

Avery falls short in state finals

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Avery High women's soccer team came up a little short in its quest to win a state championship go up in smoke on Saturday afternoon in Raleigh, NC.

The Vikings (20-2-2), the No.1 team in the state in Class 1A, dropped a 2-0 decision to Southwest Onslow in the the Class 1A state championship game at Dial Soccer Stadium on the campus of North Carolina State University. Southwest Onslow (15-2-2) broke a scoreless tie with a pair of goals in a 92 second span, ten minutes into the second half. Armani Boswell and Jessica HInds scored for the Stallions.

"We just didn't have the depth," said Avery coach Tom Evaul. "We ran out of gas. Our girls were in the game, but they eventually wore us down. But I'm still proud of the effort. Our girls had a great season."

The Vikings had a pair of chances early on, but couldn't cash in. One shot hit the post; the other was a rebound by Arden Stanley that was easily handled by the Southwest goalkeeper, Megan Roberson.

"It wasn't our day," Evaul said. "We had two good looks right there and it wouldn't go in. But we played hard, and gave it our best shot."

Ironically, the two goals Avery surrendered on Saturday were the first goals the Vikings have given up in post-season play this season. And on the year, they only gave up ten goals.

"Our defense has been superb all year," Evaul said. "The first goal was just a great shot; they're second goal just deflected in off one of our players. Those things happen sometimes."

The Vikings only lose two seniors off this current team. The core of the squad returns next season.

"It hurts, of course," Evaul said. "The girls really wanted to win the state championship. But we have a lot of girls coming back. And if we can fill those two voids (with the graduating seniors), next year could be just as special."