

Balls and Strikes

June 2011

Softball

Magazine



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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT!



IF YOU ARE A SOFTBALL FAN, which I am sure you are if you are reading this publication, this is the best time of the year. Everyone is in full swing and some even beginning to prepare for Championship play. Softball is dominating ESPN and our Nationals Teams are heading out into the U.S. for competition. Whether you are a coach, player, umpire, field worker or just overall fan, good luck this season and enjoy it!

The pinnacle of ASA play is in the USA Softball National Team program. This summer, please support those athletes. It is important that fans continue to support these young women as we have done in the past. The athletics and competitiveness of these athletes is amazing to see in person so please be sure to come out and watch them. The women and junior women will be in Plant City, Fla., Salem, Va., and Bowie, Md., prior to the women playing in the World Cup of Softball VI in Oklahoma City. [Click here for ticket information.](#)

In other USA exciting news, the Border Battle III will take place during the World Cup. The USA Softball Men's National Slow Pitch Team will take on the Canadian Men's National Slow Pitch Team for bragging rights on July 23. Fans in other part of the United States will get the chance to watch the men play as they will compete at the McQuade in Bismarck, N.D. and later in Cincinnati.

As you are reading this letter, the athletes who will represent the USA on the Women's National Team are competing at selection camp where they will compete for a spot on the roster. Some of these athletes may be familiar as seven of the eight teams who competed at the NCAA Women's College World Series had at least one person on the team who will be at camp, 17 total. This team will be announced Friday, June 17.

On a more serious note, one of our primary concerns among the ASA and its Board Members is the rising cost of insurance. We are doing the best we can to keep the costs to a minimum but we need help from everyone involved in the ASA. It is not a problem just with our youth programs. It is adult players. It is umpires. Athletes and umpires, coaches and managers and even complex and field owners and operators, please be aware of any potential hazards out on the field of play. Make sure and get a checklist to ensure that your field is as safe as possible. Use your best judgment and do not put yourself or other people on fields that are not fit. It is our high claims that are causing a rise in insurance cost so please help maintain safe conditions at all times.

Another topic of discussion at the board meeting was the continuing decline in registrations in all aspects of the organization. We really need our commissioners and the staff of local associations to be active in recruiting for the ASA. Where ever you are, you should be on the lookout for potential teams and umpires. If we continue to have declines, it will cause the Board of Directors to make reductions in the budget, which can affect the services we provide. We do not want any services interrupted so please recruit.

It was noted in a previous meeting that while we do have some troublesome areas, we have great athletes. We have great coaches. We have great umpires. At the ASA, we set the standard for tournaments because of our directors and volunteers. Thank you!

Andy Dooley, President
Amateur Softball Association of America



Bright Light Award



Presented By



Does your team have bake sales to raise funds for an animal shelter? Do you visit the hospital to play with children? If you have a team that has shown a commitment to serving the community then the ASA and Musco Lighting want to honor you!

The “Bright Light Award” honors an ASA registered Junior Olympic (JO) team who has shown a commitment to the community through service and volunteerism. The first of its kind, the “Bright Light Award” process includes an application form with detailed specifics for consideration.

The inaugural award winning team will receive \$2,000 towards registration fees for any 2012 ASA sanctioned tournament in the United States. The winners will also be honored with 20 “Bright Light” T-shirts for their roster and staff as well as a banner for display. The award presentation will take place on Sunday, November 6, 2011 in Myrtle Beach, S.C., at the ASA Annual Meeting Opening Session. (Winning team will receive one hotel room for two nights; must pay own travel costs.)

“This award is a way to recognize and give back to ASA Junior Olympic teams that are involved in the community and take time as a team to help others,” said ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “We are thrilled to work with Musco, our official lighting partner, on this project to give back to the teams who make ASA shine everyday both on and off the field of play.”

The winning team will be selected by a

panel of administrators from ASA and Musco, using the following criteria for evaluation:

- Service must be 100% volunteer in nature (no payment)
- Service must be performed as a team with 75% of the roster in attendance
- Team must be ASA Registered by August 31, 2011
- Service must take place from January 1, 2011 to August 31, 2011
- Panel will take into consideration the following: Positive effect on community, number of people affected, impact of service to the team, total number of hours and participants

The deadline for submission is August 31, 2011, and the winning team will be announced on September 15. Applications must be submitted via email or mail to Julie Bartel at jbartel@softball.org or ASA National Office, 2801 N.E. 50th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73111, and must be received by August 31, 2011.

**TO DOWNLOAD
THE APPLICATION,
CLICK HERE**

USA SOFTBALL TO MAKE FOUR APPEARANCES ON HOME SOIL

This summer will be a unique experience for softball fans as there will be three other opportunities outside of the World Cup of Softball for fans to not only see the USA Softball Women's' National Team but also the rising stars of the Junior Women's National Team.

Each of the three stops will feature two exhibition games between the two teams of USA Softball. The Women's National Team will be announced Fri., June 17th while the Junior Women's National Team has already been selected. Spectators will also be treated to an autograph session following the conclusion of game two.

Be sure to come out and watch some of the best softball around !

JUNE 25

Plant City, Florida

Plant City Stadium

6:00 p.m./ET - Second game begins 30 minutes after

FOR TICKETS: Visit www.playasa.org

JUNE 29

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Salem Memorial Ball Park

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www.salemsox.com or call (540) 389-3333

JULY 1

Bowie, Maryland

Prince George's Stadium,

Home of the Bowie Baysox

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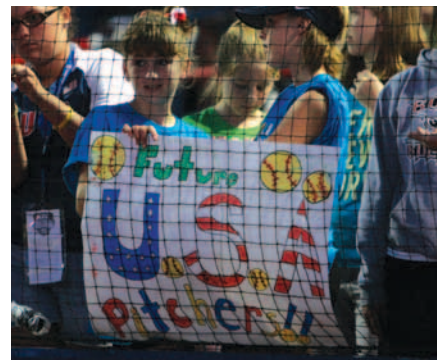
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Molly Johnson



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OKLAHOMA CITY WILL ONCE AGAIN welcome the world as the ASA Hall of Fame Complex will play host to the premiere international softball teams in the world, including the USA Softball Women's National Team, when the World Cup of Softball returns for a sixth run July 21-25. The event, sanctioned by the International Softball Federation, features the women's fast pitch teams from Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Japan and the United States.

Canada, Japan and two USA teams played in the 2010 KFC World Cup of Softball presented by Six Flags last year, with the Women's National Team and the Women's Futures National Team finishing first and third in the event. Olympic Champion Japan, the silver medalists to Team USA at the 2010 ISF Women's Worlds, fell 5-1 in the World Cup Championship Game. Futures defeated Canada 9-3.

"Playing in the World Cup has been such a great experience for me," said two-time World Cup Champion Kaitlin Cochran (Yorba Linda, Calif.) of the United States. "To play among the best and against the best in the world is always an honor and to be able to play in front of the best fans in the world makes it that much more special to wear the uniform and represent the Red, White, and Blue."

Canada was the only team to beat the Women's National Team during the 2010 World Cup, taking a 5-2 victory on the fourth day of action last year. Previous to that loss in Oklahoma City, the USA Softball Women's National Team last loss at the World Cup in 2005, falling to Japan 3-1 in the Championship Game.

HERE IS A LOOK AT THE SIX TEAMS COMPETING:



Australia

Australia has one of the most storied programs in international softball, medaling in four Olympic Games where softball was contested, highlighted by a silver medal showing in Athens. In three prior appearances at the World Cup of Softball, the Aussies have a combined record of 8-9, finishing second in 2009, fourth in 2006 and third in 2005. Australia was sixth at the 2010 International Softball Federation (ISF) Women's World Championships.



Canada

Canada is an emerging power in international softball, most recently winning the bronze medal at the World Championships. The team has competed at all previous World Cups, compiling a record of 16-14, including a 2-5 performance in 2010's fourth-place effort. Canada has never played in the World Cup's Championship Game, competing in four Third-Place Games and the Fifth-Place Game in 2005.



Czech Republic

Czech Republic is making their World Cup debut. In 2009, the team finished third at the European Softball Federation (ESF). The bronze qualified them for the 2010 World Championship, where the team finished 10th with a 3-4 record, the second best for a European country.



Great Britain

Great Britain last appeared at the World Cup in 2006, accumulating a 0-6 record. The Brits have vastly improved since their last trip to Oklahoma City. In 2009, the team finished second at the ESF Women's Championship. Great Britain also finished 11th at the 2010 World Championship.



Japan

Japan is a powerhouse in international softball, joining the United States as the only nations to win the Olympic Games. The team has appeared in the World Cup Championship Game with the United States four times, winning the title in the inaugural event. The reigning World Silver Medalists have compiled a 16-12 record over five appearances in Oklahoma City.



United States

The United States has won four consecutive World Cup titles. With perfect records in the 2006, 2007 and 2009 event, the USA has been dominant in Oklahoma City, accumulating a 26-3 record. At the 2010 World Championships, the team won a seventh consecutive World title. The United States has claimed nine World titles overall and three Olympic Gold Medals.



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The Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program is designed to provide helpful advice and useful resources for youth softball coaches and parents that can be applied universally among youth athletes to help our children succeed both on and off the field. 

