

By EARL WATT

• Leader & Times

The 12-and-under Cimarron River Rattlers are one win away from sweeping pool play and moving on to the four-team final at the Midwest Regional in Alliance, Neb.



The Rattlers opened the tournament with an 11-1 run-rule win over Minnesota Saturday.

Cesar Burciaga pitched all four innings and did not give up a walk. He only allowed one hit, a solo home run.

But Elijah McCarter also hit a home run for the Rattlers, and the offense continued to pour in runs in the 11-1 win.

In Game 2, the offense continued to put up big numbers, and the defense was even better than in the opening win against Minnesota.

The Rattlers knocked off Colorado, 10-0 in four innings.

Jett Brown took the mound for the Rattlers and threw three scoreless innings.

Dylan Thompson came in the fourth and did not allow a run.

Burciaga stayed hot at the tournament with a home run shot that scored three.

The Rattlers will complete pool play at 4 p.m. today against the host Alliance, Neb., team.

Regardless of the result, it would be difficult for the Rattlers to not get the top seed from the pool due to the margins of victory.

In the opposite pool, Missouri has been dominating, and the Final Four could set the Kansas state champions and Missouri state champions in position to face off in a Midwest Regional championship if they can survive the first round of the championship bracket Tuesday.

But first, the Rattlers will attempt to sweep the pool with a win over Alliance at 4 p.m. today.