

# Cougars go 18-3 during regular season

The South Central Cougars have had a phenomenal year, winning the 1000<sup>th</sup> game in school history, earning coach Curt Jones his 800th career win, and of, course, winning the IHSA Class 1A State Baseball Championship!

The team prepared itself for post season play with a tough regular season, only losing three games all year. Here is a recap of the Cougars regular season games.

Losses came to two larger schools – St. Anthony and Teutopolis, and to Flora, on the road.

The team had 7 shutouts during the season, including one in post season.

## Vs. Cisne

Perhaps the opening game of the season was a good foreshadowing of things to come in the season as the Cougars demolished the Cisne Running Lions Varsity 25-0 on Wednesday, April 21, as three pitchers combined to throw a shutout.

In a game that lasted only three innings, the Cougars jumped out to an early 12-0 lead in the first inning.

The game was a slugfest for the Cougars who amounted five home runs in the contest, including a grand slam by Hunter Cripe in the third to help seal the early end. Other getting in on the home run derby were C. Dodson, Sebastian Cowger, and Aidan Dodson with two.

Beau Joliff started the game for South Central, allowing one hit and no runs over one inning, and walking one.

The team collected 19 hits on the day. Sam Rubin, C. Dodson, and A. Dodson each managed three hits to lead Farina South Central Cougars Varsity. Cowger was 2 for 3. Both Cowger and A. Dodson each had 5 RBIs, and Cripe had 4 RBIs in his single shot.

The Cougars were errorless in the opener, and obviously, were 1-0 on the season.

## Vs. CHBC

The Cougars' opponent in the second game of the season, Cowden-Herrick/Beecher City, fared a little better, however South Central had in second shutout in as many games as they had played.

They shutout the Bobcats 10-0 on Monday, April 26, as Joliff and Ethan Dunn combined to throw the shutout. They moved to 2-0 on the young season with the win.

The Cougars were boosted by Chase Dodson who went 4-for-4 at the plate. Dodson homered in the first, singled in the second, singled in the fourth, and doubled in the fifth.

Scoring opened up in the first inning, when Dodson homered on a

1-1 count, bringing around Thompson. Rubin doubled with two outs to bring A. Dodson around to cross the plate for the third run of the inning.

The team added three runs in the second inning as Brandt Hiestand homered, bringing around Dunn, and C. Dodson singled home Thompson.

Beau Joliff earned the win, going four innings, allowing one hit and zero runs while striking out four. Dunn threw one inning in relief out of the bullpen.

Farina South Central Cougars Varsity tallied 12 hits in the game. C. Dodson went 4-for-4 at the plate to lead in hits.

## Vs. Greenville

Both teams' pitchers were strong on the mound in the nightcap on Monday, April 26, but South Central prevailed over Greenville, 2-1. Chase Dodson allowed just one hit to Greenville and helped his own cause with a solo shot in the bottom of the first.

The Cougars scored their second run as Hiestand was hit by a pitch, stole second, advanced to third on a pickoff attempt and was brought around to score, on a fielder's choice by Joliff.

Greenville scored its sole run on wild pitches and passed balls in the top of the fourth. Both teams were held scoreless for the remainder of the game.

Dodson got the win for Farina South Central Cougars Varsity. The hurler lasted seven innings, allowing one hit and one run while striking out 14 and walking none. Sam Rubin and Dodson each managed one hit to lead the team.

The Cougars upped their record to 3-0 on the year.

## Vs. Odin

The Cougars earned another shutout on Tuesday, April 27, defeating Odin 12-0 in five. Spencer Johannes induced a groundout from Logan Haines to finish off the game.

Things started off for the good guys in the first inning when C. Dodson homered on a 1-0 count, bringing Thompson around for the score. South Central tallied six runs in the second inning, on singles by C. Dodson and A. Dodson, and doubles by Dunn and Joliff.

Dodson led the Farina South Central Cougars Varsity to victory on the pitcher's mound. He went three innings, allowing one hit and no runs while striking out four and walking one. Johannes threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen.

The cougars had ten hits. Dodson, Cowger, and Dunn all collected multiple. Dodson went 3-for-3

at the plate.

The Cougars went 4-0 on the year.

## Vs. St. Anthony

The team's first taste of defeat was a heartbreaker against the St Anthony, as they lost the lead late in a 2-1 defeat. The game was tied at one with St Anthony batting in the bottom of the sixth when an error scored one run for the Bulldogs.

A. Dodson took the loss for the Cougars in the hard fought game. He had a brilliant performance, in what any other game would probably have been a win, going six innings, allowing two runs on three hits, striking out three and walking none.

Dodson, Hunter Cripe, and Sebastian Cowger all had a hit in the game. Their season record puts its first loss in the books, 4-1.

## Vs. Edwards County

Spencer Johannes didn't allow a single run in the Cougars fourth shutout in six games, defeating the Edwards County Lions, 2-0, on Friday, April 30. Johannes allowed just four hits in the contest, striking out nine.

The Cougars opened up scoring in the first inning. Thompson began the home half of the first inning by drawing a walk, and stole second with one out. He advanced to third on a passed ball and came across the plate on an error by the Lions' shortstop.