Parents

As the parent of a youth softball player, you want the best for you child, on and off the field. The **Responsible Sport Parenting guide** provides helpful advice and useful resources that can help you fill the key roles of a Responsible Sport Parent.

Coaches

As a youth softball coach, you naturally want to prepare your team to win as many games as possible, and as a Responsible Coach, you want to prepare your players to win off the field, too. The Responsible Sport Coaching Guide can help you achieve both goals. **Get started today!**

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ARE YOU IN OR OUT?

We received an email from Dennis Howe who has worn about every hat ASA has to offer. Over the years he has coached, played, managed and umpired. He currently coaches a Senior Olympic team in Arizona who he has lead to a bronze and silver medal finish. The 41 year old found a simple explanation of softball that he thought Balls and Strikes readers would enjoy. We agreed.

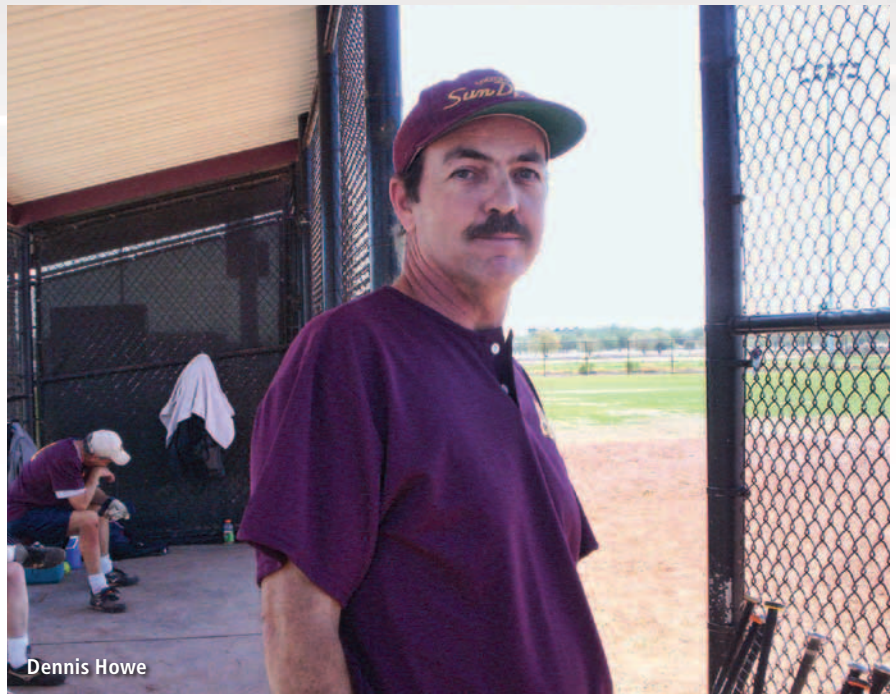
Here is a simple explanation of the game of softball.

THIS IS A GAME PLAYED by two teams, one out, the other in. The one that's in, sends players out, one at a time, to see if they can get in before they get out. If they get out before they get in, they come in, but it doesn't count. If they get in before they get out, it does count.

When the ones out get three outs from the ones in before they get in without being out, the team that's out comes in and the team in goes out to get those going in out before they get in without being out.

When both teams have been in and out seven times, the game is over. The team with the most in without being out before coming in, wins unless the ones in are equal. In which case, the last ones in go out to get the ones in out before they get in without being out.

The game will end when each team has the same number of ins out, but one team has more in without being out before coming in.



Dennis Howe

ASSOCIATION PROFILE: OREGON AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Oregon ASA Commissioner Mike Wells made the transition to softball after playing and coaching baseball. He played mostly fast pitch but some slow. The father of six children with his wife Gloria, Wells' first daughter was not into sports but his second youngest daughter took an interest in softball. So in 1989 Wells made the full transition to softball. He began as a Youth Commissioner for ASA and then in 1998 moved to State JO Commissioners' position under former Oregon Commissioner - Kathy Chisum. In 2005, Kathy resigned and Mike took over as State Commissioner. Oregon has 17 Districts that make up the five zones in the state, not including Portland Metro which is a separate ASA Association. They have District JO, District Adult, and District UIC's in all of them. B&S Online sat down with Mike and after one question knew this profile would take a little different turn. We spent most of the time talking about background checks and the Register ASA which Oregon has always played an active role in.



B&S: "You are one of the only , if not the only association, whose state requires them to background check. Were you doing background checks before ASA mandated it? Were you glad to see the requirement come down from the National office?"

MW: "Regarding the background check and ACE program, I attended a meeting of the ORPA (Oregon Recreation & Parks Association) Special Committee meeting in 2000. Senator Peter Courtney, Oregon Congressman, submitted legislation making it mandatory for all organizations dealing with youth to run a background check and put together a training program for all personnel involved. This was going to be a tremendous cost to the public and especially to the Park & Recreation Districts as he was going to set up a separate agency to oversee it. We were able to persuade Senator Courtney, to change his legislation from mandatory to highly recommended in exchange for the youth organizations and Park & Rec Districts coming up with a program to take care of the requirements. He gave us three years maximum to do this. Oregon ASA grabbed the bull by the horns and decided to be a leader."

B&S: How did you begin this process when at the time it was a relatively new idea ?"

MW: "Facing the need to put together a program, we did some checking on firms that

did background checks and Karen Weisman, formerly with ASA, had just come out with the first year program for the ACE Training. We were able to put both programs into effect and the first year of the ACE program we lead the ASA with over 350 ACE Trained Coaches. We must have put on a ton of local ACE Training Sessions that year. We did not make the ACE Program mandatory the first year, but we made it mandatory the second year for all coaches and saw an increase to 750 ACE Certified Coaches, and then the third year for all personnel working with youth. We took on VTD in I believe 2003 or 2004 and that helped with the background checks and the individual registration process which we had started in 2000. In 2005, we incorporated the ACE Training Program and the background checks through Virtual Tournament Director, worked out all of the bugs, and then were really ready to move forward in 2006. We did over 1,500 ACE Certifications that year, our highest ever for such a small state. For some reason, we were not allowed to continue to have the ACE Program run directly through VTD, in 2006, as there were some changes going on with the ACE Program to bring it in house. We went to Cindy Bristow and Cindy put together an excellent training and coaches certificate program that we used for two years instead of ACE. Then came the merger between Virtual Tournament Director and ASA, which started

the Register ASA Program. We worked though that program and now have worked our way into the new Register ASA program. It has had its trials and tribulations, but the ASA National Staff has really put the effort into making it work."

B&S: As the Commissioner, what helps you provide great service to your ASA players, coaches, umpires and fans ?"

MW: "We are proud of our Park & Rec Departments that make Oregon ASA what it is today along with a dedicated staff of volunteers. Our Park & Rec Departments, CVB's, Chamber of Commerce's have really banded together to build new and better facilities, bid on Regional and National Tournaments, register adult and youth teams, and are committed to ASA. If you look at the layout of our state, we get teams registered from Ontario to Gold Beach to Astoria to Milton-Freewater and everything in between. It is a time consuming position and I don't get much time, anymore, to work with my insurance business, but I cannot say enough for the volunteer staff that takes care of things for Oregon ASA Softball. Actually, I am just the head flunky as they do all the work."

OLYMPIAN FLOWERS STANDS OUTSIDE THE LINES IN NEW ROLE

.....
by Holly Krivokapich



Photo credit Braden Villanueva/
CSUN Media Relations

Flowers as Head Coach
at Cal State Northridge.

They say in life things come full circle and for several of the USA Softball National Team assistant coaches that couldn't be true. If you flipped open an USA Softball program from 2001-08, you noticed the name Tairia Mims-Flowers (Tucson, Ariz.) consistently gracing the roster page. After retiring in 2008, following a Silver Medal finish at the Olympic Games, the 2004 Olympic Gold Medalist turned to coaching full time and this year will make her debut as assistant for the USA Softball Women's National Team.

Flowers, currently the head coach at Cal State Northridge, just completed her first season as the head of an NCAA Division I softball program. She wasn't always sure if coaching is where she would end up but now it seems like she is right where she should be.

Flowers played for some of the top coaches in the softball world including Sue Enquist of UCLA where she made four NCAA Women's College World Series (WCWS) appearances including a National Championship appearance in 2003. She went on to play USA Softball under Mike Candrea for eight years earning two Olympic medals, two World Championship titles and two Pan American Championship medals. How does one form their own philosophy after learning from the best? For Flowers, it's still a work in translation.

"When I first entered coaching I was an assistant and pretty open to ideas. I have

had a limited number of coaches in my life but found myself doing it like Candrea or Enquist. It was nice as an assistant to try things and now as a head coach I have a better idea of my style," said Flowers. "Coaching girls is so different because there are so many aspects. One of the biggest things I have found is its good to have a standard and foundation of coaching but adjust year to year with the new groups."

Before coming to Northridge, Flowers spent four seasons at Long Beach State. As a member of the 49ers coaching staff, she helped the team to two NCAA Division I softball tournament appearances and numerous ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll rankings.

After just completing her fifth year of coaching, and her first as the head coach, Flowers had to immediately laugh when asked if her perspective on coaching has changed.

