

Dragons win District

DALE CURRY
STAFF WRITER

Green County High School's baseball team won the 18th District in dramatic fashion last week, beating LaRue County, the number one seed, in the championship game.

To get to the finals, Green County beat Hart County in the semi-finals, 11-9 in a game that had big runs for both teams.

The Raiders scored three runs in the top of the first inning but Green County exploded for five runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Logan Slinker and Bryson Edwards singled, followed by walks to Blayde Milby and Hayden Blakeman and then errors by Hart County allowed Slinker, Edwards and Blakeman to score.

A sacrifice bunt by Andrew Houk scored Milby and then Hodges scored on a Hart County wild pitch, giving Green County a 5-3 lead after a wild first inning.

The craziness continued in the bottom of the third inning. Milby walked and then stole second base. A balk advanced him to third base. Hodges struck out but the Hart County catcher dropped the ball and Hodges was safe at first. Meanwhile Milby scored while the Raiders were trying to get the out at first.

Hodges stole second base and then scored on a double by Houk.

Green County seemed to put the game away in the bottom of the fifth inning when they scored four runs.

Edwards singled, stole second and then scored on a Blakeman double.

Milby singled and the Dragons had two runners on board.

A wild pitch moved both runners to third and second bases and Hodges hit a sacrifice fly to score Blakeman.

Houk hit a home run over the left field fence and all of a sudden, Green County was up 11-4.

Hart County was not done, however, and answered with four runs of their own in the top of the sixth inning and then added another run in the top of the seventh and had two base runners on before a strikeout ended the game.

Drew Squires was credited with the win as he pitched four and

one third innings, giving up four runs and two hits. Cade Kessler had been the starting pitcher. He pitched one and a third innings. Edwards and Blakeman also were used as pitchers in this must-win game.

This was the third time this year that GreenbeatHartCounty and it set up a rematch with LaRue County, a team that had defeated the Dragons twice this season.

The Dragons opened up a 2-0 lead in the second inning. Milby started the inning by being walked, Hodges singled and then a sacrifice by Houk moved the runners to the next base.

Zack Ferguson then bunted which resulted in Milby and Hodges scoring before the third out occurred on the base paths.

Those two runs held up until the bottom of the fifth inning when LaRue scored their first run and then in the bottom of the sixth, the Hawks added two more scores to take a 3-2 lead.

But the Dragons were not to be denied.

In the top of the seventh inning, with one out, Slinker hit a single and then Squires singled to put two men on base.

Then Edwards hit into a fielder's choice and the Dragons still had two men on base but there were two outs.

Blakeman came to bat and on the first pitch, he blasted a home run across the left field fence, giving Green County a 5-3 lead. This was Blakeman's first home run of the season.

The LaRue County bats were silent in the bottom of the seventh and Green County racked up the district championship.

The Dragons used four pitchers in the game with Caden Scantland being the starter. He went five and one third innings and gave up one hit and three runs and struck out four.

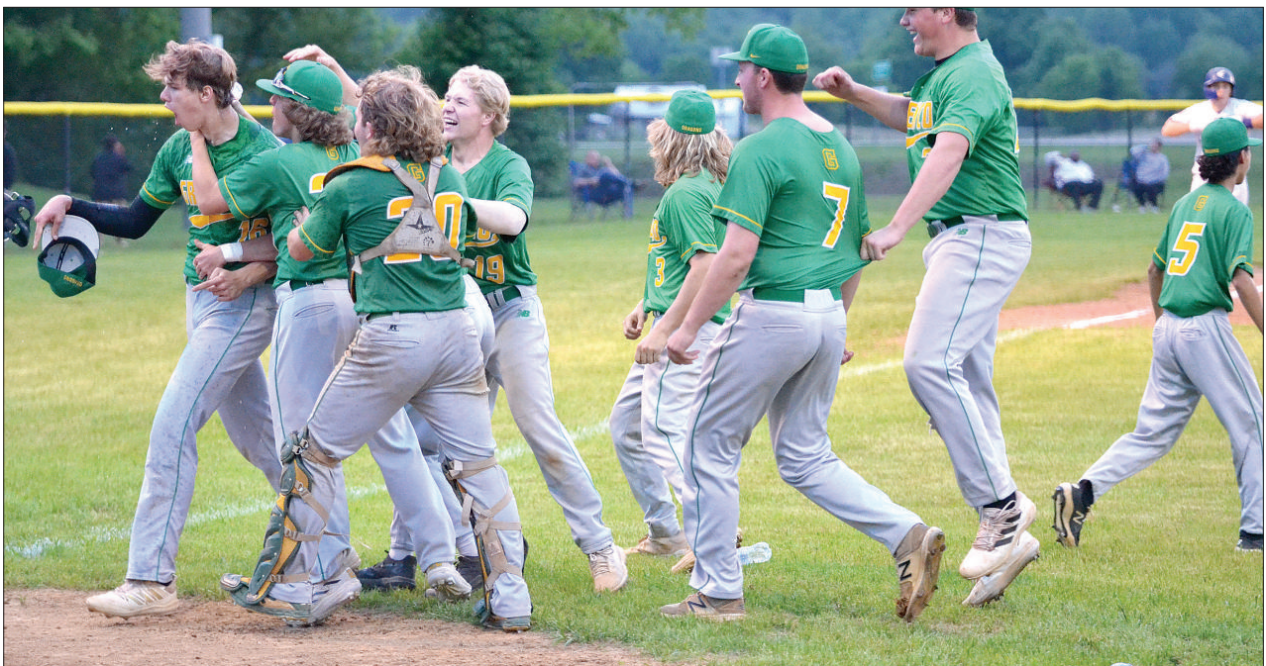
Edwards, Kessler and Blakeman also pitched with Kessler earning the win and Blakeman the save.

