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Bearcat Baseball Postponed

MAY 07TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Bearcat Baseball Postponed

The Dexter Bearcats will have to wait a few more days to close out the regular season.

According to DHS Athletic Director Chuck Powers, today's contest against Portageville, originally scheduled for a 4:30 p.m. start, has been postponed due to field conditions.

The game will be made up on Wednesday (May 9) at Portageville High School with a 3:00 p.m. start.

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Baseball 'Cats Split Saturday Round Robin

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Baseball 'Cats Split Saturday Round Robin

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

Fresh out of their third-place finish in the 2012 SEMO Conference Tournament, the Dexter Bearcats hosted a three-team 'round robin' doubleheader on Saturday (May 5). The 'Cats split the games, with a win over Cooter and a loss to Clearwater.

In the first game, the 'Cats jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first on RBI singles from Chase Young and Alex Cliff. The Wildcats tacked on a run in the top of the second, but Brad Potts drove home Daniel Fitts with a two-out single in the home half of the inning.

Neither team scored in the third, fourth, and fifth innings, but the sixth inning saw both teams put together big rallies. The Wildcats capitalized on two errors by the DHS infield to tie the game at 3-3, but an RBI single from Potts, a sac-fly from Young, and a two RBI single from Cliff saw the 'Cats back in the lead with a 7-3 advantage.

Cooter catcher Dustin Franklin delivered a two-run shot in the top of the seventh, but it would be all the offense the Wildcats could muster, and the Bearcats took a 7-5 victory.

Miller took the start for the 'Cats, striking out four batters in four innings of work. Potts got the win for Dexter, striking out and walking three in three innings.

/images/Sports/2012/Baseball/2012.5.5 - Doubleheader/20120505_BB_Cooter.jpg

In game two, the Bearcats faced off against the Clearwater Tigers; senior Josh Overall took the start for the 'Cats.

The Tigers jumped on Overall early with a leadoff home run that sparked a five run inning. An RBI single from Miller was all that the 'Cats could put together in the bottom of the first, and they trailed 5-1 heading into the second.

Overall retired the Tigers in order in the top of the second inning; in the bottom of the inning, he was stranded on first base after drawing a leadoff walk. The Tigers jumped for four runs in the top of the third to knock Overall out of the game; Potts took to the mound in relief, but the Tigers held a commanding 9-1 lead.

The Bearcats struck for three runs in the fifth inning; a leadoff single from Potts and a double from Miller - the Bearcats' only extra-base hit of the game - set up a sac fly for Cliff. D.J. Dowdy followed up with an RBI single, and Cody Neldon drew a walk with the bases loaded to bring the score to 9-4.

After a scoreless top of the sixth, the 'Cats tacked on one more run on an RBI single from Dowdy, but the Tigers struck for one more run in the top of the seventh inning. The Bearcats couldn't put together any offense in the seventh to end the game with an 10-5 loss.

Cliff had a solid all-around effort at the plate for the Bearcats, going 3-6 with four RBI's on the day, while Miller ended the day going 4-6 with one RBI and one run scored. Potts ended the day with a 4-7 effort at the plate, including two RBI's and four runs scored.

The Bearcats stand at 15-7 on the season, and will be in action again on Monday (May 7) when they close the regular season at Portageville.

The game is scheduled for a 4:30 p.m. start, weather permitting; Owen Flowers (4-1, 2.51 ERA) will get the start for the 'Cats.

/images/Sports/2012/Baseball/2012.5.5 - Doubleheader/20120505_BB_Clearwater.jpg

Photo Above: Bearcat seniors (from left) Josh Overall, Daniel Fitts, Alex Cliff, and Owen Flowers were honored during 'Senior Day' on Saturday afternoon. (Photo submitted by Kay Stevenson)

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Tennis 'Cats Close Season With Win

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[Tennis 'Cats Close Season With Win](#)

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

The DHS Tennis team closed the regular season with a 6-4 record after a victory over the Poplar Bluff Mules on Friday afternoon.

The 'Cats split the match with Poplar Bluff, with Dexter earning a 5-4 victory in Varsity competition, while Poplar Bluff took the JV match 1-6.

Varsity No. 1 Tyler Miller took an 8-1 decision over Cody Hillis; No. 2 Sam Ward picked up an 8-2 win over Dylan Page. Miller and Ward also picked up an 8-0 win in their doubles match.

Kyle Willis found himself on top of an 8-5 contest in singles; he and doubles partner Joseph Greer won a 9-7 contest over Dylan Page and Paremaseer Hundal.

