ASA/USA JO Player of the Week launched

ASA/USA Softball is excited to announce the launch of the ASA/USA Junior Olympic (JO) Player of the Week award, presented by Worth Fastpitch and StudentSports.com. Recipients of the award, which will honor JO players under the age of 18 for their performance in ASA/USA play, will receive a brand new Worth bat along with a certificate from ASA/USA Softball. Nominations will be submitted through StudentSports.com by clicking here.

Established to recognize JO players 18 years or younger for outstanding play in an ASA/USA sanctioned event, the ASA/USA Softball JO Player of the Week will begin its inaugural campaign in the 2014 season. Fourteen athletes, male or female, will be honored from May 9 - August 8 following the conclusion of the ASA/USA JO National Championships. Nominations will be taken on a week-by-week basis (see below schedule) and will be submitted and accepted through http://www.studentsports.com/softball/2014/02/12/asa-player-week-form/ until noon ET every Tuesday. In order to be eligible for the award, athletes must be registered with their local ASA/USA association and must have participated in ASA/USA Softball sanctioned events or tournaments during the week nominated.

Below is a list of criteria for the ASA/USA Softball JO Player of the Week award:

- Nominations will be taken until NOON ET every Tuesday of the designated time frame
- Nominations will only be accepted through this form
- Athletes must be registered with their local ASA/USA Softball association
- Athletes must be non-collegiate athletes (male or female) and 18 years of age or younger
- Athletes must have participated in an ASA/USA Softball sanctioned event/tournament during the designated time frame
- Athletes statistics must reflect at least eight at-bats and/or seven total innings pitched

Recipients of the award will be assessed by the statistics provided and will be decided by an internal committee of StudentSports.com and ASA/USA Softball staff. Nominations will be assessed by the information provided on the nomination form.

To find an ASA/USA Softball event near you or to find your local ASA/USA association, please visit USASoftball.com.

**2014 ASA/USA JO Player of the Week Schedule**

| Week 1 (April 30 - May 6): Winner announced May 9 | Week 2 (May 7 - 13): Winner announced May 16 |
| Week 3 (May 14 - 20): Winner announced May 23 | Week 4 (May 21 - 27): Winner announced May 30 |
| Week 5 (May 28 - June 3): Winner announced June 6 | Week 6 (June 4 - 10): Winner announced June 13 |
| Week 7 (June 11 - 17): Winner announced June 20 | Week 8 (June 18 - 24): Winner announced June 27 |
| Week 9 (June 25 - July 1): Winner announced July 4 | Week 10 (July 2 - 8): Winner announced July 11 |
| Week 11 (July 9 - 15): Winner announced July 18 | Week 12 (July 16 - 22): Winner announced July 25 |
| Week 13 (July 23 - 29): Winner announced August 1 | Week 14 (July 30 - August 5): Winner announced August 8 |

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Olympia ASA Umpires help raise money to benefit victims of the Oso mudslide.
The start of 2014 has been incredible. Our registrations, especially in the Junior Olympic Program, have moved ahead as expected. Our Umpire Program continued its superb and well celebrated training while our Adult Program continued improving the Slow Pitch game by adding several new divisions of play for the Winter Season.

Additionally, the Board of Directors held their Spring Meeting which resulted in the creation of new policy and procedures or the refinement of those already established. These policy and procedures, which have been communicated to all council members via email, include such topics as e-cigarettes, concussions, mandatory background checks and the raising of fees for team and umpire registrations that are submitted by paper. If you are not yet familiar with the communication explaining the new policy and procedures please contact one of your council members for the information.

Next month, May, brings with it the beginning of our Championship Play. Regardless of your role with a team, league or association, I urge you to review the current ASA Code and Official Rules of Softball in preparation for this more highly intense field of play. Code and rule changes took effect on January 1, 2014, so please take the time to learn or at least familiarize yourself with these changes. Should you need a clarification or interpretation of any Code or rule item, contact the appropriate person at your local association. They have or can get the information for you.

During the Month of June we will have two of our National Teams, the Junior Men’s National Team and the Women’s National Team, begin the road to their ISF World Championship. Both teams will be training and playing in exhibition games in different parts of the country. We ask that you support these teams by attending their training sessions and games when they are in your area. Let them know that we appreciate their hard work, dedication and talent as they represent us in softball competition versus other nations. Go to USASoftball.com for a complete listing of where and when they train and play. USA! USA! USA!