"Everybody I know who played and is now coaching; when we get together we laugh. 'It's no wonder our coaches would get mad.' We look at our players sometimes and think 'Did we do this?'," she said. "As a player you don't totally understand everything that goes into coaching. As a player you think coaches make decisions on a whim but everything is so strategic and planned out. There is so much that goes into it coaching that you don't see as a player. I have a completely different

perspective now."

When the 2011 USA Softball Women's National Team Selection Camp heads to the U.S. Olympic Training Center, Flowers will walk on to the Training Center field without the pressure of performing for the first time in a decade. Her thoughts now turn to wondering what the schedule is like for coaching and if the butterflies she got as a player return as a coach. Flowers feels far enough removed from the game to not have a lot of sad emotions returning to the place she used to visit often with her USA teammates. Now she will work with the upcoming generation of players that hope to wear the same uniform she once did.

.....
Be sure to check out the September issue of Balls and Strikes Online where we will profile either Stacey Nuveaman or Michael White, both USA Softball assistant coaches who have also worn the uniform! "Tell us who you want to hear from by logging on to our Facebook page."



THE POWER OF ONTE

On Wed., April 27th, tornadoes ripped across the south through Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia causing massive destruction. Tuscaloosa, Alabama, home of the University of Alabama, took the hardest hit with hundreds killed and more homes, business and lives destroyed. The softball community put aside school loyalties and immediately put plans into action to help those in need.



Photo credit: Joey Brent

Support Sweet Home Alabama

Texas' Taylor Hoagland (Flower Mound, Texas) was raised over 500 miles away from Tuscaloosa but the destruction hit close to her heart. Knowing those affected and hoping that if the roles were reversed, someone would reach out to help her, Hoagland started the facebook group "Support Sweet Home Alabama". Hoagland's hopes of reaching just a few turned into over 300 supporters. So far they have received 5,000 bottles of water, 39 cans of food, 13 bags of clothing, and 6 boxes of baby necessities. Hoagland also challenged friend and Ohio State softball Cara Longworth to see how much they could raise, putting another spin to the Big Ten/Big Ten challenge. Join "Support Sweet Home Alabama" today to see what you can do.

Ole Miss Donates to Alabama's Act of Kindness Fund

On May 6, Ole Miss played host to the University of Alabama in its first game post tornado. Before the game, SEC rivalry was put aside as members of the Ole Miss

softball team presented the Alabama softball team with a donation for the University of Alabama's tornado relief efforts.

The donation, presented by team captains Brittany Barnhill and Amanda Hutcheson to Crimson Tide seniors Kelsi Dunne and Whitney Larsen, is designated for the University of Alabama's Acts of Kindness Fund that will be used to provide financial assistance to employees and students who qualify under the guidelines of this emergency-assistance program.

Eureka, Missouri helps one of their own in Alabama's Courtney Conley

The Alabama sophomore infielder escaped unscathed from the tornado but knew immediately she had to help those who were not as fortunate. When Head Coach Pat Murphy allowed his team to go home for a week, Conley headed home to Eureka, Mo., where she put the sadness into action and began a drive to load up a



(Above) Ole Miss Donates to Alabama's Act of Kindness Fund

(Left) Eureka, Missouri helps one of their own in Alabama's Courtney Conley

Photo credit Alabama Athletic Media Relations

trailer of goods donated by her community to take back to Tuscaloosa. She was able to get Mrazek Moving Systems to donate a trailer and a Conley family friend who is a commercial truck driver donated time.

FOR A VIDEO OF EUREKA AND CONLEY IN ACTION PLEASE CLICK HERE.

For information on how to help those in Alabama affected by the tornadoes, please [click here](#).

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BEST PRACTICES

Contributed by Cassi Rogers of Sacramento ASA

Sacramento ASA was proud to host the 2nd Annual ASA Day with the River Cats on Sunday, April 10. Wilson Sports, Sacramento ASA and the Sacramento River Cats partnered up again this year to put on a special day designed for youth softball players and their families.



2008 Olympian Vicky Galindo with ASA members.

LEAGUES AND TEAMS WHO PARTICIPATED in the event got deeply discounted tickets for the members of their programs. Some leagues chose to pass on these savings while others used selling tickets as a fundraiser for their organization.

In the morning, a few select participants from each league were chosen to participate in a special on-field clinic hosted by Wilson Sports. Wilson brought in Olympian Vicki Galindo to head up the clinic. About 50

kids participated in the special on-field clinic in which Galindo and former members of the USA National Team instructed kids in basic hitting and fielding drills.

After the clinic, a motivational “Chalk Talk” was hosted by Galindo. She answered questions for softball players and their parents and told stories about her experiences with softball. Galindo stayed and signed autographs for every softball player who stood in line.

Every single softball player in



attendance had the opportunity to parade around the field with their team during the pre-game festivities. Players marching with their teammates got to see themselves on the big screen and wave to their parents and fans in the stands.

ASA Day with the River Cats is a great opportunity for the softball community to get together and enjoy a fun, family oriented day of baseball at the ball park. Thanks to Wilson Sports who brought in Galindo and other USA team members who helped make the day a success. Wilson also debuted the new Hope bat by DeMarini and raised funds for Breast Cancer through a silent auction and several raffles throughout the day.





Available to both
JO and Adult Teams

Leading the way with ASA Individual Registration: Best Practices for Teams and Leagues

- **Why Individual Registration?** As the National Governing Body for Softball, ASA/USA Softball is committed to the goal of providing accident and liability insurance to all participants in the Junior Olympic (youth) program. This is especially important as more and more American families do not have their own medical insurance.

To ensure that our JO players receive the insurance protection they need, ASA/USA Softball has been converting to Individual Registration (as opposed to team registration) for the JO Program. Individual Registration is also available to Adult leagues in certain areas.

- **How is the insurance plan for Individual Registration different from Team Insurance?** There is no difference in the limits of coverage under the Individual Registration or Team Insurance plans. The program is still administered by Bollinger and underwritten by Markel Insurance Company.
- **What are the benefits to everyone from Individual Registration?**
 - **Players:** All players are insured with a \$5,000,000 limit of liability and \$250,000 of Excess Accident Medical Insurance. The insurance coverage follows the player when they play on *any* ASA team.
 - **Teams/Leagues:** The team/league is insured as an entity if all team members Individually Register. If all teams in a league Individually Register, then liability coverage is extended to league officials.
 - **ASA:** Individual Registration helps the ASA achieve its goal to provide insurance to every player.
- **How to get started?** Contact your local ASA Commissioner or JO Commissioner for details on how to Individually Register. To find the contact information for your Commissioner, go to the ASA/USA Softball web site at www.ASASoftball.com.
- **For answers to Frequently Asked Questions on Individual Registration,** please visit Bollinger's ASA web site, www.BollingerASA.com and click on "Individual Registration."

Important Note: In order to participate in ASA Junior Olympic/Youth Championship Play, all teams must be ASA Individually Registered or purchase through Bollinger the ASA Team Insurance Package Plan.



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Bollinger provides Team Insurance Plans for ASA's JO and Adult Teams. These coverages stand ready to defend and protect you in the event of injuries or lawsuits arising out of your softball activities.

ASA TEAM ACCIDENT & LIABILITY COVERAGES

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- Various deductible options offer you additional savings.
- The ASA Team Liability Insurance Plan provides your team with \$5,000,000 in protection for bodily injury or property damage claims arising out of your team's games, practices or fundraising activities.

2011 ASA Junior Olympic Team Insurance Plans

Package Plan (Includes Accident and Liability Insurance)	League Rates*		Single Team Rates	
	12 & Under	13 – 19 yrs	12 & Under	13 – 19 yrs
Accident Deductible				
\$250	\$97	\$141	\$184	\$223
\$100	\$124	\$155	\$230	\$257
\$0	\$175	\$196	\$270	\$315

2011 ASA Adult Team Insurance Plans

Package Plan (Includes Accident and Liability Insurance)	League Rates*		Single Team Rates
	w/Waivers	No Waiver	
Accident Deductible			
\$500	\$260	\$281	\$478
\$250	\$325	\$348	\$568
\$100	\$366	\$383	\$618
Liability Only	\$136	\$151	\$247

**To qualify for discounted League Rates, ALL TEAMS in your league must purchase the insurance plan (minimum of four teams) and apply on one enrollment form.*

Note: Many ASA Associations are requiring Individual Registration for their Junior Olympic teams. One benefit of Individual Registration is that Liability and Accident Insurance are automatically provided as part of the ASA membership fee. If your local ASA Commissioner is using Individual Registration, you do not need to purchase the ASA Team Insurance Plan. Contact your ASA Commissioner or Bollinger for more information.



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BORDER BATTLE III

TEAMS LOOK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SERIES

BY JAMIE M. BLANCHARD

Watch the Border Battle III live from Oklahoma City on July 23 at 3 p.m. CT on ESPN

WHEN THE MEN'S SLOW PITCH Border Battle returns to Oklahoma City on July 23, the United States is looking for redemption after a 30-29 a loss to Canada last year. The Canadian victory evened the Border Battle series at one victory apiece for the two countries as Team USA won the inaugural battle 30-23.

