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SOFTBALL

Lady Buffs fall short of AAC title

■ Milligan wins four in a row to reach championship game.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

KINGSPORT — Milligan College worked its way into the championship game of the Appalachian Athletic Conference tournament, but fell short 4-0 to Reinhardt on Friday in the title game at Domtar Park.

The Lady Buffs, who defeated Montreat 7-6 earlier in the day and won two games on Thursday to stay alive, ended their season at 32-19. Milligan had to fight its way into the championship game after losing 1-0 to Union on the opening day, before reeling off four consecutive wins in elimination games. Milligan defeated Tennessee Wesleyan 5-1 and Union 10 on Thursday.

A four-run fourth inning provided Reinhardt all the runs it needed to win the title. Milligan out-hit the Eagles 6-4, but couldn't push a run across.

Reinhardt's Maddie Monroe, who tossed a no-hitter earlier in the tournament, went the distance for the win. She kept Milligan scoreless with 10 strikeouts, while allowing six hits and two walks. Reinhardt pitchers threw three shutouts and allowed only three runs in four games in the tournament.

Milligan, which loaded the bases in their fifth inning, got hits from Ellyn Sapp and Rachel Ingleby. Chancli Connatser was tabbed with the loss.

The Eagles improved to 40-8 and will play in the NIAA softball national championship which will be held May 19-25 in Gulf Shores, Ala.

Against Montreat, Milligan fended off a Cavaliers rally for the win.

Connatser hit a grand slam in the first inning to stake the Lady Buffs to an early lead. Camille Olvey, Jessica Fix and Brittany DiRobbio each plated a run in the fifth to put Milligan up 7-2. Montreat scored three in the sixth and tacked on another in the seventh, but the Lady Buffs held on for the win.

Senior Sidney Burns picked up the win, giving up three runs on seven hits and striking out six. Krista Lambdin went 3-for-3 with an RBI.