

# **2024 State Softball Championships**

### Class 5A

Centennial beat top seed Alamogordo 6-5 to win the Class 5A Title at the 2024 NMAA State Softball Championships. The Hawks (31-3) forced a decisive game two after shutting out the Tigers (27-5) 6-0 earlier in the day at the University of New Mexico Softball Field. In game one, Centennial senior ace Zantelle Rodriguez pitched a no-hitter, striking out nine and driving in five of her team's six runs. In game two of the double-elimination tournament, Rodriguez also pitched the first five innings before teammate Caprice Barela took over. With a 6-5 lead in the sev-



enth and Alamogordo threatening, Barela helped record the final two outs by snagging a line-drive and then throwing the ball to second for a game-ending double play. It's Centennial's first state title since 2016.

#### Class 4A

Gallup beat Artesia 7-1 in Game 2 on Championship Saturday to claim the Class 4A Title at the NMAA State Softball Championships. It's their second state title over the past three seasons. It was the fourth straight appearance in the finals for Gallup (24-6). Seniah Haines went 4-for-4 and scored two runs for the state champs and struck out four batters in the championship game. Artesia (24-9) forced a decisive Game 2 after beating the top seeded Lady Bengals 1-0 earlier in the day. Gallup won 16 of their final 17 games of the season.



## Class 3A

West Las Vegas ended the 2024 NMAA State Softball Championships the same way they started the postseason, as the #1 team in Class 3A. The top seeded Lady Dons (26-3) beat Cobre 4-1 to win their first ever state softball championship. Cobre (23-8) held onto a 1-1 tie thru four innings, but West Las Vegas senior Tajette Horner hit a bases loaded single as the Lady Dons put up a pair of runs in the fifth

to take a 3-1 lead. West Las Vegas would add an insurance run in the seventh to seal the victory. West Las Vegas outscored their opponents 51-13 in the tournament.



## Class A/2A

For the third straight season, the Loving Falcons end the softball season on top. Loving beat Mesilla Valley Christian 16-0 to win the school's 20th state championship. It was Loving's eighth straight

appearance in the final. Loving (25-2) avenged one of their only two losses on the season, an 18-11defeat by Mesilla Valley back in the first week of April. The championship matchup against Loving was Mesilla Valley's (23-6) fourth game of the day in the double elimination tournament. Loving ended the year on a 12-game win streak. Loving outscored their opponents 43-6 in the tournament.

