



2026 Nusenda Credit Union State Softball Championships

Loving Wins 22nd Overall Softball Title

Loving continued its dynasty Saturday, defeating Hozho Academy 5-1 in seven innings to capture the 2026 Nusenda Credit Union A-2A State Softball Championship.

The victory marked the fifth consecutive state title for Loving (22-3) and the 22nd championship overall in program history.

Loving took control early, scoring once in the second inning before adding two runs in the fifth and two more in the sixth to pull away. Hozho Academy, which finished the season 27-5, managed just one run on five hits against Loving pitcher Braylee Hunt.

Hunt was dominant in the circle, striking out seven batters while keeping Hozho Academy's offense in check throughout the championship matchup.

With another title secured, Loving further cemented its place as one of New Mexico's premier softball programs.

West Las Vegas Earned 3A Softball Crown

West Las Vegas captured the 2026 Nusenda Credit Union 3A State Softball Championship on Saturday, edging Cobre 2-1 in seven innings to claim its second state title in the past three seasons.

The Lady Dons (22-3), who last won the championship in 2024, responded after



falling behind 1-0 early in the game. West Las Vegas broke through in the third inning, scoring twice to take the lead for good.

Malie Satete delivered a dominant performance in the circle for the Lady Dons, striking out 10 batters while allowing just three hits across seven innings. Satete kept the Cobre offense off balance throughout the game as West Las Vegas held on to secure the championship.

Cobre finished the season 19-10 after making a strong postseason run to the title game.

Artesia Defeats Aztec in an 'IF' Game to Claim 4A Title

Artesia reclaimed the top spot in Class 4A softball Saturday, defeating Aztec 8-3 in seven innings to win the 2026 Nusenda Credit Union 4A State Softball Championship.

The title was the eighth in program history for the Bulldogs (27-5) and their first state championship since 2021.

The championship game came after Aztec forced a decisive winner-take-all matchup earlier in the day with a 6-3 victory over Artesia, setting up the final showdown between the two teams.



Artesia wasted little time taking control, erupting for four runs in the first inning. The Bulldogs added one run in the third, two more in the fourth and another in the fifth to build a comfortable lead.

Shortstop Jenna Whitmire led the offense going 3-for-4 at the plate, recording two singles and a double as Artesia powered its way to the championship victory.

Aztec finished the season 23-7 after battling through the bracket and forcing the decisive final game.

Mayfield Caps Off Tremendous Season in 5A Championship Game

Mayfield made program history Saturday, dominating in-town rival Las Cruces 20-2 in five innings to win the 2026 Nusenda Credit Union 5A State Softball Championship.

The victory marked the first softball state championship for the Trojans (29-2), who capped off a remarkable season with an offensive explosion in the title game.



After building momentum early, Mayfield broke the game open in the fourth inning with seven runs and never looked back. The Trojans overwhelmed the Bulldawgs (23-7) at the plate on their way to the run-rule victory.

Shortstop Ausaundra Roberto delivered a historic performance, blasting three home runs in the championship game to lead the Mayfield offense. Roberto's power surge helped fuel one of the most dominant title-game performances in recent state tournament history.

Las Cruces finished the season 23-7 after advancing to an all-Las Cruces championship matchup, but Mayfield proved too much to handle as the Trojans celebrated their first state crown.