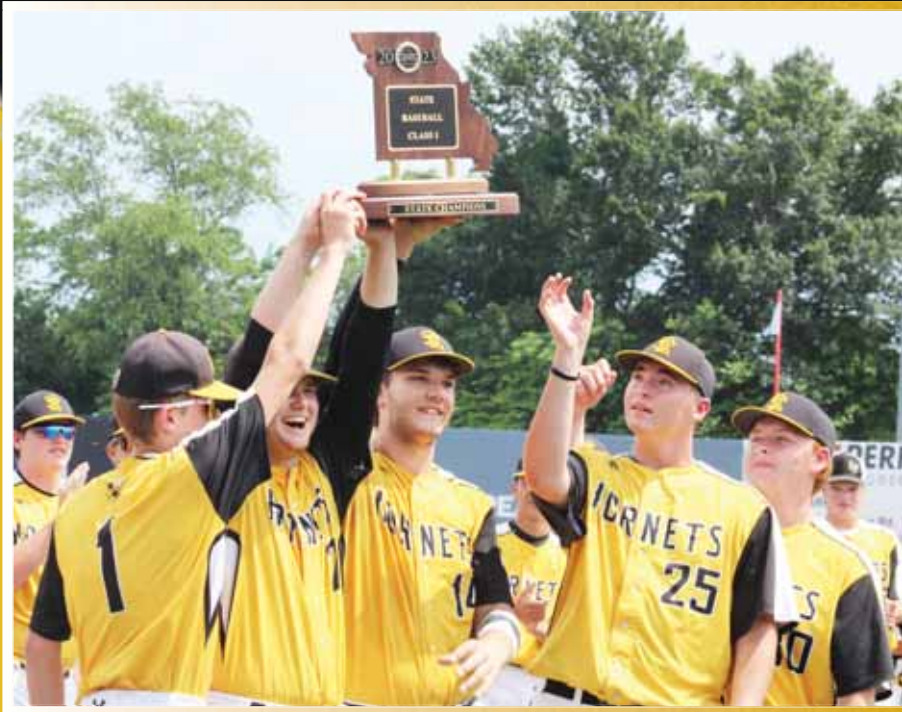


St. Elizabeth Hornets Class 1 State Champions



Back to Back ~ 2022 & 2023



Hornets go back-to-back

St. Elizabeth's bats erupted for 15 hits as the Hornets completed their season with their second straight MSHSAA Class 1 championship with a 13-3 win over the Platte Valley Longhorns in the championship game of the MSHSAA Final Four at Sky Bacon Stadium in Ozark.

The game was a bit similar to the Hornets' overall season, a slow start, coupled with a strong finish.

St. Elizabeth (23-7) took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second. Gavin Williams walked with one out. Cingles by Brady Kemna and Noah Chipman loaded the bases.

Levi Holtmeyer hit a ground ball to Platte Valley shortstop Alex Mattson. Kemna, running for third, stopped. Kemna was tagged out, but the hesitation was long enough to allow Holtmeyer to reach first and courtesy runner Carter Reinkemeyer slid home with the game's first run.

The Longhorns (20-3) tied the game in the bottom of the frame on Tucker Klamm's RBI double that scored Brandon McQueen, who opened the frame with a walk.

St. Elizabeth took command of the game with a flurry of hits off Platte Valley starter Memphis Bliley. (4-2)

Eli Kemna and Caleb Oligschlaeger opened the frame with successive singles. Jace Kesel pounded a ball high off the left field wall for a double, scoring Kemna and chasing Oligschlaeger to third.

After one out, Williams, Brady Kemna, and Chipman all singled, making it 4-1. After two out, Blake Wobbe, who entered the game 0-for-10 in three previous Final Four games, singled to right, scoring two to increase the lead to 6-1.

In the fourth, Kesel blasted another fly ball to the top of the wall. It ended up bouncing back toward the infield. Kesel slid home with an inside-the-park home

run. It was his 12th homer of the season, tops in the state, regardless of class, according to Max Preps.

Wobbe delivered an RBI single in the fifth then added three more RBIs to his total in the sixth, clearing the bases with a blast to the center field wall for a triple.

Williams (5-4) got the win. He worked 5-1/3 innings, allowing two runs on four hits. He struck out six and walked three. Carter Otto came in and despite hitting a batter and surrendering an RBI-triple to Trevor Weir, got Mattson to pop to Wobbe, ending the game, and starting a massive pile on the pitching mound, culminated in a Williams dolphin-like leap to the top.