Green County last won the district in 2021 but was the runner-up team in 2022, 2019 and 2018. There were no games in 2020.

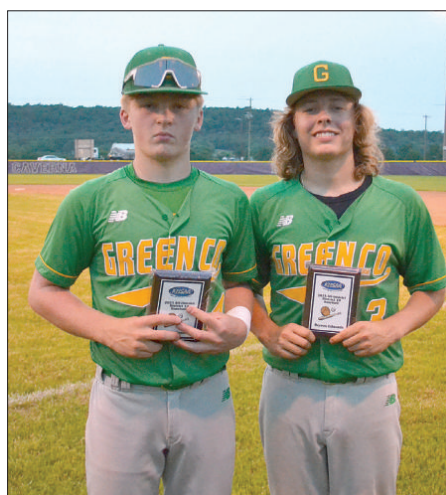
The Dragons are 17-15 heading into the 5th Region Tournament.



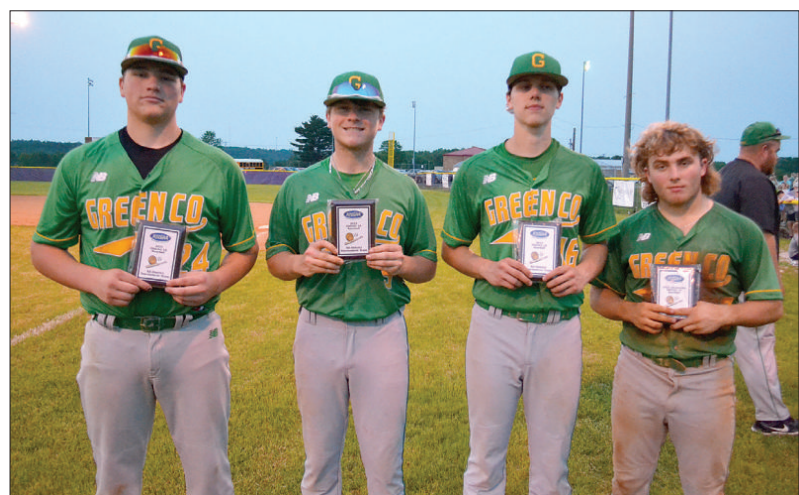
The Green County High School Dragons won the 18th District Tournament last week with wins over Hart County and LaRue County.



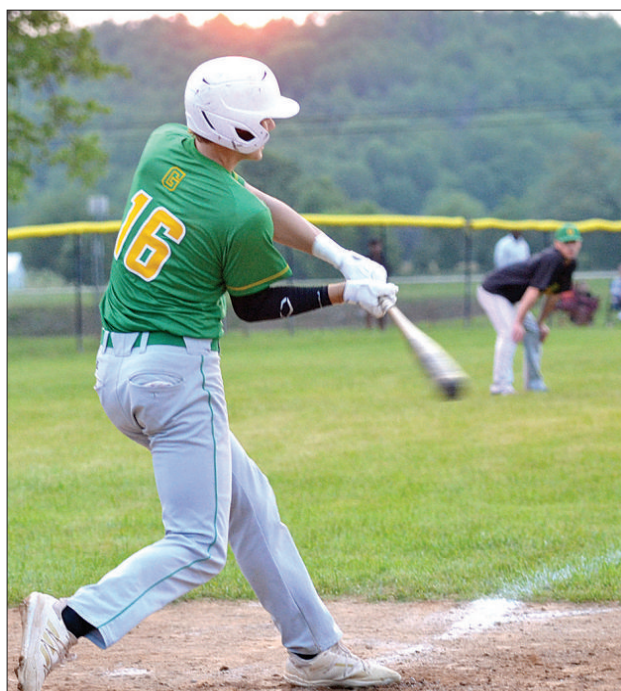
The Dragon baseball team celebrates their win over LaRue in the finals of the 18th District Tournament last week.



