely had a great weekend," Kurtz said. "Our bats came alive."](#)

Two years ago, the Tigers came through the back door to reach the state tournament. Last year, Stadium won its first two games and came within one out of beating Mountain View to reach the state title game.

Now, it has a district title.

["This is a surprise," Stadium coach Lynn Batcheldor said. "I feel like we've learned these little lessons. I didn't expect it to come this far. This is a hard tournament to win."](#)

Stadium (19-2) won against sophomore Kim Chase, who was throwing her first full game for the varsity. The Cougars pitcher was able to hang with the Tigers for all but one inning – the third.

During that pivotal inning, Stadium banged out four consecutive singles, including Rebecca Cable's two-run stroke to left-center field. Then Samantha Miller got hit by a pitch and Katelin Sisk drove in the third run with a single.

["That happens," Central Kitsap coach Bruce Welling said.](#)

Stadium added its fourth run when Heidi Wells hit a bases-loaded grounder to shortstop. The throw went to the plate, but Cougars catcher Jamee Turner couldn't handle it and Miller was safe.

["We already had gotten to state," Stadium catcher Sarah Glennon said. "So we thought,](#)

let's try to get some more. Let's have a fun time. And look where we got."

While the Narrows took the top two seeds, Kentlake (21-4) beat Wilson, 4-1, to take the third seed to state. Wilson (20-5) is the sixth seed.

The SPSL owned the consolation bracket Saturday.

Puyallup and Emerald Ridge eliminated the remaining Narrows teams in the consolation bracket. The Vikings beat Bellarmine Prep, 4-1, and the Jaguars defeated Olympia, 5-3. Puyallup went on to beat Kentwood, 6-2, to earn its first trip to the state tournament since 1998.

"It's been a long drought," Puyallup coach Tony Batinovich said. "Our seniors just stepped up. Those five have led us all year."

After its stunning loss to SPSL No. 10 seed Graham-Kapowsin in the first game Friday, Rogers came all the way back through the consolation bracket to claim a state berth. The Rams, No. 1 out of the SPSL, beat Emerald Ridge for the third time this season, 2-0, after defeating Tahoma earlier Saturday.

"It was that king-of-the-hill game again," Rogers coach Jaclyn Ramsey said. "We played the best defensive game we've played all year, I think. We only scored two, but two does it when they're not getting many hits."

The Rams, it seems, were confident even after the upset loss Friday.

"It worked out for us," Ramsey said. "My kids said don't worry about it, Jacy. We just like to make it interesting."

The semifinal games proved interesting in themselves.

The Cougars earned their spot in the title game when Jayme Beckon drove in courtesy runner Kim Chase with the only run against Wilson in the bottom of the seventh inning.

In the other semi, two-time defending district champ Kentlake took a 1-0 lead in the fourth. Stadium came storming back with five runs in the fifth. Kurtz shut down Kentlake after that to preserve a 5 to 1 Stadium victory.