

# Lady Magic

## California team stalls Stencil Construction 3-0

By PAT DUNCAN

Argus Leader Staff

Lady Magic of Sacramento, Calif., didn't need any sleight of hand — just a softball in Jenny Garcia's right hand — to defeat Stencil Construction of Sioux Falls 3-0.

The quarterfinal loss Saturday, in the girls 15-and-under national fastpitch softball tournament at Sherman Park, knocked Stencil into the loser's bracket.

### Fastpitch softball

In other winners' bracket games, Spring Valley Crunchers of LaMesa, Calif., defeated the West Des Moines, Iowa, Panthers 10-2; the Baton Rouge, La., Patriots beat Top Ten Flyers of Pleasant Valley, Utah, 4-0; Stencil beat Dine-A-Mate of Binghamton, N.Y., 8-2; and Lady Magic downed the Peoria, Ariz., Royals 9-1. All were third-round games.

In other quarterfinal games, the Gordon, Calif., Panthers beat Detroit 14-0; the Akron, Ohio, Tri-County Bandits topped the Santa Maria, Calif., Orcutt Express 7-2; and the Crunchers topped Baton Rouge 10-2.

After its loss, Stencil bounced back to beat the Clinton, Md., Jets 6-1 as Julie Krauth struck out 16. Rain postponed later play, so Stencil will meet Boulder, Colo., at 8:30 a.m. today.

Against Lady Magic, Krauth's heat was equal to Garcia's early in the game.

• The daughter of Stencil coach Dave Krauth, who

‘Mentally, I knew we had them.’

— Jenny Garcia

Lady Magic pitcher

doubles as basketball coach at Tri-Valley High School, Julie breezed through four perfect innings before Shannon Jones came up with Lady Magic's first hit and the game's first run.

Jones, 13, rifled a Krauth fastball into right-center field and circled the bases.

“My coach (at third) didn't tell me to go or anything, but at the last minute he told me to go when they bobbled the ball,” Jones said about first stopping at third, then continuing home.

“We were just trying to get on base.”

That had been difficult against Krauth, who struck out nine through the first five innings and 10 for the game. No ball was hit out of the infield off her until a fly ball to center preceded Jones' hit.

After that, Garcia said she gained confidence, while Dave Krauth said Stencil may have lost some.

“We had a letdown after giving up the run,” he said. “We had opportunities but couldn't cash in.”

Garcia, 15, who Dave Krauth called the best pitcher Stencil had faced in the tournament, oozed confidence.

“Mentally, I knew we had them,” Garcia, who

shares Lady Magic pitching duties with Tracia Taylor, said. “The runs made me feel better.”

Garcia felt great after Lady Magic scored twice in the sixth.

Laurie Sommer led off with a bunt single and went to third as Taryn Stampf came up with a bunt double. The first baseman was charging, expecting a bunt, leaving the second baseman covering first and no one in the second baseman's spot where Stampf pushed her bunt.

Consecutive sacrifice flies by Sabrina Moley and Michelle Hunting brought the runners home.

Lady Magic's players were hoping for an all-California final and a rematch with the team responsible for all three Lady Magic losses this season: the three-time defending national champion Gordon Panthers.

“It would be a disappointment to come all the way out here and not play Gordon's Panthers,” Garcia said.

Action in the tournament resumes this morning. The championship game will be played in the afternoon at Sherman Park.

Tournament play began Thursday night after 36 teams from across the country had gathered in Sioux Falls.

The Gordon Panthers are bidding for their fourth consecutive championship.

Jim Schoales coaches the Panthers, who opened the tournament by defeating Boulder by a narrow margin of 1-0.