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The 2006 Hoopa Lady Warriors celebrate their NCS Class B championship Saturday afternoon at Ferndale. Sean Quincey/ The Eureka Reporter

Hoopa takes NCS crown

by Sean Quincey, 5/28/2006

Their road through both the season and playoffs was as tough as the final game, but in the end, the Hoopa Warriors softball team on Saturday claimed the North Coast Section Class B title with a 4-1 win over No.2-seeded Urban High.

With two outs in the bottom of the sixth and the scored tied 1-1, Hoopa Kayla Carpenter beat out a grounder to short to set up the go-ahead run.

Carrie Ames doubled to left field and Carpenter snuck in to score as Urban catcher bobbled the ball on the throw home. Chenone Blake hit two more batters in to cap off the inning and pitcher Melia Jarnaghan allowed no runs in the seventh to secure her one-run, four-strikeout win.

We were finally seeing the girls do what they know how to do and that hit and score runs Hoopa head coach Ryan Ray said. We were hitting it all game, they were just making some nice plays.

It was Hoopa first NCS title since 1982, when the Warriors won the Class A crown three times in five years. Ferndale has won the Class B title each of the last three years.

Hoopa's run this season began when it topped a young Ferndale team three out of four times to earn the No.1 seed in the playoffs despite sharing the Little 4 title with the Wildcats.

Once the team was in the postseason, it didn't get any easier as Hoopa survived an 8-7 nail-biter in the semi-final round against Branson on Thursday.

We finally accomplished what we always knew we could, Ray said after the championship game. It took a lot for the papers and everyone else to give us credit but we always knew we were great.

Hoopa will lose three key seniors in the offseason, including Jarnaghan in the circle, but Ray is confident the team can be successful next year.

We have a sophomore pitcher and a few girls who didn't play that much this year but will still be pretty good next year, she said.

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