

JACKSON -- Cumberland was eliminated from the TranSouth Championships late Wednesday night with an 11-10 loss to Blue Mountain at Fesmire Field.

With the loss the season ends for the Bulldogs (32-26) while the Toppers (25-30) advance to play Union University in the tournament championship game Thursday.

Cumberland led 3-1 before BMC scored six times in the third inning on just one hit off starter Cody Ferrell, taking advantage of three walks, a hit batter, a wild pitch, a fielder's choice where the Bulldogs did not get an out, a two-run single by Zack Scott, a squeeze bunt from Cody Roberts and a sacrifice fly by Hunter Mize.

Dalton Kulas hit a two-run homer in the next inning, giving Blue Mountain a 9-4 lead. CU never tied the game the rest of the way, scoring four times in the sixth to pull within a run.

After single runs from the Toppers in the eighth and ninth innings, Tyler Wheeler hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth and Antonio Butler reached on an error, stole second and went to third before Cory Urquhart grounded out to second to end the game.

Kulan (1-0) picked up the win in his second start of the season, allowing six earned runs and seven walks in 5.2 innings. He struck out six and gave up seven hits before giving way to Jon Paul Barber, who worked the final 3.2 innings for the save.

Ferrell (3-4) was unable to find the strike zone, walking six and hitting a batter in two-plus innings of work. He allowed six runs on three hits and struck out three.

Ferrell had three hits and drove in two, Urquhart collected two hits with three RBIs, while Craig Monson and Wheeler each recorded two hits. Both teams stranded 10 runners in the contest, though the Bulldogs failed to take advantage of five BMC errors.

Mize singled to leadoff the game and scored on a triple to leftcenter by Gardner Richey.

CU came back with two runs in the bottom of the inning, starting with a walk and a stolen base by Butler. He also stole third and Sam Lind walked and stole second before Richie Seaton walked, loading the bases. Ferrell singled through the leftside, scoring two runs.

In the second Wheeler reached on an error by Mize at shortstop and Butler walked before an RBI single by Urquhart gave the Bulldogs a 3-1 edge.

Richey and Nate Bell both walked to leadoff the BMC third and Ben Wallis was hit to load the bases. Richey scored on a wild pitch and Kulas walked, loading the bases again. Scott singled home two runs, ending the day for Ferrell.

Channing Walker reached on a fielder's choice and everyone was safe with a run scoring on the play. Roberts executed the squeeze and Mize plated the final run of the inning with a sac fly for a 7-3 Toppers advantage.

Ferrell reached on a throwing error with two outs in the bottom of the inning, went to second on the overthrow and then third when another throw got into leftfield. He scored on a wild pitch.

Bell singled with one out in the fourth before the home run by Kulas pushed the lead to 9-4.

Monson doubled down the rightfield line to start the sixth for CU and Wheeler singled with one out, putting runners on the corners. After a groundout by Butler, Urquhart plated two runs with a single to rightcenter. Lind walked and Mike Mandarino tripled to centerfield, scoring two more runs and ending the day for Kulas.

Roberts reached on a throwing error to leadoff the BMC eighth and Mize's sacrifice turned into a single. Kennedy bunted his way on, loading the bases, and Bell walked, forcing in a run.

In the ninth Walker and Roberts both singled before a grounder by Mize, but a bad throw into rightfield allowed another run to score for an 11-8 Blue Mountain lead.

Ferrell led off the bottom of the ninth with a single and Wheeler hit a two-out, two-run homer to right, his fourth of the season. Butler then reached on an error by Bell at first base. He stole second and went to third on a throwing error before Urquhart's ground ball to second ended the game.

Rainer pitched well in relief for the Bulldogs, giving up three earned runs on eight hits in 6.1 innings. He walked one and struck out five before Christian Jennings got the final two outs of the ninth.

EARLIER WEDNESDAY -- Cumberland held on for an 8-7 win over Martin Methodist Wednesday afternoon in the TranSouth Conference tournament at Fesmire Field in Jackson.

Devin Stovall (4-4) got the decision in relief; Mike Mandarino drilled a 3-run homer in the bottom of the fifth, Nick Sidnor hit a solo HR in the third and Antonio Butler finished 4-for-5 with two triples.

The Bulldogs will play Blue Mountain (Miss) Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. in the finals of the losers' bracket. Tonight's winner must beat host Union twice on Thursday to win the tournament and with it -- a berth in the opening round of the NAIA National tournament.