

FINCH'S ACES FALL INVITATIONAL FEATURES JENNIE FINCH VISIT

By Bob Behre

Seventy-two teams will take Diamond Nation by storm this weekend, turning the Flemington, N.J. facility into a little slice of softball heaven.

Softball legend Jennie Finch will arrive Friday for the Jennie Finch All-Skills Clinic that will be conducted at 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Then Finch will spend much of Saturday at Diamond Nation as the Finch's Aces Fall Invitational plays its pool play games in the 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U age brackets.

"Any day on a softball field is a good day," said Finch, an Olympic softball gold medalist who makes four visits to Diamond Nation each year.

There will be three good days for sure this weekend as the girls take part in the All-Skills Clinic on Friday, leading naturally into Saturday's tournament play. The tournament wraps up on Sunday with playoffs and championships in all five age brackets.

Jennie reminds the girls, "You're going to have adversity on the field and off. When you do, take a breath and say this is going to make me, not break me."

The **10U Finch's Aces Fall Invitational** opens play at 8 a.m. on Saturday when the Virginia Stars encounters East Coast Tsunami and Renegades Fastpitch takes on the 10U Finch's Aces. The 10U playoff begins with the semifinals at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday followed by the championship game at 7 p.m. on Field 6.

The **12U Finch's Aces Fall Invitational** kicks off its festivities in style with six games at 8 a.m. on Saturday. We are intrigued by an opening matchup pairing NJ Pride-Keith and NJ Venom 12U on Field 4B. The 12U tournament's 24-team playoff gets underway immediately on Sunday with eight first round games at 8 a.m.

The 12U tournament's playoffs continue with second round games at 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, the quarterfinals at 11 a.m. and 12:40 p.m. and the semifinals at 2:10 p.m. The 12U championship game is set for 3:40 p.m. on Field 3A.

The 12U field also boasts such quality programs as Banshees 12U Black, Empire State



Huskies, Team Long Island, Virginia Stars, Impact Panthers, 12U Finch's Aces and the Delaware Tribe.

The **14U Finch's Aces Fall Invitational** swings into action with a pair of games at 8 a.m. on Saturday, including a nice matchup pitting LAC Force and East Coast Scorpions on Field 5A. The first round of playoffs in the 20-team 14U field will be played at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:40 p.m. The semifinals are set for 3:40 p.m. and the championship game will be contested at 5:30 p.m. on Field 2.

The deep 14U bracket features Team Nitro Long Island 05, Staten Island Saints, NJ Ruthless 14U, 14U Finch's Aces, Central PA Bombers, Renegades Fastpitch and Stripes and Strikes 14U.

The **16U Finch's Aces Fall Invitational** begins at 8 a.m. on Saturday when Pocono Pride 16U Red squares off with Pegasus 16U in one of two tournament openers in that bracket. The 12-team 16U field moves to the playoffs with first round games at 11 a.m. on Sunday. The playoffs continue with the quarterfinals at 12:40 p.m. and the semifinals at 3:40 p.m. The 16U tournament wraps up with the championship game at 5:30 p.m. on Field 6.

Figure a difficult route to the championship game with such tough entrees as Jersey Girls Fastpitch, NJ Sparks 16U, Sting 16U Black, Sting Legends, Pascack Valley Elite and NY Bluefire Premier.

The **18U Finch's Aces Fall Invitational** joins the busy weekend fray with two openers at 3:40 p.m. on Saturday. Kaboom Barbero plays Spitfire in what will surely be an entertaining opener on Field 1B. The 18U tournament playoff begins with first round games at 12:40 p.m. and 2:10 p.m. The quarterfinals will be played at 2:10 p.m. and 3:40 p.m. The tournament brings the four surviving teams together for the semifinals at 5:30 p.m. to find a pair of winners who will chase championship hardware at 7 p.m. on Field 2.

Akadema Elite Showcase, Black Diamonds, Finch's Aces Premier, Finch's Aces Showcase, Lady Ravens and the Dream Academy Highlanders help form a talented 18U field.

ACES' SPEEDY RILEIGH GLYNN COMMITS TO BUCKNELL

By Bob Behre

Sure, most triples are shots in the gap or blasts over an outfielder's head, but Raleigh Glynn has found another way to get to third base quickly.

She slaps a single and simply steals two bases. Instant rally.

Glynn, the center fielder and lefty-hitting leadoff hitter for the Finch's Aces 18U Premier team, has committed to Bucknell University where she will continue to showcase her trademark speed and athleticism.

"Raleigh's best assets are her speed, knowledge of the game and love of the game," said Immaculata head coach Gary Bury. For Glynn, that is actually an unbeatable trifecta.

