

Nevada Lightning 12U Softball Team Heading to National Championships



The Nevada Lightning 12-and-under softball team is one of just 70 teams across the country to qualify for the Amateur Softball Association National Championship in Roseville, California.

"I'm probably more excited than they are," said Head Coach Eric Pender. "I don't think it's set in what the accomplishment is that they've done."

"I'm really proud of my team," added shortstop Cailyn Leone. "We've worked for the past nine months super hard, so we're glad to be making it to Nationals."

"It's very rare," said Nevada Lightning President Bret Pagni. "I've been on the board now for over a decade and we haven't had a lot of opportunities to have girls compete at a national level and earn a berth like this."

The team is comprised of girls from all over Northern Nevada, and they're one of just two teams from Nevada heading to Roseville next week.

"It means a lot because we're all from here and we all love Northern Nevada," said Pender. "It's huge for us to go down there and show our colors."

"I'm really proud and excited because I think there are only two teams from Nevada going there, so I'm really excited," said catcher/2nd baseman Karolyn Glover.

"Our organization on a national stage is going to be able to step up and show that not only can we compete athletically at that level, but we have the coaches and we have the parent support like a lot of the big organizations from the Southern California, Texas areas," said Pagni. "So we're really excited and we think our girls can hang."

For many of these girls who have aspirations of someday playing college softball, this tournament provides a tremendous opportunity.

"We promote our girls trying to make it into college and play in high school, and this is a great step to get on a national stage and see how we can do against nationally ranked teams," said Pagni. "It's a huge opportunity."

"It's something that they get to put on their player profiles for their college careers, and something that they'll never forget," added Pender.

The tournament runs from July 27 to August 2. The team has created a GoFundMe page to take donations: <http://www.gofundme.com/zdy8gc>