Lastly, whether you participate in 10 and Under “A” in the Southern Territory, Senior Slow Pitch in the Northern Territory, Men’s Fast Pitch in the Eastern Territory, 14 and Under “B” in the Western Territory, 18 and Under GOLD in the ASA Hall of Fame Complex, the Men’s Slow Pitch Super or league play in your hometown, we thank you for playing the game for everyone, ASA/USA Softball.
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Hello everyone and welcome to the April 2014 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball!

I hope everyone is gearing up for the start of Championship play next month! It’s crazy to think how quickly the year has gone by! Remember, if your association needs any type of promotional items (banners, flags, pins, etc...) please don’t hesitate to ask any member of our Marketing/Communications department!

As teams begin to qualify for an ASA/USA National Championship, I wanted to discuss some different ideas that I’ve seen associations do in the past as a way to get teams excited. We’re pretty proud of the fact that in order to play at an ASA/USA National Championship, teams have to qualify. That’s right, there’s no check they can write to compete. It’s a true National Championship, the best-of-the-best!

One creative idea that was brought to my attention was done by Florida ASA, who gave out t-shirts to teams as they qualified for their respective ASA/USA National Championship. These weren’t just your average t-shirt...these shirts signified that the teams were “ASA Qualified”! Pretty neat idea right?! Qualifying for any of our National Championships is quite the feat, so why not give the teams something they can show off!

Another way to generate some buzz for the National Championships is by creating a contest through social media. Hopefully you’ve all had a chance to read some of my past “Codi’s Corner” topics regarding social media, if not feel free to reach out to me and I can get you more information! Every summer we encourage our followers to use the hashtag #asanationals as a way for people to follow along with any National Championship.

This summer, let’s get #asaqualified trending! Encourage your teams to tweet or Instagram their excitement by using the tag! By getting your teams to use the hashtag, you’re making it easy for people to join in on the conversation and follow along on the journey to the ASA/USA Nationals.

Have a different way to promote an ASA/USA National Championship in your area?! Send them my way to cwarren@softball.org! Until next time, thank you for all that you do for ASA/USA Softball!
The inaugural Super Slow Pitch Championship Series kicked off April 11-13 as teams competed in the Combat Capital City Classic in Edmond, Okla. Twenty-three teams from the Men’s Super and Men’s Class C Division competed in the qualifying tournament while six Women squads faced off in the Women’s Open Division.

Long Haul/H Auto/Easton went 5-0 to win the tournament, outscoring their opponents 197-84.

In the championship game Long Haul/H Auto/Easton defeated runner-up Rip City/DeMarini 38-31 whom they also defeated 32-13 in the winners bracket final starting championship Sunday off. Rip City/DeMarini defeated third place finishing Atta Boys/Pinnacle 35-20 and finishing fourth was Fallout Sports.

For the Men’s Class C, Attaboys/Pinnacle (Oklahoma City, Okla.) and Side Pocket (Mustang, Okla.) each earned a paid berth to the Men’s Class C National Championship in Edmond, Okla. this year as well as $500 in cash upon their arrival in Edmond.

In the Women’s Open, the KC Skers went undefeated with a 3-0 record. Whiskey Bent and Wicked/Fallout Sports finished second and third.

Click here for complete results from the Combat Capital City Classic.

For the Men’s Super Division, the tournament served as one of three qualifying tournaments the teams must compete in to qualify for the 2014 Super Slow Pitch National Championship, which will be held August 22-23 in Ft. Worth, Texas.

The Super Slow Pitch Championship Series, which is a series of qualifying tournaments for the Men’s Super Slow Pitch National Championship (August 22-23) in Ft. Worth, Texas, continues the first weekend in May at Corky’s Early Bird Classic (Owatonna, Minn.) and the Cali Classic (Perris, Calif.). Teams must compete in three or more qualifying events to qualify for the Super Nationals and will be seeded into the Championship based off points awarded from qualifying events. In addition to vying for a National Championship title, teams will also be competing for a cash prize as the winner of the Men’s Super Slow Pitch National Championship will receive $25,000, the 2nd place team will receive $15,000 and the 3rd place squad will be awarded $10,000. To learn more about the Super Slow Pitch Championship Series, please visit USASoftball.com.
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In May of 2013, David Rocco, a manager of the Erie Hardchrome Rack N’ Roll, received a phone call from the Erie Regional Offices for the Make-A-Wish Foundation with a very special request: Would the Erie Hardchrome Rack N’ Roll consider getting back together to play in a charity game to benefit Skylar Gibbs, who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis.

