

# Kadkhodaian's grand slam caps off wild sweep for Starr's Mill

By JOHN KEULER

Summer is quickly approaching and fall will follow shortly after. However, Starr's Mill's boys of the spring are not quite done, beating Loganville twice on Tuesday to advance and take on Pope for the chance to play in the finals.

The Panthers have earned their place among the final four teams in class AAAAA while riding the arms of their two young pitchers Ryan Avidano and Ryan Goodman. Starr's Mill's pitching has surrendered only two runs in the past four games of the playoffs.

In Tuesday's first game, Starr's Mill wasted no time finding their way on the board, scoring twice in the bottom of the first. Brett Jeffares crossed the plate when Ryan Peurifoy, who could not have been picked a better time to get hot, laced a single into right. Peurifoy, a Georgia Tech commit, then scored when Loganville's man on the mound, Avery Fagan, balked attempting a third to first pickoff move.

Artemis Kadkhodaian and Peurifoy singled consecutively, putting Kadkhodaian in a position to score. Garrison Elliott singled past the diving second baseman, but did not spend much time on base, getting doubled off when Adam Goodman lined out to the pitcher.

Brett Jeffares lead off the fifth inning for the Panthers with a walk then moved to second on Kadkhodaian's sacrifice bunt. Jeffares had to hold at second as a lazy line drive dropped in front of future first-round draft pick

Clint Frazier. Elliot then walked, allowing Adam Goodman to drive in two runs, ripping a single to center field.

Clint Frazier led off the top of the sixth with a drive that met the scoreboard with a resounding thud. All game, Frazier dealt with heckling from the student section that was positioned along the right field line in the back of pickup trucks. After his solo shot, he showed that the words from the fans meant little to him, even tossing them a baseball that he had signed. It read, "Clint Frazier #Overrated," mocking the phrase that he heard thrown his way throughout the contest.

Seth White drew a leadoff walk in the next half inning, the bottom of the sixth. Courtesy runner Adam Weisheit then came in and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Connor Dillon. Chris Chaphe plated Starr's Mill's sixth and final run with his double.

Similar to the game last week against Houston County, Starr's Mill had trouble closing out the game. After Avidano threw well the entire game, Loganville's offense awoke in the final inning. Royce Harrison doubled, followed by an intentional pass given to Frazier. Andrew Clay reached with a base hit, loading the bases for Kyle Hall who slapped a line drive down the right field line pushing Harrison and Frazier across the plate, making the score six to four and bringing the tying run to bat.

Head Coach Brent Mosley chose to relieve Avidano with the next game's starter, Adam Goodman, to record the

final out. Goodman was able to close it out, forcing Logan Mattix to line out to right field, ending the game with the scoreboard indicating a 6-4 Starr's Mill win.

Starr's Mill played the role of away team in the second matchup, and they made sure to reverse the momentum that Loganville gained in their last at bats of the first game. The Panthers exploded for an eight run first inning. Peurifoy continued hitting at his torrid pace, collecting two hits in the inning.

His first hit was a two-run homerun that landed in the netting just above the "Medici" sign on the Panthers' indoor batting facility. He also had a single in his second at bat in the inning, scoring Jeffares and giving Peurifoy three RBIs.

A series of errant throws, miscommunications, and wild pitches led to Starr's Mill scoring the additional five other runs. Loganville pitcher David Mayo was unable to make it out of the inning, recording only two outs before Daniel Milligan entered the game. Milligan walked Elliot before striking out Goodman to get out of the jam.

Loganville was able to scrap for a run in the second as David Chabut drew a walk, stole second and advanced to third on an error before he tagged up on a sacrifice fly from Chandler Downing to score.

Peurifoy again contributed with a single and a stolen base to get into scoring position in the top of the third, from where he scored as Seth White singled to drive him in.

The Red Devils erupted with a scoring barrage similar to Starr's Mill's first inning in the third. The attack began with a Kyle hall single to lead off the inning. A flow of hits, walks, and errors, meant six batters reaching safely before a Downing sacrifice bunt lead to the first out.

