

BPCC BASEBALL TEAM SPLITS WITH PARIS

The Bossier Parish Community College Cavaliers split a Region 14 doubleheader against Paris Junior College Saturday in Paris, Texas. The Cavs won the first game 6-3 and lost the second 7-6.

Former Benton standout Ross Moore went 3-for-3 with a double and three RBIs in the victory. Matt Martin had a double. Airline product Cole Hesson got the win, scattering seven hits and striking out five in five innings.

Moore also had a big game in the loss, going 3-for-4 with a triple and an RBI. Preston Gray went 3-for-5 with a double and two RBIs. Former Airline standouts Lance Jones and Chase Daughdrill had one double each.

NSU COMES UP JUST SHORT AGAINST SFA

NACOGDOCHES, Texas — Desmond Haymon's driving 5-footer with 11.8 seconds remaining edged Stephen F. Austin ahead, and the Lumberjacks survived two shots in the final four seconds by Northwestern State to defeat the visiting Demons 64-63 in a late-season showdown for the Southland Conference basketball lead.

SFA (24-3 overall, 14-2 in the Southland) withstood a driving layup bid by NSU's Shamir Davis with 3.5 seconds left, with the ball knocked loose and going out of bounds. The Demons inbounded and got a 3-pointer from the left corner by former Bossier star Jalan West that popped in, then rattled out just before the final buzzer in front of 4,836 at Johnson Coliseum.

"We couldn't have asked for two better shots at the end, but we didn't get the break with a foul call on Shamir's drive, and Jalan's shot somehow didn't go down," NSU coach Mike McConathy said. "It went down and popped out."

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West matched his season high with nine assists. He also scored eight points while making two steals.

Northwestern (19-8, 13-3) got 20 points from James Hulbin and 10 by Marvin Frazier. The Demons played without leading scorer and rebounder DeQuan Hicks, sidelined with an ankle injury suffered in practice.

Both NSU and SFA have two home games left in the regular season. Thursday night, the Demons host Texas A&M-Corpus Christi while SFA entertains rival Sam Houston State, and Saturday, Sam Houston visits NSU while A&M-CC comes to SFA.

The Lumberjacks need just one win to lock up the No. 1 seed in the Southland Conference Tournament as well as a guarantee of an NIT berth in case they don't win the conference tournament.

"Our kids really competed hard. We didn't make every play, but we battled very, very tough," McConathy said. "Give SFA credit, they got a rebound with 18.7 seconds to go that gave them the chance to get the go-ahead basket. If we get that one rebound, the game's over."

TECH MEN CLINCH SHARE OF WAC TITLE

RUSTON — Raheem Appleby scored 16 points and No. 25 Louisiana Tech extended the nation's longest winning streak to 18 games Saturday night, clinching at least a share of its first Western Athletic Conference championship with an 88-61 victory over San Jose State.

"It was good to be able to send our seniors out with a win like that," Bulldogs coach Michael White said. "It was also good to accomplish one of our preseason goals that we started the season with and that was to finish undefeated at home. Winning a conference championship or at least a share of it was something that we set out to do for months. It's exciting, but there is still a lot left to play for over the next week."

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Alex Hamilton and Jaron Johnson added 13 points apiece for the Bulldogs (26-3, 16-0 WAC), who can wrap up the outright regular-season title Thursday night with a win at New Mexico State.

It is the first conference crown for Louisiana Tech since its 1999 Sun Belt championship.

"I expected we would compete for an NCAA bid, but I didn't expect it to come this quickly," said Tech guard Brandon Gibson, who had 12 points. "Coach White pushes us so hard and you would never think kids who just got together with this coach two years ago would be doing something as special as this."