Drew Squires and Bryson Edwards were named to the 18th District All-Season Team.



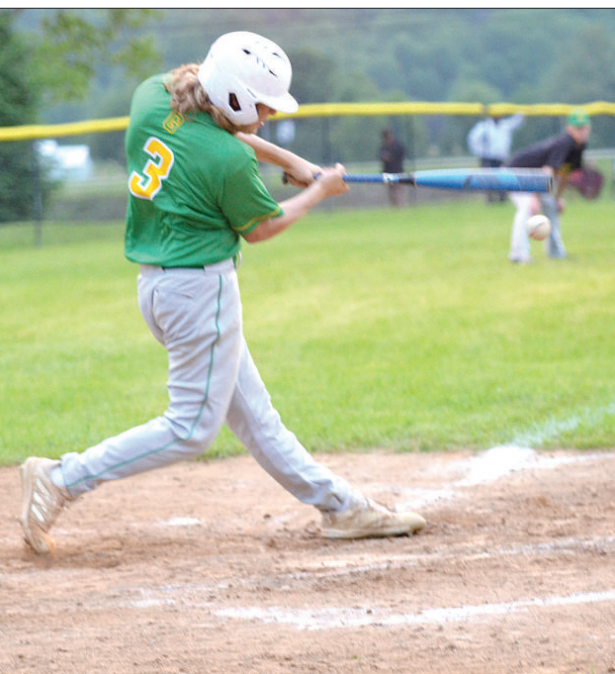
Andrew Houk, Cade Scantland, Hayden Blakeman and Logan Slinker were named to the 18th District All-Tournament team.



Hayden Blakeman slammed a three-run homerun to help Green County to a 5-3 win over LaRue in the 18th District championship.



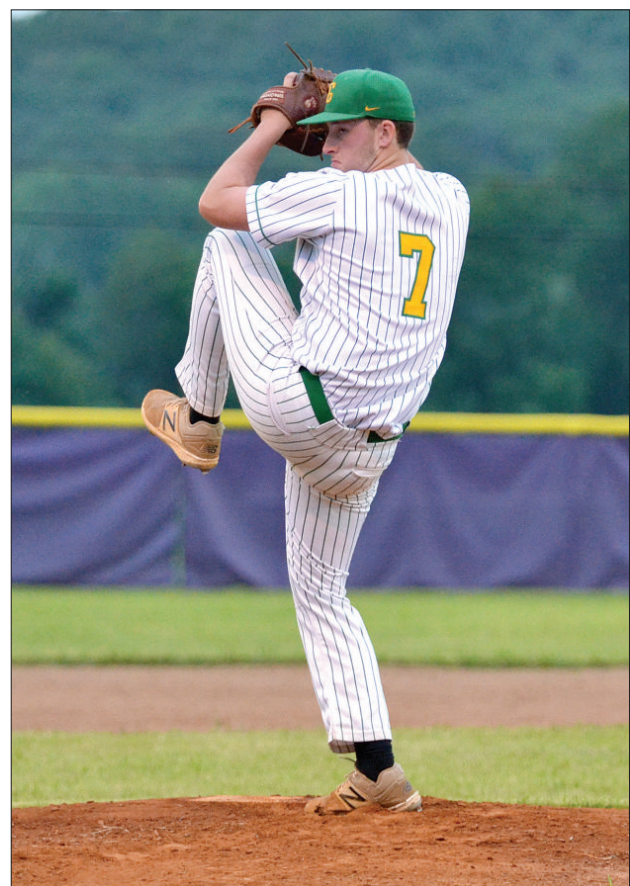
Senior Logan Slinker scored the first run for Green County against Hart County in the district tournament.



In the seventh inning, Bryson Edwards got on base and scored when Hayden Blakeman hit a home run.



It's a celebration for Andrew Houk following his home run against Hart County.



Cade Kessler, a GCHS senior, was the starting pitcher for the Dragons against Hart County in the first round of the 18th District Tournament.

Photos by Dale Curry