

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Magic 12A Softball Team Wins USA Softball NorCal Championship, Heads to Western Nationals

Los Gatos, CA – July 8, 2025 – The LGCS Magic 12A softball team made history this past weekend in Hayward, CA, capturing the USA Softball Northern California Championship with an undefeated 4–0 run. The victory marks the program's first NorCal title since 2014 and cements Magic 12A as the top-ranked 12U team in USA Softball's Northern California region, which spans from Oregon to the Central Coast.

Magic's championship run was powered by complete team play—clutch hitting, dominant pitching, and nearly flawless defense. Over four games, Magic outscored opponents 26–5, with pitchers combining for 24 strikeouts and holding opposing teams to a .125 batting average. The defense committed just two errors all weekend, finishing with a .977 fielding percentage.

"Our girls brought energy and focus to every pitch," said Head Coach Chris O'Reilly. "They've worked so hard all season, and to see it all come together with a NorCal championship is just fantastic."

Many players on this squad have been together since the spring of 2021—LGCS's first season after the COVID-19 shutdown. What began with learning fundamentals has grown into a tightly bonded, high-performing team. "We've basically grown up together on the field," said catcher Saylor Riera. "When we were younger, we looked up to the older Magic teams. Now it was our turn—and we did it together." Assistant Coach Chris Borrelli added, "This weekend you could see that if one player wasn't having her best game, another girl was right there to pick up the slack. They play for each other. That's what makes this group special."

Key Weekend Performances:

- Kaitlyn Paige pitched 10 innings over two wins, allowing just 3 hits.
- Olivia Borrelli tossed 10 shutout innings in two victories.
- **Kiara Taylor**, the team's leadoff hitter, batted .500 and scored 7 runs.
- **Kayla O'Reilly** continued her red-hot season at the plate, maintaining a .554 batting average and 1.425 OPS.

But the coaching staff emphasized that the real strength of this team lies in its depth. "Every single player on this team had a moment," said O'Reilly. "It wasn't just one or two—it was all of them."

The win also marks a milestone for the LGCS (Los Gatos Cupertino Saratoga) Girls Softball Association, which has served the local community for over 30 years. The team practices on local fields like Blossom Hill Elementary and Foothill Elementary. "We're so grateful to the schools and community organizations who've supported us," O'Reilly said. "This title belongs to the entire LGCS family."

The Magic program stands out in the competitive world of youth fastpitch softball. Players begin with spring recreational softball, open to all skill levels. From there, they can progress to Magic—summer and fall travel teams that remain no-cut and focused on player development. "Playing sports is good for kids. It builds confidence and keeps them active," said O'Reilly, who also serves as LGCS President. "LGCS fundamentally believes every girl in our community should have a place to play, regardless of skill or experience. When we do that right, we can compete at the highest level too."

Coach Kristin Schueler added, "This group leads with character. They show up, they learn, they hustle. They cheer for each other and pick each other up. That's the foundation of everything we've built."

Randy Frey, Los Gatos High School's softball head coach and leader of the 2014 Magic NorCal champs, praised the program's continued impact. "LGCS and Magic have been incredibly valuable to our community, not just because they develop talented softball players, but because that's where young girls learn a love of the game of softball," said Frey. "The success of Magic directly feeds into the strength of our high school program. Almost 100% of my varsity players got their start in LGCS and Magic. It's wonderful to see this legacy continue."

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<u>Facebook</u>

Team Photo



(From left to right)

Top Row: Coaches - Chris Borelli, Chris O'Reilly, Kristen Schueler

Middle Row: Addie Lui, Adeline Oh, Olivia Borrelli, Kaitlyn Paige, Lauren O'Reilly, Jeannie

Huang

Bottom Row: Arianna Reyes, Kayla O'Reilly, Saylor Riera, Kiara Taylor