

Lady Cats ranked; Cats host MP tonight

Written by Don Wallace

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Sulphur Springs teams face big games Tuesday against foes from Mount Pleasant.

The Lady Cats, recently No. 17 in the state Class 4A poll, will be holding the Lady Tigers. The junior varsity game is at 4:30 p.m. followed by the varsity game at 6 p.m. at the Lady Cat softball diamond.

Sulphur Springs is 2-0 in girls district softball competition. The Lady Cats hammered Pine Tree 11-1 and won 1-0 at Marshall in a pitcher's duel.

The Lady Cats are taking the field for the first time after being ranked statewide.

Class 4A Girls Softball Ranking

1. Richmond Foster (17-0)
2. Mansfield Legacy (15-2)
3. Barbers Hill (13-0)
4. Vidor (14-4)
5. Lockhart (15-3)
6. Dripping Springs (16-3)
7. Hallsville (16-2)
8. Medina Valley (18-2)
9. Nederland (12-6)
10. El Paso Chapin (14-1)
11. Hays (10-3)
12. Brewer (11-4)
13. Burleson Centennial (10-2)
14. Little Cypress Mauriceville (14-5)
15. Georgetown East View (20-2)
16. Azle (16-4)
17. Sulphur Springs (15-4-1)
18. Gregory-Portland (15-5)
19. Prosper (11-2)
- 20T. Magnolia (11-3)
- 20T. San Antonio Brennan (12-3)

"I was surprised, but even-keeled about the ranking. It's great recognition for our girls, but I know are girls realize that we still have to play the schedule and not to overlook anyone," said David Carrillo, Lady Cats head softball coach. "I always say 'That's why you play the game.' The Mount Pleasant game will be a great game. It's been a great rivalry."

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Carrillo said, "They are coming off a good week of play losing to Hallsville 5-4 and beating Pine Tree 11-3. They have a freshman pitcher who has been pitching very well as of late and offensively they have been able to put runs on the board."

The Wildcats open district baseball play today at home against the Tigers of Mount Pleasant at 7 p.m.

Mount Pleasant could use ace Michael Kopech on the mound tonight. The 6-4, 190-pound right-handed pitcher is projected by some to be a high draft pick in the MLB draft. His fastball been clocked at 94-99 mph by scouts.

Kopech recently matched up against Patrick Mahomes of state-ranked Whitehouse. Mahomes had 16 strikeouts while Kopech had 12 Ks in the game.

"We matchup well with them; but anytime Kopech is on the mound for them, they have a real good chance. We will go with Tyler Follis," said Jerrod Hammack, Sulphur Springs head baseball coach.

The Wildcats are 10-4 entering district competition.

Mount Pleasant is 9-7. The Tigers beat No. 23-ranked 3A power Atlanta, 7-4 in their final non-district baseball outing.

"I have been pleased overall with our pitching and hitting. Our defense needs to get better and our base running is going to have to be an edge for us. We need to play as we did in the first two tournaments to be able to compete in this district and I expect that will be the case. Hallsville is the favorite as they have eight returning starters, but I believe we will be a team that will surprise a lot of people," Hammack said.