

Capital fastpitch comes up empty against Stadium

Cougars strand 10 runners in loss to Tigers

BY BRIAN MCLEAN

OLYMPIA -- The ever-elusive timely hit never came.

The Capital Cougars, needing a win to secure a bigger foothold for playoff positioning in the Narrows League Bay Division, got base runners aboard in all but one inning Monday, but the Stadium Tigers remained unbeaten in league play with a 5-2 decision at Jefferson Middle School.

[Jordyn Kurtz](#) scattered seven hits in a complete-game effort and the Cougars stranded 10 on base as the Tigers improved to 11-1 overall, 8-0 in the Narrows Bay.

"It's not all a pitching game, but a couple of base on balls and a few errors hurt us," Capital coach Mel Weems said.

Sophomore Krista Shannon went 3-for-4 and smashed a two-run single to right field in the fifth inning for Capital (10-5, 5-4), which had one runner thrown out at the plate and left the bases loaded in the fourth.

Shannon also blew away the Tigers in a three-inning relief appearance, striking out three and retiring all nine hitters she faced.

But the loss complicates matters. Now, Wednesday's crosstown rivalry game with Olympia holds greater importance.

Capital, which beat Olympia earlier this season, can clinch a playoff spot and the No. 3 seed to the league tournament with a win. The Bears currently hold the fourth and final postseason berth. Anticipating a larger crowd, the game has been moved to Stevens Field at 6 p.m.

"It's an opportunity to go to district, but it's not automatic," Weems said.

On Monday, Capital put pressure on [Jordyn Kurtz \(Sidewinder 16U\)](#) for most of the game, but the Stadium pitcher improved to 9-1. She wriggled off the hook with the bases loaded and one out in the fourth, getting a ground ball to second that forced Julie Velazquez at the plate, and a well-hit fly ball to right.

On the mound, Velazquez struggled with her command early, walking batters in each of the first three innings. But Capital center fielder Matia Rankin helped keep Stadium off the board in the second, gunning down a runner at the plate with a perfect throw.

Stadium scored three runs to take a 5-0 lead in the fourth, all but one unearned. Sam Miller went 3-for-4 with an RBI and [Jessica Snyder \(Washington Sidewinder 18 Gold\)](#) added two hits and an RBI. The Tigers also tore up the basepaths, stealing five bases.