

Parish teams fall in first round of girls soccer playoffs

Written by Russell Hedges

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A very successful season came to a heartbreaking end for the Benton Lady Tigers Thursday in the first round of the Division II soccer playoffs.

The Lady Tigers fell to District 1 rival Calvary Baptist 2-1 at Tinsley Park.

Benton, the No. 15 seed in Division II, defeated No. 18 Calvary twice during the regular season, 3-2 and 3-1, on the way to winning its third district title in four years.

“Tonight’s loss didn’t take that away,” said Benton coach Kyle Cox, whose team finished 12-5-3. “Overall, we had a great season. I told them to keep their heads up. They played hard the whole game. That’s all I ever ask of them.”

Calvary scored the only goal of the first half on a penalty kick. Benton’s Hailey Croft converted a penalty kick about 10 minutes into the second half to tie it.

With about 12 minutes left in the game, the Lady Cavs scored off a corner kick.

The Lady Tigers aggressively attacked the goal the rest of the game but couldn’t get a clean shot.

“I thought we really played better than they did tonight,” Cox said. “We made a couple of defensive mistakes that cost us.

“In the second half, we had the momentum. But they got a timely play on the corner kick and we didn’t recover. They were a different team than the first two times we played them. They were ready to play.”

It wasn’t a good day for Bossier Parish teams as the curtain came down on the girls season.

No. 24 seed Parkway put up a good fight before falling to No. 9 Baton Rouge High 2-0 in a first-round Division I game in Baton Rouge.

No. 31 seed Bossier lost to No. 2 Academy of Sacred Heart 11-0 in a Division III first-round game. Alyssa Tuggle had eight saves for the Lady Kats.