Cabrillo loses Coast Conference South title to Gavilan 1-0

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OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

APTOS — Gavilan made one more play than Cabrillo did, but that was all they needed.

The Seahawks lost 1-0 in extra innings to the Rams despite a career-high, 12-strikeout performance from Taylor Tessier Tuesday at Cabrillo College.

With the loss, Cabrillo surrendered their title as Coast Conference South champions to the Rams (28-10, 13-4) and will have to settle for second place and a berth in next week’s California Community College Athletic Association Regional Playoffs.

The Seahawks (26-11, 12-5) still believe they can make it to the state tournament and win it all.

“Oh we’re going,” said Seahawks starting pitcher Taylor Tessier, who racked up 12 strikeouts through the eight-inning loss.

“There’s no doubt. I wanted this game really bad and I want state really bad, so we’re going to do everything we can to get there.”

Cabrillo will find out whom they will play in the first round Saturday.

Tessier was near perfect through the first seven innings allowing three hits and one walk, but Gavilan’s Paige Miguel matched her pitch for pitch.

Miguel finished the day with five hits and three walks, while striking out five batters, and she came through in a no-outs, bases-loaded situation in the bottom of the seventh.

After Cabrillo’s Angela Martin, Olivia Mahach and Valeria Silva all got on base, Miguel got the next three hitters out with help from sensational catches from shortstop Pricilla Orona.

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The Gavilan College Rams celebrate winning the Coast Conference South championship after beating Cabrillo College 1-0 Tuesday as Seahawks’ Taylor Batey, left, walks back to the dugout.

Tony Nunez/Register-Pajaronian

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“I’m thinking the same thing I’ve been thinking the whole game,” Miguel said about the tight situation. “Just staying even kneel. Not too high, not too low. Just putting the ball where coach wants me to put it and leave it up to my team to pick me up.”

An inning later, Orona brought home Cristyn Simpson for the game-winning run on an RBI single.

“There was nothing to be mad about,” said Cabrillo coach Kristy Ballinger. “It was a well-played game on both sides and it came down to who was going to get that big hit and unfortunately it wasn’t us.”

Cabrillo left eight runners on base and Gavilan left five, but the former took advantage and came away with the win.

Now, Cabrillo will try to make it where last year’s team came up just short: the state playoffs.

The Hawks are 2-4 against the top 10 teams in Northern California according to the April 17 CCCAA coaches poll.

Though they have lost their last four games against ranked opponents, they haven’t lost by more than three runs.

Cabrillo is listed as the No. 8 ranked team in the NorCal poll and has an outside shot of hosting a first-round match up according to Ballinger.

If the Seahawks can secure home-field advantage it could be critical as they are 11-2 while playing at Cabrillo this season and just 7-6 on the road.

“I think we have a good shot,” Ballinger said. “We played the first and second ranked team in NorCal and we held in there. We showed we can play with them, so I have high hopes for playoffs and I’m excited.”