The Rack N’Roll squad made quite a name for themselves in the Men’s Major Modified Division, capturing nine Pennsylvania 10-Man Major Modified State Championships. Add on three ASA/USA 10-Man Major Modified National Championships and you can see why the Rack N’ Roll squad made a name for themselves during the late 80’s through early 2000’s.

So when the team hung up their cleats after the 2001 season, the thought of playing again as a team never came to fruition until they received the call from the Make-A-Wish group.

“We had played as a team in the Make-A-Wish Charity Tournament many times and thought it was a good way for us, as well as ASA, to give a little something back to the community,” said Rocco. “We felt that to be a true champion, a team had the responsibility of doing a lot more than winning tournaments.”

When the team took to the field on September 6, 2013, those in attendance knew something special was about to happen. With the same starting line-up from their last game 13 years ago, the Rack N’ Roll took the field against Mellon’s Softball squad. A full seven-inning (and then some) game was played with ASA umpires in full dress.

“We can’t begin to express the feeling and emotions that ran through us as we took the field that night with Skylar on the side lines,” said Rocco. “As the game progressed into the late evening hours, it became quite apparent that this may have been the more important and rewarding game of our careers. A truly special night indeed.”

Right: Skylar Gibbs is pictured with the Championship trophy. Below: The Mellon’s softball squad out of Franklin, Penn. Above: Walt Porter, a long time ASA Umpire, volunteered to umpire home plate during the game.

Below: The members of the Erie Hardchrome Rack N’ Roll team.
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The USA Softball Junior Men’s Fast Pitch National Team will get some additional training on their way to the International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championships this July. The USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team will compete at five stops on the “Road to Whitehouse, Yukon” tour from July 1 – 6. The six-day tour will begin in California and continue north to Washington. Following the tour, Team USA will travel to Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, the site of the 10th ISF Junior Men’s World Championship scheduled for July 11-20.

“The ‘Road to Whitehouse, Yukon’ tour will provide our guys a great opportunity to play together as a team before competing in the World Championships,” said USA Junior Men’s Head Coach Tim Lyon. “We are very appreciative of the five communities as well as the ASA representatives who have helped us put these tour stops together. We’re excited to bring some of the best junior men’s fast pitch players in the country to these cities.”

During the tour, Team USA will compete against local all-star teams comprised of players selected from ASA Men’s Fast Pitch leagues in the general area where the games are being played.

Following the tour, Team USA will head north to Whitehorse where they will compete against the defending World Champions, Argentina, as well as nine other countries for the 2014 ISF World Championship title. The tournament schedule will be announced at a later date. The USA Juniors will look to improve on their fifth place finish in the previous World Championship.

A complete team roster, including coaches, can be found here. Visit USASoftball.com throughout the summer and leading up to and during the 10th ISF Junior Men’s World Championship for the tournament schedule and any additional updates and announcements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Ballpark</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>Hayward, Calif.</td>
<td>Larry Standley Field</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Stockton, Calif.</td>
<td>Louis Park</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>Medford, Ore.</td>
<td>Fagone Field</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Salem, Ore.</td>
<td>Wallace Marine Park</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>Fife, Wash.</td>
<td>Dacca Park</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Road to Whitehorse, Yukon” Tour
Being a family member of Team USA has its benefits.

Take advantage of partnership travel discounts.

United has flown Team USA for over 30 years, and we strive to be the airline of choice for Olympic family members as well. That's why we offer discounted fares for USOC/NGB associated events. Go to united.com/USOC to book your flight, or to learn more.
Legendary Hall of Famer Bertha Petinak Ragan Tickey died April 9 at her home in Clovis, Calif. at the age of 92.

Born in Orosi to Serbian immigrants, Tickey was the fifth of seven children. She began playing organized girls softball in Sultana at age 13 and soon moved up to the older girls team from Dinuba sponsored by Alta Chevrolet.

