

South region champs fall short of goal, still get third

Cougar Awards:

Southern Region MVP: Cassidy Edwards
Southern Region Coach of the Year: Jessica Buel

Southern Region First Team All-Stars:

Infield: Cassie Cruz, Kylie Gonzales
Outfield: Morgan Brown
Utility: Cassidy Edwards

Southern Region Second Team All-Stars:

Pitcher: Emily Marchbanks
Infield: Kylie Bellis
Outfield: Madison Haga
DH/DP: Ashley Culp



Outfielder Hailey Frlot

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The two foes split the regular season series 2-2, and the postseason matchup was just as intense. The Saints jumped out to an early 5-1 lead, but the Cougars clawed their way back into the game narrowing the margin to just one run. But the rally stopped there as the Cougars just couldn't find the gaps.

"I thought we were going to do it," said catcher Kandace Furlong. "I felt the momentum and I thought we had it in us, but we were just hitting balls right to people. We had some good hits just a little too shallow. Honestly we were just hitting right to people and that was a big problem; obviously you can't get any base runners if they're catching the ball every single time. They just kind of had the edge today and we didn't."

The Saints celebrated right in front of the Cougar fans after eliminating their rivals for the second straight year.

"It blows to get third and it blows to lose to them," said Furlong.

Despite the bitter loss, players were

still proud of the team's accomplishment, especially given their thoughts on the team early in the season.

"Well we definitely improved as a team tremendously," said Furlong. "I mean I was unsure if we were going to make it at the beginning, it was pretty rocky, but I'm surprised by this team. It sucks that we got third place but honestly, I'm proud of this team."

Many of the girls were visibly upset after their season came to a close. For some, it was the end of their career as a Cougar. Despite the heartbreak, the players still felt a fondness for the team.

"This team is so awesome," said Culp. "This is one of my favorite teams I've ever played on, so it's really sad that it has to come to an end, but they're awesome."

Edwards shared a similar sentiment saying, "I love the group of girls that I played with and I guess I wouldn't change a thing as bad as it is right now," said Edwards. "We should hold our heads high, be proud of ourselves and I am proud of the team. We came a long way,"



The Cougar defense celebrates after doing defensive things vs Mt. Hood in their semi-final game.

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