Every Hornet in the lineup chipped in at least a hit or an RBI.

Wobbe finished 3-for-4 with six RBIs. Chipman also had three hits and a walk. He scored two runs and stole a base.

Kesel, Williams and Brady Kemna each

had two hits. Brayden Kempker scored a pair of runs serving as courtesy runner for Williams.

"Another fun year for us," St. Elizabeth coach Caleb Heckemeyer said. "To put up 22 runs against good pitching is impressive."

For the Hornets, the win caps the high school career for a quintet of seniors in Levi Holtmeyer, Lane Irwin, Jace Kesel, Caleb Oligschlaeger and Trey Struempf. They finish their careers with three district titles, two state championships and one second-place finish. Their freshman season was cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. In their three seasons, the five seniors were part of a team that went 62-19.

"It will be hard to replace these guys, but our guys know if they want to defend another state title, they will have to. "It was a great year and I am very proud of these guys."



Dogpile – St. Elizabeth starting pitcher Gavin Williams does his best Flipper impersonation as he jumps on the pile of Hornet players at the mound following the final out of the Hornets' 13-3 win over Platte Valley in the MSHSAA Class 1 championship game at Sky Back Field in Ozark.

Ride not over yet?

It certainly has been a remarkable run for the St. Elizabeth Hornets. For the past five seasons, the Hornets not only have made the MSHSAA Final Four, but they have played in the championship game each season. (2020 excluded).

People should not expect the Hornets' run to end anytime soon. Of the nine players in the St. Elizabeth lineup in their win over Platte Valley were three seniors, one junior, four sophomores and one freshman.

St. Elizabeth is going to return plenty of varsity experience next spring, especially on the mound. Of the 11 pitchers that tossed at least one inning of varsity action, nine of them return.

The junior varsity team also had a winning year, finishing 8-7, so there will be a number of younger players eager to step into roles on the varsity team next year.

St. Elizabeth also likes to play bigger squads, both during the fall and the spring. Heckemeyer believes it helps the team prepare for the post-season, as the bigger schools often have the type of pitching the Hornets could see in the playoffs.

By the numbers

96-29 - St. Elizabeth coach Caleb Heckemeyer's overall record since taking over the programs

73-17 - Heckemeyer's record during the fall season over the same span. (Fall

records do not count toward totals)

1-5 - St. Elizabeth's record through April 11.

22-2 - St. Elizabeth's record from April 12-May 31.

22 - The number of runs St. Elizabeth scored in its two games at the MSHSAA Class 1 State Championships.

12 - Jace Kesel's home run total in 2023. It is uncertain, but definitely likely, that this is a school record. According to Max Preps, Kesel led the state in homers.

6 - The number of RBIs Blake Wobbe had in the the championship game vs. Platte Valley. Also the number of wins by pitcher Caleb Oligschlaeger this season

5 - The number of consecutive championship games the Hornets have played. Also the total number of baseball championships the Hornets have won in program history.

4 - The number of home runs Jace Kesel hit in the playoffs.

3 - The number of championships the Hornets have won in those five seasons

2 - The number of losses St. Elizabeth has to Class 1 teams during the past five seasons.

1 - The number of Class 1 schools to have defeated St. Elizabeth since the 2018 season. (Oran in the 2018 and 2021 Class 1 Championship games. St. Elizabeth defeated Oran in the 2022 Class 1 championship game)



New ace - Gavin Williams established himself as St. Elizabeth's No. 1 pitcher for next season. The sophomore went 5-4, but he pitched in plenty of big games. He was the starting and winning pitcher in the Hornets' 13-3 triumph over Platte Valley in the MSHSAA Class 1 Championship game Tuesday, May 30, at Ozark.

St. Elizabeth Hornets 2023 Baseball results

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score
March 27	Vienna	L	4-6
March 28	@ Willard	L	0-10
March 30	@ Iberia	W	8-3
April 3	@ Fatima	L	0-1
April 10	@ So. Callaway	L	4-14
April 11	Dixon	L	3-4
April 14	*Lone Jack	W	16-1
April 14	*California	W	13-0
April 15	*Tipton	W	6-0
April 17	@ Jamestown	W	16-0
April 20	Russellville	W	5-4 (8)
April 22	Eugene	W	7-1
April 24	Belle	W	5-1
April 25	Linn	W	9-6
April 28	!Osage	W	16-1
April 28	!Tolton	W	8-2
April 29	!Russellville	W	15-4
May 1	Tuscumbia	W	16-1
May 2	@ New Bloomfield	W	17-0
May 3	Blair Oaks	L	1-7
May 4	@ Crocker	W	12-1
May 6	Camdenton	L	4-7
May 6	Battle	W	7-5
May 10	So. Callaway	W	8-7
May 16	•Tuscumbia	W	15-0
May 17	•Halfway	W	5-0
May 22	¡Weaubleau	W	16-1
May 24	§Liberal	W	6-4
May 29	^a Cooter	W	9-0
May 30	^a Platte Valley	W	13-3