As her athletic ability improved, her reputation grew and the summer she was 15 she played for a team in Orange in Southern California. World War II interrupted her softball career when she became a lifeguard at the Orange City Plunge where she met, and later married, Jim Ragan. She moved to Texas with her husband, an aviation mechanic serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and was visited there by the Chicago Baseball League, a professional women’s team which later became the subject for the movie, “A League of Their Own.”

During this time the Ragans began raising a family and after the war she started her career. She won an ASA Women’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship with the Orange Lionettes in 1946 and 1947. She also pitched for the Monrovia Red Gals and the Owls at the 1949 National Tournament held in Portland, Ore., where she was crowned “Miss Softball.”

By 1950, the Pacific Coast League was in full swing. Janice Ragan Nelson recalls that her mother “would come home from work on a Friday afternoon, take her suitcase and ball bag in hand and leave for a weekend of competition in Portland, Ore., Phoenix, Ariz., or in Fresno or Buena Park. A caravan of cars filled with players, coaches and a few loyal fans would travel the long distances to meet for their weekend series. A double-header on Saturdays and a single game on Sundays left barely enough time to arrive home for a few winks of sleep and a quick shower before it was back to work on Monday morning at her 9-to-5 secretarial job.”

The records kept piling up. In 1949, Tickey struck out 756 batters in 60 games and had a scoreless inning streak of 120. The Lionettes again won an Women’s Major Championship in 1950, ’51, ’52 and ’55.

In 1956, Tickey transferred to the Brakettes on the East Coast. She won 285 games, losing only 26. Her lifetime record is 757 wins and 88 losses, including 162 no-hitters. The Brakettes won nine titles, the last in 1969.

In 1963, Bertha married Ed Tickey, a former Brooklyn Dodger who was catcher for the Raybestos men’s team.

While traveling with “Sports Illustrated” promoting fast pitch softball, Tickey struck out Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox in an exhibition game.

She traveled the world with the Brakettes, spreading knowledge of the game and sportsmanship through clinics. She played teams in the Caribbean, Japan, China, India, Australia, Thailand, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, England and Canada.

She retired from softball in 1969 at age 46. In her final game she pitched a no-hit, no-run game, striking out 20 of 21 batters.

She later served as executive director of The Barnum Festivals in Stratford, Conn., retiring in the early 1980s.

She is survived by her daughter, Janice Ragan Nelson and husband Michael of Columbia, a brother, Pete Petinak and wife Nancy of Reedley, her granddaughters and great-grandchildren.
All New 16U ASA/USA GOLD
July 21-26, 2014
Arrowhead Park
Broken Arrow, Okla.
Click here to find a qualifier for this ASA National Championship

18U ASA/USA GOLD National Championship
July 20-26, 2014
ASA Hall of Fame Complex
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Click here to find a qualifier for this ASA National Championship
The International Softball Federation (ISF) announced the game schedule for the 10-nation ISF X Junior Men’s World Championship and the 16-nation ISF XIV Women’s World Championship. The Junior Men’s World Championship is scheduled to take place July 11-20 in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada while the Women’s World Championship is scheduled to take place August 15-24 in Haarlem, Netherlands.

The Junior Men will look to improve their fifth place finish at the 2012 ISF Junior Men’s World Championship, while the women will look to build on a Silver Medal finish from the previous World Championships in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

Both Championships feature round-robin games during the first days of play and then will be seeded into a page playoff format to determine the World Champion over the final days of the tournament.

Click here to see the complete Junior Men’s World Championship schedule

Click here to see the complete Women’s World Championship schedule

Seventeen athletes have been named to the Junior Men’s roster while the Women’s National Team will be announced June 22 following a team selection camp and exhibition series.

### ISF X Junior Men’s World Championship schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time (PST)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19-20</td>
<td>Playoffs</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ISF XIV Women’s World Championship schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time (UTC)</th>
<th>Time (CST)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>* 8 p.m.</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>*12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>5:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>*4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 18</td>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>*3 p.m.</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>*5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>*5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>*2 p.m.</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 22-24</td>
<td>Playoffs</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*all times are Central European Time Zone*
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The Illinois ASA selected four teams and 12 individuals into the Illinois ASA Hall of Fame. Held April 12 at the Hotel and Conference Center in Decatur, the below teams and individuals were honored:

**Zeigler Raiders** - Mens fast pitch team for 23 years. Won two Class A -formerly Class B- state championships in the 1970’s and compiled an overall record of 1,107 wins and 368 losses. Also finished runnerup to Decatur in the 1979 Mens Major Fastpitch State Tournament in Arcola.

