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Hopkins girls split in softball playoffs

by John Sherman john.sherman@ecm-inc.com 9 hrs ago

Hopkins High's girls softball team routed Armstrong 10-0 in the first round of the Section 6AAAA playoffs May 20, but in the second round three days later, the Royals lost a heartbreaker to Bloomington Kennedy 4-3.



Cass Allen of the Hopkins High girls fastpitch softball team slides into second base as Isabella Jacobson of Armstrong tries to apply the tag during a 10-0 Hopkins win. (Sun Staff Photo by John Sherman)

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In the Armstrong game, Hopkins played long ball. Lauren Granger and Parker Stoddard hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning, and later a walk-off homer by Stoddard ended the ball game.

Eighth-grader Signe Dohse pitched a complete-game win with help from a strong Royal defense.

Hopkins head coach Carl Yancy enjoyed watching Hopkins get busy with the bats. Granger is one of the state's best young hitters in the state, and she's only a ninth-grader. Stoddard, a senior third baseman, is a veteran of two Hopkins state tournament teams.

Kennedy Courtney Kopischke pitched a complete game against Hopkins and came up big in the last inning with Granger waiting in the on deck circle. Kopischke got a fly ball to center field to end the contest.

Dohse pitched another complete game for the Royals.

"We had seen Kennedy's pitcher before," Yancy said. "And when she's on, she's pretty solid. It was a good game."

With the loss Hopkins dropped into the losers' bracket of the double-elimination section tourney. It's a long road back to the finals, which began with an elimination game Friday, May 24, the day this edition went to press.

Kennedy advanced to the winners' bracket final opposite Edina, which defeated Wayzata 13-7 May 23.

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