

Sweetwater brings bitter end to DCHS

Tigerettes see season stop in sub-state

DUANE SHERRILL
News/Sports Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

Things were looking bright when Kenzie France jacked a two-run homer over the left field fence in the third inning, giving the Tigerettes a 4-1 advantage going into the fourth inning of their sub-state showdown with the visiting Sweetwater Wildcats.

But a Sweetwater rally brought a bitter end to the DeKalb County season as a big fifth and sixth inning sent the visitors on to the state finals and ended the Tigerette season by a score of 7-4 – a season that saw the DeKalb County squad win both its district and regional tournaments.

The game against Sweetwater began evenly as both teams put up a run on the board the first inning. The second saw some separation as DeKalb added another run. However, it was the bottom of the third when Kenzie France slugged one out of the ballpark to give her team a three-run lead with just four innings left until another state berth for the Tigerettes.

The dream ended on a late rally by the Wildcats as they plated three runs in the fifth, drawing to a tie with their hosts. The sixth inning proved to be the difference as Sweetwater hammered in three more runs while the Tigerettes were unable to respond.

The Wildcats outhit DeKalb 13-6 while neither team made an error in the field. France accounted for DeKalb's only homerun while Kristena Bain hit a double to add to Megan Walker's two hits and single shots by France and Joni Robinson. France took the loss from the circle.

Their departure from the tournament came days after they went to Dunlap and defeating

Sequatchie County 4-1 to win the regional title. France won that game from the circle, giving up just six hits while DeKalb got nine hits. Her performance from the pitching circle came after she jacked two home runs days before in the first round of the regional tournament against Marion County.

The Tigerettes won the opening round game 15-5, run ruling the visiting Marion County squad in the sixth inning. Allison Maynard also had a home run in the first round blow out.

The Tigerettes end their 2018 campaign with a mark of 23-12 and an 11-3 district record. Sweetwater, with its win, was set to face McKnight last evening in the state finals.



Braya Murphy takes a hard cut at a pitch during the early innings of the sub-state tournament game hosted by the Tigerettes this past week. DeKalb County, which had won both its district and region, was eliminated by the visiting Sweetwater squad 7-4.



Kristena Bain puts on the brakes as she rounds second after smacking a double to tie the outfield. The Tigerettes saw their season end this past week after a late rally by the visiting Sweetwater squad knocked them out of the state playoffs after winning their district and region championships.

Duane Sherrill photos



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Cristibol Flores lines up for one of the few shots taken during the defense-dominated district championship game last week in which Upperman got the upper hand on the Tigers, sending them on the road for the first round of the regional tournament. The top-ranked Tigers' season ended in Loudon last week when they were beaten 4-3. Flores was named most valuable player for the district after his team went 13-3 overall and attained the state's top rank following an undefeated district campaign.

DCHS loses to Loudon

Excellent season comes to disappointing finale

DUANE SHERRILL
News/Sports Smithville Review
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After being stunned by Upperman, who defeated DeKalb in penalty kicks following a defensive struggle in the district finals here, the Tiger soccer team saw its exceptional season end in regional action as they were defeated 4-3 by Loudon. The former number-one team in the state swept out in the first round.

The road loss in the first round of the regional tournament ended the Tiger season at 13-3 after a perfect 8-0 regular season district record that saw them ranked as the state's top AA team. However, less than a week after achieving the top spot the Tigers were stunned by the Upperman Bees in the finals of the district tournament held here. The Tigers had soundly thrashed the Bees during the regular season beating them 5-1 and 6-1.

History would not hold true to form in the district finals as the teams played to a 0-0 tie even after 30 minutes of extra time. The game and district were decided on penalty kicks, Upperman winning 5-4 to claim the district title.

With the win, Upperman ended up hosting a first round game but lost to Kingsport, 2-1. Meanwhile, after beating DeKalb, Loudon went on a tear, beating Kingston 2-0 and Sequoyah 4-2, leaving them in the state finals for AA last night.

The season saw DeKalb outscore its opponents 54-20, holding five opponents to no goals. Its only loss prior to the tournament was a 3-1 preseason match against King's Academy at the Smoky Mountain Cup at Rocky Top back in March.

The team also saw Cristobal Flores named Most Valuable player for the district and Jasper Kleparek named Rookie of the Year.