

Charles Town Beats Huntington,

JOURNAL

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Reaches Finals Of State Tourney

Smith Hurls Panthers To 4-2 Victory

Behind the five-hit twirling of Archie Smith, Charles Town High School's amazing baseball team advanced to the finals of the West Virginia scholastic baseball championships last night by trouncing Huntington Central, 4-2, at Charleston.

The Panthers will meet Williamson, who won a 3-2 victory over Newell in the first game last night, for the state championship tonight with Melvin Zombro, who hurled a three-hitter to give Charles Town a 10-6 win over Clarksburg Roosevelt-Wilson in the first round of the state tourney, ready to toe the rubber again after playing leftfield last evening.

While Smith was handcuffing Huntington on three hit, recording nine strikeouts along the way, Charles Town overcame a 1-0 deficit to go ahead 2-0 in the second inning and put the clincher on in the fifth when Whittington, Owens and Strider slashed successive singles off Don Whitmore to score two runs and send Huntington's starter to the showers.

Dave Caldwell, who pitched Huntington to victory over St. Albans in the first game Thursday night, finished out the game without allowing the Panthers to score again but the damage was already done.

Score Twice In Second

Coach Zip Lorenz' aggregation scored twice in the second inning after Huntington had scored once in its half of the inning. Longerbeam's timely single after two errors and a walk had loaded the bases drove in both the Jefferson countian's runs. Huntington's run scored when Smith threw into centerfield in an attempt to nab a runner at second.

The southpaw ace, outside of the wild throw, and committing two balks, was tight as a drum as he turned in Charles Town's second performance of the tourney.

The first game last night was held up more than an hour while the playing field, drenched by afternoon showers, was made ready for play and as a result the Charles Town tussle was not completed until shortly after midnight.

A large number of fans from Charles Town and this section was reported to have witnessed the Panthers' game last night as they moved to within one victory of figuratively completing a "rags-to-riches" season.

The Panthers showed little when matched against sectional and out-of-state opposition in pre-playoff games until the end of the season when they hit a winning streak that now totals six games.

Surprise Everyone

Martinsburg, the team that they defeated in the semi-finals of the sectional tourney at Charles Town, had previously walloped them and appeared a sure-bet to cop the Eastern Panhandle championship. But the wondrous Jeffersonians had little trouble in downing the Bulldogs in the important tourney meeting and then edged Berkeley Springs to qualify for the regional playoffs at Moorefield.

There they scored a total of 20 runs to trounce Ridgeley and Moorefield, respectively, and moved on to the state tourney where most fans thought they would meet their "inevitable doom" in the first game. But Charles Town had little respect for the reputation of Clarksburg and after getting over some early game jitters, scored seven runs in the seventh inning of that game, winning 10-6.

Whether or not they win the championship, Charles Town has already far surpassed anyone's expectation of their ability and increased the rapidly-growing reputation that Eastern Panhandle schools are building up in the western part of the state.

Huntington	Ab.	H.	O.	A.
McCormick, c	3	0	4	1
Baker, rf.	3	1	0	0
Caldwell, 3b, p	3	0	1	2
Harrison, cf	3	1	2	0
Turley, lf	3	1	0	0
Conley, 1b	2	0	6	0
Thomas, 2b, 3b	3	2	4	1
Cantor, 2b	0	0	0	0
Hetzer, ss	3	0	0	2
Whitmore, p	2	0	1	2
*Wright	1	0	0	0

Totals	26	5	18	8
Charles Town	Ab.	H.	O.	A.
Longerbeam, 2b	4	1	0	0
Boyd, cf	3	0	3	0
Zombro, lf	3	1	1	0
Whittington, 1b	3	1	3	0
Owens, rf	3	2	0	0
Strider, 3b	3	1	0	1
Crowley, c	3	1	9	0
Sager, ss	3	0	3	1
Smith, p	1	0	2	2

Totals 26 7 21 4
 *Batted for Cantor in seventh.
 Runs—Conley, Baker, Whittington, Owens, Strider, Crowley. Errors—Smith, Caldwell, Hetzer, Whittington, Strider. Runs-batted-in—Longerbeam, Strider (2), Harrison. Two-base hit—Crowley. Three-base hit—Whitmore. Double play—Caldwell to Conley. Left on base—Huntington 5, Charles Town 6. Bases on balls—off Smith 2, Whittington 2. Struck out by Smith 9, Whittington 2, Caldwell 2. Hits—off Whitmore 7 in 4 1-3 innings, Caluwtil 0 in 1 2-3 innings. Balk—Smith (2). Losing pitcher—Whitmore. Umpires—Howell, Bordok, Noyes. Time of game—1 hour, 30 minutes.

Huntington Central 010 001 0-2
 Charles Town 020 020 x-4

The other semi-final:
 Williamson 002 000 01-3 6 3
 Newell 002 000 00-2 9 1