



2022 State Softball Championships

Class 5A

It's one more blue for the blue. Carlsbad beat Centennial 13-6 to win the 2022 Class 5A State Softball Championship presented by The Cates Team at RBC Wealth Management. It's Carlsbad's first state championship since 2010 and 17th overall.

Top-seeded Carlsbad (30-1) built a 2-0 cushion in the first, but Centennial (25-8) took a 4-2 lead on a three-run homer by Amanda Valles in the bottom half of the inning. The two teams went run-for-run and found themselves tied 5-5 in the fifth. Carlsbad snapped the 5-all deadlock with a go-ahead RBI single from junior Aislenn Whitzel. Later in the fifth, Faith Aragon broke it open with a three run double as part of a five-run inning. In the sixth, Haiven Schoolcraft blasted a three-run homer to open it up to a 13-5 lead.

The victory was an emotional win for head coach Brian Santo who spent 70 days hospitalized last fall with COVID, 36 of them while intubated.



Class 4A

There's a first time for everything and for Gallup softball that first came in 2022. The Gallup Bengals shutout Lovington 8-0 to win the 2022 Class 4A State Softball Championship presented by The Cates Team at RBC Wealth Management. It's Gallup's first state softball title.

Gallup (24-7) reached the final for the first-time last season. In 2022, pitcher Seniah Haines helped carry her team to the



blue trophy. Haines struck out six and only gave up three hits. It was Gallup's second win over Lovington (23-9) this postseason. The Bengals scored 4 of their 8 runs in the first inning. Senior Taylor Morgan led the way offensively with a double and home run in her first two at-bats.

Class 3A

2022 will be a memorable year for Robertson High School for more than one reason. With the largest wildfire in state history still burning near their backyard, the Cardinals overcame obstacles to win a state title for their school and community. Robertson beat district rival Santa Fe Indian School 8-1 to take the 2022 Class 3A State Softball Championship presented by The Cates Team at RBC Wealth Management.

After a scoreless first inning, Robertson (25-4) fell behind to the Lady Braves (20-12) 1-0 in the second. Alexis Pacheco broke a 1-all tie with a two-run single in the fourth inning to give the Cardinals the lead for good. Ariana Archuleta would give Robertson a 6-1 lead with a bases clearing double later in the inning. Robertson would score their final two runs in the fifth.

It's the program's first state title in its first championship appearance. Robertson High School capped off a very successful school year with state championships in football, volleyball, boys and girls basketball, and now softball.

Class A/2A

In a rematch of the 2021 state title game, Loving turned the tables on Tularosa and took home the 2022 Class A/2A State Softball Championship presented by The Cates Team at RBC Wealth Management. Loving beat the defending state champs 8-2 to win their 18th softball championship, more than any other program in state history.

The Falcons (23-5) never trailed against the Wildcats (21-5), scoring two runs in the first inning. Sophomore Alisha Martinez made it a 3-0 game with a solo home run in the third. Loving would add another run in the fourth and four more in the fifth. Loving outscored their opponents 41-8 in four playoff games this postseason. It's their second state title since 2019.

