

# Contest B :: Sports Writing

2015 KSPA State Contest



## DIRECTIONS

Failure to follow these directions may result in disqualification from the contest without refund. **Please read, listen and follow carefully.**

1. Please complete the first page of the packet, including your school code and your name using the bubble chart provided..
2. Please take time to write your student code in the top right corner of each page you will use for your writing in this contest.
3. Please do not include your name or the name of your high school on the entry at all. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.
4. You have 90 minutes to write a story about a sports event at your school. The story should be approximately 300 words.
  - a. Please use the information provided below. The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to the story. Students may write in pencil or pen. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus and/or the Associated Press style manual. The use of personal listening devices, recording devices, cell phones, computers or other electronics is prohibited.
5. When you are finished with the writing, please bring this entire packet to the proctors at the front of the room **and remain at the table until they have checked your entry.**
6. Please leave the room quietly. Congratulations on writing well done!

## DESCRIPTION

You are a member of Sunflower High School's journalism staff. Your editor has asked you to write a sports story of approximately 300 words.

## SCHOOL INFO

**Name:** Sunflower High School

**Location:** Clinton, Kansas

**Mascot:** Mighty Buffalo

**Enrollment:** 800 (grades 9-12)

**School colors:** yellow and brown

**Yearbook:** The Sunflower

**Newspaper:** Sunflower News

## Contest Info

This is an on-site contest.

Do not put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students must not request help or advice from any person other than the KSPA Executive Director Eric Thomas at

[staff@kspaonline.org](mailto:staff@kspaonline.org), and that advice must be requested before the start of the contest.

All work must be solely that of the contestant.

### Where?

- a state playoff game at Homestead High School in the Lawrence R. Blair softball stadium

### When?

- Friday, May 1, 2015

### What?

- varsity girls softball game in the state playoffs

### Who?

- two teams from the Central Sunflower Athletic Conference (CSAC)
- Mighty Buffalo of Sunflower High School playing the Spartans of Homestead High School
- about 200 fans, evenly divided between both teams
- team records after this game: Homestead 18-5 // Sunflower 18-6

### Quotes

from Sunflower Varsity team captain Helen Alexander: she pitched the final inning

- “It’s tough. I don’t know what to say. We wanted that final out of the game so badly. But they just kept rallying and rallying. I can’t believe that we gave up four runs -- it was four runs, right? -- in the final inning. I am kind of in shock right now.”
- “We knew that Jarsillic would try to steal third so we tried to catch her there. We almost had her there. But the ball squirted into left field. When I saw she was going to score, I couldn’t even watch. I turned away and looked at the scoreboard. I saw the tie game turn into a loss. I won’t ever forget that sight. It meant high school softball was over for me.”
- “Sure, we would like to have those two errors in the 7th inning back. But I would also like to have back the two doubles that I gave up. Those had just as much to do with what lost us that game.”
- “My high school softball career is over . . . totally gone. Sorry, I need to go talk to my parents. I need a hug.”

from Sunflower Varsity head coach Robin Christianson

- “Softball and baseball are such unforgiving games. You make errors and you are out in the middle of the field with everyone looking at you. It’s no mystery who made the mistake. You get to be the hero when you do well, but when you make a mistake, there is no hiding.”
- “I think this is as brutal as you can diagram the end of a game. We are winning 5-2 and we bring in Helen Alexander to shut them down and clinch the game. And then it all goes wrong.”
- “Even though this is a tough way to finish the season, I am proud of these kids. Eighteen wins is a great season for any team, but especially us here at Sunflower.”

from sophomore center fielder Christina Hernandez, who was 2 for 4 at the plate and scored two

### Pitching

**Winning pitcher:** sophomore Sally Nulton (HHS)

**Losing pitcher:** senior Helen Alexander

**Doubles:** Eden Hyde (HHS, 2nd inning), Jill Chittum (HHS 7th inning), Jarsillic (HHS, 7th inning); Christina Hernandez (SHS, 5th inning)

**Home runs:** Karen Monaghan (SHS, first inning)

**Errors:** SHS 4; HHS 0

**Hits:** SHS 12; HHS 7

### How they scored:

- **Sunflower 1st inning:** Christina Hernandez and Carolyn Moore walked. Karen Monaghan homered.
- **Homestead 2nd inning:** Eden Hyde doubled to score Mary Montag from first. Jill Chittum singled to score Hyde from second.
- **Sunflower 5th inning:** Moore tripled to score Hernandez. Moore scored on wild pitch
- **Homestead 7th inning:** With two outs, Mary Montag walks to start inning. Eden Hyde reaches on an error on fly ball. Jill Chittum doubles to score Montag and Hyde. Mary Jarsillic doubles to score Chittum. Jarsillic steals third and advances home on a throwing error.

### Game Score by inning

The chart below shows the scores for both Sunflower High School and Homestead High School by inning with the final column as the final score.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	F
SHS	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	5
HHS	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	6

runs

- “I am pretty sure that everyone on our team did something amazing today at the plate today, whether hitting home runs, drawing walks or stretching out at-bats with foul balls. But I am pretty sure that we almost all made mistakes in the field. Four errors is just not ok. We need to be more balanced than that.”
- “I can’t even process this year yet, let alone think about next year. I am going to miss these senior so much. How can I even imagine playing without Helen and the rest of the team.”

from Homestead High School Varsity coach Bruce Carter

- “We have been aggressive all year on the basepaths. I know it didn’t pay off very much in the earlier innings. But the final inning showed how we can make speed pay off for us. Jarsilic has been leading us in stolen bases and base running, so it makes sense that she would score this run to win this game.”
- “When they brought in Alexander to finish the game in the 7th -- I won’t say that I thought we were defeated -- but I knew it was going to be tough. She has just been automatic. What a great pitcher. But we just kept battling and battling.”
- “I am pinching myself right now. To think that we just clawed back into that game is amazing.”
- “What a great team Sunflower is. They were so tough all season. Every batter is a tough out. Every pitcher throws hard. They had a great season and should be super proud.”