



BRENDON D. MILLER Bluegrass Sports Nation

Boyd County's Alex Maynard scores what proved to be the winning run against Wolfe County in the state baseball tournament quarterfinals at Kentucky Proud Park on Sunday.

# State baseball tournament: Boyd County outlasts Wolfe County for spot in semifinals

BY JOSH MOORE  
*Special to the Herald-Leader*

Frank Conley felt no fear sending Alex Maynard home for what became the deciding run in Boyd County's 2-1 win over Wolfe County in the Clark's Pump-N-Shop Baseball State Tournament quarterfinals Sunday.

"When I saw that left fielder turn, I was sending him," said Conley, who has guided the Lions since 2019. "If he gets thrown out, he gets thrown out, but we're gonna push that."

Maynard scored from first on a deep shot to left by Brayden Coleman. By the time Jaxon Hollon corralled it for the Wolves, he kept it in hand to hold Coleman at second rather than send a rocket to home plate.

Coleman's RBI double was the second hit in as many at-bats for Boyd County after it managed just one through the first four innings of a game that started at 8:30 p.m. Saturday. The contest was suspended at 11:30 p.m. following three separate rain delays and play resumed at 1 p.m. Sunday with the Lions due up to bat in the bottom of the fifth, the score tied at 1-1.

Kris Evans, pitching in relief of Jayden Hollon, quickly retired the side for Wolfe County (24-11). Conner Davis, who entered for Boyd County starter Brody Biggs, gave up a hit before stranding a Wolf with a strikeout. Maynard knocked a one-out, full-count single into left before a liner to second brought Coleman to the plate with two outs. He put Boyd County (31-5) in front on the first pitch he saw.

"They were pretty frustrated last night, today they were a lot looser," Conley said. "When we play loose, we're a pretty good team."

Wolfe County, a tiny program making its first state tournament appearance, was fruitless in its first two bids to tie in the top of the seventh. Then Davis issued three straight walks, bringing freshman Landon McWhorter to the plate with full bags.

On an 0-2 count, McWhorter watched as a called strike three ended the Wolves' season.

"It's just a matter of knowing what I can control and not," Davis said of his nerves down the stretch. "I can't control that kid's swing, I can't control the umpire. I can just control my actions."

Davis' final pitch appeared to sail into the right batter's box; McWhorter's frustration over the final call led to his ejection from a game that was already over.

Some of that emotion carried over from the night before, when both squads were visibly annoyed by the frequent starts and stops. The head coaches, each restricted to the dug-out before postponement, were of different minds on

how to proceed Saturday night.

Boyd County preferred not to play in wet conditions and was fine moving to Sunday, when it would also stand to benefit from Davis' arm being available again after mandated rest. Wolfe County was fine to push through the rain and, under the impression that it would complete the game after persisting through a couple of delays, continued to throw Hollon, its No. 2 pitcher. During the third rain delay, Wolves head coach Benny Campbell lobbied to continue playing the game but the KHSAA made the final call.

"We were told earlier in the game that the game would be finished, so that's why we kept the kid out there," Campbell said. "We just kept trying to win."

Wolfe County had just tied the game before the final weather delay on Saturday. How things might have played out if play continued into early Sunday morning will be a hot-button topic for a while in Campton, but the Wolves will have a solid shot to make more history in 2026 They graduate just one senior (Brayden Wilson) and return eight juniors, including their top two arms (Max Whisman and Hollon) and top three hitters.

"We can get right back here next year but you're gonna have to work even harder, do more little things," Campbell said. "... We played two top-20 teams in the state and competed with both of 'em, with 12 kids. But it doesn't matter the number: I have 12 kids with the biggest hearts ever and that's all you can ask as a coach."

**McCracken County 9, South Warren 4:** Brady Thompson finished 3-for-4 with two RBI from the eight-hole to propel the Mustangs (31-8) to the semifinals.

Thompson, McCracken's 10th-best hitter by average on the season, connected for a two-out single in the bottom of the second that scored the Mustangs' first two runs. He grounded out in his next at-bat before singling in the fifth and eventually scoring as part of a three-run Mustangs frame. Thompson singled again in the sixth.

Held without a run for five innings, the Spartans (31-9) finally tagged Mustangs starter Caden Kern (seven hits, six strikeouts) for a pair in the top of the sixth. The 4th Region champs loaded the bases and added two more against reliever Noah Godwin in the next frame, and had them loaded again before a grounder to Godwin stopped their rally.

McCracken County, which has won the 1st Region every season since opening its doors in 2013, advanced to the semifinals for the eighth time in the last nine state tournaments.

**Pleasure Ridge Park 9, Spencer County 2:** A 2-2 game got away from the state tournament green-horns in the fifth, when PRP (28-6) sent three runs home in the top of the inning and followed it up with a rapid 1-2-3 sit-down as Spencer County (28-9) looked to answer in the bottom.

The defending champs put two more across in each of the last two innings, giving them a tournament-high 19 runs through two games. The result set up a semifinals showdown with McCracken County, whom PRP defeated in last year's state championship game.

Joey Dudeck struck out 12 of the 25 batters he faced through 6½ innings before Brayden Bruner got the last two outs for the Panthers.

**Trinity 6, Taylor County 2:** The first five batters reached for Trinity, allowing it to build a three-run lead from which the Cardinals (29-7) couldn't rally on Saturday. The Shamrocks became the first team to secure a spot in this year's semifinals.

