

HGSA 8-year-old All-Stars: Season ends with a championship



Jenna Mastropolo gets ready to gun a runner out at first during this past weekend's Sid Lee Tournament in South Brunswick, while Ciara Donaldson proudly displays her MVP award after helping the HGSA 8s to a title (Photos by John Blaine/purchase photos by e-mailing jbsportsphoto@aol.com).

Hurricanes 8U squad end season with championship

The Hamilton Hurricanes 8U Softball All-Stars had something extra when they left a lasting impression on their tournament season this past weekend: a fired-up offense.

The Hurricanes captured the eight-team South Brunswick Sid Lee Classic with a 5-1 record and scored at least 14 runs in every game. In the championship game, the 'Canes defeated rival Northern Burlington, 15-7, as Haley Lestician drove in five runs and tournament MVP Ciara Donaldson went 3-for-3 with three RBIs.

Earlier in the pool play, manager Pete Lestician's squad defeated Mt. Olive, 20-5; fell to Monroe, 15-14, in a time-shortened game; and defeated South Brunswick Black, 15-6. The 'Canes again defeated South Brunswick, 16-4, in the quarterfinals and then Howell, 15-4, in the semifinals. They outscored their opponents, 95-40.

The hitting stars were widespread, including the top run producers in Haley Lestician (15-for-18, nine runs, 18 RBIs) and Donaldson (16-for-18, 14 runs, 15 RBIs). Leadoff hitter Gracie Gaskill (12 RBIs) and Gabbie Fonollosa (nine RBIs) both went 16-for-19 with 13 runs.

Christina Weil (15-for-18, eight runs, 10 RBIs), Alex Haley (12-for-18, six runs, eight RBIs), Johnna Filliponi (12-for-17, three runs, six RBIs) and Lizzie Kelly (11-for-17, nine runs, three RBIs) also were consistently on base. Other big hitters were Madison Rios (10-for-16, four runs, four RBIs), Rebecca Bocock (10-for-16, nine runs, two RBIs), Jenna Mastropolo (8-for-17, four runs, four RBIs) and Katie Philburn (4-for-13, four runs, five RBIs).

The Hurricanes finished their season with a 29-7 record. They were the Babe Ruth Southern New Jersey State Tournament runner-up to Northern Burlington and beat each of the four teams that defeated them this season.