

Sports and Wildlife

Softball opens the season with a four game win streak

Mark Gray Sports Reporter
The Gallatin County Lady Wildcats softball team is off to a blazing start to the 2026 season.

Coach Chris Olivigni's squad went 4-0 for the week with three victories by the mercy rule. All four games were at home.

The season opened on Thursday with a 21-9, four inning win over Lloyd Memorial.

Anna Bailey, Madison Bond, and Keagan Howard had two hits apiece. Bella Runyon, Isabella Olivigni, Zeva Cozine, and Kayleigh Lindsey each had a hit.

Bailey led the Lady Cats with three RBI.

Runyon was the winning pitcher. She struck out six and allowed four earned runs and 7 hits.

On Friday Gallatin rode the arm of Olivigni to a 7 to 3 win over Williamstown.

Olivigni struck out 18 Demons and allowed just two hits and one earned run while going the distance.

Bond had three hits to lead Gallatin. Bailey, Runyon, and Lindsey had two hits apiece and Howard, Chloe Combs, and Aubrie Nunn each had one apiece.

On Saturday the Lady Cats swept a double header against Bellevue.

In the opener Gallatin drew 16 bases on balls en route to a 16 to 1 victory in three innings.

Bond had two hits and Olivigni, Combs, and Howard all had a hit. Combs also had three runs batted in.

Runyon got the win. She gave up two hits, an unearned run, and struck out four.

In the second game Gallatin shut out the Tigers by a 15-0 score in three innings.

Olivigni and Raegan Morris had the only hits for Gallatin as took advantage of 9 walks.

Nunn batted in three runs and Morris knocked in two more. Bond stole three bases and now has 12 on the young season.

Olivigni pitched two hitless innings to pick up the victory. She also struck out five. Howard also pitched a hitless inning.

Gallatin will have three games in the upcoming week.

They host Carroll County on Thursday before playing at Spencer County on Friday. On Monday they host Walton-Verona.



Gallatin County pitcher Byric Caldwell took the mound in the first inning against Holmes High School on Saturday and got credit for the victory.

Baseball team beats Dayton, Holmes

Mark Gray Sports Reporter
The Gallatin County Wildcat baseball team is off to their first 2-0 start since the 2021 season.

First year head coach JP Epifanio's team defeated Dayton and Holmes to start the 2026 campaign.

On Thursday the Wildcats defeated visiting Dayton 13 to 3 in five innings.

Carson Wilson, Nick Skidmore, and Ethan Reed two hits apiece. Hunter Merida and Elijah Ping also had a hit. Merida had a team high four runs batted in.

Wilson was the winning pitcher. He struck out seven and allowed three runs and two hits over 3 1/3 innings.

On Saturday afternoon Gallatin used a 13 run second inning to propel them

to a 20 to 5, four inning victory over Holmes.

Michael Cefaratti had three hits, including a triple to lead the offense. Skidmore and Jace Epifanio had two hits apiece.

Wilson, Reed, Ping, Alexander Riddle, and Cash O'Connor all had a hit. Skidmore, Riddle, O'Connor, Epifanio, and Cefaratti each knocked home two runs.

Bryric Caldwell pitched

the first two innings to get the victory.

He allowed one run, and one hit.

Cefaratti pitched the final two innings, striking out four and allowing one hit and one run.

The Wildcats have three home games on the docket this week. They host Carroll County on Thursday, Pendleton County on Saturday at 11:00, and Williamstown on Monday.



Members of the Gallatin County's softball team were dancing on the pitcher's mound during Saturday's victory over Bellevue.

Track team has two meets

Mark Gray Sports Reporter
The Track and Field teams were in action last with meets at Holmes and Boone County.

At Holmes on Thursday Lexi Rassman won the long jump at 15-5.75 and came in second in the high jump at 4-2.00.

In the 100 meter dash Cassidy Baker finished 4th with a time of 14.29. She was followed by Rassman (6,14.43), Mariah Lommell (12,15.78), Ryleigh O'Connor (15,16.05), Abigail Jones (21,17.02), Irelyn Lee (23,17.53), and Aubree Wallace

(26,19:47). In the 200 meter dash Baker was Gallatin's top finisher. Her time of 31.37 was good enough for second place.