The lineup again rotated around to Kyle Hall in the same inning, who hit another single driving in the last two runs of the inning. The score now sat at 9-8 with the Panthers still on top.

The scoreboard remained unchanged until the fifth. Frazier walked and made it to third off of an error by pitcher Luke Abrams who entered in the third, dousing the fire of the Loganville scoring threat. Frazier then scored on a sacrifice fly off the bat of Andrew Clay, tying the game at nine a piece.

Artemis Kadkhodaian broke the tie in the next half inning, slamming a home run of the grandest nature. Kadkhodaian notched four RBI on his only hit of the game. The grand slam set the score at 13-9, where it would remain for Luke Abrams to shut down Loganville in the seventh inning to give



Artemis Kadkhodaian made his only hit of game two count, blasting a grand slam to secure the win, and a spot in the Final Four for Starr's Mill. (STAFF PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER DUNN)

him and his team the win.

Despite having several errors, Starr's Mill picked up the second win of the day advancing them to the final four. They will now face Pope in Marietta on Monday afternoon in a doubleheader. If necessary, the third game will be played on Tuesday to decide the state finalist.

# Whitewater beats Starr's Mill 3-1 in fantastic Final Four showdown

By CHRISTOPHER DUNN  
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Just one more team stood between the Whitewater Wildcats and another shot at a girls soccer state championship. It didn't matter that many of the girls on the other team might be friends. Whitewater wasn't going to be denied the win. Win they did, 3-1, in a fantastic match.

You couldn't ask for a much better game. It was a perfect display of the wildly high level of soccer talent in the county. A young Starr's Mill team pushed a seasoned Whitewater squad till the final buzzer.

"It was a battle out there.

Starr's Mill played great. They came to play," Whitewater coach Randy Hayes said of his opponent. "I knew it was going to be a match. Everybody stiffened up and took it to another level. They played the way they needed to play to win and I'm real proud of them."

The play of Starr's Mill meant Whitewater had to play their best. The Panthers played with heart and fire and made it an impressive battle to watch. They were ready to play.

Ten minutes into the game the Panthers struck. With the help of a Kayla Feigenbaum assist, Jenna Currin put Starr's Mill on the board.

The score put Whitewater on

notice that they were in for a battle. They hunkered down and went to work. Finally, with eight minutes left in the first half, the Wildcats found the back of the net. A Taylor Marks corner kick was headed by Abbey Reddig, but Starr's Mill keeper Paige Betsill was there for the stop. Teegan VanGunst was ready and drilled in the rebound for the tying score.

The Wildcats would nearly take the lead before the half, unleashing a barrage of shots, but none were true. At the buzzer a shot ricocheted off the crossbar.

It wouldn't take long into the second half before Whitewater got the goal they needed. Just one minute into the frame Aubrey Heard gathered a misplaced ball and booted in the go ahead goal.

"We've been moving (Aubrey) all over the field. She seems to play well everywhere we put her," Hayes said of the freshman.

Seven minutes later the Cats added an insurance goal. This time Abbey Reddig's header off a corner kick could not be contained as Whitewater took a 3-1 lead.

Starr's Mill would have



Kayla Feigenbaum (#7) and Annika VanGunst race to a loose ball during Whitewater's 3-1 win on Tuesday night. (STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER DUNN)

chances to decrease the margin, but couldn't quite make it happen. Their best look came when Sarah Yoss got off a shot off a Molly Moroney free kick, but

Whitewater keeper Claire Messina came through with a key save.

The victory pushed Whitewater through to the state champi-

onship game for the fourth straight season. They will face Northgate today at noon at the University of West Georgia.



Jenna Currin (#16) and Kenzie Winters battle for position. Currin scored the game's opening goal ten minutes in.

