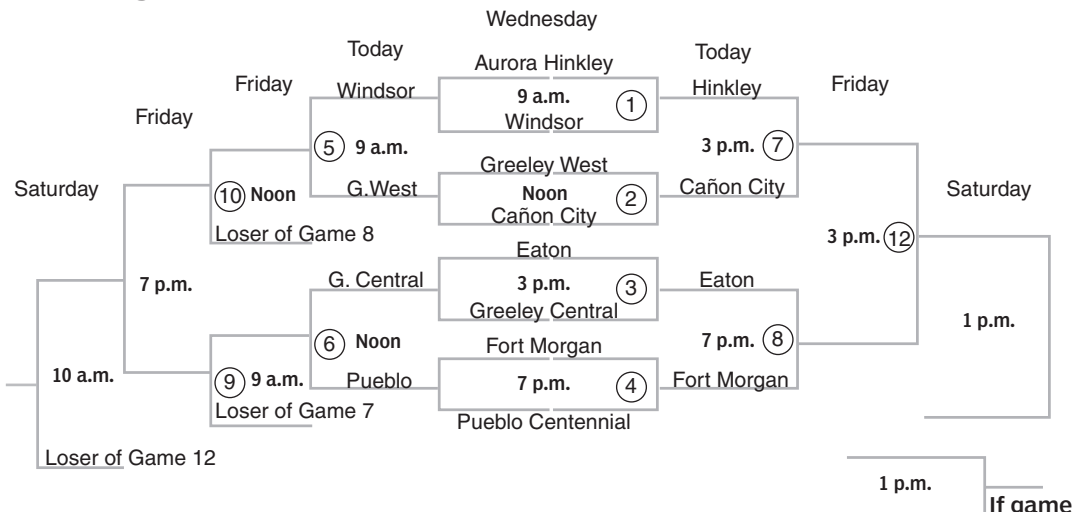


## 2002 Legion B State Baseball Bracket



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# EATON

"I haven't been hitting the ball real hard," Anderson said. "I've just had some grounders. But coach Dale Hughes worked with me a lot and taught me how to hit harder."

Hughes didn't just work with Anderson on his swing. He also worked with the youngster on his defense as a catcher.

"I've had a lot of help from coach Hughes, who knows a lot about it since his son, Zach, was a catcher for Eaton. Plus, (Eaton third baseman) Chris Swain has helped a lot with leadership."

Anderson follows in the footsteps of Justin Ginther, who was the Greeley Tribune Athlete of the Year in baseball during the 2002 high school season. Those are some big shoes for the young Anderson to try to fill.

"That just makes me want to play better," Anderson said. "We've got a reputation for a lot of good catchers at Eaton, and that just makes me want to hustle even more. Ginther was a hustler."

Anderson expected to play center field for much of the season, but the regular catcher went on vacation and Anderson filled in. Anderson could be found behind the plate much of the rest of the season.

"He's been a pleasant surprise," Eaton coach Jim Danley said. "He's definitely learned how to knock down that knuckle-curve and he's learning to throw the ball and keep runners off the bases. It's nice, because we had a hole to fill there."

For Anderson, giving the pitcher comfort in knowing he can throw the ball down and in the dirt if necessary is part of his job. The physical part isn't too tough, but the right mindset is imperative.

"When we call for the knuckle-curve, I just picture in my head that it's going to be the worst pitch in the world," Anderson said. "Then I'm never surprised and I can react better to it."

If Anderson has his way, he'll be behind the plate for Eaton for the foreseeable future.

"I'm done with center field," Anderson said. "At least I'd like to be. I like catching because you're in on every play."

Danley sees the advantages to Anderson's play, although he knows he's still young, too.

"He has fine hand-eye coordination and quickness," Danley said. "He'll be a fine hitter, especially with more experience against quality pitching like we saw today. He's a tough kid."

**■ NOTES ...** Central drew first blood in the top of the first inning when Adam Toni reached with a one-out single and was hit home on Josh Cavazos' double. Eaton answered with one in the second, three in the third and 10 in the fourth. Central scored three in the top of the fifth and needed just one more to keep the game going. With runners on the corners and no outs, the next two batters struck out and the final batter grounded out to second to end the game in just five innings.

Central now has to go through the consolation bracket to win the championship. "There are two routes to the grocery store, the short way and the long way," Central coach Matt Nylund said. "We're going to have to go the long way I guess." Eaton pitcher Dusty Dominguez pitched the whole game for the win.

Eaton's Junior Barrios was 3-for-4 with 2 RBI and three runs scored. Anderson, Swain and Tyler Garretson each had two hits.

Central's Cavazos had two of Central's six hits.

The two teams split four games during the summer's regular season.

Every batter in the Eaton lineup had at least 1 RBI and

the team combined for five doubles.

**Eaton 14, Greeley Central 4**

Central	100	03	-	4	6	2
Eaton	013	(10)X	-	14	13	0

Central — Bobby Brunswick (L, 10H, 8ER, 3BB, 2SO), Brennen Henry (4th, 3H, 5ER, 1BB, 0SO) and Adam Toni. 2B — Josh Cavazos, Chris Lawrence. RBI — Cavazos 3.  
Eaton — Dusty Dominguez (W, 6H, 4ER, 5BB, 3SO) and Travis Anderson. 2B — Chris Swain, Eric Kelly, Garrett Walker, Anderson 2. RBI — Tyler Garretson,

Junior Barrios 2, Swain, Kelly, Dominguez, Jordan Nation, Walker, Jordan Hungenberg, Anderson.

*Tribune sports intern Kyle Adams contributed to this story.*