* - New Bloomfield Tournament
! - Russellville Tournament
• - Class 1, District 8 Tourn. at Stoutland
¡ - Class 1 Sectional at Weaubleau
§ - Class 1 Quarter-final at Liberal
^a - MSHSAA Class 1 Championships at Ozark
Final Record 23-7



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Oligschlaeger tosses shutout in semifinal

Caleb Oligschlaeger tossed a three-hit shutout in his final pitching performance of his career as the St. Elizabeth Hornets defeated Cooter 9-0 in the MSHSAA Class 1 semi-final contest Monday, May 29, at Sky Bacon Stadium in Ozark.

The Hornets (ranked second in the final coaches poll) scored an unearned run in the top of the first to take the lead.

Eli Kemna singled to open the frame. After one out, Jace Kesel singled. Isaac Green hit into a force out at second, but Cotter committed an error trying for the double play, allowing Kemna to score.

That would be enough run support for Oligschlaeger on this day. The senior right-hander kept the top-ranked Tigers off the board. Only one Cooter runner reached as far as third base.

Oligschlaeger struck out seven, walked three and hit one. He finished his senior season with a 6-0 record on the mound.

St. Elizabeth then made sure of matters in the third, scoring five runs. Kesel drove in one run with a single. Noah Chipman added an RBI single and Levi Holtmeyer drove in two runs.

The Hornets tacked on three more in the fifth. Oligschlaeger helped his own cause with an RBI single. Kesel doubled in a run and an error allowed another run to score.

Kesel finished 3-for-5 with an RBI. Kemna had two hits and two runs scored. Oligschlaeger also had two hits and a run scored.

Isaac Green, Gavin Williams, Chipman and Holtmeyer each had a hit.



Here it comes - St. Elizabeth's Caleb Oligschlaeger fires a pitch during the Hornets' 9-0 win over Cooter Monday, May 29, in the MSHSAA semi-final game at Sky Bacon Stadium in Ozark.

On the Cover -

Our cover features scenes from the state championship game. Clockwise from upper left: St Elizabeth seniors Levi Holtmeyer, Caleb Oligschlaeger, Jace Kesel, Lane Irwin and Trey Struempf hold up the championship trophy to the crowd; Jace Kesel is excited after he hit an inside-the-park home run in the fourth inning; Senior Caleb Oligschlaeger chugs from the team's ceremonial can of root beer. Players scoring runs for the Hornets each got a drink from the "can", made from an old bucket.

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State Champions! - The St. Elizabeth Hornets are once again the MSHSAA Class 1 baseball champions following a 13-3 win over Platte Valley Tuesday, May 30, at Sky Bacon Stadium in Ozark. Members of the team are: (in numerical order) Noah Chipman, Levi Holtmeyer, Caleb Oligschlaeger, Trent Bax, Isaac Green, Blake Wobbe, Lucas Wilde, Gavin Williams, Brady Kemna, Sam Luetkemeyer, Carter Otto, Eli Kemna, Austin Holtmeyer, Jace Kesel, Hudson Lane, Cole Wilde, Nick Heckemeyer, Landon Plassmeyer, Carter Reinkemeyer, Lane Irwin, Brayden Kempker, Aiden Otto, Trey Struempf, Brandon Plassmeyer and Garrett Lueckenotto. Coaches for the team are Caleb Heckemeyer, Brian Bax, Leroy Heckemeyer and Brent Irwin.

