

12U finishes Runner-Up at State

Dragons fall in State by one run

ANGELINA ALCOTT
R-H SPORTS

The 12U Dragons entered the State Tournament one week after they clinched the District Championship title. Another road trip, last week they traveled to Allen County-Scottsville and opened up pool play July 11.

The young Dragon squad dominated, outscoring their two opponents 23-1.

July 10, they shut out Meade County 16-0, which included a home run by Cole Kessler.

They returned July 11 to face off against Henderson County. Connor Loy struck out 14 of the first 15 batters he faced to squander hope of any rally situation. The Dragons finished pool play undefeated with a 7-1 win.

The maturity level of the 12U team was showcased through their ability to capitalize on their opponents' errors, read the ball, and be defensively dominant.

In the first round of State, the team defeated Edmonson County 14-2 on July 13. Infielders Cole Kessler and Drew Squires each went long for a homerun.

July 14, in the semi-finals, they shut-out Grayson County 15-0. Loy, Kessler, and Houk all hit one over the fence to boost the lead. With the win, the team advanced to the State Cal Ripken Championship.

Kessler finished the tournament with a total of three home runs for his team.

They stepped onto the field for one final time in the State Tournament against the strong pitch-

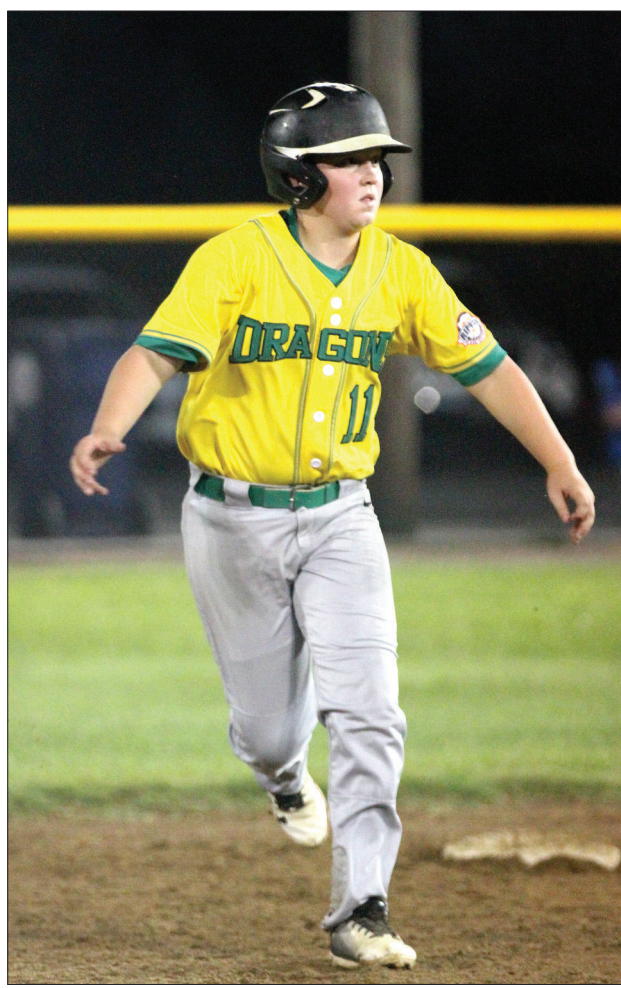
ing Hancock County.

Hancock took an early 2-0 lead, but the Dragons dug in and battled the entire six inning stretch. They were able to pull within one run, but Hancock held on for a one run 3-2 win over the Dragons.

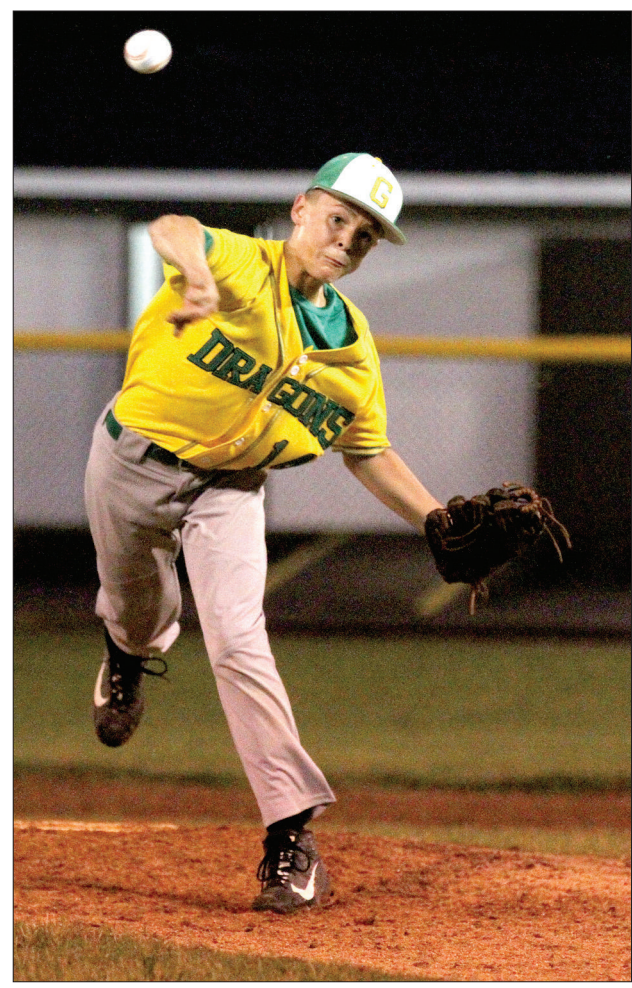
Kessler remembers when his older brother Cade's team got beat in the State Tournament a few years ago, by the same county, same score. He hopes his team can make another big run so he can have a banner up with his photo at the park next to his big brother's.

