

# Home run lifts Lady Waves past North, 1-0

BY THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

All it took was one swing of the bat Tuesday night to decide the outcome of the North Hardin-Meade County softball matchup in Brandenburg.

Freshman Annsley Adkisson belted a solo home run as the 11th-ranked Lady Waves (12-5) knocked off North Hardin, 1-0.

Senior Kaelyn Ledford and sophomore Veronica Roberts combined for 11 strikeouts, while North sophomore pitcher Brooklyn Carmickle had 14 strikeouts.

North Hardin (10-6) has been shutout in its last two games and will host Taylor County at 6 p.m. today in a rematch of last year's 5th Region Tournament final.

The Lady Waves host Male at 6 p.m. today.

**LARUE COUNTY 14, GREEN COUNTY 4.** The Lady Hawks improved to 2-0 in 18th District play with a home win Tuesday in a game called after five innings.



LaRue County's Brooklynn Skaggs rounds third and scores a run in Tuesday's win over 18th District rival Green County.

LaRue County (12-5) will host Caverna at 6 p.m. Friday in another 18th District contest.

**CENTRAL HARDIN 9, BETHLEHEM 3.** The visiting Lady Bruins scored

their most runs in the last nine games with a win Tuesday night.

Central Hardin is now 8-9 on the season.

Central Hardin plays three games

Saturday in the Mustang Stampede in Muhlenberg County.

**NELSON COUNTY 7, E'TOWN 2.** The Lady Panthers dropped to 6-10 on the season Tuesday night with a road loss.

Elizabethtown plays at 5:30 p.m. Friday at John Hardin in a 17th District game.

**BULLITT CENTRAL 12, FORT KNOX 8.** Freshman Casandra Alaimaleata had three hits and freshman Zlayah Mvondo drove in three runs Tuesday night for Fort Knox in a loss.

Fort Knox (2-7) plays Saturday at 10 a.m. against Presentation in the PCS Thunder Tournament at Springdale Community Church.

## BASEBALL

**FORT KNOX 17, VALLEY 14.** Senior Lincoln O'Coin drove in five runs Tuesday night and senior Eli Ortega, sophomore Hayden Blanton and freshman Andrew Jokinen had two hits and two runs batted in apiece as the Eagles won at home. Junior Elijah Brisco also knocked

in three runs.

Fort Knox (3-4) hosts Marion County at 6 p.m. today.

**LARUE COUNTY 11, HART COUNTY 1.** The 19th-ranked Hawks moved to 2-0 in 18th District play with a six-inning home win Tuesday night.

The Hawks (11-5) pounded out 12 hits, including a homer by junior Dekker Thomas to lead LaRue County to its 10th straight win over Hart County.

Junior Cole Miller had three hits, while Thomas, seniors Ryan Hughes and Brady Skaggs and sophomore Kasen McDowell added two hits each.

Thomas also scored three runs and drove in a pair.

Sophomore Braden Brooks pitched four innings with five strikeouts for the win. He allowed one hit.

The Hawks play at 10 a.m. Friday in the Class 2A state tournament in Owensboro against Harrison County.



JOHN RAOUX/Associated Press

Florida forward Alex Condon plans to return for his senior season as the Gators gear up for another championship run.

## Alex Condon puts off NBA for senior season at Florida

BY MARK LONG  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Forward Alex Condon is returning to Florida for his senior season, giving him a final opportunity to boost his 3-point shooting before making the jump to the NBA.

His decision that was announced Wednesday should improve the Gators' chances of winning another national championship. Coach Todd Golden's team already had been installed as the third betting choice to win it all in 2027, a 10-1 shot according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

Condon, a 6-foot-11 Australian, is the seventh player to re-sign with the Gators, following point guard Boogie Fland, shooting guard Urban Klavzar and role players Isaiah Brown, AJ Brown, Alex Lloyd

and Alex Kovatchev.

All-Southeastern Conference center Rueben Chinyelu is expected to do the same. The biggest unknown, though, is whether forward Thomas Haugh will join them for another year. Haugh, the team's leading scorer, is widely considered a lottery pick but is considering putting off NBA riches in hopes of winning another title.

The 2025 champs lost to Iowa in the second round of the NCAA Tournament last month.