Glynn will be a four-year starter and team captain when she begins her senior season at Immaculata of Somerville next spring. She'll also do so having already reached the coveted 100-career-hit plateau. The Spartan's shortstop ripped a single up the middle against Hillsborough in her final at bat of the 2019 season.

"I got two hits that game," said Glynn. "The 100th was pretty cool."

Glynn had 32 hits and more than 30 stolen bases for Immaculata last spring, batting a robust and team high .463 against some of the best competition in the state. Immaculata plays in the rugged Skyland Conference.

Glynn was actually looking in the south for a school that matched her softball skills and academic desires. St. Leo in Florida and Appalachian State in North Carolina had caught her eye.

She then went to a camp at Bucknell on Sept. 8.



"I was supposed to go down to St. Leo a couple weeks after the Bucknell camp," said Glynn. "But two days after the camp I committed to Bucknell."

Bucknell assistant Matt Burns had gotten a good look at Glynn's skills during the TTSM National Softball Camp at Diamond Nation in late July and Glynn, subsequently, got a good look at Bucknell five weeks later.

"Bucknell had exactly what I wanted," said Glynn. "I wanted to go down south, originally. Then I stepped on Bucknell's campus, saw the brick buildings, the sun was setting. It blew me away."

GLYNN (continued on next page)

GLYNN (continued from front page)

Bucknell also offered excellent softball facilities and a major that matched Glynn's academic wishes. "I'm going to major in either biomedical engineering or biophysics," she said. "Bucknell expressed interest in me during the camp at Diamond Nation and they reached out to Tommy (Tarulli)."

Tarulli is Diamond Nation's Softball Recruiting Coordinator.

Glynn met the Bucknell coaching staff during the school's camp, including head coach Joey Lye, a member of the Olympics-bound Canadian National Softball Team. Bucknell posted a 27-23-1 overall record in 2019 in Lye's first season at the helm. The Bison were also 13-5 in the Patriot League.

Glynn was assuredly impressed by Lye.

"And I thought it would be cool to play at the college level for a female coach," she said.

Glynn is in her fifth season with the Finch's Aces at Diamond Nation. That makes her, currently, the longest tenured player in the program. She joined the Aces as a 13 year-old.

"Raleigh is very versatile," said Jackie Tarulli, Diamond Nation's Director of Softball Operations and the Aces Premier coach. "She's great in center field and a good slapper. We love her going from first-to-third. She's a longtime Aces player and a good person."

Bury, who is well known on the travel circuit as well, took the reins at Immaculata for his first season last spring. He quickly entrusted Glynn as his leadoff hitter and shortstop.

"Raleigh is a very coachable kid," said Bury. "She wants to get better every day and is a pleasure to work with. I named her one of my captains. That tells you something."



Bury believes Glynn's speed will play well at the collegiate level.

"Raleigh puts pressure on a defense," says Bury. "As you get older and mature as a player, the level of competition becomes all about pitching and defense. One thing that can control the game is speed. She pounds the ball into the ground as a lefty slapper. She's a great singles hitter, gets on base a lot and steals bases. A walk for her is like a triple."

And Bury sees Bucknell as a logical next stop for Glynn.

"I know she had thoughts of going south, but Bucknell is a good program and a good fit for her," he said.

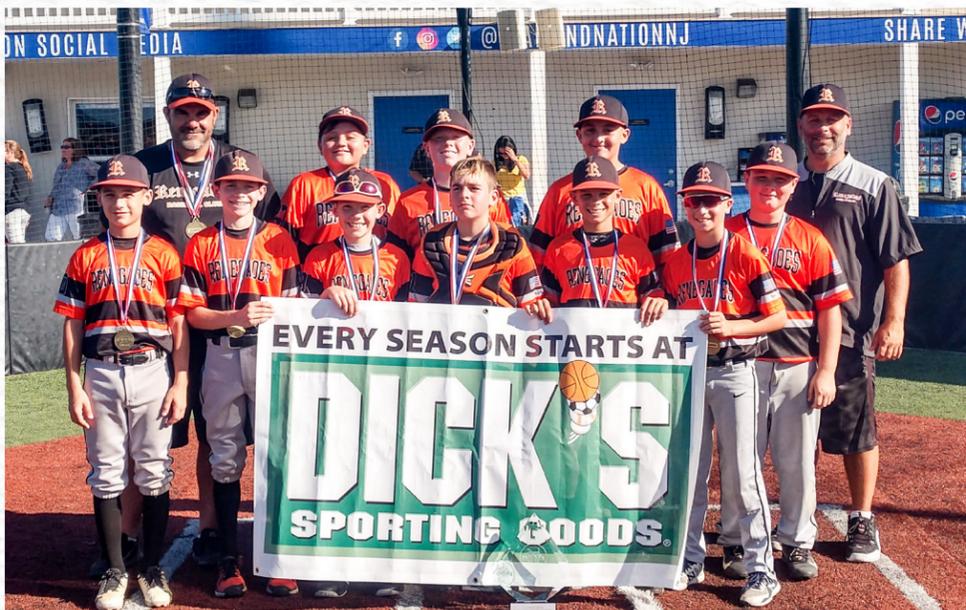
Glynn ratcheted up her game a couple more notches during a busy summer with the Aces Premier team.

