

18U Worth Firecrackers Win Colorado Fireworks for Fifth Straight Year



Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Suspendisse nisi ipsum, feugiat a congue at, pellentesque sed risus. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, giat a congue at, pellentesque sed risus.

By Lance McCall

Aurora, CO., --- They say a true mark of a champion is consistency, whether it's Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps or football greats the New England Patriots or the New York Giants, winning consistently is what defines them. The same argument softball wise, could be made for the 18U Worth Firecrackers from Huntington Beach, CA. as they have now won the prestigious Colorado

Fireworks five years straight.

The Worth Fireworks, coached by Tony Rico started the tournament off with a convincing 9-0 victory over Texas Kaos. Fireworks pitcher Sammy Cordova did an outstanding job to keep Kaos off the scoreboard. Leading the Fireworks offensive charge was Missy Takeiaho as she belted another homerun for her team. Defensively shortstop Taylor Vanzee stopped several rallies with numerous spectacular dives and double plays.


In Friday night's action, Fireworks Trisha Parks pitched

a stellar game to defeat Minors Gold 4-0. The Fireworks are loaded with quality pitchers and Tera Blanco mixed her outstanding repertoire of pitches to down the Gold Coast Hurricanes 4-2. Blanco had plenty of help offensively as hitters Nicole Dewitt and Karley Wester both had a multiple hit game to pace the team victory.

In their next outing Missy Takeiaho, Tera Blanco, and Janelle Lindvall all slammed back to back to back home runs to give the Fireworks a 11-1 victory against Texas Impact.

In the Championship game against Phoenix Storm Tera Blanco sealed the deal for the Firecrackers as she threw a exceptional three hitter to win the game. On the offensive side Missy Takeiaho and Nicole Dewitt continued to hit the cover off the ball as the two sluggers both slammed home runs to secure the victory. "Catcher Janelle Lindvall did a phenomenal job for us," Said coach Tony Rico. "Janelle had a outstanding tournament and she kept our pitchers on track throughout the tournament."

The Fireworks have had another outstanding season as they also won a championship at the Canadian Fastpitch Open.

"For multiple years now we dedicated our trophy to Harry Runtzel, who is a WWII veteran residing in Colorado Springs." Said Rico. "Harry has become a great friend to us, and he shares important history with our team every year. We wear "Play with Honor" on our apparel proudly as a thank you to veterans like Harry." 

16U Tulsa Elite 95 Light Up at the Colorado Fireworks

By Maria Garcia

Aurora, CO., --- Just one weekend after going 6-0 to win the prestigious 16U Hall Of Fame National Tournament in Oklahoma City, the 16U Tulsa Elite (95) managed by Steven Bevan went on to win the Colorado Fireworks 16U division.

After cruising through the tournament pool play, Tulsa Elite found that tournament play against the nation's toughest competition would be anything but a cake walk.

In bracket play, Tulsa Elite pitcher Kaitlin Beason got her team rolling with a 9-1 victory over Georgia Impact and a 6-1 win over the Louisville Lady Sluggers.

However, in game three Tulsa Elite would suffer their only defeat of the tournament, as they were outscored 7-2 by the CA Firecrackers. "That loss hit us hard," said Tulsa Elite manager Steven Bevan. "However these girls are competitive and they were determined to bounce back."

Bounce back was an understatement, as Tulsa Elite grand slammed, homered, and out pitched their way to the championship game. With a 4-1 win over Texas Glory RWB won by pitcher Kaitlin Beason, a 7-6 victory over the Louisville Lady Sluggers pitched by Tulsa Elite's Kaylor Battiest, and a 8-0 win over Arizona Storm also pitched by Beason, the girls from Tulsa Oklahoma were back on track.

The single elimination championship bracket was dominated by Tulsa Elite's Kaitlin Beason's phenomenal pitching and the teams overall pounding offense and stingy defense, especially up the middle, with shortstop Taylor McElhaney and catcher Nicole Nease behind the plate, both making several key game changing plays.

Tulsa Elite pitcher Kaitlin Beason was on a mission throughout the championship bracket as she out pitched


East Cobb Bullets 16-4, Oklahoma Diamond Girls 3-2, and in the championship game she paced her team to a 8-4 win over the CA Firecrackers.

In the championship game by the third inning Tulsa Elite fell behind 0-3 with the Firecrackers scoring 1 run in each of the first 3 innings. However, by the top of the 4th inning Tulsa Elite lit up the scoreboard as they tied the game with Mikelynn Mantich leading off the inning with a single to left field.

Mallory Collins was hit by a pitch and on a 0-2 count Kaitlin Beason hit a 3 run HR. Jessica Boone got the 5th inning started off by being hit by a pitch and the Tulsa Elite went on to score 5 runs highlighted by 3 consecutive HR's (back to back to back) by Katlin Beason, Kelsey Leach, and Samantha Smith.

Tulsa Elite's pitcher Kaitlin Beason hit 2 HR's in each of the last two games with a total of 9 RBI's in both games combined. Beason also hit a solo HR and a 2 run HR in the semifinal win against the Diamond Girls. She hit two 3 run HR's in the finals against the CA Firecrackers. After Kaitlin's second 3 run HR in the finals, Kelsey Leach and Samantha Smith each hit one (back to back to back).

Mikelynn Mantich hit a walk-off grand slam in the 4-1 win against the Texas Glory and she had a total of 25 RBI's for the tournament.

Mallory Collins led the team with a .475 average, Samantha Smith hit .459 average, Kelsey Leach hit .436, Kaitlin Beason hit .425. Tulsa Elite "95" outscored their opponents 104-26. 



Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Suspendisse nisi ipsum, feugiat a congue at, pellentesque sed risus eugiat a congue at.