"When you put on the Team USA uniform, you know that you are among the best of the best. And I could not imagine a more exciting time to wear the Red, White and Blue than this year's Border Battle against Canada," said three-time USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team member Brian Wegman (Hamilton, Ohio). "The fans watching in Oklahoma City and those tuning in on ESPN are going to witness an incredible moment for the sport of slow pitch softball. We've never played at a level higher than this. With Canada taking last year's game, I'm ready to get out there and take the Border Battle title back for all of our amazing supporters."

Team USA led only once in Border Battle II at 16-15. With the game at

long ball being called an out.

After Rick Baker (West Harrison, Ind.) singled, putting runners at first and second, Scott Kirby (Destin, Fla.) sent the ball over the fence, resulting in the first USA out. Eventual losing pitcher Scott Brown (Andover, Minn.) then hit the ball over the fence for the second out. Down to its last out, the USA's Ryan Robbins (Columbus, Ind.) hit the ball back to the mound to Canada pitcher Brian Higginbotham, who ran to second base for the force and the third out to end the game.

"Last year's loss still weighs heavy in the hearts and minds of everyone involved and Team Canada will be even more focused for this year's game," three-time USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team Head Coach Steve Shortland (San Antonio, Texas) said. "Accordingly, our 2011 roster represents the finest talent this nation has to offer and I'm confident this phenomenal combination of eleven Team USA veterans and four newcomers is ready for the challenge. With the series tied, this year's event should be an epic battle. The only guarantee I'll make is



(Chickamauga, Ga.); McCraw, the 2010 USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team Player of the Year; and Wegman. All were on the inaugural squad in 2009. Click here for a complete roster!

Team USA will also play at 6 p.m. and 9:30 on June 24 in the Sam McQuade Sr. Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament in Bismarck, N.D., and July 14 against Team Cincinnati at 7 p.m. and 9:30 at the Mid-America Ballyard in Cincinnati to prepare for the Border Battle. Tickets for McQuade are \$6. Admission to the Cincinnati double-header is \$3.

Border Battle III, slated for July 24 at 3 p.m. during the World Cup of Softball VI at the ASA Hall of Fame

To purchase Border Battle tickets, call 800-654-8337 or visit <http://www.softballoutlet.com>. Tickets will also be available at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium ticket booth during the event.

30-25 in the bottom of the seventh, the Americans mounted a formidable comeback, scoring four runs on six consecutive hits including two on Johnny McCraw's (Lake Wylie, S.C.) home run. It was the last home run allowed for the team, as the Border Battle allows only 10 home runs with every subsequent

we will prepare harder than we ever have for this year's game — that I can promise."

Highlighting the 2011 Team USA roster are three-time Men's Slow Pitch National Team members R. Baker; Rusty Bumgardner (Gastonia, N.C.); Brett Helmer (Cicero, N.Y.); JD Genter

Complex in Oklahoma City, will be broadcast live on ESPN. In preparation for the Border Battle, both Canada and the USA will play exhibition games during the World Cup against local slow pitch teams at the Hall of Fame Complex.



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COURAGE ON THE DIAMOND:

The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team

by Holly Krivokapich



Wounded warrior amputee softball team.

Some of these men have lost a leg while others a hand. Some thought their athletic careers were over while others had more important things on their mind. However through the dream of one man, these soldiers were able to come together and form a team giving not only them hope but inspiring all those around them.

David Van Sleet has spent over 30 years working for the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and more involved with the sport of softball. Working in the prosthetics department, Van Sleet realized these two parts of his life no longer had to be separate entities but could be one. Out of that thought, the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team formed.

Working in the VA, Van Sleet has personally seen what comes back from war; men and women who have given arms and feet for their country. He had heard stories about how active, competitive and athletic the servicemen were before they came to the VA. Figuring some must have been baseball or softball players, and knowing that many wanted to feel the rush of being on the field again, in September 2010, he put the plans Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team in motion.

“Through the VA I sent out a



Nathaniel Lindsey is US Army, Operation Iraqi Freedom and he is a right below elbow amputee.

message to all the prosthetic services, prosthetists (those who make artificial limbs) and physical therapists in the system asking if they knew of any young, athletic amputees who might be interested in this,” said Van Sleet who himself is US Army. “The response was overwhelming. We received over 200 applicants.”

Along with working with the VA, Van Sleet contacted the Wounded Warrior Project, which sent out a message to all their alumni, a group that includes every amputee from recent military operations. Van Sleet went through the applications and followed up with references to narrow it down to 20 men who would form the first ever

Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team.

Mathew Kinsey was one of those on the roster, composed of half Army and half Marines, and all veterans with the exception of three who are waiting discharge. The 26-year-old from Rockville, Ind., lost his right foot while at war and is currently waiting discharge from Walter Reed. He heard about the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team through a fellow soldier and the former collegiate baseball player knew this was something he wanted in on.

"I pitched in college but I kind of thought my playing days were over," Kinsey said. "I play shortstop for this team so it's interesting trying to figure it all out. When I came out to play, it had been a long time since I had played competitive ball but it felt good to get out there. It's an amazing feeling to be able to play softball beside my fellow soldiers."

The team met, practiced and competed, March 7-12, and in what better location than the home of one of the most successful softball programs in the nation, the University of Arizona in Tucson. Arizona's Disability Resource Center obtained a congressional grant for a disabled veteran's sports camp which paid for everyone to go to spring training at the university. The team arrived in Tucson and it was business right away.

"It was really a unique experience as the men met in Tucson and began to practice as a team right away. There was definitely camaraderie right away," said Van Sleet. "All these men have been in the service, at war and are amputees. That's an instant bond and friendship from the beginning."

After a week of practice at Hillenbrand Stadium, the team had its first competition following an NCAA Division I softball game between Arizona and Baylor University. Over 2,000 fans gave a standing ovation during the Wounded Warrior's introductions and stayed into the night to support the team as they competed against each other, 10 on 10. The collegiate players sat on the benches of

the teams to cheer, coach them on the base paths and even given some advice on autograph signing, which came in handy when the Wounded Warriors were approached after the game by fans.

"I have never in my life felt so proud to be a part of such a life changing experience for all that attended," said Arizona Head Coach Mike Candrea. "Baylor University's players were the base coaches and support for one team and the University of Arizona players did the same for the other team. One of the most touching moments happened as the Baylor players and Arizona players gathered around home plate to congratulate the home run hitters. I have seen many celebrations in my career but these were special moments that I will remember for a lifetime. And I must say that these young men inspired everyone in attendance."

Since training and competing in Tucson, the Wounded Warrior team has traveled to the East Coast where they competed against the Washington DC FBI, Walter Reed base team and the U.S. Naval Academy Varsity Sailing Team, all able-bodied teams, which is all they will play moving forward. There are plans

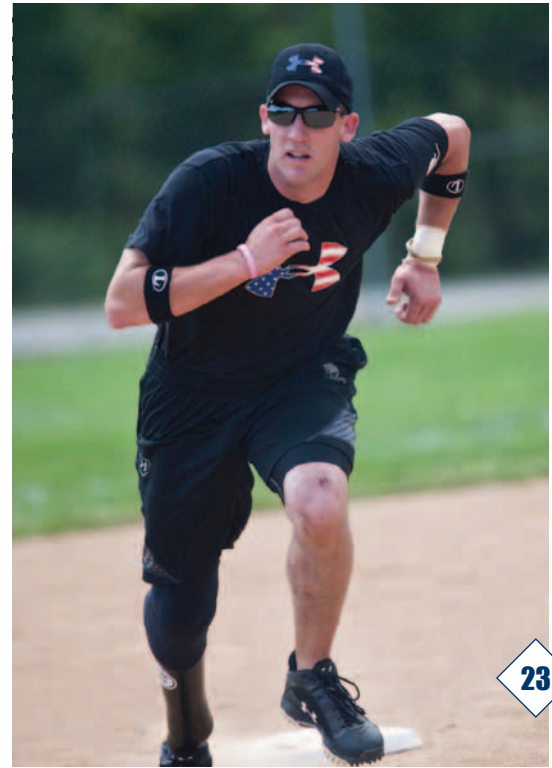
“ I THINK PEOPLE WILL BE SURPRISED AT HOW COMPETITIVE WE ARE AND RESPECT THE COURAGE WE HAVE TO GET BACK OUT THERE. WE ARE RUNNING OUR HARDEST AND LAYING OUT FOR BALLS. I HOPE THEY FIND IT MOTIVATING THAT WE ARE BACK OUT THERE NO MATTER OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.

coming up in Kentucky, Oklahoma City at the World Cup of Softball VI, Brooke Army Medical/Center for the Intrepid in San Antonio, Texas and multiple appearances in New York City in September of 2011, the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

Kinsey hopes that those who watch will walk away with a sense of motivation and empowerment.

"We are all natural competitors being in the military and athletes. I think

[Click here for a video of the game and spring training at Arizona.](#)



Shortstop Mathew Kinsey who is US Army, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and has a right foot amputation.

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Follow the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team on Facebook or click here to visit [thier website.](#)

SEE THE TEAM AT THE WORLD CUP OF SOFTBALL

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- Mike Candrea, Head Coach Arizona Wildcats

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STANFORD'S ASHLEY HANSEN NAMED USA SOFTBALL COLLEGIATE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Stanford shortstop Ashley Hansen (Chandler, Ariz.) was selected the 2011 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year at the conclusion of the athlete banquet which opened up festivities for the NCAA Women's College World Series. ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda presented the trophy to the junior who despite traveling without her team, was welcomed with a standing ovation among the eight teams in attendance.

