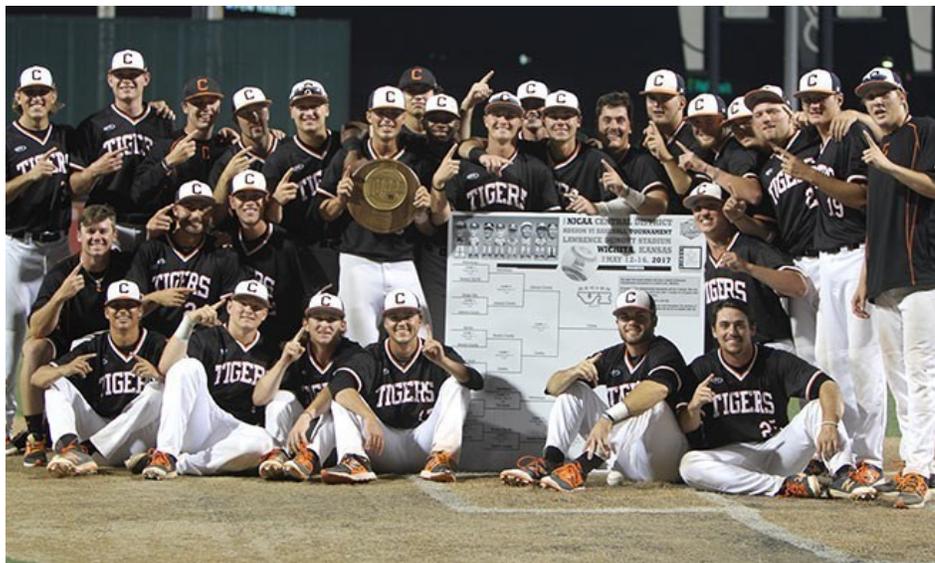


## Baseball

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## 5.16.2017 - Twice as nice! Tigers repeat as Region VI Champs

The No. 2-seeded Cowley College baseball team is headed back to Grand Junction, CO for the second straight year after defeating No. 6-seed Neosho County 17-8 in the Region VI championship game played Monday night at Wichita's Lawrence-Dumont Stadium.

The Tigers qualified to compete at the JUCO World Series in Grand Junction, CO May 27-June 2 and will open play against the champion of the Southeastern Region Saturday, May 27 at 10 a.m. CST.

"We are back-to-back," Cowley head coach [Dave Burroughs](#) said. "This never gets old."

On Monday, Neosho got a two-run double from Tanner Arst off Tiger starter [Matt Krutsch](#) to grab an early 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning. However, Krutsch (4-1) would settle down to go five innings and allow only three earned runs.

A two-run homer from Cowley freshman [Ross Messina](#) off Neosho starter Tyler McGrew in the bottom of the second inning tied the game at 2-2. Cowley got back-to-back home runs from [Connor Litton](#) and [Brooks Zimmerman](#) in a four-run third inning to lead 6-2.

After Neosho got a run back in the top of the fourth, Cowley answered with a RBI double by Zimmerman, a run scoring sacrifice fly by [Kea'von Edwards](#) and a RBI single by Messina to chase Panther reliever Tripp Wright from the game with the score 9-3. Cowley would score four more runs in the inning off Neosho reliever Brendan Skye, who had pitched only two innings all season.

Freshman second baseman [Kea'von Edwards](#) hit Cowley's fourth home run of the game in the seventh inning and Cowley's lead grew to 17-4 before Neosho scored four meaningless runs in the bottom of the ninth.

Eight Tigers had at least one hit in the victory as Cowley finished with 19 hits. Freshman catcher [Dalton Dinkel](#) led the Cowley attack with four hits, while Zimmerman and Messina each finished with three hits, a home run and four RBIs.

"This is the greatest feeling in the world," Messina said. "We won as a team and need to do the same thing at Grand Junction."

Cowley, winners of seven games in a row, is now 42-16. Sophomore [Mason LeClair](#) relieved Krutsch on the mound and went the final four innings and allowed no earned runs.

McGrew (3-6) lasted only 2 1/3 innings on the mound for Neosho as the Panthers finish the season with a record of 43-22.

Edwards, Messina, Zimmerman, and Dinkel were named to the All-Tournament Team and sophomore pitcher [Ben Strahm](#) was named the Tournament

MVP after throwing a complete game shutout against Neosho on Saturday.

Burroughs, who led the Tigers to their first World Series title during the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the JUCO World Series in 1997, also took Cowley to the World Series on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and now the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Series.

"I want the guys to enjoy this, this is the best time of their life," Burroughs said.

Score by inning:            R H E  
Neosho 2 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 4 - 8 13 3  
Cowley 0 2 4 7 0 1 1 2 x - 17 19 6

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