Seahawks still headed to the NorCal playoffs despite loss to Gavilan

By Jim Seimans   js@santacruzsentinel.com

APTOPIX: Apparently, there's no crying in softball either.
That's not saying several players didn't want to Tuesday, including Gavilan College's Priscilla Ornos. And she was on the winning team.

Ornos delivered an RBI single in the top of the eighth inning on a greedy afternoon and the Rams held on to beat Cabrillo 1-0 in extra innings to steal the Coast Conference South Division title from the Seahawks.

With the win, the Rams (28-35, 10-8) clinched their first conference title since 1984, prompting the team to celebrate with a Gatorade dousing near the pitcher's mound after pitcher Paige Miguel caught the final out.

Parker runner Crysta Simpson scored the winning run. She re-

\[\text{THE SCORE: GAVILAN 1, CABRILLO 0, 8 INNINGS.} \]

Above: Cabrillo's Olivia Mahalch stuck safely into first to beat out a grounder for a single for the Seahawks on Tuesday in a Coast Conference final.

Top: Taylor Teissier pitched a complete one-run, eight-inning game for "victory," but the Seahawks were unable to put a run on the board in a 1-0 loss to Gavilan in extra innings.

"It was nerve-wracking. I was trying not to think about it, only positive thoughts. But I wanted to cry (after the RBI). It was emotional."

Cabrillo's (28-35, 10-8) the defending conference champions, had reason to cry too. Faced with Gavilan in the standings heading into the regular-season finale, it saw its best chance to win the conference title slipping away. The Seahawks loaded the bases in the sixth against the Rams.

"We have nothing to be mad about, nothing to be upset about," she said. "I told the girls, 'Don't kick yourselves over this loss.' When it's a close game, you try and look at every close detail. We had plenty of games in conference that we lost that brought us to this point."

Seahawks coach Kristy Ballinger echoed the suggestion that the base-running error cost the team. "We have nothing to be mad about, nothing to be upset about," she said. "I told the girls, 'Don't kick yourselves over this loss.' When it's a close game, you try and look at every close detail.

Their wasn't any finger-pointing from the Seahawks after the loss. Quite the opposite, which could be a good omen for a postseason run, Cullar said.

"We're going to take this loss and learn from it," she said. "From the start of the season, we said we were going to learn and grow through post- season. There was no mention of conference. We're sisters. We're family. We've been on a team where the personalities all jelled. We're family. We really are."