Hansen, also the 2011 Pac-10 Player of the Year, helped lead Stanford to a Super Regional Appearance, finishing the year with a .495 batting average, third best in the nation. For the first time since 2002, the inaugural year of the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award, softball's highest award was not given to a pitcher. Three-time Olympian Stacey Nuveman Deniz (La Verne, Calif.) was the inaugural winner and is the only other position player to have won this award.

"My team has been there for me through thick and thin this year, really the past three years. I know that its not just me out there. I have eight other girls in the lineup who are capable of getting the job done and that takes a lot of pressure off of me," said Hansen. "I wish we were here but congratulations to the eight teams here and good luck this week."

More outstanding than her batting average or her on base percentage of .558 was the fact that in 192 at-bats, the junior only struck out five times all season, making her the second toughest player in the nation to strike out. Also named the Pac-10 Batting Champion, her average is the highest single season mark in school history. Hansen is just the second Stanford player to be named to the All-Pac-10 first team in each of her first three seasons. She also set a new Stanford single season record for hits in a season with 95, breaking Jessica Mendoza's record of 94 set in 2000.

"From the first day that she set foot on campus, we knew she was not only a special player but a special person. If you are around her you see right away how likeable she is and how she just does things the right way. You don't become the player she is without a lot of hard work and dedication while learning from those around you," said Stanford Head Coach John Rittman. "This is huge for Stanford and our program to have someone recognized as National Player of the Year. I am so proud of Ashley and all her accomplishments. She is such a team player and very deserving of this honor."

Hansen led the Pac-10 in batting average (.495), hits (95) and doubles (25) while tying fellow finalist Katelyn Boyd (Tempe, Ariz.) with on-base percentage (.558). Her 25 doubles also lead the nation while she ranks second in the Pac-10 in slugging percentage (.797).

The other two finalists for the 2011 award were Big 12 Pitcher of the Year Chelsea Thomas (Pleasantville, Iowa) and Pac-10 First-Team honoree Boyd.

Hansen has one more year in the Cardinal uniform to help lead her team to OKC



Hansen with ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda



Banquet emcee and ESPN personality Beth Mowins talks with Hansen about this honor

2011 NCAA WOMEN'S WORLD

2011 WCWS ATTENDANCE

- June 2 - Session 1 was 7,280 and a Session 1 record
- June 2 - Session 2 was 8,152 and a Session 2 record and 10th highest all-time single session
- June 3 - Session 3 was 8,627 a sell-out and 3rd highest all-time single session
- June 4 - Session 4 was 8,161 and a Session 4 record and 9th highest all-time single session
- June 4 - Session 5 was 8,477 a sellout and 4th highest all-time single session
- June 5 - Session 6 was 7,726 and a Session 6 record
- June 5 - Session 7 was 5,447
- June 6 - Session 8 was 7,447 and a Session 8 record
- June 7 - Session 9 was 6,314 and a Session 9 record
- GRAND TOTAL = 67,631

- Total attendance of 67,631 for 2011 is a new WCWS overall attendance record, breaking the 2010 record of 62,562 set in 2010 which is an increase of 5,069
- Averaged a record 7,515 fans per session which is 563 more than the 2010 average of 6,951
- Set 6 session records (Sessions 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9)
- Had 2 sell-outs (Sessions 3 and 5)
- Tickets were purchased from all 50 states



WOMEN'S COLLEGE SERIES



- Arizona State Wins their Second National Championship Photo in Four Years
- Arizona State's Dallas Escobedo and Florida's Michelle Moultrie Named Co-Most Outstanding Players



SOFTBALL LEAGUE DEDICATES SEASON TO PLAYER

BY VIVIAN MALAUULU, M.A.

CHLOE LANCASTER WILL NEVER FORGET HER NINTH BIRTHDAY. NOT BECAUSE OF THE PARTY SHE HAD, OR THE PRESENTS SHE RECEIVED, BUT BECAUSE OF WHERE SHE SPENT IT. SURROUNDED BY LIMITED FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND AN ABUNDANCE OF PRESENTS AND WELL WISHES, ON DECEMBER 13, 2010, CHLOE TURNED NINE IN THE PEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE UNIT OF MILLER'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN LONG BEACH. THE DAY BEFORE HER BIRTHDAY, DOCTORS CONFIRMED THE RESULTS OF A BIOPSY THAT A MASS ON HER BRAIN WAS A CANCEROUS GERM CELL. IN SPITE OF THIS GRAVE REVELATION, THE LANCASTER FAMILY WAS THRILLED TO FINALLY KNOW WHAT HAD BEEN MAKING THEIR OLDEST DAUGHTER SICK FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS, AND THANKFUL THAT IT WAS A TYPE OF CANCER THAT DOCTORS FELT CONFIDENT ABOUT TREATING. THE VERY NEXT DAY, CHLOE BEGAN CHEMOTHERAPY AGAINST THE BRAIN TUMOR.

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Almost three months and four rounds of chemotherapy later, Chloe's prognosis is good. "I know I can beat this," said Chloe. "It's just cancer, and I'm Double-O-Chlo." Chloe is referring to her longtime softball jersey number – 00 – which has been retired by the Long Beach Heartwell Fastpitch (LBHFP) softball league in honor of their beloved All Star, who loves softball, but has been benched this season by what Chloe perceives as nothing more than a nuisance. "I can't wait for this to be over. All I want to do is play softball. This cancer is making me miss the entire season."

The LBHFP league board of directors unanimously agreed to dedicate the spring 2011 season to Chloe, who has been an integral part of both spring and fall teams as a catcher since she was four years old. "We made Chloe an

honorary member of this year's All Star teams because we know that if she were playing, she would be contributing greatly to her team just as she has done in the past," said board president, Larry Walker.

Chloe's desire to be a part of this season in spite of cancer was put to the test on Sunday, February 27th. Just twelve hours after being released from the hospital after another arduous five-day round of chemo, Chloe insisted that her parents take her to this season's softball opening ceremonies. Tired and in a tremendous amount of pain, she was determined to be there and it wasn't until she started dressing herself that her parents realized there was no stopping her. Randy and Teri Lancaster were apprehensive about taking her, but Chloe was adamant. "Even though she was hurting, she wouldn't have



Chloe Lancaster

Photo credit Ultimate Exposures, Inc.

missed it for anything in the world," said her mom, Teri. "Her spirits immediately lifted when she put her uniform on. But when she saw the rest of her Ice teammates wearing beanies for the group picture, oh, she was so happy."

Ice is one of the 10U teams this season and carries Chloe on its roster even though she cannot play. In a touching show of solidarity and support, team Ice surprised Chloe by wearing custom-made beanies during the group picture so that Chloe, who has lost all of her long, beautiful blonde hair as a result of the chemotherapy, wouldn't feel left out. Chloe spent most of the day sitting

in a golf cart, under a heap of blankets, watching the opening day festivities. It hurt too much to speak or move, so she opted not to stand and say a few words when her coach, Mark Martin, presented her with a special All Star plaque. However, she shocked everyone when it was time for Ice to take its team picture. Chloe slowly took her place among her teammates and gave a weak, but very beautiful smile.

“Chloe lives and breathes softball,” said Mark Martin, who has coached Chloe for the past two seasons. “Last year, there wasn’t one single day between the end of the summer all star league and the beginning of fall ball that Chloe wasn’t begging her parents to take her to the park to practice. She is a very dedicated player who is committed to the sport and her active presence on our team is really missed.”

As catcher, Chloe developed a strong rapport with ten-year-old pitcher, Macey Coffman, when they were selected to play on the same 8U All Star team last summer. When Chloe started showing gradual signs of illness during fall ball, it was Macey who first commented to her mom that Chloe wasn’t being herself. “Whenever I pitched to her, I thought something was wrong with her eyes because she never missed any catches, but all of a sudden she was missing them.” Unbeknownst to Macey, the germ cell’s rapid growth was in fact affecting Chloe’s vision, a common symptom of brain tumors. Once symptoms became evident on the field, they quickly became apparent at school, until Chloe finally collapsed in the nurse’s office and had to be taken by ambulance to the emergency room five days before her birthday. Chloe was not able to finish the fall ball season, even though she begged doctors to allow her to play one more game before her treatment began.

“We have to try our hardest for Chloe so that she knows how much we love and miss her and how bad we want her back on the field,” said Macey. “We are all going to score runs for Chloe this season because we want her to feel like she’s still playing with us.” Macey is referring to a slogan the league has

“ WE HAVE TO TRY OUR HARDEST FOR CHLOE SO THAT SHE KNOWS HOW MUCH WE LOVE AND MISS HER AND HOW BAD WE WANT HER BACK ON THE FIELD

adopted in its efforts to fundraise for the Lancaster family during this difficult time. Bracelets and other gear bearing “Score Runs for Chloe” will be sold throughout the season. The traditional money can that teams circulate amongst their fans each time a player scores a run has also been incorporated into the fundraising campaign. Rather than using the money can funds for team parties at the end of the season, all proceeds will be given to the Lancasters.

