

Injuries hamper Wash girls in defeat

Written by Tom Fruehling

Wednesday, 30 May 2012 21:22 - Last Updated Wednesday, 30 May 2012 23:34



After dominating much of the match, the Cedar Rapids Washington girls soccer team ended its season Wednesday night at Kingston Stadium when Cedar Falls scored a ricochet goal with 5:24 left in the first overtime.

The 2-1 loss in the Class 3A regional semifinals left the Warriors with an 11-7 record for the year.

“I thought we played really well,” Washington Coach Chad Hollmer said. “We had ball possession a good portion of the game. But we just didn’t take advantage of our opportunities.”

After trailing 1-0 at halftime, the Warriors took control in the second period and kept the ball on their end of the field for most of the final 40 minutes of regulation. They finally scored 16 minutes into the half when Lauren Goodlove lined a bullet from the right side that the Tiger goalie nicked off her fingertips.

A chance to win the game in regulation with less than a minute to go just missed when the Cedar Falls keeper stopped a straight-on shot by Washington’s Maddi Hines. A steady force for the Warriors all year, Hines had just returned to the game on a wobbly leg after spraining her right ankle with 10 minutes left.

“It hurt,” she said afterward. “But I just played through the pain.”

A more costly injury to Washington defender Katie Hammond kept her on the bench after the first 20 minutes of play. She bumped knees with a Cedar Falls player in a tussle for the ball and had to be helped off the field.

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Hammond said later her bruised left knee was extremely swollen and sore. Still, she was about to re-enter the contest when the Tigers made the winning goal. "We needed a third forward," she said. "So I was going back in."

Hammond is ranked No.2 in singles for the girls state tennis tournament, gets under way Thursday morning in Iowa City. While she was limping Wednesday night, she said she planned to undergo physical therapy early Thursday morning in hopes that the swelling can be reduced.

Although the injuries to two key players disrupted the Warriors' game plan, Hollmer didn't pin the loss on those turn of events.

"We had younger players step up," he said. "All the girls worked super hard with a lot of heart and character. But we failed to capitalize when we had opportunities."