

Preakness this year is the most watched since 2021, NBC Sports says

ASSOCIATED PRESS

STAMFORD, Conn. — NBC Sports said Tuesday that this year's running of the Preakness Stakes was the most watched since 2021.

An average of 5.5 million viewers tuned in on NBC or Peacock on Saturday, with a peak audience of 7.1 million for the race itself won by Napoleon Solo. A social media post noted that NBA and Major

League Baseball games promoted the 151st running of the race this time.

Ratings were up 22% from last year despite Kentucky Derby winner Golden Tempo not running and there being no chance at a horse sweeping all three legs of the Triple Crown. This was the third time in five years the Preakness took place without the Derby winner.

NBC said the Derby earlier this month was the most watched on record with

an average of 19.6 million viewers. Audience peaked at 24.4 million, according to preliminary data from Nielsen and Adobe Analytics.

The Preakness was run in front of a limited-capacity crowd of 4,800 at Laurel Park while Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore is rebuilt.

The third and final leg, the Belmont Stakes, is set for June 6 at Saratoga Race Course in upstate New York.

BASEBALL

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one Owen County batter.

Brody Hearn started on the mound for Owen County and suffered the loss. Hearn pitched three innings and recorded two strikeouts.

Following Hearn, Connor Dezarn and Kolt Gibson each made relief appearances for the Rebels. Dezarn pitched two innings while Gibson worked one inning. Both Dezarn and Gibson logged one strikeout.

The three Owen County pitchers combined to throw 121 pitches.

Walton-Verona scored 10 runs on nine hits. Bronson Corpus homered twice.

Helping his pitching cause at the plate, Dryden added another homer.

Michael Smith supplied Owen County's lone hit, connecting for a double.

Owen County dropped its second game to Walton-Verona in the 2026 high school baseball season. The Bearcats blanked the Rebels 2-0 in a game played on Tuesday, March 31.

Five Rebels named to All-31st District Baseball Team
OWENTON — Five Owen County student-athletes have been named to the All-31st District Baseball Team.

The Rebels who have been named to the All-31st District Baseball Team are junior first baseman Michael Smith, senior utility player Trip Allnutt, senior second

baseman Bryson Tirey, senior third baseman Brody Hearn and junior pitcher Connor Dezarn.

Each of the honorees excelled for Owen County throughout the regular season.

Owen County has shown improvement throughout its latest campaign, entering the postseason 16-12. The Rebels have already surpassed their win total from the 2025 high school baseball season. The Rebels compiled a 13-9 record one season ago. Head coach

Shane Tirey guides the much-improved Rebels.

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GIRLS

FROM PAGE B1

right field near the line to put Owen County in front 21-0.

However, Eminence slowed the momentum with a pop out and a strikeout at the end of the frame.

The Warriors kept fighting offensively as well, earning a single by Maddie Jamison to second base in the top of the third.

A pitch hit Rylee Smith to give Eminence runners on first and second, but Owen County thwarted the attack with consecutive outs to end the game.

Jamison earned Eminence's lone hit of the evening, while Tatum Burgin and Sadie Reed ended with a walk apiece.

Aspen Hysinger also struck out one batter in 1.1 innings in the circle.

With the loss, Eminence finishes the season with a 2-22 overall record.

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