

# Crazy for the 'Cats

■ After topping Providence Christian in semis, Millry baseball team ready to crown surprise season in Class A state finals against No. 1 Hackleburg in Montgomery

By Colin Merritt  
The Choctaw Sun

MILLRY -- When the season started, the Millry Wildcats baseball team was a longshot to win the state championship. The Cats were young and inexperienced - with lots of the starting lineup composed of fresh faces - and could boast of just one senior. That's usually not a recipe for a state title, but don't tell that to these cinderella Cats, who have defied the odds and are now just two wins away from the championship.

After waxing Providence Christian in the semi-finals in Millry on Friday and Saturday, the youth-laden Wildcats are headed for Montgomery to play for the Class A state championship against Hackleburg after presstime on Tuesday.

"It's been crazy," beamed Millry's coach Shane Hendry from his Montgomery hotel room on the eve of the best-of-three series that will pit his Wildcats against the state's top-ranked team, Hackleburg. "We've battled all year against bigger teams and it has paid off."

The Wildcats actually still bare the scars from a season filled with bigger opponents like Class 6A Citronelle, Class 4A Jackson and 2A powerhouse Leroy. The brutal slate has the Wildcats entering the state finals with a record of 19-22.

Millry made it to Montgomery on the strength of beating No. 4 Providence Christian in Millry on Friday and Saturday in their best-of-three series. Dothan's Providence Christian actually took the opener 4-2, but fell 5-3 in game-two and then 9-4 in an elimination game on Saturday.

Knocking off ranked opponents is nothing new to the Cats, who have beaten No. 2 Brantley, No. 5 South Lamar, and No. 8 J.U.

Blacksher on their run through the playoffs.

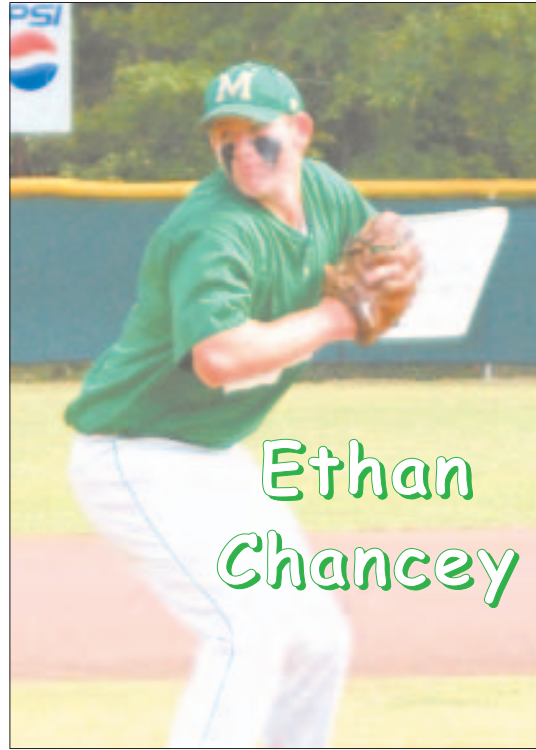
These giant-killer have one more monster to slay before they lift the crown, however.

"We are looking at this series just like any other," Hendry said of the 38-4 Hackleburg Panthers, who have been ranked No. 1 in Class A for most of the season. "We like being the underdog, we've got nothing to lose. We are going to come out swinging and see what happens."

According to Hendry, junior Ethan Chancey will start game-one on Tuesday at 1 p.m., followed by senior Taylor Owen in game-two at 4 p.m. and then sophomore Hunter Martin, if necessary, in game-three on Wednesday. Freshman Dylan Whitsett will likely be the first reliever used in most situations.



Hunter Martin



Ethan Chancey

## Millry drops opener, 4-2

At presstime on Tuesday afternoon, The Choctaw Sun learned that Millry had lost their opener of the Class A best-of-three state championship series with Hackleburg by the score of 4-2. Hackleburg's Jon McKinney (14-0, 1.08 ERA) outdueled Millry's Ethan Chancey, striking out eight batters and allowing just two hits to pick up the win in the opener. The two teams played again at 4 p.m. after presstime on Tuesday. If the Wildcats won, they play a decisive game on Wednesday at 10 a.m., if they lost, however, then Hackleburg is Class A state champions.

## S.C.I.F.L. Sign-Ups this Saturday

On May 19, 2007 the Southern Choctaw Independent Football League will register football players and cheerleaders for the Fall 2007 season. Registration will be held at Skinner Park in Toxey, AL from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Age Groups: Mighty Mites - 6 years old, Tiny Mites - 7 & 8 years old, Midgets - 9 & 10 years old, Juniors - 11 & 12 years old

Fees:  
1 child - \$45  
2 children - \$65  
3 children - \$85

All new players will need to bring a copy of their birth certificate. Registration for the midgets and juniors will only be for previous players who played Fall 2006. Another date will be set for new players.

If you have any questions, please contact Eddie Lewis, president @ 251-843-5237 or Scott Phillips, vice - president @ 251-843-2837.



Choctaw Sun photo by Colin Merritt

## Saints J.V. hoopsters get Rings

BUTLER -- The Patrician Academy Lady Saints junior varsity basketball team crowned a sizzling 16-0 season with a championship at the AISA State Invitational Tournament back in January. On Friday during the school's award ceremonies, the girls received their rings commemorating the perfect season. Members of the 2007 J.V. Lady Saints are (in no order) Tori Walters, Harley Glass, LeNoir Lewis, Megan Weekley, Kameron Cook, Lauren Bonner, Kate Christopher, Kristen Tyson, Miranda Luker, Katie Norwood, Jesseca Anderson, Erin Jimerson, Victoria Jackson, and Brooke Sims.

## Tide players roll into Butler for Alumni Golf Tourney



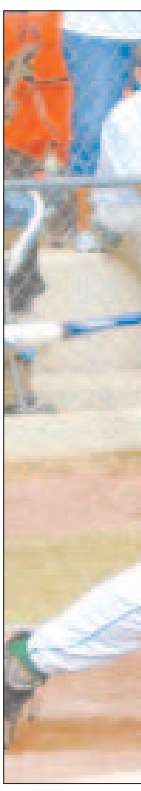
Choctaw Sun photo by Marcus Gates

BUTLER -- The Choctaw County Chapter of the University of Alabama Alumni Association held their annual golf scramble at the Choctaw Country Club in Butler on Saturday. The event is held every year to raise funds for local students who attend the University of Alabama. Each year several current and former Crimson Tide football players play in the tourney. This year was no exception, with players like quarterback Greg McElroy (photo) teeing off to help aid Choctaw County students. All funds raised go to buy books, pay tuition and fund scholarships for all Choctaw County students that attend the University.

Find out who else was in Butler on Page 3B



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