“It’s been tough,” said Teri, who is a stay at home mom. “My husband has had to take a lot of time off work, and our insurance doesn’t cover all of our medical bills.” The Lancasters have two other children, Jonathan and Ruby,

So many people have been there for us, from the board right down to the youngest player.”

Chloe keeps up with her schoolwork so that she can start school in September with her fourth grade class without having to repeat the third grade. She also enjoys watching her favorite reality show, *Cake Boss*, and playing with her three cats and two dogs. Chloe plans on becoming a veterinarian when she grows up, because, in her own giggling words, “Pets are better patients than kids. They don’t have bad attitudes or get moody like I sometimes do.” More giggles.

On Fri., March 11, Chloe threw out the opening pitch during the Cal State Long Beach vs. UCLA women’s softball



Photo credit: Ultimate Exposures, Inc.

who are seven and four, respectively, and who also play other sports. “We are stronger and braver than we ever were before. We appreciate and cherish each second of life we get to spend with our children. We are also overwhelmed by the generosity of the families in the league, and we are grateful for all of the prayers and support we’ve received.

game at Mayfair Park Lisa Fernandez Field. The standing room only crowd cheered as Chloe tossed a perfect strike, a sign of things to come.

For more information about how you can score for Chloe, visit the www.wepay.com and “donate to Chloe’s fight” or visit the league’s website at www.lbhfp.com.

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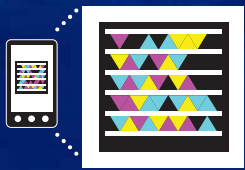
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NEWS AND NOTES



FACEBOOK HITS 50K

On April 12, ASA/USA Softball made social media history with the 50,000th person liking our facebook page, ASA Softball. One of the top ranking sports in the U.S. Olympic Movement when it comes to online reach, the ASA Softball page hit the 50,000 landmark on April 12 when Kaci Carpenter of Bowling Green, Ky., “liked” the page. Carpenter received an ASA/USA Softball gift pack that includes autographed items from current and former members of the USA Softball Women’s National Team. ASA Softball Facebook currently has 57,000 likes.

With special offers including discounted tickets to the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum as well as previous World Cups of Softball, exclusive photos, videos and news updates, Facebook is a great way to stay connected with ASA/USA Softball. Become a fan at www.facebook.com/asausasoftball/.

JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM ASSISTANT COACH WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Stacy Iveson, who is on the Junior Women’s National Team coaching staff, recently led the Yavapai College Roughriders to their second NJCAA National Championship in three years with a season record 67-4.

The championship is the fourth for Iveson in her coaching career. As the head coach of Pima Community College, Iveson won the title in 2004 and 2006. She was also named the Karen Sykes Coach of the Tournament.

Iveson has been a member of the USA Softball coaching pool for the last six years. She has worked closely with the National Team players and coaches including several training and selection camps and a trip to Guatemala in 2005 for the Pan American Qualifier. Most recently she was a part of the staff that took the gold medal in the Pan American Championship which qualified the team to compete in the Junior World Championship in Cape Town, South Africa in December 2011.



SNOW FILLED OPENING DAY FOR IDAHO ASA

Idaho ASA opened their season on April 21st with the Coeur d’Alene preseason coed tournament. With a later than normal opening day than most associations, the weather in April is typically around 65-75 degrees but this year was definitely an exception.

The teams played in near blizzard like conditions on opening day but the weather warmed up the rest of week into high 60s. Idaho ASA has over 170 teams in their spring and summer adult program.



ASA JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

(2011 Version)

The following list includes the MANDATORY requirements for 2011 ASA Championship Play as per the ASA Code.

THESE MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED FOR MANY REASONS- BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL PARTICIPANTS.

MANDATORY Paperwork Prior to Arrival

- Official Tournament Team Entry Form must be completed for all Regional, National/ Territory/Hall of Fame, and National Championship Finals play. (This form is available through your local commissioner.) **(Code 510 I)**
- Official ASA Championship Roster signed by participants or by a minor's parent or guardian; also must include commissioner signature.

MANDATORY Requirements Prior to Arrival

- Any Junior Olympic team participating in championship play must have at least one ACE Certified Coach (current year) on the field/dugout during championship play games. **(Code 501 C 03 a)**
- All Junior Olympic team personnel assisting in the dugout must have an ASA Background check (current year). **(Code 501 C 03 b)**
- Teams playing in the Junior Olympic (Youth) Championship Play in 2011 are required to purchase ASA Accident and Liability Insurance on either a team or individual basis through Bollinger Insurance. (Code Article 106 5)

MANDATORY Requirements at Check-In

- Every member of roster that will participate in the tournament must sign official sign in form and present photo and birth identification.
- Coaches and personnel must show proof of ACE Certification and Background Check.

Please contact your ASA Local Association Commissioner for questions and concerns.

PANTS



Optional Alterations / Hemming

We can professionally hem your pants for an additional \$8.00. Please state inseam length when ordering. We will not be responsible for your measurement errors. Hemmed pants not returnable.
Note: Please allow an additional 2 days shipping time for alterations.

SHIRTS



UMPIRE SHIRT SIZES

CHEST	NECK
S (34-36)	14-14 1/2
M (38-40)	15-15 1/2
L (42-44)	16-16 1/2
XL (46-48)	17-17 1/2
XXL (50-52)	18-18 1/2
XXXL (54-56)	19-19 1/2
XXXXL (58-60)	20-20 1/2

UMPIRE BASE PANTS WOMEN'S SIZES ALSO!

Fechheimer® polyester knit pants with metal zipper closure. Pant features snug fit, rubberized waistband-2 zones of stretch, two western-cut pockets, creases set and pressed.

- #PG Gray Men's Base pants - Waist size: 28-54 **\$45.00**
- #PGW Gray Women's Base pants - Size: 8-20 **\$45.00**
- #PB Navy Men's Base pants - Waist size: 28-54 **\$45.00**
- #PBW Navy Women's Base pants - Size: 8-20 **\$45.00**

UMPIRE PLATE PANTS WOMEN'S SIZES ALSO!

Same as Umpire Base Pants (description above) with fuller cut to accommodate shin guards.

- #PPG Gray Men's Plate pants - Waist size: 28-54 **\$47.00**
- #PPGW Gray Women's Plate pants - Size 8-20 **\$47.00**
- #PPB Navy Men's Plate pants - Waist size: 28-54 **\$47.00**
- #PPBW Navy Women's Plate pants - Size 8-20 **\$47.00**

UMP POLO W/ASA LETTERS (POWDER BLUE)

#130 ASA® approved Pro-Style Polo Shirt with ASA® embroidered on chest. Shirt features Polyester Air mesh fabric, moisture absorbant finish, soil release fabric, 3 button placket, extended length cut split-tail, colorfast.

- Size: S,M,L,XL **\$25.00**
- Size: XXL **\$27.00**
- Size: XXXL **\$29.00**
- Size: XXXXL **\$31.00**
- Size: XXXXXL (#130 polo shirt only) **\$35.00**

#135 Same as above W/O ASA letters

#138 Same as #135 with left chest pocket

UMP POLO W/ASA LETTERS (NAVY)

#140 ASA® approved Pro-Style Polo Shirt with ASA® embroidered on chest. Shirt features Polyester Air mesh fabric, moisture absorbant finish, soil release fabric, 3 button placket, extended length cut split-tail, colorfast.

- Size: S,M,L,XL **\$25.00**
- Size: XXL **\$27.00**
- Size: XXXL **\$29.00**
- Size: XXXXL **\$31.00**
- Size: XXXXXL (#140 polo shirt only) **\$35.00**

#145 Same as above W/O ASA letters

LONG SLEEVE POLO SHIRTS

#160 ASA® approved Pro-Style Polo Shirt with ASA® embroidered on chest. Shirt features Polyester Air mesh fabric, moisture absorbant finish, soil release fabric, 3 button placket, extended length cut split-tail, colorfast to hold color.

- Size: S,M,L,XL **\$32.00**
- Size: XXL **\$34.00**
- Size: XXXL **\$36.00**
- Size: XXXXL **\$38.00**

#165 Same as above W/O ASA Letters.

#170 Same as above Navy color with ASA Letters.

#175 Same as above Navy W/O ASA Letters.

UMP T-SHIRT

#1006 White Hanes Beefy-T, with ASA Umpire screened on left chest. 100% cotton, preshrunk.

- Size: M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL **\$15.00**
- #1005 Same as above in Navy with white print. **\$15.00**
- Size: M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

UNDER ARMOUR HEATGEAR T-SHIRT

Lightweight micro-pique fabric with a generous, loose fit, this tee is an essential for umpires. Anti-pick and anti-pill ensures your tee will standup to the rigors of the game. Odor control keeps it odor-free.

- #150 Navy Size: S-XXL **\$29.00**
- #152 White Size: S-XXL **\$29.00**

UMPIRE MOCK TURTLENECK

#1007 White long sleeve mock turtleneck with navy ASA® on collar, 100% extra heavyweight cotton, double needle stitching on neck and bottom hem, ribbed cuffs.

- Size: M, L, XL **\$19.00**
- Size: XXL **\$21.00**

#1008 Same as above in Navy.

