

Highland Softball Season Ends in National Tournament

After falling in the first round of action of the NJCAA Division-II National Softball Tournament the Highland Scotties responded with a win to stay alive in the tournament, but in their second elimination game didn't have enough to muster another comeback ending their season.

The Scotties earned the seven seed and took on the 10 seeded Illinois Central team in the first round of the double elimination tournament. The Cougars of Illinois Central struck first in the game scoring one-run in the top of the first inning. Runs would prove be hard to come by in the matchup as both pitchers, Zuzana Kudernatschova (Highland) and Dani Williams (Illinois Central) pitched extermely well, giving up 10 hits combined. Scotties tied the game up in the bottom of the fourth off an RBI hit from catcher, Kayla Gritt. Tied at 1-1 the game went to extra innings, were the Cougars pounced on the chance to score in the top of the eighth plating two-runs, which would be enough to notch the win and take down Highland 3-1.

With the loss Highland fell to the loser's bracket in the double elimination tournament, they meet up with CCBC-Catonsville who lost in their first round matchup, also. It was a quick turnaround for the Scotties with no time in between games, but that didn't stop the Scotties bats from coming alive producing 14-runs on 13-hits in the matchup. Highland did find themselves down early 3-0, but once the bats came alive the Scottie had no problem staying alive in the tournament winning the matchup 14-4. Catcher, Kayla Gritt finished the game 3-5 with 3 RBI's and double, while outfielder, Kayleigh Foxcroft went 3-5, also with 2 RBI's and a triple.

In today's action the Scotties, meet up with the Jayhawks of Muskegon in another elimination game. Highland would once again find themselves in an early hole, as Muskegon plated one-run in the top of the first inning. Muskegon would go on to extend the lead to 5-0, after scoring four more runs in the top of the third. Scotties wouldn't be down and out, quite yet as they tried to muster another comeback getting some timely hits in the bottom of the sixth to plate three-runs. But it would be Muskegon adding an insurance run in the top half the seventh inning that would prove to be took much for the Scotties as they fell 6-3 to the Jayhawks. Both Megan Plouvier and Jesse Troupe for the Scotties did have a multi-hit game in the loss, each going 2-3 on the day.

Highland finishes their season 49-13, making the national tournament for the third straight year and going 1-2 in the tournament action this year. Scotties were also ranked eight in the nation going into the tournament.