

LOCAL

# Bullard Heat takes third place in state tourney

M.D. "Doc" Smith  
Bullard Editor Sports Editor

WHITEHOUSE – After a second round loss to the Salado Lynx, the Bullard Heat had their work cut-out for them if they wanted to take home the TTSA 10-U girl's state softball crown.

The Whitehouse Heartbreakers defeated Salado 11-1 in the championship to take the title and finish the season undefeated at 18-0.

The Heat could not have represented Bullard any better, fighting back to play seven games in five days, before the Lynx won a rematch in the semi-finals game, 10-3 on Friday night.

The loss ended the Heat's successful season with a 16-3 record overall and a 5-2, ledger at the state competition.

"I could not be prouder of these girl's and the hard work and effort they put in all season long," said Heat head coach, Matt Wakefield. "We played hard and beat some very good teams, and if these girl's will continue on with the game, they have the potential to be in a lot more state tournaments."

The Heat placed first in regular season play with a 11-1, record.

Team members from Whitehouse Yard-Dawgs were added to the Heat roster for the state tourney.

Representing Bullard with the third-place finish are team members Ashleigh Gillard, Lainie Lassiter, Kaitlyn Staines, Hannah Smith, pickup player, Lexie Crenshaw, Sarah Ritch, Morgan Brooks, Sarah Wakefield, Morgan Clark, Abbey Covey, Karlyee Moore, Brianna Young, and Savannah Schaeffer

## TTSA STATE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT at Whitehouse Baseball and Softball Complex BULLARD HEAT - GAME-BY-GAME

### GAME ONE

Right-handed hurler, Morgan Clark handcuffed Frost from the mound, tossing a no-hitter as the Bullard Heat started off the TTSA State Tournament in dominating fashion, 10-4.

Clark struggled somewhat with nine walks but countered with 10 strikeouts, and all four runs by Frost unearned.

Heat, battery-mate, catcher Morgan Brooks did most of the damage at the plate for the Heat, going 3-for-4, with a RBI-double.

Heat hot-wheeled lead-off hitter, Ashleigh Gillard went 2-for-2, scoring three times to lead the attack.

Teammates, Kaitlyn Staines was 2-of-3, with two runs scored, and Lexi Crenshaw busted a double to go with her two-RBI's and 2-for-3 at the plate.

### Game One Box Score Bullard Heat 10 The Frost 4

Heat	520	21-	10	8	0
Frost	040	00-	4	0	2
Jae Moore and Hillary Schwartz.					
Morgan Clark and Morgan Brooks.	W- Clark. L- Moore. 2B- BH: Brooks, Lexi Crenshaw.				
Record-	Bullard 12-1				

### GAME TWO

The hits were few and far between for the Heat as they faced the Lynx from Salado. A team they would later see with a



Photo by M.D. 'Doc' Smith

The Bullard Heat recently took third-place in the TTSA State Softball Tournament held in Whitehouse. Team members include on Front Row (right to left)- Sara Wakefield, Sarah Ritch, Abbey Covey, Hannah Smith, Morgan Brooks, Lainie Lassiter. Second Row (r to l)- Morgan Clark, Brianna Young, Lexi Crenshaw, Karlyee Moore, Ashleigh Gillard, Savannah Schaeffer, Kaitlyn Staines. Third Row (r to l)- Coaches John Stains, Ricky Clark, and Matt Wakefield.

trophy on the line.

Five runs, in the first two innings staked the Lynx to all the runs they would need for the 7-4, win.

Three errors added to the Heat woes in the game as Ashleigh Gillard pitched a game worthy of a win. The right-hander struck out seven, walked only one while surrendering five singles.

Gillard also paced the Heat at the plate with a 2-for-2, performance, scoring three runs and smashing a double.

Lainie "Stretch" Lassiter had a 2-for-3 showing with the stick and scoring a run. Third-

sacker, Hannah Smith also went 2-for-4 in the losing effort.

### Game Two Box Score Salado Lynx 7 Bullard Heat 4

Heat	100	021-	4	7	3
Lynx	230	20x-	7	5	0
Jenna Wagnon and Rachel Evans.	Ashleigh Gillard. W- Wagnon. L- Gillard. 2B- BH: Gillard.				
Record-	Bullard Heat 12-2				

### GAME THREE

Bullard Heat 4, Lindale Shock 2

It was a pitching and defensive gem deluxe as the

Heat scored four runs in the first two innings to hold off the Lindale Shock, 4-2.

Hannah Smith was stellar at the plate, going 3-for-3, starting the scoring with a two RBI triple in the first inning, and a 2-0, Heat lead.

Lindale's, Manda Smith answered the scoring with a first inning two-RBI double to knot the game back up at 2-2.

Morgan Brooks however made the knockout punch in the second inning as she slammed a two-RBI triple, for a 4-2 lead that would stand.

Heat thrower, Morgan Clark on the mound was a

force with eight strikeouts and four walks allowed while giving into the two doubles by White.

Kaitlyn Staines chipped in with one hit and a run scored for the Heat.

### Game Three Box Score Heat 220 000- 4 5 0 Shock 200 000- 2 2 0

Morgan Clark and Morgan Brooks. W- Clark. 2B- LS: Manda White (2). 3B- BH: Hannah Smith, Morgan Brooks.

Records- Bullard Heat 13-2

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# Former Tyler fire chief trades fire hose for Brook Hill whistle

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Bullard Banner Sports Editor

Former Tyler Fire Chief, Neal Franklin is no stranger to Bullard by any means. Living in Tyler with his wife, Valli already working at The Brook Hill School, one son already graduated from the school and two other children still enrolled at the institution.

The five-year fire chief and 23-year fireman has decided to make a change with his recent resignation from the Tyler Fire Department to follow a life-long dream.

Not a big surprise for the Tyler native, as Franklin has always known he wanted to be a teacher as was his father, Olen Jay was a former teacher and principal of Hogg Middle School in Tyler for several years.

"The support that I got from the city of Tyler over the years has just been great but I have been doing this a long time," Franklin, the Stephen F. Austin graduate said. "I always

knew that when I retired from the fire department that I would like to get into teaching and God has blessed me with a great opportunity to work with kid's in a great Christian environment, and God just opened up the doors to make things fall right into place for me."

Franklin will serve as the school's assistant basketball coach, with head coach Wally Dawkins, and will also work in a position of leadership training and character development,"

said Brook Hill athletic director, David Collins.

We think Neal is a great addition to the staff at Brook Hill," added Collins. "We have been blessed with having quality coaches on staff, and we are glad to have Neal on board.

"He is a proven leader in the community, and a man of high character and he will do a great job for us at Brook Hill," Collins concluded.

After 23-years of working in sometimes life-threatening

conditions, you become attached to your 'other family.'

"It's sad to leave my fire department family but they are excited for me and the new direction I have decided to take on, and I will miss them," said Franklin. "I had thought that I would be fire chief along time but when this opportunity came up, we prayed about it as a family and talking long hours with my wife, and we both just felt like this is what God wanted me to do with my life at this point."

Franklin's resignation goes into effect on August 8, and will then immediately step into his new shoes at Brook Hill.

"I was happy where I was at but when this opportunity came up, I just felt it was what I needed to do," Franklin added. "To get to coach and learn from

the new basketball coach and long-time friend, Wally Dawkins will be a great experience and I feel like a new recruit, right out of high school I'm so excited about getting started."



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