

By ROY ALLEN

Seward assistant athletic director

It was a tough way to end a hard fought weekend for the Seward County Lady Saints Sunday in Wichita. After battling their way through the Region 6 Tournament bracket to advance yet again to the Championship game, Seward fell 1-0 in the seventh inning to No. 1 Butler to end their 2013 season two wins short of a Region 6 Championship.

Seward opened the tournament with a dominating 8-0 win over rival Garden City, but bounced to the elimination bracket early on day two with a 6-1 loss to Butler.

Seward survived the modified semifinal with a 6-4 win over Barton to advance to the first championship game, but after a 0-0 battle throughout, Butler scratched a run out in the seventh to win 1-0 to win the Region 6 title and end Seward's season.

In their first matchup of the weekend the Lady Saints took on Garden City. Seward had early traffic, getting a runner into scoring position in both of the first two innings, but couldn't push a run across as the game was scoreless after two.

Rachel Shockley and Stephanie Mark singled with one out in the third to give the Lady Saints another scoring chance, but once again they would leave the ducks on the pond at inning's end to remain deadlocked.

The Seward fourth didn't start with a lot of promise as just six pitches in, they were already down to their last out with nobody on, but singles from Ashley Kirkes and Samantha Phelps set the table and a double from Marissa Chavez drove the pair in as the Lady Saints took the first lead of the game 2-0.

Seward starting pitcher Brittney Sharkey cruised through the fourth inning and the Lady Saints gave her two more runs of support as doubles from Kirkes and Sierra Tadiarca drove runs home to make it a 4-0 game.

The Lady Saints were back at it in the sixth as Michelle Duford drove home a run with a single and an error on the Busters added another to make it 6-0.

Still batting in the inning, the Lady Saints tacked on their third run of the inning on an RBI single from Felisha Vogelaar and after five-and-a-half it was Seward 7, Garden City 0.

Sharkey spun her second straight one-two-three inning in the bottom of the sixth and Seward added a run on three singles in the top of the seventh to push their lead to 8-0. With the big lead Sharkey had no problem silencing the Buster bats in their final at bats.