"I am really excited for the chance to go to the Regional Tournament and play for a Regional title and a trip to the World Series," Kessler said.

The Dragons' hard work paid off as they finished the 2019 Western Kentucky State Runner-Up and earned a bid to the Regional Tournament. The team heads to Kokomo, Ind. tomorrow for the Regional Tournament.



Big hitter Cole Kessler hit three home runs in the State Tournament held in Allen County Scottsville over the weekend. Kessler and his team finished as State 12U Runner-Up after a 2-3 loss to Hancock County.



A missile; Connor Loy sits down 14 of the first 15 batters he pitched too via strike outs. The one hit was returned to Loy's glove and he threw to first for a textbook out.



Picking up his feet Drew Squires slides neatly onto second base for a successful steal. The team leaves tomorrow for Kokomo Indiana for the Regional Baseball Tournament and high hopes to earn a bid to the World Series.



Caleb Corbin stays solid behind the plate for the 12U Dragons. The Dragons kicked off their State Tournament play July 13. They defeated Edmonson County 14-2 in the first round, shut out Grayson County in the semi-finals 15-0 on July 14 before losing in the Championship game after a battle 2-3 against Hancock County.

Photos by Angelina Alcott



Connecting on change-up, Andrew Houk picks up a double in the second pool play game of the 12U Western Kentucky State Tournament.

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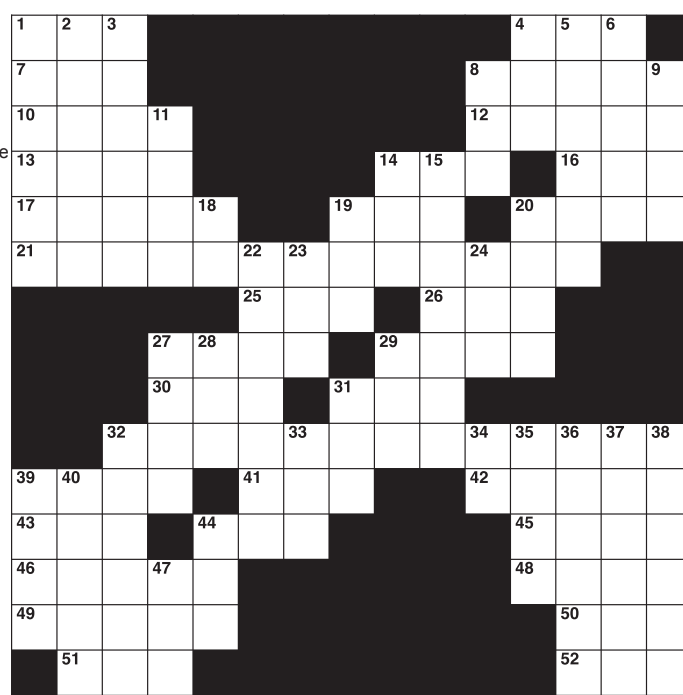
Crossword Puzzle

CLUES ACROSS

- Doctors' group
- One millionth of a gram
- Contrary to
- Oohed and
- Popular sandwiches
- Construction site machine
- Variety act
- Fall back
- An electrically charged atom
- Mountain lakes
- Japanese classical theater
- Pesky insect
- Natural wonders
- Design file extension
- Genus of grasses
- Container for shipping
- Theron film "___ Flux"
- Get older
- Chinese surname
- Edith Bunker actress
- Natives to Myanmar
- Soda comes in it
- Counting frames
- Where some get their mail (abbr.)
- Having ten
- Assn. of oil-producing countries
- A type of cigar
- World's longest river
- Single-celled animal
- Decay
- General's assistant (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- ___ and Costello
- Islamic teacher
- Clothing
- Disfigure
- Irons
- NW Italian seaport
- Play a role
- A reduction
- Short poem set to music
- Pain unit
- Get in form
- Junior's father



- To the ___ degree
- Wild or sweet cherry
- Content
- Earn a perfect score
- Korean surname
- Herb ___, San Francisco columnist
- Ottoman military commander
- Satisfaction
- Kids' TV channel (abbr.)
- Poke quickly
- Pouch
- City of Angels
- Dark olive black
- Nocturnal hoofed mammals
- Wild cat
- Fine detail
- Prevents harm to creatures
- A city in Louisiana
- Everyone has their own
- Basics

Answers found on page 11A