**Kankakee Kardinals** - Mens fast pitch team for 15 years. Finished second three times in Mens Class A (formerly B) state tournament. Finished third in Class B Nationals and won the Midwest Class B Regional. In a ten year cycle in the 1970’s, they won 427 and lost only 231.


**Nokomis Bud Light** - Mens fast pitch team that won four Class A state titles from 2001-2011. During that ten year period they won 365 and lost 218. The championship years were 2001, 2004, 2006 and 2011.

**Jim Trump** - Player out of Greenfield, Ill. Played infield for 35 years with Gillespie, Alton, Edwardsville, Springfield and Decatur. Career batting average was .300.

**Rudy Klokkenenga** - Meritorious Service from Bloomington, Ill. Former pitcher, key booster of Bloomington Hearts and announcer for ISU and BNGSA games.

**Earl Eichelberger** - Player out of Champaign, Ill. Played in the 1940’s and 50’s for Champaign and Mahomet. A catcher who was MVP in 1964 A State Tournament.

**Tom Laue** - Player from Shumway, Ill. Fast pitch player for 40 years with Shumway and Stew- arson-Strasberg Tates Farm Implement. Holds Tates team record for most pitching wins and RBI’s.

**Scott Standerfer** - Manager from Charleston, Ill. Managed teams in Decatur, Ill., Marathon, Wis., Peoria, Ill., St. Louis, Mo. and Houston, Texas.

**Lisa Cuocci** - Player/Umpire from Benton, Ill. Played for West Frankfort Cardinals and umpired for 25 years including 6 ASA Nationals, 10 fast pitch state tourneys and several NCAA Tournaments.

**Bill Hamer** - Manager from Annawan, Ill. Sponsor, organizer and manager for Annawan/Atkinson Snicks mens slow pitch team from the Quad Cities area.

**Jim Collins** - Meritorious Service from Towanda, Ill. Was an infielder, coach and manager for 30 years for Bloomington Budweiser, Bloomington Laesch Dairy, Bloomington Ebach Realty, Bloomington GMC and Bloomington Hearts.

**Richard Well** - Player/Manager from Vandalia, Ill. Manager and standout catcher/hitter for Vandalia Freight, a team that won two Class A National Championships.

**Nick Casey** - Player from Vandalia, Ill. First baseman for Vandalia Freight, a team that won two Class A National Championships.

**Don Schultz** - Outfielder from Decatur, Ill. Outfielder for 20 years with Decatur Bob’s Tap, Chryslers Academy, Deptur Merchants, and several Industrial League teams. Career batting average of .300.

**Alexandra “Zami” Mogill-Hay** - Player from Schererville, Ind. Pitcher for Bloomington Lady Hearts and Eastern Illinois University. Holds records in IHSA and at Eastern Illinois University, where she is in the Hall of Fame.
ASA/USA Softball recently announced the Top 25 Finalists for the 2014 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year, which will be announced at the opening of the 2014 NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) in Oklahoma City. This award, which is considered the most prestigious honor in Division I women’s collegiate softball, is designed to recognize the outstanding athletic achievement by female players across the country.


This year’s Top 25 is comprised of 12 seniors, 10 juniors and three sophomores. The student-athletes selected represent 16 NCAA Division I universities and five athletic conferences. Alabama, Arizona State, Florida State, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, South Alabama, Tennessee and Tulsa each have two players represented and Arizona, Baylor, Oklahoma, South Florida, Texas, UCLA and Western Illinois each have one member among the Top 25 Finalists.

Just prior to the start of post-season play, on May 7 the list will be narrowed to the Top 10 Finalists. The Top 3 Finalists will be announced May 21, while the winner of the 2014 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award will be revealed on May 27 prior to the start of the NCAA WCWS in Oklahoma City.

The USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award is voted on by coaching representatives from 11 Division I Conferences in the 15 ASA Regions, members of the media who consistently cover Division I Softball across the country as well as past winners of the award.

In addition to bestowing the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award, ASA/USA Softball is now in its 11th season of presenting the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 Poll and the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week, which are announced Tuesdays during the regular season. A complete history of the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Award, past Top 25 Polls and Player of the Week honorees are available at Teamusa.org/USA-Softball/College-Corner.aspx.