"It was a good summer," said Glynn. "We had a lot of tournaments and I had a lot of workouts with Parisi Speed School at Healthquest. I want to get stronger and faster. I'm definitely a better player."

Glynn cherishes here trips around the nation with Finch's Aces. Her team went to California two years ago and Glynn played this past summer in Colorado, Virginia Beach and Massachusetts. The team is playing in Missouri in a couple weeks.

"I'm working on picking up pitches better, particularly rise balls," said Glynn.

NJ RENEGADES USE SOUND ALL-AROUND GAME TO WIN 12U FALL CLASSIC



By Bob Behre

Consistently steady pitching, strong defense and a relentless attack at the plate is a formula for victory at any level of baseball. The NJ Renegades of Wyckoff plugged into all of the above on the way to the 12U Fall Classic championship this past weekend at Diamond Nation.

The Renegades followed three mercy rule victories with a hard fought 6-2 decision over the Diamond Jacks Super 12U in the final to close out their impressive tournament championship run.

"We had some shutdown kids out there on the mound," said NJ Renegades coach Mike Bellovich. "We used five or six different kids in the four games and went into the championship game with our two aces available."

Jack Portman worked the first two innings of the final before Nico Bradley closed out the championship victory with four innings of sterling relief. The Renegades (4-0) struck for a pair of runs in the second inning and two more runs in the third to take the early lead on the Super 12 (3-1).

"We didn't play many innings in the first three games, so we were able to minimize our pitchers' innings. And there we were with our top two guys in the final," said Bellovich. "Jack and Nico pitched great against a very good team."

At the plate, the Renegades were a relentless force using an assortment of avenues to reach their intended goal. "We got key hits in spots, we bunted, we just found ways to score runs," said Bellovich. "We did a good job against what is always a tough team. It was a collective effort and we worked for it."

Alex Bellovich, the coach's son, had a huge tournament at the plate, going 7-for-9 (.778). The young Bellovich cashed in on some big hits and delivered defensively as well as the team's catcher. That said, the depth of Renegades' contributors made the coach's MVP decision an easy one. He simply bestowed the honor on the entire team.

"Every kid pitched in," said coach Bellovich. "It seemed like it was a different kid each game or each rally. There were a lot of big plays made by a lot of different players."

Cameron Perez, Kyle Wenckus and Portman had big tournaments at the plate and Andrew DeLorenzo, Nick Atme, Richie Rosa, Forrest Mitterbauer, C.J. Anzaldo, Evan Radoncic, Chad McConnell and Zach Broderon all chipped in to the Renegades' championship effort.

The NJ Renegades opened the tournament with a 13-2 victory over the Fair Haven Diamonds before picking off the Diamond Jacks Gold 12U, 10-2, and the Bucks County Generals Red, 12-3. The Renegades outscored their four tournament opponents by a staggering 41-9. The Diamond Jacks Super 12U held a 29-9 runs advantage on its opponents.

"Teams take different approaches in the fall," said coach Bellovich. "This is a play to win team. There is a ton of development in the fall and we practice a lot. But when we go to tournaments the kids want to win and we go after it."

The Renegades had four more fall tournaments this month, two of which are at Diamond Nation. "After that it's a wrap for the fall," said Bellovich.

WEEKEND RECAPS



11U Fall Classic Stars Baseball-Colangelo 8, Bucks County Generals 0

Stars Baseball-Colangelo defeated the Bucks County Generals, 8-0, in the 11U Fall Classic Championship game. Chase Colangelo of Stars Baseball was named the 11U tournament's Most Valuable Player. Stars Baseball (4-0) outscored its opponents 49-1. Bucks County Generals (3-1) held a 41-25 runs advantage on its opponents.

Super 17 Fall Invitational - powered by Victus

The top eight teams qualified for the Columbus Day Showdown. Wladyka Baseball 2020 top the qualifiers with a 3-0 record and a 19-0 runs advantage on its opponents. The other seven qualifiers are; the Long Island Hawks (3-0, 25-3), Baseball U. NJ (3-0, 16-3), Diamond Skills Dodgers (3-0, 16-3), Northeast Pride Scout (3-0, 30-4), Time to Sign Prospects (3-0, 20-4), Pro Skills 17U Select (3-0, 21-5), and the NJ Rising Rebels (3-0, 17-6).