

2022 North Carolina
American Legion
State Championship

Campbell University
Saturday, August 30



Wilmington 3, Queen City 0

Pitching dominated on the fifth day of the tournament as Wilmington Post 10 earned the program's 13th State Championship. Both Donovan Henkel of Queen City and Wilmington's Benjamin Whitehurst pitched complete games for their clubs with the two giving up a total of three runs and eight hits with four walks, two hit batters and seven strikeouts.

All of the runs and the serious scoring threats happened in the first two innings. QC went down 1-2-3 in the top of the first before Wilmington started the bottom of the inning with the first two runners – Korbin Pettigrew and Logan Ponnnett - on base by walks. Pettigrew scored on a double by Spencer Nolan and Ponnnett on a ground out by Bennett McNeill.

Trailing 2-0 in the second inning, Queen City's Owen Williams lead off with a double and moved to third on a Russell Golembe single. Post 10 pitcher Whitehurst picked off Golombe at first base, struck out the next batter and then got a fly ball to center field to strand Williams at third base,

Connor Marren led off the bottom of the second with a hit and would score on a sacrifice fly by Pettigrew. Wilmington would leave runners at second and third when the second inning ended but led 3-0.

William Santucci singled for Queen City in the third and Tyler Roakes drew a walk in the fifth.

With one out in the bottom of the fifth, Wilmington's Ponnnett who was hit by a pitch but got caught up in a 6-4-3 doubleplay to end the inning.

The sixth inning saw each team get a single – Thomas Jones for QC and Connor Kane for Post 10 – with Jones left at first base and Kane stranded at second.

In the last at-bat, Queen City's Golembe led off the seventh with a single but pitcher Whitehurst retired the next three batters to end the game and secure the championship for Wilmington.

Whitehurst threw 82 pitches in the seven inning shutout giving up five hits with one walk and four strikeouts.

Henkel pitched six innngings with three runs on three hits with three walks, three strikeouts and two hit batters. Henkel threw 75 pitches in the loss.

Wilmington's three hits came from Connor Kane, Connor Marren and a double by Spencer Nolan.

Russell Golembe had two singles for the Mustangs along with hits from Thomas Jones, William Santucci and a double by Owen Williams.

Wilmington's season will continue next week in the Southeast Regional Tournament at McCrary park in Asheboro. Post 10 will play Floriday champion Belleview Post 284 at 4:30 on Wednesday.

The season ended for Queen City with a record of 24-9 and the second time as runner-up in the state in the program's history. The Mustangs were playing as Charlotte Post 262 when they lost the 1983 championship to Hamlet Post 49.