In JV action, Zach Simms picked up the lone victory for the Bearcats; Drew Mason and Brooks Probst found themselves on the losing end of thrilling 5-7 singles matches.

The 'Cats will be in action again this week, when they battle for the team District Championship and compete for individual district honors.

Photo Above: Joseph Greer delivers a serve during his 9-7 doubles win with partner Kyle Willis.

/images/Sports/2012/Tennis/20120504_MT_PB_Results.jpg

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Spring Athletes Celebrated At Banquet

Spring Athletes Celebrated At Banquet

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

Players, coaches, and parents gathered to celebrate the successes of the Bearcats in the 2012 Spring Sports season on Thursday evening.

Softball coach Leonard Morse took the podium first; in his first season as head coach, the Lady Bearcats amassed a 12-8 record - one of the better records in recent years - including a third place finish in the inaugural 'Swing Pink' tournament and a second place finish in the SCAA Tournament.

"I want to thank the school for support, Dr. Sharp for attending our games, and the high school secretaries for helping with concession stands and media relations," Morse said. "My assistant coach Chris Bolin was a tremendous help; I couldn't have done it without him.

"This year was the first time since 2008 that we won 12 games. We did well in county play after struggling early in the season, he continued. "In the middle of the season, we won 9 of 10 games at one point."

Numbers were a little down this season, with just 11 girls on the squad, but Morse was proud of the girls he had for their hard work and dedication to the team.

"We only had 11 on the team, and there were several games we played with just nine girls available," Morse added. "They worked hard and put in the effort - proud of them for that."

Kendra Stevenson, with a .450 average, took home the Batting Award; Ashley Brown was voted to the Dedication Award, and Becky Anderson, who recently signed a Letter of Intent to pitch at Mineral Area College next year, was voted Team MVP. Anderson and Riley Rickman were also named to the SCAA All-Tournament Team.

Head track coach Jill King was up next, and thanked the school administrators and assistant coach Greg Lummukkua for their assistance throughout the season.

"I also wanted to thank the Booster Club for buying us new hurdles this season," King

said, "and those that volunteered to help us at our home meet. Our parents had gave us great support and the kids worked hard for a great season."

The track team gives out one award that goes to a male and a female athlete for scoring the most points at meets; Zach Comstock and Taylor Martin earned the honor. King noted that Comstock scored in every meet this season in the long and triple jumps, while Martin tied the school record for the 200, and has only been defeated once this season in the 100 and 200.

Head tennis coach Leanne Dooley stepped to the podium next to honor the Men's Tennis team.

"I want to thank everyone who makes this program possible, and that's a lot of people," she said.

"A special thank to you the parents - we've actually had people attending our matches this season," Dooley added, laughing.

The team stands at 5-4 on the season in a noted 'rebuilding year'



by Dooley. The team holds a first place finish in the doubles division at the Poplar Bluff Invitational Tournament, where DHS was the smallest participating school.

"This has been what you would call a rebuilding year; we have a lot of young players," she said. "Varsity has two players that are in their first year of playing competitive tennis."

The Team MVP award went to senior Tyler Miller, and was the only award given; Dooley noted that the other two awards - Most Singles Wins and Most Doubles Wins - were too close to call before Friday's match against Bluff.

Head coach Brian Becker closed out the banquet by honoring the baseball team; the Bearcats have a 14-6 record with three games to go before the District Tournament.

"Thanks to Dr. Sharp for coming to some of our games," he said. "I don't remember seeing a superintendent at games before. Also, thanks to Dexter Parks and Recreation for doing our pre-season field prep."

"We've had the best spring weather in the history of springs; 11 home games schedules

and only had to move one," Becker continued. A big thanks to Coach Pixley and Coach Boyer. I'm not getting any younger and throwing BP is harder on me than it was; having Cody and his fresh arm out there is great."

The JV squad currently has a 5-6-1 record; Becker noted their steady improvement throughout the season.

"It's amazing how much these freshman improve over the year," he said. "Hopefully they'll come out this summer and work hard and keep improving."

"The Varsity is 14-6 so far; we've had some quality wins this year," Becker noted. "Oran and Scott City were big wins; we beat Sikeston twice, Poplar Bluff, Jackson, MICDS...it's always good to get a win over a private school. Five of our six losses are by a combined six runs."

"It's been a great season so far," he added. "It's been one of the most fun years I've had as a coach, and I've been at it for a long time. These kids know when to have fun and know when to work."