The Cougars scored their second run in the bottom of the fourth, as C. Dodson walked, and A. Dodson singled. With men on first and second, Cowger hit a ground ball that was bobbled by the first baseman, and C. Dodson came around for the second run in the game.

Both teams were shutout for the rest of the game, as South Central held on for the win, upping their record to 5-1 on the season.

Johannes earned the win, lasting seven innings, allowing four hits while striking out nine.

Johannes, Joliff, and A. Dodson each managed a hit in the game.

## Vs. Ramsey

The Cougars rolled over the Ramsey Rams in a game on Monday, May 3 on the Rams' home field.

The Cougars wasted no time as in the top half of the first; they brought four runs across the plate. Thompson drew a walk and stole second. C. Dodson also drew a walk putting men at first and second. Both advanced on steals, and on a fly ball to centerfield by A. Dodson, Thompson came in to score and C. Dodson went to third. Cowger was hit by a pitch, putting runners at the corners. He stole second, and



**Spencer Johannes was one of the aces out of the bullpen for the Cougars. UP until the state tournament, JOhannes had pitched in 11 games, and amassed a 3-1 record. He had an ERA of 2.97.**

with a full count, Joliff singled to left, bringing C. Dodson in. On a successful Joliff steal of second, Cowger stole home for the third run of the inning. Rubin singled to center and advanced to second on the throw to third, as Joliff was safe. He scored on a Johannes sacrifice fly to center field, making the score 4-0.

The team scored five in the second and another three in third, before the Rams scored their sole run in the bottom of the third, with the score 12-1.

That's all the runs South Central needed for the win, but they added insult to injury and scored another six runs in the fifth, for yet another quick game.

Joliff pitched the Cougars to victory, surrendering one run on one hit over three innings, and striking out one. The Dodson duo entered the game out of the bullpen and helped to close out the game in relief.

South Central collected 15 hits in the game. Rubin, Joliff, Cripe, Cowger, and C. Dodson all had two hits; Cowger had with four stolen bases, as the Cougars ran wild on the base paths with 14 stolen bases.

## Vs. Altamont

South Central took it to Altamont on Wednesday, May 5, but waited until later in the game to secure the win.

Taking the lead in the top of the third, the Cougars scored 4 runs in each of the sixth and seventh innings to take the contest. Altamont scored their two runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Joliff went 2 for 3 in the contest, again with 2 RBIs. Hiestand was 1 for 2, also with 2 RBIs. Cripe and Johannes drove in the other two earned runs in the contest for the Cougars.

C. Dodson got the win, pitching 6.2 innings, allowing just three hits on the night. He struck out 12.

## Vs. Teutopolis

After trailing 3-0 headed into the bottom of the fourth inning, the Cougars came back and took the lead, scoring two runs in the bottom of each of the fourth and fifth innings on Monday, May 10, but gave

out Smith to finish off the game.

The Cougars took an early 6-0 lead in the third, as Johannes doubled to start the inning and was advanced to third on a bunt single by Hiestand. With runners at the corners, Hiestand advanced to second with no challenge, then Thompson singled to center as both base runners scored. Thomson then stole second, then on to third on a C. Dodson single to center. Dodson stole second, again, unchallenged, when Cowger singled to right, scoring Thompson.

A. Dodson singled to left, bringing Dodson in for the fourth run, and Cowger went to second then to third on a passed ball. Joliff walked, and Cowger scored on the fielder's choice by Cripe. Johannes brought the final run of the inning in with a singled to right.

C. Dodson homered in the fourth to make it 7-0.

The Cougars put up six more in the sixth, and coasted to the easy win, putting down the final three batters.

Johannes picked up the win allowing three hits over three innings, striking out two and walking one. Hiestand threw three innings in relief out of the bullpen.

The Cougars tallied 15 hits on the day. Johannes and Dodson had three hits each.

## Vs. Benton

The Cougars weathered a scare by Benton Rangers in the fifth inning on Thursday, May 13, where they coughed up three runs in the fifth, but came back with one each in the sixth and seventh, to secure the win. They won 9-5 and went 10-2 on the year.

South Central fired up the offense in the second inning when Joliff homered, driving in two.

They put up two more runs each in the third and fifth inning, and one run each in the fourth, sixth and seventh innings for the win. They were ahead 7-5 at the end of five.

Chase Dodson took the win, going four innings, allowing four hits and two runs while striking out six and walking one. Sebastian Cowger threw three innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Farina South Central Cougars Varsity racked up ten hits in the game. Thompson went 3-for-5 at the plate to lead in hits.

## Vs. Flora

Flora handed the Cougars their third and final loss of the season, as South Central was on the road Saturday, May 15.

The Cougars watched the

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**Chase Dodson Pitched in 14 games for the Cougars, second on the team behind Aidan Ddson. He pitched 47.1 innings and had an ERA of 0.89. He also led the team in strikeouts, amassing 81 during the season.**

AUTHENTIC

STREET SIGNS

Go, Cougars!



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