Congratulations

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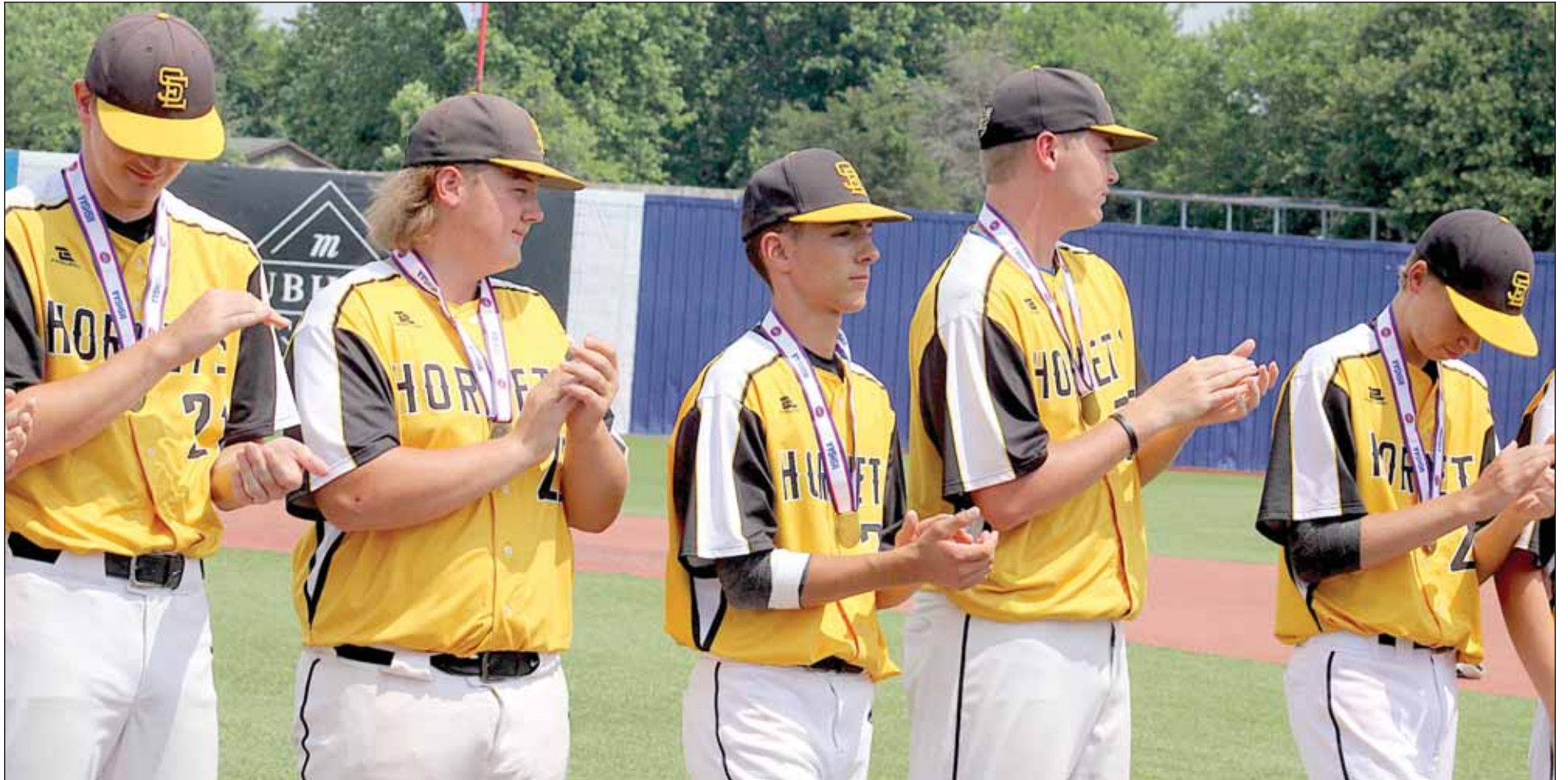
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Receiving their medals - St.Elizabeth players Nick Heckemeyer, Landon Plassmeyer, Carter Reinkemeyer, Lane Irwin and Brayden Kempker applaud as they receive their first-place medals during ceremonies following the Hornets' 13-3 win over Platte Valley Tuesday, May 30, at the MSHSAA Baseball Championships in Ozark.

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on Winning 1st Place in State!**



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Chipman chipped in - Sophomore Noah Chipman had three singles and a walk for the Hornets during their 13-3 win over Platte Valley in the MSHSAA Class 1 Championship Game Tuesday, May 30, at Sky Bacon in Ozark.



Eli at bat - Freshman EliKemna takes a look at a pitch for the St.Elizabeth Hornets during their 13-3 win over Platte Valley in the MSHSAA Class 1 Championship Game Tuesday, May 30, at Sky Bacon in Ozark.

Congratulations
**St. Elizabeth
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Finishing the job - Junior Carter Otto throws a pitch as he finishes up the pitching duties the Hornets' 13-3 win over Platte Valley in the championship game.



Bringing him home - Senior Levi Holtmeyer drove in the Hornets's first run in their 13-3 win over Platte Valley in the championship game.

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