She was followed by O'Connor (14,35.80), Jones (16,36.76), and Lee (18,38.95).

Koree Thompson was third in the 1600 meter run with a time of 6:44.16.

In the boy's 100 meter dash Gamaliel Marcelino was 12th 12.66. He was followed by Christopher Pierce (21,13:32), Frankie Maximilliano (24,13:53), Ryder Smith (29,13.84), and Zakk Hughes (31,14.51).

In the 200 meter dash Maximilliano finished 17th with a time of 29.66 and Hughes was 20th at 30.85.

In the 400 meter race Marcelino came in 4th at 1:02.08 and Matthew Lambert was 9th 1:05.27.

On Friday at Boone County in the girl's meet, Rassman finished third in the long jump at 15-0.50 and ninth in high jump at 4-2.00.

In the boy's long jump, Pierce was 10th at 15-4.00.

Landon Bayne was fifth in the discus with a throw of 96-6.00 and Luis Rodriguez came in 13th at 79-8.00.

Bayne came in 9th in the shot put with a throw of 33-3.50 and Rodriguez was 12th at 30-11.50.

Pope looks to next year at UK

Kentucky Mark Pope is giving the Wildcats a couple of days to decompress before conducting individual meetings to help determine a path forward.

The roster construction for next year will begin with the current Wildcats to formulate a retention plan.

"We'll start those conversations in earnest (this week) and see where we end up," Pope said on his radio show Monday night. "In this time of college basketball, everyone's got to make a decision about what's going to work best for them and how they want to do it and where they want to do it. It is an important piece of this retention. But with cap management now, it all falls under that window. Everything is dependent on how it fits into a cap."

In his second season with the Wildcats, Kentucky finished 22-14 and lost to No. 2 seed Iowa State in the NCAA Tournament. Pope said the season didn't meet expectations, but was pleased with the way his team performed with a makeshift roster that was depleted with injuries at point guard. In two seasons, Pope and his squad have played a full roster in just 10 of 72 games.

"We all know the standard that we are chasing here in Kentucky, but you get there by making prog-

ress," Pope said. "There are some really good markers for the people who want to cheer. It's not going to serve the people that want to hate, but the people that want to cheer, and the people that really care about the program and are living and dying to see these guys be successful and win."

Moving onward to the recruiting trail, through both the high school and portal ranks, Pope knows what he wants on his future roster.

"We are desperate to bring creators here to Kentucky," he said. "Creators are people who earn shots for teammates and can go earn shots for themselves."

GCHS 2026 Fast Pitch Softball

03/26	Carroll County	Home
03/27	Spencer Co.	Away
03/30	Walton-Verona	Home
04/02	Lloyd Memorial	Away
04/06	Owensboro	Away
04/06	Owensboro Catholic	Home
04/07	Middlesboro	Away
04/08	Bethlehem	Away
04/09	Casey Co.	Away
04/13	Walton-Verona	Away
04/14	Eminence	Away
04/16	Eminence	Home
04/17	Spencer Co.	Home
04/20	Williamstown	Away
04/21	Trimble Co.	Home
04/23	Trimble Co.	Away
04/28	Owen Co.	Home
04/29	Beechwood	Away
04/30	Owen Co.	Away
05/01	Boone Co.	Away
05/02	Villa Madonna	Away
05/04	Bishop Brossart	Away
05/05	Henry Co.	Away
05/07	Henry Co.	Home
05/13	Ludlow	Away

Special Meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

CORRECTION: ADDING TIME

There will be a Public Meeting of the Gallatin County Planning Commission at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at the Gallatin County Extension Office Annex Building, at 395 HWY. 42 W, Warsaw, KY 41095, to discuss the Comprehensive Plan. On the Agenda will be the Goals and Objectives portion of the Plan.

I apologize for any confusion and inconvenience.

Special Meeting

Gallatin County Fiscal Court

Tuesday, March 31st

3 p.m.

at the

Gallatin County Extension Office

US 42 West

Warsaw Ky 41095

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