

CLASS AAA STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT
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CHATTANOOGA -- Nationally-ranked Oakland didn't let Houston jumping out of the gate quick to slow it down.

The Patriots, ranked in the USA Today's Top 25, scored two runs in the bottom of the second to tie the game at 2-2 and scored two in the third to take a 4-2 lead and went on to beat the Mustangs 6-2 in the first round of the TSSAA Class AAA Baseball Tournament at Historic Engel Stadium.

Houston (33-10) scored single runs in the first and second innings to take a 2-0 lead.

Colby Paxton had a RBI-double in the first, scoring Josh Payne, who led off the game with a single. Jeff Stephens had an RBI-single in the second inning, scoring Kyle Sledd, who walked to lead off the inning.

Brian Blaylock and Chuck Akers had RBI singles for Oakland (35-2) in the second inning to tie the game.

Jerry Knox, the Patriots starting pitcher, doubled off the base of the center field wall to drive in two runs in the third inning.

Jeremy Sladen had a run-scoring double and Casey Rauschenberger added an RBI-single in the sixth inning.

Knox ran his record to 12-0, overcoming a shaky start. The Mustangs got three hits in the first two innings and did not get another until Ryan Hultin doubled in the seventh. Knox scattered four hits, walked two and struck out 10.

Daniel DeArmas (10-3) picked up the loss for the Mustangs. He gave up 15 hits, six runs -- all earned -- walked two -- both intentional passes to Brennan King -- and struck out five.

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Houston	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1
Oakland	0	2	2	0	0	2	x	6	15	0

Daniel DeArmas and Callen Herring; Jerry Knox and Brian Blaylock. WP -- Knox, 12-0. LP -- DeArmas, 10-3. Records: Houston 33-10; Oakland 35-2.