

Kennedy, Linn-Mar earn home-field edge

Written by Metro Sports Report

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Kennedy and Linn-Mar will have the home-field advantage when the Class 4A substate tournament series opens July 13.

The Cougars and Lions both have secured No. 1 seeds in their respective substates. If they win their openers on July 13, they will play in the substate finals -- at home -- on July 18. Substate winners advance to the state tournament at Des Moines. The 4A tournament is July 25, 27-28.

Official pairings for the Class 4A substate baseball tournaments won't be announced by the Iowa High School Athletic Association until later this week. But utilizing the criteria used by the IHSA, the Metro Sports Report has calculated the standings.

The first 30 games of the season, or if a team has played less than 30 games, the number of contests it has played by June 30, are used to decide the seedings. Teams are awarded points for wins based on the level of competition it defeated. For example, if a team beats a Class 4A competitor, it gets 4 points. A win over a 3A team is worth 3 points, 2A is 2 and 1A is 1.

The total of points is divided by the number of games a team plays. For example, Kennedy totaled 95 points and played 28 games for a 3.39 average.

The six teams in each substate are then ranked by their average. The top team plays No. 6, 2 plays 5 and 3 plays 4. The higher-seeded team hosts.

The six Metro teams are in three different substates. Here are the substate standings:

{loadposition 4A-substates}

Here is the substate schedule:

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Substate 2

Friday, July 13

#6 Waterloo East at #1 Kennedy

#5 Waterloo West at #2 Xavier

#4 Mason City at #3 Cedar Falls

Monday, July 16

Lowest remaining seed at Second-highest remaining seed

Wednesday, July 18

Monday's winner at Highest-remaining seed

Substate 3

Friday, July 13

#6 CR Washington at #1 Iowa City West

#5 Hempstead at #2 Iowa City High

#4 Clinton at #3 Dubuque Senior

Monday, July 16

Lowest remaining seed at Second-highest remaining seed

Wednesday, July 18

Monday's winner at Highest-remaining seed

Substate 5

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Friday, July 13

#6 Burlington at #1 Linn-Mar

#5 Jefferson at #2 Muscatine

#4 Prairie at #3 Ottumwa

Monday, July 16

Lowest remaining seed at Second-highest remaining seed

Wednesday, July 18

Monday's winner at Highest-remaining seed