



2024 Nusenda Credit Union State Baseball Championships

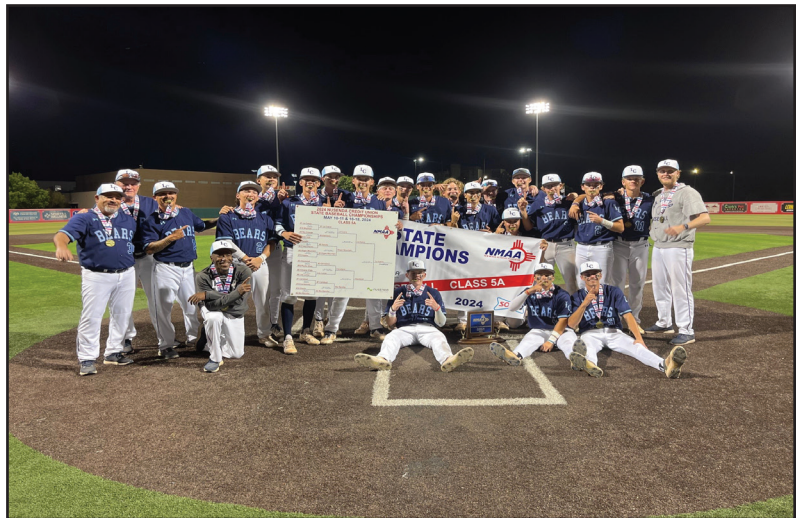
La Cueva Bears win 2024 Baseball Title in Thriller

The La Cueva Bears (27-3) captured the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State 5A Baseball Championship over the Cleveland Storm (24-7), 3-2, at Santa Ana Star Field on the University of New Mexico campus.

This was the Bears' first title since 2021 and the school's 12th overall.

La Cueva took an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first on an RBI single. The Storm then tied the game in the top of the third, on a fielder choice. The score remained tied over the next two innings of play.

Cleveland took the lead in the bottom of the sixth following a triple and an RBI single to give the Storm a 2-1 advantage. Then in the bottom of the seventh, the Bears loaded the bases with two outs. The Storm then walked the tying run in and the winning run, as the Bears captured the 5A Baseball Championship.



Grants Captures First State Baseball Title

The Grants Pirates (25-6) won the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State 4A Baseball Championship over the Artesia Bulldogs (17-14), 5-3. This was the Pirates' first-ever state title in the sport of baseball and their first appearance in the championship game.

Artesia opened the game, scoring one-run off one hit to take a 1-0 advantage. Grants responded in the bottom of the first with two runs on three hits to take a 2-1 lead. The Bulldogs scored two more in the bottom of the second to take the lead back at 4-2, off two hits and two Grant errors.

The Pirates defense forced a 1-2-3 inning in the top of the third, before scoring their fifth run of the game in the bottom half, making it 5-3. It would be all the Pirates needed as they retired 11 of the next 14 batters by Artesia, marking the first baseball title in school history.



Robertson Caps Off Season with 3A Baseball Championship

The Robertson Cardinals (19-11) captured the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State 3A Baseball Championship over the West Las Vegas Dons, 12-8, in an in-town championship game at the Santa Ana Star Field on the University of New Mexico campus.

This was the second state title in baseball for the Cardinals and the first since 2019.

It was a back-and-forth battle between the in-town rivals as West Las Vegas jumped out to an early 4-0 in the top of the first. Robertson would add one in the bottom of the inning, as the Dons held the 4-1 advantage after one. The Cardinals' defense settled in holding the Dons to a 1-2-3 inning in the top of the second. Robertson then scored seven runs in the bottom of the second to take an 8-4 lead off six hits.



The Cardinals added one in the third and three more in the fourth to take a 12-4 lead. West Las Vegas would score three in the fifth and one in the sixth, but it was too little too late, as Robertson lifted the 3A Blue trophy.

Menaul/Oak Grove defeats Eunice in 2A Baseball Title Game

The Menaul/Oak Groves Owls (22-5) in their short program's history captured 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State 2A Baseball Championship over the Eunice Cardinals (12-12), 10-0, at the Santa Ana Star Field on the University of New Mexico campus.

This game was all Menaul/Oak Grove from start to finish, as the Owls scored four in the bottom of the first, four more in the bottom of the fourth and two in the bottom of the fifth.

The Owls' pitching and defense allowed just four total hits, while collecting 10 runs on 10 hits.



Melrose Back on Top of 1A Baseball

The Melrose Buffaloes (14-6) captured back-to-back State 1A Baseball title with a 9-1 win over the Logan Longhorns (17-5) at the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State 1A Baseball Championship. This was the second straight title for the Buffaloes in baseball and the fourth in school history.

The Buffaloes opened the scoring with one run in the top of the first, to take a 1-0 advantage. Neither team could push a run across home plate over the next two innings as the score remained 1-0, Melrose after three.



Melrose then added one run in the fourth and one in the fifth to go up 3-0. Logan responded in the sixth with a run and looked to make a comeback, but the Buffaloes tallied five runs in the bottom of the seventh to take a commanding 9-1 lead. Logan went down 1-2-3 in the bottom of the seventh, as Melrose lifted the blue trophy for the fourth time.