# McIntosh boys advance to title game

By CHRISTOPHER DUNN  
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With a state championship in their sights, the McIntosh Chiefs did not slow down at all. The Chiefs put away the Pope Greyhounds quickly in a 3-0 semifinals victory.

McIntosh scored almost out of the gate as they handled the Greyhounds. Now they move on to play the Houston County Bears in the state championship game tonight at 7:30 p.m. on the campus of the University of West Georgia. They've been called the best team in the nation. Right

now, they just want to win a state title.

They played like champions against Pope. Just thirteen minutes into the game, the Chiefs lit up the scoreboard. All season, McIntosh has dominated as a team and their first score was the embodiment of the team ideal. Salomon Lorenzano lofted a pass across the box in stride to Ian Berryman who then crossed it to a sprinting Carson Brooks who sliced it into the net for the opening score.

Minutes later came goal number two. The Chiefs' first shot deflected off the post. Adam Sheikali was ready and put it home for a 2-0 lead.

Still with ten minutes left in the first

half, McIntosh made it goal number three. It was Sheikali again that put the game fully out of reach.

As has been the story all season, the Chiefs shut down the opponent's offense. Keeper Spencer Wroblecki faced just two shots in the second half. McIntosh has now outscored the opposition 136-2 on the season.

Now the Chiefs have to outscore just one more opponent. A win against Houston County will cement their status as the nation's best team in 2013 as well as another state championship in the proud history of McIntosh soccer.

# Lady Chiefs lacrosse advances to second straight state title game

By CHRISTOPHER DUNN  
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The McIntosh Lady Chiefs are back for revenge. McIntosh beat the Northview Titans 10-6 on Wednesday for another shot at Westminster and a state title.

Last year the Chiefs fell just short, losing 10-9 in double overtime to Westminster as the Wildcats celebrated their third straight state championship. The year prior Westminster knocked them out in the Final Four by two goals. They also got them the year before that. McIntosh remembers. They're ready to be the team hoisting the trophy.

First, the Chiefs had to deal with a formidable opponent in the fellow one seed Titans. The of-

fense was sharp. Shelby Durden led the attack with three goals. Amanda Lindsey tallied two goals, four draw controls, and two ground balls. Abby Ott added two goals, six ground balls, and one draw control. Jessica Weatherford had two goals, one draw control, and two takeaways. Imani Hedgeman and Kylie Bednarick picked up five and four ground balls a piece. Hannah Todd was sharp in goal yet again.

"Our overall effort was great. The girls really played as a team," said McIntosh coach Gwen Thibadeau. "They came out strong and it continued throughout the game. All of the coaches were very pleased with their performance."

With Northview out of the way McIntosh will travel to Westminster for the state championship game today at 4:45 p.m.

# Lady Panthers LAX dream season ends against reigning champs

By CHRISTOPHER DUNN  
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It wasn't the ending they were hoping for, but it can't diminish a special season. The Starr's Mill girls lacrosse team fell to the Westminster Wildcats 13-7 on Wednesday night.

This was a first for the Lady Panthers. They had never reached the Final Four before. They played like they belonged there. Westminster, the winner of three state state championships, got a fight all night from Starr's Mill.

"The Lady Panthers never quit during the game at Westminster. They fought hard to the very end and that was all I could ask for as a coach," said Starr's Mill coach Joseph Perrotta. "Our program is getting stronger every year and we plan to come

back next year a more skilled and fast version of this year's squad."

Alyssa Sack led the way for the Starr's Mill attack, scoring three goals on the night. Meghan Mills, Claire Houghtaling, Katie Buck, and Brandi Sherman each scored one.

Though the loss hurt, this was an awesome season for the team.

"The 2013 season for the Lady Panthers was a very special one," Perrotta said. "We made it further into the playoffs than any team in Starr's Mill lacrosse history. The girls believed in themselves from day one, and that is what made the difference between this season and those past. I'm proud to have coached such a wonderful group of girls. The win-loss record, goals scored, and saves made may fade from memory, but the bonds formed on the team are the type that last forever."