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## 'Cats Take Third In SEMO Conference Tourney

APRIL 30TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

'Cats Take Third In SEMO Conference Tourney

*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

CAPE GIRARDEAU - An early offensive explosion by the Dexter Bearcats would prove to be the deciding factor in the third place contest of the 2012 SEMO Conference tournament; the 'Cats plated seven runs in the first inning on the Poplar Bluff Mules.

The 'Cats rebounded well after a tough against top-seed Notre Dame on Saturday afternoon in a game that could have easily been won.

"We picked ourselves up well today after that difficult loss, and we came out swinging and played a good game," head coach Brian Becker said after the win. "I'm awfully proud of our kids. They came out on a mission and jumped on these guys early. We wanted third place pretty bad, and they came out swinging the bats well, and Owen did a good job after the first inning and settled in well."

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right-hander struck out two and walked four in the 118 pitch outing.

"They had some hard hit balls against [Owen], but our defense played well behind him," Becker noted. "Whenever Owen needed a good pitch to come out of a tough situation, he made that pitch. I'm very proud of him. He had another good outing today."

The bottom half of the Bearcat lineup carried most of the brunt of the offensive attack in the contest. D.J. Dowdy (2-4, 2 R, 1 RBI, 2 K), Josh Overall (2-3, 2 R, 2 RBI, 1 BB, 1 K), and Cody Neldon (3-4, 1 R, 3 RBI) all had multi-hit outings. Dowdy had his third-straight two hit game, while Neldon had his first multi-hit game in seven contests, and just his second of the season; Overall extended his hit streak to seven games.

"Josh is starting to swing the bat; he was four-for-eight going in the tournament going into this game, and he's starting to swing the bat right now," Becker said of his second baseman. "If we can get him and some of these other guys that have been struggling a bit to start going, and it appears some of them are starting to turn it around, that'll do nothing but good things for us."

The 'Cats jumped on Poplar Bluff starter Jonathan Pratt early for seven runs, six hits, and three walks; Pratt exited the game after 2/3 of an inning. The Mules would use four pitchers in the contest, with Lucas Tibbs closing out the final three and 2/3 innings of the game.

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when Brad Potts drove a single into right field to score Logan Northern on a close play at the plate.

Dexter put together another big inning in the fourth, putting up four runs on two bases-loaded walks and a single to deep left by Neldon. The Bearcats would be held scoreless in the fifth inning before another hard-hit single by Neldon in the sixth brought Overall across home plate for the thirteenth run of the game for Dexter.

With just three more games before the Class 3, District 1 Tournament, Becker noted that now is as good a time as any for his squad to heat things up.

"We're picking a good time of the year to start getting hot; I don't think this team has peaked yet," he said. "We still have a lot of good baseball ahead of us, and hopefully we can come out this weekend and have a good showing against Cooter and Clearwater, two good teams, and we can build a win streak heading into Districts."

The 'Cats will be in action again on Saturday (May 5) when they host Cooter and Clearwater in a doubleheader; the 'Cats open the day with a 10:00 a.m. contest against Cooter, and will face off against Clearwater at 2:00 p.m.

***Photos Above:***

***Top: The team hoists their third-place trophy after Monday's big win over Poplar Bluff.***

***Middle: Owen Flowers threw his fourth complete game of the season; he only had two strikeouts, but great defense behind him helped limit the Mules' offense.***

***Bottom: Josh Overall fires a ball to first base after making the tag for a 4-3 double play.***

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## Bearcat Golf Sends Three To Sectionals

APRIL 30TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Bearcat Golf Sends Three To Sectionals

*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

FARMINGTON - The Bearcat golf team had a solid showing at last week's District match, played at Crowne Pointe Golf Club.

As a team, the Bearcats' 394 was good enough to land fifth place in the 11 team field; the 'Cats narrowly missed out on fourth place, taken by Farmington with a 390 stroke effort.

Notre Dame finished first with a 330 team score.

