Men’s B SP Champion crowned in Oklahoma City

Adult slow pitch Championship Season kicked off in Oklahoma City with the Men’s Class B Slow Pitch National Championship. Held August 15-17 at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex, 15 teams from 10 different states took to the fields to fight for the National Championship trophy, with OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn Care/Midwest Whitetail Adventures/Worth taking home the title with a 25-15 win over T’s 13/DeMarini. Forcing the if-game with a 25-22 win over OI Livingston earlier in the day, T’s 13 finished the tournament with a 4-2 record while OI Livingston finished 5-1.

In addition to crowning a National Champion, 15 athletes were named a First-Team All-American based off their performance during the three-day National Championship.

P - Anthony Elrod (OI Livingston)
OF - Jason Madsen (T’s 13)
OF - Bobby Mitchell (ASPNation.com)
OF - Reggie Schulte (T’s 13)
OF - Adam Tennyson (OI Livingston)
UT - Cal Ford (Classic Glass)
UT - Carlton Griffin (OI Livingston)
UT - Chris Potts (ASPNation.com)
UT - Jesse Scott (OI Livingston)
UT - Tyson Steele (Classic Glass)
IF - Joe Bulens (T’s 13)
IF - Mike Cervantes (ASPNation.com)
IF - Robert Knoblauch (OI Livingston)
IF - Matt McCraw (OI Livingston)
IF - Brett Rettenmeir (T’s 13)

Final Top 5 Standings
1. OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn Care/Midwest Whitetail Adventures/Worth (5-1)
2. T’s 13/DeMarini (4-2)
3. ASPNation.com/Easton (5-2)
4. Classic Glass/Easton (3-2)
T5. Cedar Creek/RC Recycling (2-2)
T5. Vivid (3-2)
Hello everyone and thank you for taking the time to peruse this publication. It was an exciting month of August in ASA/USA Softball as nearly 2,000 teams in both our youth as well as our adult programs participated in close to 100 National Championships. Congratulations to each 2014 ASA/USA Softball National Champions, but also congratulations to each team that participated in our National Championships for this feat takes much time, a lot of hard work and tremendous dedication. The great physical agility as well as the mental concentration that are necessary to play the game of softball were displayed throughout the country at each one of our National Championships.

Congratulations also to thousands of Umpires-in-Chief and umpires who qualified for and provided their services to our championship events. Their efforts, although oftentimes unnoticed, are crucial to a successful championship. A huge thank you also to the thousands of volunteers who hosted or helped host our events. Without your dedication and hard work these events could not take place.

While our Junior Olympic Championship Play has been completed for the year, several Adult Program championship events remain on our schedule. Please look for one of these events that may be scheduled close to you and go support our very important Adult Slow Pitch Program.

The Women’s National Team just returned from Haarlem, Netherlands where we competed with 15 other countries for the ISF World Softball Championship. We did not attain our goal of returning with the Gold Medal as Japan outscored us in the championship game; however, the trip and competition was a huge success. Our team, one of the youngest if not the youngest at the mere average age of 22.6 years old, played their hearts out through horrible weather and other impediments to earn the Silver Medal and the respect of all who attended the tournament. Our players and coaches represented the USA and ASA/USA Softball with pride and professionalism. When you get the chance please congratulate each of them for their job well done.

Congratulations also to Sue Sawyer and Brenda Terpstra who represented the USA and ASA/USA Softball as umpires at the ISF Women’s World Softball Championship. They both did an excellent job of which we can all be proud of, certainly two of the best umpires at this championship.

Now to the near future, please remember to submit any 2015 Code and Rule Change Proposals to the National Office not later than September 15. The Code and Rule Change Proposals Committee will meet on September 16 to prepare the submissions for our Council. A further reminder, our 2014 Annual Meeting will take place at the Golden Nugget in Reno, Nevada on November 7 – 14. All council members should already be preparing for this very important meeting. Chairs and vice-chairs of committees should be formulating their agendas and contacting their committee members in preparation for a smoothly and effectively conducted meeting.

Lastly, the Board of Directors will have their 2014 Fall Meeting on September 20-21 in Oklahoma City. If you wish to place any item on the Board Agenda or have something that you wish to bring to the Board’s attention please contact one of your Territory Vice-Presidents prior to the meeting. Also, please remember that you are welcomed at any Board Meeting as all are open to the membership, except for Executive Sessions.

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Hello everyone and welcome to the August 2014 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball!

With the end of the fastpitch Championship season comes the start of the slowpitch Championship season! While many of our local ASA/USA associations have crowned their local association champions, our National Championships have also kicked off as we crowned our Men’s Class B National Champion here in Oklahoma City. It was a great tournament with some great competition and a big congratulations to OI Livingston who took home the title!

The culmination of the slowpitch Championship Season will be in late September as teams will head to the Edmond/Oklahoma City area for our Slow Pitch Championship Series and Super Slow Pitch National Championship! Not only will the teams get to compete for a National Championship, but they will also have the opportunity to see the ASA Long Haul Bombers compete in the ASA Stadium Power Tour finals! The Super Slow Pitch National Championship and ASA Long Haul Bombers finals will be held September 26 at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark in downtown Oklahoma City, so be sure to tell your local teams, leagues and fans that they can catch all the action...for FREE!

It’s also never too early to start turning your attention towards the 2014 ASA/USA Annual Council Meeting this November in Reno! Here are some important deadlines to keep in mind:

• The deadline for Proposed Code, Rule and Procedural Manual Changes is September 15
• The deadline to register is September 19 for both Council Members and Non-Council Members
• The deadline for Proxy Requests is November 1

Our Council Meeting is a huge event for our organization because its where we make changes and help grow the sport that we all love! Not only that, but it gives everyone a chance to catch up and see how ASA/USA Softball is represented throughout the U.S.!

As always, if you have any news items, photos or stories you want included in the next issue of the “Inside Pitch”, feel free to email me at cwarren@softball.org! Until next time, thank you for all that you do for ASA/USA Softball!
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These are the “best of the best” in the world of softball, selected for their one-of-a-kind skills, the only players on the planet who can slug a softball 500 feet and beyond. All summer long they go “one-on-one”, in a “one-of-a-kind” home run derby, earning the right to be crowned champion on the Stadium Power Tour.

Each player gets 15 swings, each home run is worth one point, except the last pitch, known as the money ball, it’s worth two points and could be the tie breaker.

The finals of the Stadium Power Tour are set for Friday, September 26 at Bricktown Ballpark in Oklahoma City.

**St. Louis, Mo. – August 14, 2014 –**
The season finale of the ASA Stadium Power Tour ended in dramatic fashion at Busch Stadium. 3 time champ Denny Crine from Miken, was one point from qualifying for the finals, despite a 10 point performance. The St. Louis fans were treated to a great show, with many upper deck show bombs, even a blast into the 3rd deck by Kevin “Flip” Filby. Dale Brungardt, from DeMarini, one of the youngest sluggers on the tour, rounded out the top 5. Team Easton leads the Manufacturers cup, followed by DeMarini and Miken.

**Minneapolis, Minn. – August 5, 2014 –**
Team DeMarini hit a bullseye at Target Field before the Twins and Padres game. Chris Larsen and Dale Brungardt hit double figures, with many blasts landing in the upper deck at the home of the Twins. With 12 points, Larsen made steady progress towards the finals.

**Final Results from Minneapolis**
Chris Larsen, DeMarini: 12
Bubba Brungardt, DeMarini: 10
Denny Crine, Miken: 9
Johnny McCraw, Combat: 6

**2014 Manufacturers Cup Standings**
1. Team Easton (Kirby, Wegman) – 119 Points - TO FINALS
2. Team DeMarini (Larsen, Brungardt) - 111 Points - TO FINALS
3. Team Miken (Crine, Filby) - 111 Points - TO FINALS
4. Team Combat (McCraw, Greinert) – 92 points

**Individual Standings**
1. Scott Kirby - 64 Points - TO FINALS
2. Kevin Filby - 59 Points – TO FINALS
3. Chris Larsen – 58 Points – TO FINALS
4. Brian Wegman - 55 Points - TO FINALS
5. Dale Brungardt - 53 Points – TO FINALS
6. Denny Crine - 52 Points
7. Chris Greinert - 48 Points
8. Johnny McCraw - 44 Points

**Final Results from St. Louis**
Denny Crine, Miken: 10 points
Chris Greinert, Combat: 10 points
Dale Brungardt, DeMarini: 9 points
Kevin Filby, Miken: 9 points
Johnny McCraw, Combat: 9 points
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(OH YEAH... THERE'S MORE!)
Gadsden resident Pat Adkison was inducted into the Central Alabama Softball Association 2014 Hall of Fame on Aug. 16 in Birmingham.

Adkison’s softball career began in 1952 as a player. He started with fast pitch in Samson as a catcher and later played fast pitch in Tuscaloosa.

Adkison turned to the slow pitch game in Milton, Fla., where he played with Joe’s House of Pizza in the Men’s Major National Slow Pitch Tournament. In his playing years, Adkison participated in 11 ASA Nationals.

Upon moving to Gadsden, Adkison began umpiring, working both fast and slow pitch. In 1966 Adkison organized the Gadsden Umpire’s Association, which quickly grew to over 80 members.

In 1967, Adkison helped organize the AASA into districts and organized umpires across the state of Alabama. He was named Associate State Commissioner as well as the State UIC. During his umpiring career, Adkison worked many state, region and national tournaments. Administratively, Adkison was elected Commissioner of Alabama Amateur Softball Association in 1976. He served the association in that capacity until March 2006 and is still a voting member of the ASA Council and attends the organization’s national convention. Adkison was ASA Commissioner when the ASA presented Alabama an award for 18 consecutive years of having the most teams participating in ASA championship play.

Adkison was a commissioner for three different softball associations – Alabama, Mobile and Central Alabama. He was Chairman of the Umpire Committee for 12 years and served on the Hall of Fame Selection Committee for 16 years. In 1992, Adkison was inducted into the Alabama Softball Hall of Fame, which is located in Tuscaloosa.

Adkison was elected President of the ASA four different times and served as ASA Commissioner of three different ASA associations.

As ASA Commissioner, he hosted 334 ASA National Tournaments, with 332 of those tournaments receiving the ASA Award of Excellence.

Adkison continues to be active as an Amateur Softball Association Council Member.

Joining Adkison in the Class of 2014 were Russ Arthur, Jack Baker, Jim Brown, Dr. Ronald Cater, Joseph Lovoy, Jr., Ronnie Muro, Patrick Murphy, Jerry (Wizzard) White and Dr. Faye Wilson.
Being a family member of Team USA has it’s benefits.

Take advantage of partnership travel discounts.

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Rylie Perry (Chesterfield, Mo.) was a force in the circle, helping the St. Louis Worth Prospects 03 to a third-place finish at the ASA/USA Softball 10U Class B Nationals in Blue Springs, Mo. Perry’s efforts both in the circle and at the plate helped earn her the 14th and final of this year’s ASA Junior Olympic (JO) Player of the Week award, presented by Worth Fastpitch and StudentSports.com. Perry pitched 18 innings with 16 strikeouts while only giving up nine earned runs en route to a 4-1 record.

“Her performance was wicked,” said St. Louis Worth Prospects 03 head coach Craig Wood. “She got a lot of pitching time, probably more than normal. She battled through even though she was tired. She never complained. She stepped up in the circle and did better and better. I was really proud of her.”

Along with her pitching, Perry had a solid weekend at the plate. She had a batting average of .545 (6-for-11) with seven RBI, some of which came on her first career home run. She also sparked a rally that helped her team come back from a 9-2 deficit to win the game.

“Her hitting was phenomenal,” said Perry’s mother Stacy Perry. “She’s always working to get better. She takes pitching lessons, hitting lessons and we go up to the high school all the time to work on her pitching and fielding. She takes lessons during the winter. She’s always working to get better, and she wants to play college softball one day.”

Honorable Mentions:
Aubrey Barnhart (Pleasant View, Tenn.) – Aubrey’s .478 (11-for-23) batting average helped her Tennessee Mojo 03 team en route to a Championship finish at the ASA/USA 10U Nationals in Johnson City, Tenn. Aubrey collected four doubles, seven RBI and scored five times.

Emily Carmella (Stroudsburg, Penn.) – A strong offensive showing at the ASA/USA 18U Class B National Championship in York, Penn. with the Pocono Pride Black helped earn Emily honorable mentions. Emily punched a .471 batting average (8-for-17), including two doubles, one home run and two RBI.

Ashleigh Nalls (King George, Va.) – Ashleigh was stellar from the circle this past weekend at the ASA/USA 16U Nationals in Salem, Va., helping lead her Hanover Lady Hornets to a fifth place finish. Ashleigh went 5-2 on the weekend, pitching 46 innings with 21 strikeouts and only eight earned runs allowed for a 1.20 ERA.
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**Italian Softball Week**

The USA Softball Women’s National Team took first place in the Italian Softball Week with a win over Australia on August 10. Jolene Henderson (Elk Grove, Calif.) was named Pitching Champion and with a .643 tournament batting average Michelle Moultrie (Jacksonville, Fla.) earned the Batting Champion award as well as the Tournament MVP.

Jessica Moore (Sutter, Calif.) earned the win for Team USA in the final going five innings and allowing just one run on two hits. Sarah Nevins (Pinellas Park, Fla.) entered in relief briefly in the sixth inning and retired two batters before Henderson entered to close out the inning and the game.

The USA jumped out early with three runs in the bottom of the first inning. With Moultrie and Samantha Fischer (Simi Valley, Calif.) on base, Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif.) sent a pitch sailing over the center field wall for a three-run homer.

Both teams were scoreless in the second but Team USA added to their lead in the bottom of the third. Moultrie doubled to left field to start the at-bat and Fischer followed her up with a single deep enough to score the Tournament MVP from second. Later in the inning Haylie McCleney (Morris, Ala.) singled to left field scoring Fischer and giving the Americans a 5-0 advantage.

In the fourth, Australia got on the board when Stacey Porter singled and later crossed home during a pick-off attempt at second. But in the next half inning a Moultrie double followed by a single from Arioto got the run back for Team USA and made the score 6-1.

Australia added a second run in the sixth when Porter singled and later crossed home on a Melinda Weaver line drive to right field but it wasn’t enough as Team USA won the game by a final of 6-2.

**ISF Women’s World Championship**

Three runs in the first inning proved too much for the USA Women’s National Team to come back from in the finals of the ISF World Championship. Jessica Moore (Sutter, Calif.) earned the start but gave up three runs early resulting in Sara Nevins (Pinellas Park, Fla.) entering to close out the opening Japan at-bat. When the sides finally changed, Japan had tallied three runs on two hits and three walks.

Offensively, Team USA put the ball in play regularly but couldn’t convert runners to runs. Stewart singled in the bottom of the first and Chidester did the same in the second but both runners were stranded and the 3-0 score held through two innings of play.

Nevins pitched well through the third but finally surrendered a run in the top of the fourth. With two down, three straight singles resulted in the fourth run of the game and Japan took a 4-0 lead into the fifth.

Team USA started the fifth inning with their second pitching change of the contest when Traina entered the circle. Two ground outs and a fly out preserved the 4-0 score as Team USA came to bat in the bottom of the fifth.

After drawing a walk to open the USA at-bat, Stewart advanced to second on a Moultrie single to short stop. Two batters later, Lauren Gibson (Pasadena, Md.) hit into a fielders’ choice that score Stewart as Team USA cut into the Japan lead.

In the sixth, Moore re-entered to pitch after a five-inning break and despite giving up back-to-back singles, managed to keep Japan scoreless in the inning.

A three up, three down inning for the USA batters in the bottom of the sixth left one more opportunity for the Americans to get back into the game. In the top of the seventh Moore walked the opening batter but retired the next three in order. Down to their last at-bat, Chavanne singled to start the bottom of the seventh but a fly out and two strike outs drew the game to a close and secured Japan’s third ISF World Championship Gold.

**International Results**

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<tr>
<th><strong>Italian Softball Week</strong></th>
<th><strong>ISF World Championships</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 7: USA 7, Australia 3</td>
<td>August 15: USA 10, Netherlands 0 (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 7: USA 7, Italy 1</td>
<td>August 16: USA 7, Botswana 0 (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 8: USA 2, Australia 3</td>
<td>August 17: USA 5, Chinese Taipei 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 9: USA 5, Italy 0</td>
<td>August 18: USA 11, