

Rams makes history

*Softball squad
wins for first
time in NCAA
tournament play*

CALIFORNIA, Pa. — Shepherd University used a 12-hit attack en route to an 8-3 win over Kutztown University in first round action of the NCAA Atlantic Regional Softball Tournament at Lilly Park on Friday.

The Rams recorded their first regional win in program history and became just the second West Virginia Conference team to win a regional softball game. West Virginia Wesleyan is the other.

Shepherd found lightning by plating four runs in the top of the first inning after enduring a 30-minute delay due to lightning.

Junior outfielder Amber Dudek slapped an RBI single to score junior shortstop Courtni Williams with the game's first run. Sophomore Kris Durham added a two-run single and junior second baseman Cammie Orlandi tacked on an RBI single to give the Rams a four-run advantage.

Kutztown threatened in the third with two on and one out, but sophomore pitcher Tricia Bettura worked out of the jam

by getting Kristen Cornelius out at home on Maria Schiavo's fielder's choice and retiring Maria Isgro on a popup.

NCAA SOFTBALL

SHEPHERD 8

RAMS 36-14

KUTZTOWN 3

BEARS 24-11

The Golden Bears cut the Shepherd lead to 4-3 with four runs in the fourth. A two-run double by Nicole Henninger and an RBI single by Brianna Knipe keyed the rally.

Shepherd answered in the fifth when Dudek led off with a double and scored on a single off the bat of sophomore third baseman Chelsie Oals to take a 5-3 lead.

The Rams tacked on a pair of insurance runs in the sixth when Orlandi led off with a double and Williams blasted a one-out homer to left to give the Rams a 7-3 lead. Junior first baseman Nichole Pitcock doubled in the seventh and later scored on a ground out by Oals for the final run.

Dudek and Orlandi each had three hits for the Rams while Williams added a pair. Henninger went 2 for 3 to pace the Golden Bears.

Bettura (7 IP, 8 Ks, 1 BB) posted another solid performance as she improved to 20-7 on the year. Kutztown starter Katlin Arbogast (1/3 IP, 1K, 0 BB) took the loss to fall to 2-4-11.

Shepherd improved to 36-14, while Kutztown fell to 41-17. The Rams will face host California, a 7-4 winner over Fairmont State, at noon today in second round tournament action.

— Staff reports

Rams drop pair in region softball

CALIFORNIA, Pa. — A last-inning loss had a devastating effect on the Shepherd softball team as the Rams were blanked twice on Saturday and eliminated from the NCAA Atlantic Regional.

An error in the last inning led to a 1-0 defeat to host California in the first game, and then the Rams dropped a 7-0 decision in an elimination game to Kutztown — a team they defeated on the first day of action.

Amanda Wallace doubled home Melissa Lupinacci in the bottom of the seventh inning for the game's only run to lead host California to a 1-0 win over Shepherd in second-round action at Lilly Park.

Shepherd sophomore pitcher Tricia Bettura and Maria Greco of Cal both turned in excellent outings as both teams combined for only nine hits.

The Vulcans mounted a scoring

threat in the third inning when Kayleigh Braim and Merissa Daley had back-to-back singles with two out. Bettura got Danielle Easton to fly out to end the threat.

Shepherd threatened to score in the top of seventh when baseman Chelsie Oals and Kris Durham each singled with one out. Oals was forced at third on a fielder's choice and Greco fanned freshman pinch-hitter Lexi Matula to stop the Rams' scoring opportunity.

Alyson Johnson reached on an infield error in the bottom of the frame. She moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Jamie Otter to set the stage for Wallace's game-winning hit.

Wallace led the Vulcans with a 2-for-3 effort as she had half of the team's four hits.

Shepherd also got singles from Amber Dudek, Courtni Williams and Nichole Pitcock.

Bettura (6 ½ IP, 3 Ks, 1 BB) took the loss. Greco (7 IP, 3K, 1 BB) picked up the win for Cal to improve to 15-7.

In the Kutztown's 7-0 win in the second game, the Golden Bears took advantage of three Ram errors to take a 3-0 lead in the second inning.

The Golden Bears tacked on four more runs in the third with a three-run single off the bat of Maria Schiavo keying the big inning.

Shepherd loaded the bases with no outs in the top of the fifth, but the Rams were unable to push across any runs.

The Rams threatened again in the sixth with two outs and two on, but Dudek was called out for interfering with the shortstop to end the rally.

Schiavo led the Golden Bears with a pair of hits, while Maria Isgro drove in a pair of runs and scored twice.

Dudek and Oals each posted 2-for-

3 outings to pace the Rams.

Bettura (2 ½ IP, 2Ks, 3 BB) took the loss to fall to 20-9 on the year. Freshman pitcher Brooke Stambaugh allowed only one hit and fanned one in 3 ½ innings. Kutztown pitcher Katlin Arbogast (7 IP, 11 Ks, 1 BB) picked up the win to improve to 26-11.

Shepherd completed its season at 36-16, while Kutztown improved to 43-17. Kutztown will face California (Pa.) at noon today in the championship round.