Taylor County got two back in the immediate frame, but the Shamrocks (36-3) tacked on additional runs in the second, third and fourth to maintain a comfortable advantage. Zach Floyd was 2-for-2 with two RBI and a run for the winners.

## KHSAA BASEBALL STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

**All games at Kentucky Proud Park**

**Saturday**  
Trinity 6, Taylor County 2

**Sunday**  
Boyd County 2, Wolfe County 1 (completion of game that started Saturday)

McCracken County 9, South Warren 4  
Pleasure Ridge Park 9, Spencer County, 2

**Friday**  
**4 p.m.:** Trinity vs. Boyd County  
**7:30 p.m.:** McCracken County vs. Pleasure Ridge Park  
**Saturday**  
**7 p.m.:** Championship game



JEFF CURRY Imagn Images

Toronto Blue Jays catcher Alejandro Kirk hits a solo home run against the Cardinals on Monday in St. Louis.

## MLB

# Kirk leads Blue Jays to win over Cardinals

Field Level Media

Alejandro Kirk went 4-for-5 with a homer, and his RBI double in the 10th inning lifted the Toronto Blue Jays to a 5-4 victory over the Cardinals on Monday in St. Louis.

Jonatan Clase hit a game-tying homer in the ninth inning for the Blue Jays, who won for the 10th time in 12 games. Yariel Rodriguez (1-0) earned the victory despite blowing an eighth-inning lead, and Jeff Hoffman pitched a 1-2-3 bottom of the 10th for his 16th save.

Ivan Herrera hit a go-ahead, three-run homer for the Cardinals in the eighth inning. However, Ryan Helsley served up Clase's tying homer in the ninth before Phil Maton (0-2) permitted Kirk's decisive hit in the 10th.

**Braves 7, Brewers 1:**

Chris Sale allowed one run over seven-plus dominant innings and Atlanta hit three home runs to snap a seven-game losing streak with a decisive victory at Milwaukee.

Matt Olson and Eli White each hit a two-run homer and Ronald Acuna Jr. belted a solo homer for the Braves, who had lost 14 of their previous 17 games.

**Diamondbacks 8, Mariners 4 (11 innings):** Josh Naylor hit a walk-off grand slam with one out in the 11th inning as Arizona recovered from a blown lead in the ninth for a victory over Seattle in Phoenix.

Naylor's third hit of the game, the blast off Carlos Vargas (1-5), allowed the D-backs to break a three-game losing streak.

**Phillies 4, Cubs 3 (11 innings):** Brandon Marsh's RBI single capped a two-run, 11th-inning rally as host Philadelphia rallied to top Chicago.

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Otto Kemp recorded the first three hits of his major league career for the Phillies, who had lost their previous five games. Nick Castellanos also had three hits as Philadelphia handed Chicago its fourth loss in six games.

**Pirates 10, Marlins 3:** Adam Frazier and Andrew McCutchen each had three hits and an RBI, and Bryan Reynolds had two hits including a bases-clearing triple to help host Pittsburgh top Miami.

The Pirates extended their season-high winning streak to four in a row, and their run total matched their season high. Every starter in Pittsburgh's lineup had at least one hit. Pirates reliever Caleb Ferguson (2-0) threw two perfect innings.

**Reds 7, Guardians 4:** Jake Fraley socked a solo homer in a three-hit game while Wade Miley earned his first victory in nearly two years as visiting Cincinnati defeated Cleveland to claim the season series between the in-state rivals.

Miley (1-0) worked five innings, allowing three runs on five hits in his second appearance since joining the team on Wednesday following his recovery from Tommy John surgery performed in May 2024.

**Rays 10, Red Sox 8 (11 innings):** Jake Mangum went 4-for-6 with two RBIs for Tampa Bay to upend host Boston in the opener of a three-game series.

**Angels 7, Athletics 4:** Yusei Kikuchi allowed one hit over 7½ shutout innings and Jo Adell homered and had three RBIs as Los Angeles remained perfect against the Athletics with a win in Anaheim, California.

**Dodgers 8, Padres 7 (10 innings):** Andy Pagés' RBI double snapped a 10th-inning tie and lifted visiting Los Angeles to a win over San Diego.

**BONUS:** Subscribers will find coverage of yesterday's MLB games in the Edition at [kentucky.com/edition](https://kentucky.com/edition).

## Legals

### Legals & Public Notices

ALLISON BALL  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

### Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Linda Gorton, Mayor, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government The Honorable Kathy Witt, Fayette County Sheriff Members of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements Opinions**  
We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts and Disbursements - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Fayette County, Kentucky, and the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Fund Balances of the Sheriff's Operating Fund and County Fund with the State Treasurer - Regulatory Basis for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements. Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the receipts and disbursements of the Fayette County Sheriff and the receipts, disbursements, and fund balances of the Fayette County Sheriff's operating fund and county fund with the state treasurer for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles  
In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinions on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Fayette County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2023, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

**Basis for Opinion**  
We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards (GAS), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Program for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Fayette County Sheriff and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles  
As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Fayette County Sheriff on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

**Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**  
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statement, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Fayette County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement**  
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:  
• Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.  
• Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.  
• Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fayette County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.  
• Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.  
• Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Fayette County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we have identified during the audit.

The Honorable Linda Gorton, Mayor, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government  
The Honorable Kathy Witt, Fayette County Sheriff

**Members of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government**  
Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated March 27, 2025, on our consideration of the Fayette County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Fayette County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Allison Ball**  
**Auditor of Public Accounts**  
**Frankfort, KY**