



2019 State Softball Championships

The Rams Win in Grand Fashion

The Rio Rancho Rams finished the 2019 season with the blue trophy in hand. The Rams won the Class 5A State Softball Championship presented by the Cates Team at RBC Wealth Management. Rio Rancho beat Carlsbad 14-4 in the final, it was their second win over the Cavegirls during the tournament.

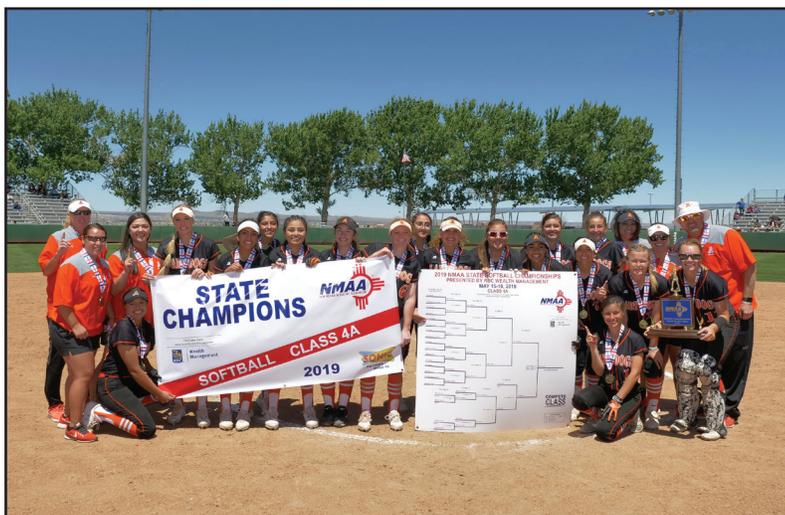
After a scoreless first inning, Carlsbad got on the board with 3 runs in the top of the second. Rio Rancho didn't answer until the bottom of the third. Following back-to-back triples by Savana Martinez and Briana Martinez, the Rams put up five runs on five hits before the inning was over. Carlsbad made it a 5-4 game after adding a run of their own in the fourth inning, but the Rams added some more insurance to their total. Rio Rancho scored four more runs in the bottom of the fourth, highlighted by a three-run homer by Briana Martinez to give the Rams a 9-4 lead. Rio Rancho didn't even need the full seven innings to end this one. In the sixth inning, the Rams exploded offensively again. Kendra Levesque led off the inning with a walk. Jesse Garcia's single moved Levesque around. Kianna King then drove in a run with a double of her own to make it 10-4. With the bases loaded, Briana Gallegos delivered the final blow with a grand slam giving the Rams a 14-4 run-rule win for the championship. It's Rio Rancho's fourth state softball title.



It's Back to Back State Title for Artesia

Artesia scored in six of the seven innings on their way to winning the 2019 Class 4A State Softball Championship presented by the Cates Team at RBC Wealth Management. The Bulldogs beat Silver in the title game by a final count of 10-2.

Top seeded Artesia got on the board first in the first inning with a solo home run to center field by Ashley Skinner. Her teammate, Melody Payne, made it a 2-0 game



with a solo home run to left field the following inning. Artesia took a 4-0 lead in the third inning when Skinner drove in two more runs with a double to the gap in right-center. Silver got on the board in the third to make it 4-1, but they could never get any closer. Skinner led off the fifth inning with a triple and Rylee Crandall knocked her in with a single a couple pitches later. Artesia proceeded to put up three runs in the fifth, followed by two in the sixth and one in the seventh to reach their 10-run total.

It's the second straight state title for head coach Sandra Pulido and Artesia's sixth overall.

Cobre Secures First Softball Title since 1990

It took two games to decide the 2019 NMAA Class 3A State Softball Champion, as Tularosa and Cobre matched up. Cobre needed to win game one to force an IF game, which they did 5-2. In game two, Cobre squeaked out a 12-11 win to capture the 2019 NMAA State Softball Championship presented by the Cates Team at RBC Wealth Management.

The Indians now have 11 state softball titles in school history, but this was the first since the 1990 season.

Cobre was lead at the plate by junior Dysis Licht, who was 3-for-4 on the day with two doubles and a single, including a walk and four RBI.

The game was a back-and-forth battle between the two schools, as Tularosa held a 6-4 advantage after three complete innings. Cobre tied the game in the top of the fourth, scoring three runs, but the Wildcats scored one in the bottom of the inning to give them the one run advantage at 7-6.

Both teams scored three in the fifth, making it 10-9 Tularosa. In the final inning of play, the Indians took a 12-10 lead, scoring three runs. The Wildcats tried to answer in the bottom of the inning to keep their season alive but could only manage one run, as Cobre hoisted the blue trophy with a 12-11 victory.



Loving wins 17th Blue Trophy

For the first time since 2014, the Loving Falcons hoisted the blue trophy at the 2019 NMAA State Softball Championships presented by the Cates Team at RBC Wealth Management. The Falcons defeated Eunice 16-4 to capture the school's 17th state title in softball.

The Falcons took an early 1-0 in the top of the first as Frank Hernandez, who singled to start

the inning scored on a single by teammate Faith McDonald. Loving maintained a 1-0 advantage into the bottom half of the third, when Eunice took the lead back at 2-1. After three singles to start the inning, a double by Neomi Tippet drove in two runs.

The Falcons answered with three runs in the top half of the fourth to take back the lead at 4-2 but the Cardinals again responded with two more runs in the bottom of the inning as the score was tied at 4-4 after four.

Over the next two innings, the Falcons put up 12 runs on the Cardinals, securing the title. Loving's pitcher Lorisa Martinez allowed four runs on nine hits and one walk in the victory.

