

SPORTS



CHECK THIS OUT TOMORROW  
Full, in-person, non-”From Staff Reports” coverage of both of Mountain Ridge’s regional finals in softball and baseball.

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Regional softball champs!  
Early runs, masterful Anderson give Keyser 1st-ever bid to state tournament, 2-1

By Michael Minnich  
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KEYSER—They did it. For the first time in school history, the Keyser Lady Tornado softball team is state-bound, defeating the Lincoln Lady Cougars in the Region II final, 2-1, at Ron Mathias and Friends Field last night.

Keyser advances to face the winner of the Region I championship game between Magnolia and Ritchie County, which was also last night, in the first game of the double-elimination state tournament at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday in Vienna.

Meghan Anderson turned in another tremendous start in the circle for Keyser, striking out 10 batters and allowing just a run on four hits.

Her defense did their jobs well, too, playing an error-free game.

For Lincoln, freshman Allison Winans allowed two runs on eight hits and struck out four in seven innings.

Keyser lost the toss for home-field advantage, but it may have been a blessing in disguise early.

Anderson singled with one out in the top of the first, moved to second on an error, and scored on Lexi Carr’s hard-hit line drive.

Anderson worked around a leadoff walk to keep the lead at 1-0 after one.

Winans needed just four pitches to get through the second inning, but Anderson struck Mary Joe Demarco out looking to strand a Lincoln runner in the home half of the inning.

In the top of the third, Carrie Rigglesman singled with one out, then Anderson was hit by the pitch in the helmet.

Carr’s ground ball put two runners in scoring position for Sam Hoban, who legged



Keyser assistant coach Derek Stephen (in hat) and players Faith Nelson (12), Meghan Anderson (35), Katie Hoban (front, right), Sam Hoban (in sunglasses), Lexi Carr (with mouthguard), and Abby Smith celebrate after the final out. TRIBUNE PHOTO BY MICHAEL MINNICH

out a first-pitch infield single to score Rigglesman: 2-0, Keyser.

Winans got Taylor Haggerty to pop out to second to strand runners on the corners.

Samantha Elder picked up the first Lincoln hit with a one-out single in the bottom of the third, moved to second on Chelsea Stout’s ground ball to second, but was left there when Winans’ hard line drive was within

Sam Hoban’s reach at second for the final out.

Kendall Keplinger singled with one away for KHS in the fourth, then Katie Tasker knocked the ball up the middle for a two-out single.

Winans struck Rigglesman out to end the inning.

Casey Hittel led off the Lincoln fourth with a single, but Marina Fleece bounced out to first, Emily Knight grounded back to Anderson, and Makayla McEl-

wayne struck out swinging. Both teams went down in order in the fifth, then Keyser went 1-2-3 in the sixth.

Lincoln put together their best effort in the bottom of the sixth.

Winans singled with one out and was replaced by courtesy runner Meredith Robinson.

Hittel then singled to center field, with Robinson taking the extra base to third

and Hittel moving up to second on the throw.

The temperature lowered slightly for Keyser when Fleece lined out to Sam Hoban at second on the first pitch, but a wild pitch with Knight batting scored Robinson and moved the tying run, Hittel, to third.

Anderson, though, sat Knight down swinging two pitches later: danger averted.

Rigglesman and Anderson

singled with two away in the KHS seventh, but Carr’s deep fly ball to center was gloved for the third out.

Now it was on Keyser to get the final three outs.

McElwayne, down swinging.

Demarco, first-pitch ground out to second.

Sarah Martin, looking on 3-2: ballgame.

Keyser (24-9) has won seven in a row and adds to their school record for wins.

KHS, FHS girls favorites at state meet

By Michael Minnich  
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KEYSER—The Keyser and Frankfort girls’ track teams are legitimate contenders to win the Class AA state championship, which runs today and tomorrow at Laidley Field in Charleston.

The state’s best authority on cross country and track, RunWV.com, has Frankfort beating Keyser by two points, 74-72, with Oak Glen (64) and Berkeley Springs (54) the other contenders.

But the ways they’ll win it are very different.

For FHS, it’s all about two girls: juniors Bria Welker and Katie Jan are projected to be the top two scorers in the entire meet.

Welker, who missed last season due to injury, was named the top girls’ track athlete in the state as a freshman, and is RunWV’s favorite in the 100, 200, 400, and the long jump.

"I don’t see where Bria missed a beat," said FHS head coach Amanda Moreland. "She’s broken three of the four school records this season, and continues to look great."

"It’s just unbelievable," said FHS assistant coach Bill Cessna of Welker’s recovery. "She ran that first



Only a sophomore, Keyser’s Erica White is a contender in both the 100 and 300-meter hurdles. TRIBUNE PHOTO BY MICHAEL MINNICH

race, and we just knew she was back."

Jan is touted to win the 800, 1600, 3200, and is tabbed fourth in the 400.

There’s your 74 points right there.

"The team scores are going to be very interesting," said Moreland. "The way

that stat man Nate [Hayes] has it figured out, it’s between us, Keyser, and Oak Glen. We look for Bria to go first in all four events, See GIRLS Page 9

Event titles, top 10 finishes goals for boys



Frankfort’s Trae Miller is projected to score points in the 1600. TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LEE BROWN (KNOBLEY.COM)

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KEYSER—The Keyser Golden Tornado and Frankfort Falcons, although See BOYS Page 9



