



2023 State Softball Championships

Carlsbad Makes It Back-To-Back State Titles

Carlsbad needed a little extra effort on Championship Saturday, but the Cavegirls pulled off the repeat feat in 2023. Carlsbad shutout Piedra Vista 6-0 to win the Class 5A Title at the New Mexico Gas Company Energy Efficiency Programs State Softball Championships. Piedra Vista (29-5) beat Carlsbad 3-2 earlier in the day to force the "if" championship game.



The Cavegirls (29-3) scored their first run of the game in the opening inning and never looked back. A 4-run third inning gave Carlsbad the insurance they would need down the stretch. Senior Faith Aragon threw a complete game shutout and also went 2-4 at the plate. Aragon finished the season with a 0.65 ERA, 15 wins and 180 strikeouts. It's the 18th title overall for the Carlsbad program.

Silver Is Back With The Blue

For the first time since 2018, Silver High School ended the softball season with the blue trophy in hand. Silver beat defending state champion Gallup 3-2 in the final game to win the Class 4A Title at the New Mexico Gas Company Energy Efficiency Programs State Softball Championships.

Silver (27-4) scored the first run of the game in the bottom of the first, but the Lady Bengals (22-11) responded with two of their own in the next at-bat. Gallup seemed in control most of the game, holding onto their 2-1 lead with two innings to go. In the bottom of the sixth, Silver's Maria Ruelaz hit the



game-tying RBI single to make it 2-2. Then Larissa Rueda drove in the go-ahead run to give Silver the 3-2 lead. Ruelaz went 3-3 at the plate on the day. It's the 13th overall state championship for Silver.

Robertson Cardinals Win Back-To-Back State Titles

The Class 3A championship matchup in 2023 was the same as 2022 and the second verse was the same as the first. The Robertson Cardinals beat Santa Fe Indian School 10-4 to win the Class 3A Title for the second straight year at the New Mexico Gas Company Energy Efficiency Programs State Softball Championships.

Robertson pitcher Ariana Sanchez and the Cardinals were able to beat the Lady Braves in back-to-back days during the tournament, taking down SFIS 8-4 on Thursday afternoon. In Friday's Championship matchup, SFIS (25-3) jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first, but the Lady Cardinals (25-5) responded with 3 runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning. Robertson added another run in the second and third innings to make it a 5-2 game into the fourth. A 3-run put it out of reach. SFIS senior Aubrianna Herrera hit a two-run homer in the sixth to cut the lead in half and make it an 8-4 game, but Robertson sophomore Taylor Quintana hit a two-run triple in the bottom of the sixth to cap the scoring at 10-4. Robertson scored 56 runs in four games during the tournament.



Loving Falcons Take The Title For Second Straight Year

Once again, the softball season ends with Loving High School on top of Class A/2A. The top-seeded Falcons (22-5) took down 2-seed Tularosa (22-9) twice by scores of 15-2 and 13-1 to win the Title at the New Mexico Gas Company Energy Efficiency Programs State Softball Championships. It was the 3rd year in a row these two teams have met in the final. Loving has reached the final in each of the last seven state tournaments.

Loving and Tularosa squared off three times over a two-day period. The Wildcats shutout the #1 team on Thursday before squaring off again on Friday morning in the championship round. Loving blasted Tularosa by 13 runs to force an "if" game for the championship. Loving outscored their opponents 74-6 during their tournament run. It's the 19th overall state title for Loving.

