

Wildcats win Border Wars again

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Keith Johnson, along with younger brother Jon, drove home the winning runs in the Border Wars Championship game.

Photo: Art Parker

By ART PARKER

The Edgewood Academy baseball team won the annual Border Wars Tournament again and defeated 4 good teams in the process. A big sixth inning opened the door for the Wildcats in a 15-4 victory over Bethlehem Christian Academy. Taylor Hawthorne slapped a pair of triples and drove in 4 runs for the Wildcats. Chase Laney picked up another win on the mound striking out 7 foes and only giving up 4 hits. Before the game was over the Wildcats had 7 players to collect 18 total hits for the squad.

The Wildcats kept pounding out the runs and smashed Dominion Christian 11-4 in their next Border Wars game. A two-run single by Hunter Glenn in the first inning, and a groundout by David Cayton, an RBI single by Hawthorne got things rolling for the Wildcats early. Christian

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Smith got the win for Edgewood. He allowed four runs over four innings. Edgewood built upon their lead with three runs in the third. A single by W.B. Hill ignited the offense, scoring Hunter Glenn. The Wildcats piled on two more runs in the top of the fifth. A sacrifice fly scored Jackson Tate to start the scoring in the inning.

In the third game of the tournament Edgewood's Caleb Sullivan tossed a no-hitter, in a 5 inning game shortened by the mercy rule, as the Wildcats crushed Gatewood 12-1. Eight runs in the first three innings demoralized Gatewood and it was downhill from there for the Wildcats. Edgewood scored 4 runs in the fourth inning when Glenn delivered a RBI, Jackson Tate cracked a double and another run came across when Daniel Green ground out.

Edgewood won the championship game by narrowly defeating a tough Glenwood team 2-1. The Wildcats depended upon the Johnson brothers, Keith and Jon, to drive home their runs. That's all that Hawthorne needed while going the distance on the mound. Hawthorne struck out 11 batters and scattered 5 hits on the day. "It was the best game Taylor has ever thrown," Edgewood coach Bobby Carr said of his pitcher. The Wildcats have won 15 in a row and stand at 18-2 for the season.

"We played some good teams over there. We played very well and I am pleased," Carr said. "We are right where we want to be. For the last three years we have had the same record after playing twenty games. Our team plays well as a group. I told them when the season started to just keep the bar high and remember what we do in our program. So far, so good."

The Edgewood Academy softball team had a big weekend and went undefeated in the Edgewood Invitational Round Robin Tournament. The team now stands at 16-6 for the season.

The Lady Wildcats defeated Hooper 7-6 with Hannahlee Harris and Kelsey Hartley collecting a pair of hits each while Katrina Harden notched a pair of RBIs. Hartley struck out 4 batters while on the mound for Edgewood. In an easy win over Bessemer, 6-0, Katrina Wilson and Kallie Johnson provided plenty offensive punch and Harris was the winning pitcher. The Lady Wildcats slipped past Coosa Valley 7-5 with Kaylie Courson swinging the big stick and driving home 3 runs. Harley fanned batters in 4 innings of work. Edgewood wrapped things up with a big 11-0 win over Monroe Academy. Harris notched another win on the mound and collected 2 hits in the batter's box. Caity Jo Lee had 2 hits and Kallie Johnson drove home a run.

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Edgewood will play in the Monroe Academy tournament next weekend and then hit the road for the Warrior Classic, March 27-28, in Murfreesboro, TN.