RAMBLINGS: Shepherd set program records with 36 wins and 18 conference victories. The Rams also established single-season team records for most hits (419) and most RBI (222). Tricia Bettura set Shepherd single-season pitching marks for wins (20), strikeouts (185), innings pitched (188 ½) and appearances (32).

Shepherd baseball infielders Minnich, Collins both nab Division II All-Region honors

Shepherd first baseman Nathan Minnich and third baseman Brian Collins both were named to the 2010 baseball Daktronics All-Atlantic Region first team.

Minnich, a sophomore, batted .425 this season with 57 hits in 134 at-bats. He was Shepherd's offensive leader in home runs with 12, slugging percentage at .761, on-base percentage with at .513, total bases with 102, and walks with 19. He was second behind Collins with his 44 RBIs and nine doubles.

Collins, a junior who played

in high school at Jefferson and was also a first-team All-Atlantic Region selection by Daktronics in 2009, batted .400 with 54 hits in 135 at-bats. He paced the Rams in runs scored with 46, doubles with 20, and RBIs with 54.

Collins was second on the Shepherd team with 101 total bases and homers with nine.

The remainder of the All-Region first-team had pitchers Noah Mull of Wheeling Jesuit, Bernard Johnson of Mansfield, Nathan Reed of Kutztown, Fred

Breidenbach of West Chester, and Randy Sturgill of California as well as outfielders Troy Handza of California, Sam DiMatteo of California, and Shayne Houck of Kutztown.

The designated hitter selected was Zach Martin of Pitt Johnstown. The infielders were Collins, Minnich, Paul Bingham of Indiana and Greyson Schram of Concord. The catcher was Pat Trettel of Seton Hill.

Daktronics voted Schram as the Player of the Year and Mull as the Pitcher of the Year.

Shepherd softball ousted at Regional

CALIFORNIA, (Pa.) -- Shepherd opened play in one of the two sections of the Atlantic Region Division II softball tournament with the school's first-ever postseason win.

The Lady Rams tripped Kutztown, 8-3, to open last weekend's play.

Shepherd hammered out 12 hits against Kutztown pitching, including a hit and two hit batsmen off starter Kelli Arbogast in the first inning. Shepherd scored four times in the first.

Bettura would pitch a complete-game, eight-hitter at Kutz-

town to move her record to 20-7.

Courtnei Williams homered for Shepherd while going 2-for-3 and driving in a pair of runs. Amber Dudek was 3-for-4 and had a double. She scored two runs and had an RBI. Cammie Orlandi was also 3-for-4. Chelsie Oals drove in two runs for Shepherd.

In its first game in the winner's bracket, the Lady Rams were blanked, 1-0, by California.

Shepherd pitcher Bettura and California's Maria Greco dueled throughout. Greco went the seven-inning distance and allowed Shepherd only three hits in im-

proving her record to 15-7. Bettura allowed only four hits in her six innings while fanning three and walking only one. Bettura's record was 20-8 with the loss.

Facing Kutztown again, Shepherd never fathomed the pitching slants of Arbogast a second time.

Held to six hits by Arbogast, Shepherd stranded seven runners in never scoring. Dudek was 2-for-3 and Oals was also 2-for-3.

Arbogast fanned 11 in a powerful performance.

Shepherd's second loss in the tournament closed its season with a 36-16 overall record.



Shepherd pitcher Tricia Bettura picked up the win when the Lady Rams defeated Kutztown, 8-3.

Pitcock garners all-region honors

LOCK HAVEN, Pa. — Junior pitcher/first baseman Nichole Pitcock of the Shepherd University softball team was named to the 2010 Daktronics All-Atlantic Region Softball Team.

Pitcock becomes the first player in Shepherd softball program history to gain first-team all-region honors. She joins Stephanie Sims, a second-team selection in 2008, as the program's only all-region honorees.

Pitcock helped Shepherd set single-season marks for most wins (36) and most conference wins (18). She led the team with a .348 batting average with a team-best

54 hits in 155 at-bats. She also paced the team in total bases (81) and slugging percentage (.523).

Pitcock tied for the team lead in doubles (12) and runs batted in (35), while placing second on the team in home runs (5) and runs scored (32).

Pitcock also recorded a 15.7 mark on the mound with a 1.76 ERA.

She fanned 129 in 131 innings in 25 appearances.



PITCOCK

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Minnich named to all-region

MANSFIELD, Pa. — Sophomore first baseman Nathan Minnich was named to 2010 ABCA/Rawlings Atlantic All-Region team. Minnich gained second-team honors.

Minnich earned all-region accolades for the third time this year. He earlier was named a first-team all-region choice by both the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) and



MINNICH

Daktronics, Inc.

Minnich and junior third baseman Brian Collins also were named to 2010 National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Division II All-Atlantic Region team. Minnich was a first-team selection, while Collins garnered second-team accolades.

Minnich paced the Rams with a .425 batting average with 57 hits in 134 at-bats. He led the Rams in home runs (12), slugging percentage



COLLINS

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(.761), on base percentage (.513) total bases (102) and walks (19). Minnich was second on the team in runs batted in (44) and doubles (9).

Collins batted .400 with 54 hits in 135 at-bats. He led the team in runs scored (45), doubles (20) and runs batted in (54). Collins was second on the team in total bases (101) and home runs (9).

— Staff reports