SHIRTS

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FOOTBALL OFFICIAL'S JERSEY

#F1121P Football Official's Jersey, Collared Front, Short Sleeves with left front pocket. 100% Wrap Knit Polyester. Reinforced construction, fully lined collar, front and rear scooped tails.

- Size: S, M, L, XL **\$25.00**
- Size: 2X **\$27.00**
- Size: 3X **\$31.00**
- Size: 4X **\$33.00**

#F1130P Cool Mesh Football Officials Jersey, Collared Front, Short Sleeves with left front pocket. Cool Mesh Polyester Moisture Management Knit. Reinforced construction, fully lined collar, front and rear scooped tails.

- Size: S, M, L, XL **\$29.00**
- Size: 2X **\$31.00**
- Size: 3X **\$33.00**
- Size: 4X **\$35.00**

BASKETBALL REFEREE SHIRT

#B1125 Basketball Referee Shirt. The shirt is made of 100% Polly Mesh Material and it is perfect for officiating Basketball or Wrestling. Features V-Neck front, Black sleeve trim, reinforced construction, Long scoop tail, High quality whistle loop tie.

- Size: S, M, L, XL **\$24.00**
- Size: XXL **\$26.00**
- Size: 3X **\$28.00**
- Size: 4X **\$30.00**

#B1131 Cool Mesh Basketball Referee Shirt. The shirt made of Cool Mesh Polyester Moisture Management Material. Perfect for officiating Basketball or Wrestling. Features V-Neck front, Black sleeve trim, reinforced construction, Long scoop tail, High quality whistle loop tie.

- Size: S, M, L, XL **\$27.00**
- Size: 2X **\$29.00**
- Size: 3X **\$31.00**
- Size: 4X **\$33.00**

#B1151 Gray Basketball Referee Shirt. 100% Sublimated mock mesh polyester, Gray with black pin stripe. Features V-Neck front, Black sleeve trim, reinforced construction, Long scoop tail, High quality whistle loop tie.

- Size: S, M, L, XL **\$25.00**
- Size: 2X **\$27.00**
- Size: 3X **\$29.00**
- Size: 4X **\$31.00**

#F1130P



NEW!

#B1131



#B1125



SHIRT SIZES

- CHEST
- S (34-36)
- M (38-40)
- L (42-44)
- XL (46-48)
- XXL (50-52)
- XXXL (54-56)
- XXXXL (58-60)

#B1151



COMBAT HELPS GROW SLOW PITCH IN EUROPE

by Holly Krivokapich

Don Cooper, Johnny McCraw and Christan Dowling are legendary in the slow pitch world of the United States but for 11 days in May they became rock stars in the world of European slow pitch. The group from Combat Sports traveled to Europe to help teach the sport of slow pitch softball and through many two to three hour clinics truly made a difference.

ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda approached Cooper, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Combats Sports, about him and his athletes going to Europe. The tour through Europe was part of a development agreement between the European Softball Federation (ESF) and the ASA. The event was sponsored by the ESF, the ASA, the British Softball Federation and the UK development agency BaseballSoftballUK. Cooper not only agreed to bring two of the top U.S. players over but also stepped up to help sponsor the tour. This tour is the first of its kind setting up Cooper for the precedent that his group would set. "I don't know if I really had any reservations rather my concern was if there would be enough participation and just how the whole event would work out. 'If the trip was a failure who would go over there and do it the next time?

Would we be able to come back over to the states and tell our story of a highly successful event where others would want to go over there and do it?" said Cooper. "After I spoke with the people in Ireland, England and Ron here in the states a couple times I could tell they were behind it and on board. What ended up being biggest problem was that we had too many people."

The Combat group spent May 6-8 in Ireland, where they worked with the Irish National Slow pitch Team and coaches, before the extensive tour through England began on May 9.

The slow pitch experience of participants ranged from one to three seasons which in that states doesn't exactly equal beginner status when you factor in the typical background of athletes in the states. In Europe many of the athletes are literally picking up the game from scratch with no experience

in a diamond sport before with rugby, cricket and soccer being the dominant sports. For some this was the first introduction to a bat, ball, glove and even the basic rules of the game.

Any doubts of success were put to rest in Manchester, England when the Combat team was set to host a four-hour clinic for 35-40 people. The good news was 35 people showed up, the bad news was they brought 60 with them. Feeling guilty for not having enough time to truly work with the individuals, a pub down the street provided more time for the participants after they lost light.

"We've had some tremendous feedback from the session about all the little tips that were passed on, especially with regards to Johnny's batting training. People really felt that the coaching had an immediate impact on their performance," said Harvey Pryor of the East



Don Cooper (far right) instructs students in Europe.



Christan Dowling met with athletes at a pub who were eager to learn more about softball after the sun went down.

Midlands Softball League Committee. "The women who attended Christan's women's training session also gave glowing reports and examples of improvements they'd been able to make, and judging by the autograph-hunting and photos that were being taken in the pub afterwards they were clearly very impressed with her methods."

Cooper, McCraw and Dowling have extensive background in conducting clinics but the clinics are typically built around refining skills, helping with mechanical flaws and covering more in depth topics but at the clinics it Europe they realized they must take a different approach. After a couple stops they realized they needed to take the training down a bit, having taken for granted all the training we have in the U.S. They started each one with an hour of the basics of throwing before going over the basics of the grip or how cut offs worked.

"We didn't know going in what the levels would be but it didn't matter. You love the game, you love the game. For us it was fun to work with these people who were like sponges just wanting to learn and learn. It was fun to work with kids that have never put a glove on," said Cooper. "In some cases the



Johnny McCraw helps athletes improve their game at the plate while in Europe.

participants would ask if they were right or left handed. We figured out a quick way to figure it out by asking them what foot they kicked with. It was the little things that we take for granted that we had to slow down and go back over. The only frustration in any of it was that there wasn't enough time

to work with all of these people."

The week wrapped up at a 51-team tournament in London where the fields were less than ideal with no backstops, fences or in-fields. The field crew would paint lines, throw down bases and put up a temporary fence to stop the ball from rolling. Through all the travels the Combat Team did they only ran across one park with a permanent fence and only a couple with a backstop. The lack of facilities in Europe, especially London, was just one of the reasons the decision to cut softball from the Olympics was so devastating.

"They have a huge desire over in Europe to make softball a big sport. One of the things that broke the English people's heart was the loss of the Olympics. They finally felt they would get the facilities they needed to grow the sport. Everywhere we went the people mentioned the loss of softball and baseball in the Olympics," said Cooper. "I think the removal of those two sports from the Olympics has affected that group more than anyone else in the world. Obviously it affected the United States with funding and the Olympic team but it really affected them from developing their sport. They were excited to get the venues to help grown their sport. I don't know how many times people told me it just broke their heart."

As soon as the Combat team returned to the States, they began fielding phone calls, emails and face book messages asking when they could return. With countless stories of success ranging from learning the proper throwing mechanics to girls on a team who grounded out but were so excited because they actually made contact, it leaves little doubt in the mind that this event not only met expectation but exceeded them setting the bar high for the future.



SECOND LOOK

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE SIX DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO PICTURES!

Oklahoma State fans enjoy action at the NCAA Women's College World Series at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City.

PRINT ME!

6

CHANGES
Keep Score!



1. Right Girl's Shirt
2. Water Bottle Logo
3. Fan in Background
4. Fan's Hat
5. Left Girl's Bow
6. Right Girl's Ring

Click here for a complete list of events at the Mecca of Softball, log onto www.asasoftball.com.

Dallas ASA Umpire Michael Gregory sent us an article that we knew our readers would love especially those with a love of the other diamond sport, baseball.

Pat on the Back

Harry Roll



JOANNE DIMAGGIO WEBBER

'Just like Dad and Uncle Dominic'

There is a DiMaggio playing center field for Pittsburg again. This DiMaggio, however, is not Vince, former Pittsburgh Pirates center fielder and the oldest of the great baseball brothers, but his daughter Joanne who, "just like Dad," holds down that position for the Pittsburg, Calif. Travelers, a hot softball outfit that has just qualified for the North Pacific regional tournament.

Joanne, the mascot of the Stockton Ports when her father managed that California League team a decade

ago, has been playing softball for 10 years, also stars as a basketball guard in the Oakland Women's Industrial League. She used to bat clean-up but now prefers to lead off "like Uncle Dominic." Her opponents consider her one of the best lead-off batters in the league; in four recent games she hit .545. With Vince living close by and Uncles Joe and Dominic available for advice, there may yet be a third-generation DiMaggio on the baseball diamond, for Joanne now has a six-months-old son.



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35 ATHLETES TO TRY OUT FOR US

Every summer at the United States Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif., approximately 40 USA Softball hopefuls gather to try out for the USA Softball Women's National Team. Training among other Olympic hopefuls while also competing for a spot to represent your country is an experience like no other. This year 35 athletes headed to California, June 12-16 to compete for a spot on the USA Softball Women's National Team.

This elite group of athletes will spend plenty of time in the red, white and blue as they will visit three countries, competing in six different events. The team will be announced on Friday, June 17. Fans in the United States will get four opportunities to see the team in action with three exhibition stops scheduled as well as the World Cup of Softball VI, July 21-25, in Oklahoma City. For ticket information on all these locations, please go to www.usasoftball.com

This team will also look to continue the legacy of USA Softball as they seek the program's eighth Pan American Championship title at the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, Oct. 17-23. Rounding out the International appearances is Canada where the team will make an appearance at the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International Championship.



