

**JUNE 11, 2001
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

STATE BASEBALL THIS WEEKEND

The State Baseball Finals are set for Thursday and Friday at Cliff Hagan Stadium on the University of Kentucky campus.

Thursday's semifinal action gets underway at 3:30 p.m. when Semi-State 1 Champion Webster County (21-14) takes on Semi-State 2 Champion and last year's state runner-up Ballard (34-3-1). Semi-State 3 Champion Franklin County (31-11) takes on Semi-State 4 Champion Boyd County (31-6-1) at 7:30 p.m.

Friday's State Championship is scheduled for a 7 p.m. start.

Tickets to the event are general admission and \$5 each. Those six and under will be admitted free. Gates will open at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Thursday and 6 p.m. on Friday.

STATE BASEBALL FINALS PRESS BOX

To receive updates during the State Baseball Finals, contact a member of the KHSAA staff in the Press Box at (859) 257-8027.

STATE BASEBALL FINALS RESULTS

Results from each of the three games from the State Baseball Finals will be posted on the Association website upon conclusion of the game. Complete box score results will be available. To view results, log on the website at www.khsaa.org/baseball.

NORTH LAUREL CAPTURES FAST PITCH TITLE

After suffering back-to-back losses in last year's championship, North Laurel made amends and rallied for a 2-1 win over Owensboro Catholic in the seventh KHSAA State Fast Pitch Softball Tournament held last weekend at Skyview Park in Jeffersontown.

The Lady Jags, ranked No. 1 in the Coaches Association Poll since April of 1998, had a tough road to the title. North Laurel won a hard-fought 3-2 game in its opener over Greenwood. A 5-1 win over Lone Oak in the second round earned North a rematch against last year's State Champion DuPont Manual.

Last year, DuPont Manual came out of the consolation bracket and defeated the Lady Jags twice, by 1-0 scores to win the state championship. This year, North posted a 2-1 win and then a 4-0 win over Owensboro Catholic to advance back to the championship game.

In a rematch against Catholic, North Laurel fell behind 1-0 in the top of the sixth inning. The Jags rallied for two runs in the bottom of the sixth and then held the Aces scoreless in the top of the seventh to secure the win.

For complete tournament lines cores and Automated Scorebook box scores from the winner's and consolation bracket finals as well as the championship, log on to the KHSAA website at www.khsaa.org/fastpitchsoftball.

FAST PITCH ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Haleigh Ashworth (Owensboro Catholic), Stephanie Coomes (Owensboro Catholic), Ashley Sizemore (North Laurel), Heather Dufour (North Laurel), Heather Freudenberger (DuPont Manual), Helena Hubbard (North Laurel), Jessica Bradley (Middlesboro), Elizabeth Church (Owensboro Catholic), Becky Nix (Owensboro Catholic), Amber Janneck (Boone Co.), Kathy Church (Greenwood), Leigh Ann Collins (Lone Oak).

FAST PITCH MVP – Becky Abner (North Laurel).

HOW TO GET INFO IN THE WEEKLY RELEASE

The KHSAA requests assistance from member schools and media outlets to aid in the compilation and dissemination of notes of interest, coaches association polls and upcoming events in all sports. Information should be forwarded to the KHSAA, attention Butch Cope, by 1 p.m. (ET) on Monday of each week. You may e-mail (bcope@khsaa.org) the information or fax it to the KHSAA at (859) 293-5999. Information will be reviewed and published at the discretion of the Association. The KHSAA strives to publicize all of its sports to the fullest extent and appreciates any and all assistance.

REMAINING KHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 14-15 - Baseball - UK Cliff Hagan Stadium, Lexington

THE NEXT NEWS RELEASE WILL BE MONDAY, JUNE 18