The Bearcats will advance three players to the sectional round of the post-season: senior Cody Stevens (90), sophomore Myles Urhahn (97), and freshman Drake Mitchell (101).

The 'Cats are back on the course today (Monday, April 30) in the SEMO Conference match, played at Dalhousie Golf Club in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

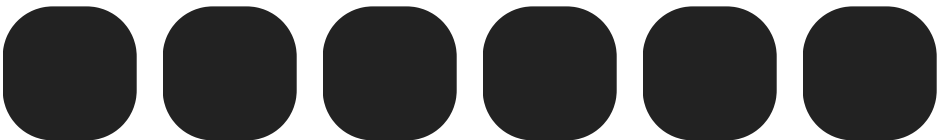
**RESULTS - Team: 1. Notre Dame, 330; 2. Sikeston, 338; 3. Perryville, 388; 4. Farmington, 390; 5. Dexter, 394; 6. Ste. Genevieve, 410; 7. North County, 428; 8. Salem, 429; 9. Potosi, 462; 10. Fredericktown, 472; 11. Central (Park Hills), 488.**

**RESULTS - Bearcats: Cody Stevens, 90; Myles Urhahan, 97; Ryan Joyner, 106; Drake Mitchell, 101; Brandon Strickler, 141.**

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# 'Cats Drop Heartbreaker With Notre Dame

APRIL 29TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

'Cats Drop Heartbreaker With Notre Dame

*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

CAPE GIRARDEAU - With two swings of the bat in the bottom of the sixth inning, the Dexter Bearcats' four run lead was erased and by the Notre Dame Bulldogs in the semifinal round of the SEMO Conference tournament.

"That was as tough a loss as you can have right there. We had the number one team, both in this tournament and in the state, beat," head coach Brian Becker said. "We just let 'em off the hook. That's what we talked about after the game: we hope we get another shot at them, but next time we won't let them off the hook."

The 'Cats held a comfortable 9-5 lead over the top-seeded Bulldogs going into the sixth inning; starter Brad Potts (5.1 IP, 9 H, 3 ER, 4 K, 2 BB) was still on the mound, but gave up a one-out walk to Justin Landawee. Becker opted to make a pitching change, and put Jordan Miller on the mound.

Miller struggled to find the strike zone, and after two walks and the heart of Notre Dame's lineup coming up, Becker opted to put Josh Overall on the mound with one out and the bases loaded.

Overall's first pitch to Cody Heisserer (1-4, 4 RBI, 1 R) went over the left-center fence for a grand slam. Overall's third pitch, this time to Jesse Schott (4-4, 4 RBI, 3 R, 2 HR), resulted in a deep solo shot to left-center to give the Bulldogs a 10-9 lead that they would hold for the rest of the game.

Despite the tough loss, Becker was pleased with his pitching staff's effort throughout the contest.

"Potts threw outstanding; he was a little shaky in the first inning, giving up that leadoff

double, but after that he settled in and did a great job," he said. "You have to give credit to Notre Dame; they had the right hitters up at the right time, and they knocked a couple out of the park in a row on us. Josh can't hang his head about that; he's got to pick his head back up and keep going. He might wind up on the mound again Monday, so he's got to put this behind him real quick."

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the plate early in the game. Notre Dame ace Heisserer (2.2 IP, 7 H, 7 R, 4 BB, 3 K) took the start, but was knocked out early. The 'Cats also played solid defense, only committing two errors in the contest.

Notre Dame took a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first with a three run shot from Schott. The 'Cats would get a run on a bases-loaded walk in the second, and a big six-run rally in the top of the third to take a 7-3 lead.

A leadoff single from Chase Young got things started in the third; Miller and Alex Cliff both drew walks, before D.J. Dowdy smacked a line-drive, two RBI single to center. Cody Neldon forced an error with a hard-hit ground ball to score Dowdy, and Potts tacked on an RBI single.