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2011 USA SOFTBALL WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION CAMP PARTICIPANTS

Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif./California)
Ashley Holcombe-Bell (Fayetteville, Ga./Alabama)
Ashley Brignac (River Ridge, La./ULL)
Megan Bush (Anaheim Hills, Ca./Florida)
Kaylyn Castillo (Norco, Calif./Arizona State)
Whitney Canion (Aledo, Texas/Baylor)
Raven Chavanne (Thousand Oaks, Calif./Tennessee)
Kaitlin Cochran (Yorba Linda, Calif./Arizona State)
Cheyenne Coyle (West Hills, Calif./Florida)
Brigitte Del Ponte (Peoria, Ariz./Arizona)
Dallas Escobedo (Glendale, Ariz./Arizona State)
Lauren Gibson (Pasadena, Md./Tennessee)

Kelly Grieve (Asheville, N.C./Tennessee)
Andrea Harrison (Garden Grove, Calif./UCLA)
Jolene Henderson (Elk Grove, Calif./California)
Taylor Hoagland (Flower Mound, Texas/Texas)
Molly Johnson (Tucson, Ariz./Kentucky)
Ashley Lane (Escondido, Calif./Michigan)
Megan Langenfeld (Bakersfield, Calif./UCLA)
Jenae Leles (Sacramento, Calif./Arizona)
Annie Lockwood (Phoenix, Ariz./Arizona State)
Blaire Luna (Austin, Texas/Texas)
Meagan May (Spring, Texas/Texas AGM)
Stacy May (Reno, Nev./Iowa)

Jen Mineau (Schaghticoke, N.Y./Fordham)
Michelle Moultrie (Jacksonville, Fla./Florida)
Christine Orgeron (New Orleans, La./ULL)
Jenna Rich (El Segundo, Calif./Stanford)
Keilani Ricketts (San Jose, Calif./Oklahoma)
Brittany Schutte (Fountain Valley, Calif./Florida)
Jessica Shults (Valencia, Calif./Oklahoma)
Jordan Taylor (Valencia, Calif./Michigan)
Rhea Taylor (Buford, Ga./Missouri)
Chelsea Thomas (Pleasantville, Iowa/Missouri)
Shawna Wright (Lancaster, Calif./Washington)

USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL TEAM



Kaitlin Cochran

B&S ONLINE CAUGHT UP WITH TWO ATHLETES WHO WILL BE COMPETING FOR A SPOT ON THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL TEAM. BOTH IN DIFFERENT PLACES IN THEIR SOFTBALL CAREER BUT HAVE THE SAME GOAL OF WEARING THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE.

Kaitlin Cochran is a two-time member of the USA Softball Women's National Team with a World Champion and two-time World Cup Champion on her resume. The three-time Pac-10 Player of the Year attended Selection Camp when she was at Arizona State and is now one of the veterans attending.

B&S: "Do you remember your first camp experience?"

KC: "I was a sophomore in college and it was so nerve racking. Playing on field with some of the best players in the world or and just to be able to talk to them and play alongside them was not only a great honor but a great experience. I remember having the best time ever because I was living out my dream. I knew I wasn't on the team but a great experience. You got to talk to your heroes, one on one and more personally. You weren't just asking for an autograph."

B&S: "Was there anything that stood out to be different than your expectations?"

KC: "I think what stood out is that the players and coaches were so welcoming. Even though it was a high stress atmosphere because you want to do well in a place like that and it was laid back in a sense. You are thinking 'oh my gosh I have to perform at every bat and every pitch has to be perfect'. They really just want you to showcase your skills and go from there. They weren't hardcore and really wanted you to be at ease. That was the biggest surprised yet so refreshing."

B&S: "Any advice you would like to give?"

KC: "Don't be nervous. Just really enjoy the experience. First of all to just get out there and wear the red, white and blue is great but remember its just a tryout. Don't make it more than it is."

They know your talents and abilities and aren't going to base everything on one tryout. They obviously have watched you play in the past so just go out there and do your best. Whatever happens, happens."

Jessica Shults just wrapped up her sophomore season at the University of Oklahoma and is making her first-ever Selection camp appearance.

B&S: "Was attending the USA Softball National Team selection camp a dream you had?"

JS: "I definitely did not dream of this. Growing up I would always watch the USA team and thought they were so good. I was so excited to get the email from USA Softball. I will literally in shock because this isn't something I thought I would have the opportunity to do after watching these athletes play my whole life."

B&S: "What are you most looking forward to at camp?"

JS: "First of all the possibility of being able to represent my country is an honor. I am also looking forward to getting out on the field with some of the girls I have played with and against my whole life. Andrea Harrison, Jamia Reid and Jordan Taylor are just a few. I am also glad I will be out there with Keilani (Ricketts), my teammate at OU."

B&S: "Any idea of what it will be like for you?"

JS: "I am expecting it to be pretty intense. All the best softball players in the country will be there so I am sure the pressure will be on. I am looking forward to seeing what its all about and to have a good time."

NATIONAL OFFICE PROFILES

JAMIE



JAMIE BLANCHARD

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Started in June 2009

DEVIN



DEVIN LOEHRS

RegisterASA.com Technical Support

Started in 2007 as a part-time worker

What do you do on a daily basis?

On a daily basis, I mainly oversee the content updates for our two websites, ASASoftball.com and USASoftball.com, as well as our social media outreach. If you have every wondered who is the phantom ASA Softball poster on Facebook or Twitter, it's me. I also work with our USA Softball Junior Women's National Team and Men's Slow Pitch National Team athletes to generate publicity for those athletes, their team and their events.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of my job is interacting with our junior women. They are an incredible bunch of athletes but more importantly, they are excellent people. My co-workers and the USA Softball "Ultimate Fans" are a lot of fun too.

What has been your favorite experience with the ASA?

My favorite experience was traveling with the Junior Women to the III Pan American Championship (18-Under) in Bogota, Colombia, last year. I am looking forward to watching the team win the International Softball Federation (ISF) Junior Women's World Championship this December in Cape Town, South Africa.

Were you involved with softball before joining the National Office?

I never played softball but growing up in Tucson, Ariz., you have no choice but to be a University of Arizona fan. Bear down! Before moving to Oklahoma City, I covered the Wildcat softball team for the Arizona Daily Star newspaper.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

I help maintain a figure skating website, Figure Skaters Online. I am always looking for an excuse to travel, whether for figure skating or not. And I love watching reality TV, especially anything Jersey.

Anything else to add?

A shout out to my niece Madison, my nephews Cal and Evan and my boyfriend Lance, who is currently serving with the U.S. Air Force in Afghanistan.

What do you do on a daily basis?

From the time I sit in my cubical to the time I leave, I answer phone calls to direct people around RegisterASA.com. I also like to act like I'm important when I am around John Miller and the other high rollers of ASA.

What is your favorite part of your job?

The people I work with. I have worked for about four different places and the friendliness and personalities of the people here has been unmatched.

What has been your favorite experience with the ASA?

My favorite experience has to be announcing NCAA Division I softball games and high school state championships at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium.

Were you involved with softball before joining the National Office?

From the time I was born, I was around the National Office because of my father, Mark Loehrs, who is the chief financial officer. I have grown up at this complex doing things like playing hide and seek in the museum. It's almost like a second home to me from all the time I have spent here over the past 20 years.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

I almost answered this question as if it was "not working on the clock", for the safety of my job I think I'll avoid that part. When I'm not at ASA I like working on my Mustang, playing my guitar and just being a college student.



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—Michele Smith, 2-time Olympic Gold Medalist

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- ◆ Constructed of durable galvanized steel with 8-gauge coated chainlink fence material.
- ◆ Connectors secure panels together to form one continuous fence.
- ◆ Legs collapse for easy storage.

References

- ◆ An ASA Official Portable Fence; NCAA Women's College World Series®; NCAA Division II and III Softball Championships; City of Woodland, City of Santa Maria, Salem VA, etc.



Dan Gentry, President SportaFence and

ASA Championship Facility Oklahoma



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If you need to raise extra funds this season for your team or league and are running out of ideas, here are a few unique ideas that are sure to guarantee the success of your fundraising campaign.



ONLINE FUNDRAISING

A powerful and safe way for your group to earn big profits. Instantly increase your supporter reach from local to national while offering the convenience of shopping online 24/7! Your online store features magazines, flower bulbs, cookie dough, and much more!

Online fundraising is low maintenance and serves as the perfect companion to any traditional campaign.

EARN HIGH PROFIT WITH SCRATCH CARDS!

Scratch cards have always been an easy way for teams and leagues to raise a lot of money in little time. It's now even easier with customized scratch cards, where you can include your team photo right on the cover! And with great coupon offers, your supporters will love them as well!

OTHER GREAT SPORTS FUNDRAISING IDEAS!

Restaurant gift cards offer \$50 meals for just \$20 at thousands of restaurants nation-wide, which is the kind of added value supporters are always on the look-out for! Other fun ideas include lollipops shaped like softballs, delicious cookie dough, t-shirts and emblems customized for your team and much more!



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Call now for more information and to get your free fundraising guide at 1.866.830.5014!

