Cabrillo College starting pitcher Taylor Tessier works during the fourth inning of a Coast Conference South game against West Valley College, of Saratoga, Thursday at Aptos. West Valley College won, 1-0.

TITLE OUT OF REACH

Cabrillo’s conference title hopes dashed in 1-0 extra-innings loss

By THOMAS FREY

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

APTOS — It was the definition of a pitchers duel in West Valley College’s 1-0 win in eight innings over Cabrillo College Thursday in Aptos.

The loss drops Cabrillo (29-10, 9-5) to third place in the Coast Conference South. They were in second place entering the day and needed to win to have any chance of taking the CC-S title. West Valley (27-7, 12-3) had other ideas and sent their ace Kaityn Guevara out to clinch the conference.

In eight innings, Guevara allowed no runs on three hits, while striking out nine.

“They have a really good pitcher and good solid defense,” said Cabrillo head coach Kristy Rosinger. “They are a tricky team to beat but I think we battled them pretty good.”

Now, with the conference title out of reach, the Seahawks are still thinking positively with hopes of closing out the season strong.

“We want to win our last conference game to try to pull off second place,” Rosinger said. “Going into playoffs we are going to take it one game at a time and see how far we can get.”

The Seahawks play Hartnell College (12-18, 7-8) in their final regular season game of the season Tuesday. The last time they met, sophomore pitcher Taylor Tessier only allowed two hits while striking out 10 in Cabrillo’s five-inning, 13-0 win.

Tessier was nothing but dominant in the first seven innings against West Valley. Outside of the first inning, where West Valley loaded the bases, she didn’t have any problems until the eighth.

With one out in the final frame, she allowed a triple which was followed by a single that gave the Vikings the lead. It was the only time that Tessier allowed back-to-back base hits in the game.

Cabrillo came into their half of the eighth with only one hit, but that quickly changed. Freshman third baseman Marissa Bugayong led off the inning by beating out a throw for an infield single. Then, freshman catcher Alexandria Nabarrete got her first hit of the game to put two runners on with no outs to start the inning.

After freshman designated hitter Lexi Gonzales flew out straight to the pitcher, sophomore center fielder Mikal Cuellar bunted the runners over to second and third. With two-outs, freshman left fielder Kristina Mio stepped to the plate. She had the only Seahawks hit of the game coming into the inning — she hit an infield single in the fourth.

She made contact but grounded out to Guevara to end the game.

“I was just thinking, ‘give it my all like it’s the last at bat of my career,’” Mio said. She did everything she could for the Seahawks. Twice she made good grabs in the outfield that held the Vikings from getting a key hit. After she got the hit in the fourth, she promptly stole second and advanced to third on a groundout. The next at-bat, she was running on contact and almost beat out a throw by the shortstop in a play at the plate.