The Bulldogs added two runs in the bottom of the third, and both teams were blanked in the fourth inning. Potts led off with a triple in the fifth inning and was driven in by Young. Dowdy came through with another long single to score Young and give the 'Cats a 9-4 lead.

Lefty reliever Jonathan Lynch entered the game in the sixth for the Bulldogs, and retired the Bearcats in order in the sixth. The Bearcats had the tying run on base after a two-out walk to Miller in the top of the seventh, but the Lynch forced a pop-out to center to end the game.

"We played good baseball for the most part; there in the first inning, we got down three runs on them but we came back and took the lead against a very good pitcher," Becker said. "Heisserer is one of the best pitchers in Southeast Missouri, but we had him on the ropes all day. We got to him early and knocked him out of the game in the third, and we kept adding on to it. We just didn't close the deal today."

The 'Cats will move on to face No. 3 Poplar Bluff, who were upset by No. 7 Jackson later in the day, to battle for third place in the tournament.

The game is scheduled for a 4:30 p.m. first pitch on Monday (April 30) at Capaha Park in Cape Girardeau.

**Photos Above:**

**Top:** *D.J. Dowdy connects on a two RBI double during the third inning of Saturday's game at Notre Dame. The junior catcher was 2-4 with 2 RBI and 1 run scored in the contest.*

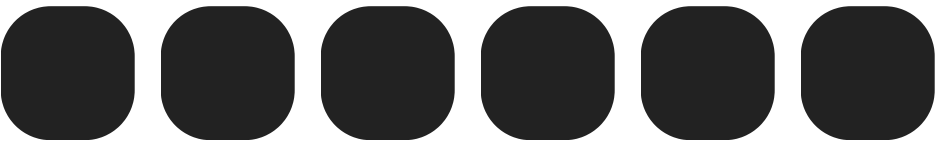
**Bottom:** *Brad Potts slides safely into third base after his leadoff triple in the fifth inning. Potts was 2-5 with 1 RBI in the game.*

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# Bearcats Run-Rule No. 4 Sikeston

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*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

SIKESTON - A squeeze play in the third inning would give the Dexter Bearcats a 5-4 lead that they never gave up in the opening round of the 2012 SEMO Conference Tournament.

With the bases loaded and no outs, senior Owen Flowers laid down a perfect bunt on the third base line to drive home Logan Northern and take a 5-4 lead.

"I don't know how gutsy it was, but it was the right thing to do at the time," head coach Brian Becker said of the play. "Owen's been doing a great job of getting bunts down for us all year, and he got a good one down there and got us the lead."

The 'Cats would add ten more runs to their total to end the game after the sixth inning due to the ten-run rule and complete the upset of the No. 4 Sikeston Bulldogs. Becker noted that his squad felt slighted after being ranked fifth in the tournament, despite holding a regular-season victory over Sikeston.

"That feels good. We had a good week of practice; whenever the kids found out that we were the five seed, they felt a little disrespected," he said. "That's the best week of practice we've had in a long time, and we came out on a mission today. I'm proud of them."

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season," Becker added. "Sikeston has a great program, there's no doubt about that. They have some kids that can play baseball on their team, and to sweep them for the season says a lot about the direction of our program."

Senior right-hander Alex Cliff (3-2, 2.83 ERA) hurled all six innings for the Bearcats, giving up five runs (one earned) and six hits while striking out four batters.

"Cliff only gave up one earned run the whole game; he had the kid struck out there in the second inning, we just couldn't find the ball," Becker said. "They hit one there that hit off the heel of Owen's glove, but he made a good play on it. Cliff had his changeup and curveball working well today, and I'm proud of him and our team for coming out and run-ruling Sikeston; that doesn't happen very often."



Brad Potts led the way for the Bearcats at the plate, going 3-4 with one RBI and two runs scored. Flowers was 1-2 with two RBI's and a run scored.

The 'Cats will move on to face No. 1 Notre Dame in the SEMO Conference semifinals; the Bulldogs blanked No. 8 NMCC in their opening round contest.