### 2014 Top 25 Finalists for USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jill Barrett</td>
<td>Tulsa</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>Farish Beard</td>
<td>South Alabama</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Campbell</td>
<td>South Alabama</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
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MY ACTIVE IS...

Find your ACTIVE at ACTIVE.com
In the unpredictable and fast-moving world of softball, extra effort goes hand in hand with proper preparation. If an athlete wants to be great and win, they’ve got to prepare great too. And to prepare great, they’ve got to have more than just a Plan A.

They’ve got to have a Plan A, B and C.

Liberty Mutual Insurance Responsible Sports along with the experts at Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) understand what it takes to achieve greatness and prepare for everything – including the unexpected. That’s why they developed a winning approach that’s built around both preparation and adaptation. They call this game-tested approach “Plan A-B-C.”

Just like anyone else, athletes also have “off days.” In those moments, they need to switch gears and zone in on those solid backup plans they’ve been developing. When Plan A just isn’t working, they need to reset their focus towards Plan B.

A great Plan B focuses closely on effort. If your offense just isn’t working or clicking, for example, focus instead on defensive effort and energy. In many sports, offensive runs are sparked by disruptive defense.

Likewise, if Plan B doesn’t yield the desired results, a prepared, disciplined and mentally tough athlete can move on to Plan C. For many great athletes, Plan C involves focusing less on their own efforts and achievements and concentrating more on making things happen for their teammates.

Our young softball players can sharpen their mental game by not only identifying and practicing their Plan A, but by also preparing Plans B and C for those times when Plan A just isn’t cutting it.

Learn more about preparing a Plan A, B and C on ResponsibleSports.com. You can also download our FREE “Plan A, B, C” handout now and sit down with your youth softball player to help them make their plan.

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Sales Representative, Liberty Mutual Insurance 2006

At ResponsibleSports.com, you’ll find:
• Expert advice and resources for parents
• Tips and tools for volunteer youth sport coaches
• Insight from softball players & coaches on their youth sports experience
• Videos, podcasts, downloadable handouts
• Much more!

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EVERYTHING SOFTBALL
GET 5% BACK ON BATS, GLOVES, CLEATS & MORE
WHEN YOU JOIN THE LEAGUE BY SPORTS AUTHORITY
Olympia Thurston County Crime Stoppers helped to support a great effort by local softball teams to raise funds for the victims of the Oso Mudslide.

The Pacific Northwest was recently taken aback by the devastation of the Oso mudslide. This disaster took many loved ones and shook the foundations of the Oso community. Thankfully, there are people working around the clock to help the victims of this tragedy. In Olympia, Washington, local fast pitch coach Erik Riske decided to make a difference. On Saturday, April 12 a charity fast pitch game raised funds to help the Oso victims. Coordinated by the 16U Panthers White fast pitch team, a scrimmage took place against the 18U Gold Illusion as they worked together to help the survivors through this trying time.

2014 Lakefair Queen Madison Murphy told Crime Stoppers, “Our hope was to use the game we love to share a bit of love. Our primary goal was to help the Oso survivors as they rebuild their community as well as to raise awareness in our area. We wanted to prove that sometimes the greatest tragedies can also bring about the greatest compassion.”

When Madison was asked what she thought about the scrimmage she replied, “I was so excited to have an opportunity to play the game I love while helping others. It has been amazing to see the community come together as sponsors, like the Olympia Thurston County Crime Stoppers, as well as generous community members have donated resources and time to make this fundraiser a possibility. Our event is unique because 100% of proceeds are going to the Oso Victims. Each player brought a donation, the local ASA Umpires volunteered their time, and Dream Team Park donated a turf field to play on. Our community is truly amazing and it’s inspiring to see how many people are willing to help if you only ask.”

In total, the charity fast pitch game raised $2,280 to aid the victims of the mudslide.

The Crime Stoppers donated $1,000, the local ASA Umpire Association donated $500, the Panthers and Illusion athletes donated $450, while raffle tickets and online donations totaled $330.
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2. Rulebooks, scorebooks for each registered team
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4. Training (video) for youth softball coaches
5. Affordable background checks for coaches and other league officials
6. Insurance discounts with national provider for field owners, league directors, teams and individuals
7. Tournament (invitational, national qualifiers, territory and national championship) hosting opportunities
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10. Equipment standards/testing protocols and player classification system to ensure competitive balance

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