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STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Out at the plate: Mercy's Rachel Del Corvo tries to score after an overthrow to third in the sixth inning Tuesday. Grosse Pointe South catcher Julia Daher blocks the plate to make the out. Del Corvo was hurt on the play but did play the final inning.

Marlins from page D1

In the sixth, Mercy added an insurance run.

Rachel Del Corvo led off with a single and took second on Sarah Roman's sacrifice bunt. Agency followed by hitting a grounder to short as the Blue Devils' Katherine Ball threw over to third to cut down the lead runner.

The ball, however, got by the third baseman and bounced toward the South dugout. Del Corvo never hesitated and raced home, only to be cut down in a violent collision at the plate with South catcher Julia Daher.

Heads-up running by Agency took her all the way to third on the play. Lindsey Fediuk then

chopped a grounder toward third. The ball was mishandled, scoring Agency.

"Mercy is very aggressive; they run the bases so well," Yaneck-out said. "Maybe we had those quarterfinal jitters, but everybody bunts at this level."

By returning to the state semifinals, although with a distinctly different cast, Falvo believes his team won't be in awe of the situation.

"We lost seven seniors off that team, but the people on the bench last year saw what was happening and they've been through the playoffs," he said. "It's a great honor to be in the

Final Four. We're pretty happy." So, can the Marlins get over the hump on Friday and play in their first state championship softball final?

Falvo likes the makeup of this team.

"We have a mix of ability — speed, bunters, slappers and power," he said. "We have no issues with this team as far as discipline, dedication or commitment. They all get along and they support each other. And they're strong academically."

"You always hear a lot about parents, but ours have been nothing but wonderful and supportive."

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