The Bearcats fell to the Bulldogs 4-2 in the regular season, but that 'Cats had plenty of opportunities to get a win in the game with 13 stranded base runners.

"Last time, we had runners all over the basepaths, but we couldn't get them home," Becker said. "Hopefully we can change that tomorrow."

**Photos Above:**

*Top: Owen Flowers lays down a perfect squeeze bunt during the third inning of the game; the senior drove home Logan Northern, a courtesy runner for pitcher Alex Cliff, to take a 5-4 lead.*

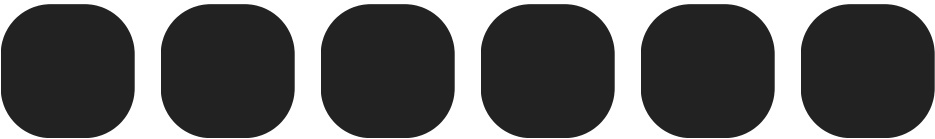
*Bottom: Chase Young makes the tag at second and fires the ball toward first base for a 4-6-3 double play in the bottom of the third inning.*

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# Softball Shuts Out Senath-Hornersville

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## Softball Shuts Out Senath-Hornersville

*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

SENATH - The Lady 'Cats cruised to a 9-0 victory against Senath-Hornersville on Thursday afternoon thanks to a dominant pitching performance from starter Becky Anderson and a solid defensive performance by the entire team.

The senior right-hander hurled a complete game, three-hit shutout including six strikeouts. Anderson also had a solid day at the plate, going 3-3 with two RBI's, one run scored, and was a home run shy of hitting for the cycle.

Ashley Brown plated Dexter's first run on an error in the top of the first inning. The Lady Lions stranded a baserunner on second in the bottom of the inning.

Tiffany Watson led off with a walk in the second inning, but was caught trying to steal second base. Taylor Owens reached base on an error and was brought home by triple from Anderson. The third inning saw the 'Cats with the bases loaded, but unable to score.

Brown's sac fly to center in the fourth brought Anderson home to increase the lead to 3-0. The Lions had runners in scoring position with one out in the bottom of the fourth, but line-outs to third base and the pitcher allowed the 'Cats to keep the shutout alive.

The Lady 'Cats put together a two-out rally in the fifth, with Owens and Anderson collecting RBI's. The Bearcats struck for three runs in the top of the sixth inning, thanks to a triple from Emily Triplett; in the seventh, Triplett came through with an RBI single to plate the ninth and final run of the game.

"Senath is a good, young team. They put the ball in play and forced us to play solid defense," head coach Leonard Morse said after the win. "Our girls rose to the challenge and played incredible defense behind Becky. Every player was involved, with our infield

turning a double play."

The 'Cats collectively hit .267 in the contest, but Morse attributed outstanding pitching by the Lions for the relatively slow day at the plate. "Our offense was kept off balance by Senath's freshman pitcher who continuously threw the high strike. We popped up too many times for comfort," he said. "Our girls continued to plug away and steadily increased their lead. They really came together as a team and continued to play well in support of each other."

"I am very proud of them and how much they have improved throughout the season. We have two games left next week with Advance and Twin Rivers, both of whom are very good teams with good pitching," Morse added. "Those games look to be an exciting way to finish a great season."

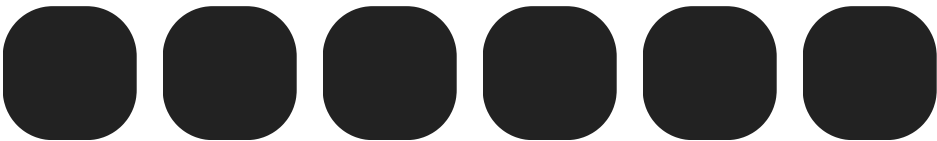
The Lady 'Cats increase their record to 12-6 with the win; they will take the field again on Monday (April 30) when they host the Advance Lady Hornets, who defeated the 'Cats 15-1 in last week's SCAA Championship game.

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