The 'Cats have four seniors on the roster this season - Alex Cliff, Josh Overall, Daniel Fitts, and Owen Flowers - and Becker had nothing but praise for the group.

"I really appreciate your work for all four years," he said. "They've worked hard, and I've loved coaching them for all four years."

The team gives out two awards - one for Batting Average and the Team MVP.

The Batting Average Award was a tight race between juniors Chase Young and Jordan Miller, but Young was able to narrowly take the award with a .426 mark.

Team MVP went to pitcher/first baseman Alex Cliff; the senior has a 3-2 record and a 2.33 ERA through 18 innings of work on the mound, and has yet to record an error at first base this season.

The golf team was unable to attend due to Friday's Sectional match, where Drake Mitchell, Myles Urhahn, and Cody Stevens will fight for a trip to State.

Booster Club member Kevin Bishop closed out the evening by giving out the annual Booster Club Scholarships; Tyler Miller, Dalton Putnam, and Sydnie Rinehart earned the

honors.

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Softball 'Cats Present Earnings To 18 FORE Life

MAY 03RD 2012 BY UNKNOWN

[Softball 'Cats Present Earnings To 18 FORE Life](#)

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

The spirit of giving is alive and well at Dexter High School.

The DHS Softball team followed in the footsteps of both the middle and high school volleyball teams and held a 'Pink' game to raise money for the Ben Kruse 18 FORE Life foundation, a local organization dedicated to helping families that are battling cancer.

During the Lady Bearcats' all day 'Swing Pink!' tournament, held on March 31, the squad raised \$4,371.50 for the charity.

Head softball coach Leonard Morse noted the success of the tournament, and fully expects to make it an annual event.

"It was phenomenal what we were able to do; as far as the tournament, all the teams have asked to come back for next year. Hopefully we'll be able to double the number of teams that were in it and move to a 16 team tournament next year," Morse said. "I didn't know what to expect; we far-exceeded the amount of money that I thought we would ever make. I didn't know how well it would take off in the first year."

Morse noted that one of his players, Ashley Brown, proposed the idea of having the tournament be a fundraiser after the first middle school 'Dig Pink!' game.

"I've been wanting to hold a tournament for the last two or three years; last year, after the middle school did their Dig Pink game, Ashley Brown suggested that we do something similar to that with the softball," he said. "The girls jumped on board, and Ashley herself sold 38 shirts at \$15 apiece. Portageville high school sold over 100 shirts. Most of the money that we raised was from concessions and the sale of the shirts."

Scott Kruse, current DMS principal, founder of 18 FORE Life and brother of the late Ben Kruse, said the outpouring of compassion from area high school and junior high students has been overwhelming.

"It's crazy. It started with the middle school last year, and it happened right around the time that I was hired and got to come back home," Kruse said. "I thought to myself 'That's really neat', and I was kind of glad they did it before I was here. The high school took off with it, and Richland and Bernie both started doing it. Now, with Leonard and the softball team, I love seeing it, because they know that they're doing something to help people."

Last year, 18 FORE Life gave out over \$150,000 in 'love offerings' to local cancer patients; Kruse noted that the organization sends out the offerings in \$1,000 increments, and that the multitude of benefit athletic events put on by area high schools accounted for a good portion of the total donated amount.

"Last year, the middle school volleyball team raised \$2,100, this year they did \$5,300," Kruse said. Bloomfield raised \$1,000, Bernie raised over \$400, and Richland did a volleyball and a basketball game, so you're looking at over \$15,000 dollars."

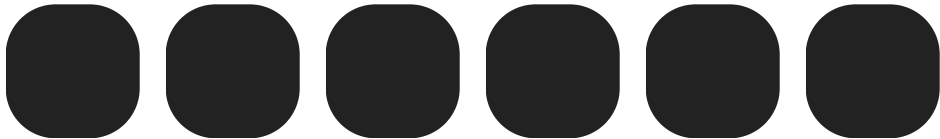
"The way I look at it, that's fifteen families that we can help, because we send out love offerings \$1,000 at a time," he said. "Last year, in total, we sent out \$153,000."

Photo Above: Members of the DHS Softball team gathered Thursday morning to present Scott Kruse with the funds raised during the first annual Swing Pink Tournament. Pictured are (from left): Cierra Learue, Becky Anderson, Ashley Brown, Scott Kruse, Riley Rickman, Emily Triplett, Whitney Layton and Maddie Christian.

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