Former Kentucky guard Denzel Aberdean plans to re-enroll at Florida to finish his degree and is petitioning the NCAA for a fifth year of eligibility. Aberdean spent his first three years at Florida before transferring to the Wildcats.

Golden clearly prefers the idea of filling his roster with players versed in his system and familiar with each other. Bringing back Condon gives the Gators someone to run the offense through next season.

Condon averaged 15.1 points, 7.5 rebounds and 3.6 assists as a junior while starting 34 of 35 games. He led the team in blocked shots (48) and turnovers (83). He had eight games with at least four turnovers, a stat he would like to reduce.

A more significant number for NBA teams: Condon was 9-of-53 shooting from 3-point range, a 17% clip that was a career low. Raising his shooting percentage from behind the arc is considered key to him becoming a first-round selection and maybe a lottery pick.

## Quaintance declares for NBA Draft after four games at UK

BY KEITH TAYLOR  
KENTUCKY TODAY

LEXINGTON — Jayden Quaintance became the second Kentucky player to declare for the NBA Draft.

Quaintance committed to Kentucky, then opted to sign with Arizona State following John Calipari's departure in 2024. After playing one season with the Sun Devils, Quaintance entered the transfer portal and signed with the Wildcats.

Quaintance, who is from Cleveland, spent most of last season rehabbing from a torn ACL injury and played in just four games before a swollen knee sidelined him during the last three months of the season.

"The last two years have

been the most challenging and rewarding of my life," he said in a social media post. "I experienced highs I could only dream of as a kid, and lows that are every athlete's worst nightmare. Through it all, I learned so much about myself and grew as a man. My college journey didn't end the way anyone hoped, but I'm thankful for the unwavering support along the way."

Despite limited action on the court, Quaintance added that his lone season at Kentucky won't be forgotten.

"Like you, I wanted more, but I hope Big Blue Nation continues to support me as I chase my dreams," he said. "I'll always bleed blue and proudly represent

the Wildcats."

Quaintance joins Malachi Moreno in declaring for the NBA Draft. A 7-footer who was Mr. Basketball in Kentucky in 2025, Moreno left open the option of returning to UK.



SECTION 00100  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

**Hardin County Water District No. 2**  
**Contract 1 – Lift Station Improvements**

Separate sealed bids will be received for the construction of Contract 1 – Lift Station Improvements by the Owner, Hardin County Water District No. 2, at 1951 West Park Road, PO Box 970, Elizabethtown, KY 42701 until 11:00 A.M. local time on Thursday, April 30, 2026. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Water District's Office. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Water District's Office at 11:00 A.M. local time on Thursday, April 23, 2026. Attendance is recommended but is not required.

Contract 1 consists of the liner repair and sluice gate repairs at Lift Stations No. 1, and liner repairs and piping improvements at Rose Run Lift Station. By-pass pumping will be required at both lift stations while the work is being performed.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations: **HARDIN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO. 2, 1951 WEST PARK ROAD, ELIZABETH-TOWN, KY 42701**; **KENVIRONS, INC., 770 WILKINSON BLVD., FRANK-FORT, KY 40601**

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained from Lynn Imaging, 328 Old Vine Street, Lexington, KY 40507 (859-226-5850) and www.lynnimaging.com upon payment of a nonrefundable price of \$100.00 for each set plus any shipping charges.

All bidders shall submit with their bid a Bid Bond in amount of not less than five (5) percent of the base bid. No Bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the scheduled Bid Opening Date. The Bidder awarded the contract shall execute a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond and shall furnish insurance as required, in the General Conditions. The Bidder awarded this contract shall complete this project within 90 calendar days after date of authorization to start work. Liquidated damages will be assessed at \$800 per calendar day.

Bidders must comply with the President's Executive Order Nos. 11246 and 11375, which prohibit discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. Bidders must comply with Section 3, Section 109, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act and the contract Work Hours Standard Act. Bidders must certify that they do not, and will not, maintain or provide for their employees any facilities that are segregated on a basis of race, color, creed, or national origin.

Any bid that is obviously unbalanced may be rejected. The Water District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive informalities.

Small, minority and women's businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to bid this project.

By: Michael Bell, Chairman  
Hardin County Water District  
No. 2

## Hit by foul ball, Oriole manager has broken jaw

BY NOAH TRISTER  
AP BASEBALL WRITER

BALTIMORE — With a big bruise on the right side of his face and several fractures, Baltimore Orioles manager Craig Albarnaz was back at the ballpark a day after being hit by a foul ball in the dugout.

"I can't blow my nose for six weeks, because one of the fractures is kind of like where my orbital bone is," he said before a 4-3 loss to Arizona. "If I blow my nose, it's going to go up into my eye."

Albarnaz said he has more than a half-dozen fractures in his cheek area and a broken jaw, but he was relieved to avoid surgery and said he doesn't need his jaw wired. Albarnaz joked that he might grab a Ravens helmet from his desk to wear in the dugout.

Albarnaz, in his first season as Baltimore's manager, was in the part of the dugout closest to the on-deck circle when Jeremiah Jackson's foul ball struck him in the fifth inning Monday night. He



STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH/Associated Press

The injury to Baltimore Orioles manager Craig Albarnaz, center, can be seen during this fifth-inning trip to the mound Tuesday. He was struck in the dugout by a foul ball.

returned to the dugout an inning later when Jackson hit a grand slam, but he ultimately ended up listening to the game on the radio en route to a hospital, where he says he remained until about midnight.

"I was trying to get back out there after my concussion protocol was fine, but they wanted me to get a CT scan," Albarnaz said. "I was trying to get it after the game, but obviously the medical team

has better judgment than I do."

He was back in the dugout Tuesday, but the healing process could take time.

"Six weeks of soft foods," Albarnaz said. "Can't do anything strenuous."

Including argue with umpires?

"Medically speaking, yeah I probably shouldn't," he said. "I think everything gets thrown out the window when that first pitch happens."

## LaMelo Ball snatches attention in Hornets' 1-point play-in win

BY STEVE REED  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — LaMelo Ball was so excited after delivering a knockout blow to the Miami Heat in Tuesday night's electric 127-126 play-in tournament win that he carried it over to his victory celebration, delivering two right-hand jabs to the oversized head of Hugo, the Charlotte Hornets' mascot.

In a wild sequence, Ball averaged two critical mistakes just seconds earlier by scoring on a driving right-handed layup with 4.7 seconds left, and Charlotte prevailed after Miles Bridges blocked Davion Mitchell's layup attempt on the other of the court as time expired. That set off a wild celebration on the court involving players, coaches and fans as the team earned its first home postseason win in a decade.

Ball celebrated at midcourt, flexing after the winning layup. Local television station WBTV caught video of the hyped point guard delivering two seemingly playful blows at Hugo before embracing teammate Coby White in a bear hug. Hugo simply walked away.

Ball was the center of attention all night, and it remained uncertain if he could face disciplinary action from the league ahead of Charlotte's next play-in game on Friday night after it appeared he took a swipe at the leg of Bam Adebayo early in the second quarter, causing the Heat center to fall on his back.

Ball was not called for a foul and play continued. Adebayo did not return because of a lower back injury, playing just 11 minutes.

Afterward, Miami coach

Erik Spoelstra said Ball should have been ejected.

Ball apologized after the game and said he was disoriented on the play after getting hit in the head seconds before on a drive to the basket.

The ninth-seeded Hornets play on the road against the loser of Wednesday's night game between Orlando and Philadelphia as they look to snap a 10-year playoff drought.

"We drew up a good play, I feel like. Just orchestrated it and it worked," Ball said of the winning shot.

Ball was not asked about punching the mascot after the game; the video of it had not surfaced at that point.

"The crowd was amazing," Ball said of the sold-out crowd. "Everyone who came out today was real loud, so it was a good crowd."

Charlotte was able to get to overtime after White hit an off-balanced 3-pointer from the corner with 10.8 seconds left to tie the game, and Miami's Tyler Herro missed a jumper at the end of regulation.

The Hornets surrendered a five-point lead in OT behind two Ball blunders.

After Herro drained a turnaround 3 in the corner, Ball turned the ball over at midcourt and then fouled Herro on a 3-point attempt. Herro made all three free throws to briefly give Miami a 126-125 lead, setting up Ball's theatrics on an inbound play.

"We just stayed together throughout it all, it was an up-and-down game. But that's what the play-in is about," Bridges said. "... We did a great job executing on offense, LaMelo did a great job getting a layup, and then we executed on defense on the other end."