

East Coast Tsunami secures 16U Finch's Aces Fall Invitational title

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By Bob Behre

Taryn DiGiacomo received a call Sunday afternoon from her softball coach, beckoning her presence at the 16U Finch's Aces Fall Invitational.

"I told her, 'We need you. We made the semifinals,'" said East Coast Tsunami coach Laura Marinelli.

DiGiacomo had just finished playing soccer for Saddle Brook High School in the Bergen County Tournament when she learned her team was still breathing in the 20-team softball tournament and that her athletic weekend had been extended.

DiGiacomo arrived to Diamond Nation in Flemington on time to take the mound for East Coast Tsunami's semifinal opposite the Long Island Greyhounds. DiGiacomo got the job done as Tsunami edged the Greyhounds, 6-5, via the international tiebreaker, to advance to the championship game.

DiGiacomo would save her best for the final.



The left-hander pitched a two-hitter, struck out four and walked two and was given plenty of unnecessary cover by the lethal Tsunami (pictured on left) lineup on the way to a 12-1 victory over ASBA Mayhem in five innings.

"Our bats were hot all day," said Marinelli. "We always say, you can't score runs without getting runners on base and you can't get runners on base without hitting

the ball.”

Tsunami hammered out 10 hits and consistently put the Mayhem defense on its heels. It broke the game open with a four-run fourth inning and put it away with a five-run fifth.

It was an incredible tournament for Tsunami, which dropped its first two tournament games before rallying to win six straight. It outscored its opponents 50-17 in its six-game winning streak.

Maddy Bedrock, who singled home a run in the first inning of the championship game, took the ball and got the win in Tsunami’s first three games on Sunday before DiGiacomo arrived from Bergen County.

“We’ve been coming to Diamond Nation tournaments a long time and this was our first championship,” said Marinelli. “We finally won one.”

Leadoff batter Alyssa DeBiasse did a nice job setting the table for the Tsunami offense. She contributed a single and double, drew a pair of walks, scored twice and drove in a run. Number three hitter Emily Skinner and No. 9 hitter Noel Vargas also had two RBI.

Skinner had two singles off slap hits, including a pretty slap she chopped over the third baseman’s head to drive in two runs in the fourth. Vargas singled to right field to drive in a run in the fourth and brought home a run in the fourth on a grounder.

Tsunami’s lineup depth was further showcased by No. 10 hitter Vix Small, who had a triple and single in three trips to the plate and scored two runs.

Rianna Marinelli, the Tsunami coach’s daughter, anchored the defense with a slick blend of play at shortstop. The young Marinelli made a nice play on a grounder behind second base in the fourth and threw the batter out at first. She also exhibited her strong arm on a 6-3 groundout for the first out in the fifth.

Tsunami second baseman drew a wow from the crowd in the fourth, too, when she leaped and stabbed a hard liner off the bat of Mayhem’s Sesley Cruz.

DiGiacomo ended the third inning when she snared Grace DeRosa’s liner back to the box and fired to first to catch the runner leaning for a double play.

Mayhem struck for its only run in the bottom of the first inning.

Maddison Gianella singled to right-center and reached second when the ball was misplayed in the outfield. Morgan Scader sacrificed Gianella to third and DeRosa scored her with a grounder to shortstop.

Gianella leadoff single would be the only hit DiGiacomo would allow until

Samantha Cohen singled hard to left field with one out in the bottom of the fifth.

East Coast Tsunami's 5-0 Sunday run included a 7-6 victory over Impact Panthers and a 6-4 decision over Finch's Aces that avenged a 6-4 loss in the tournament opener.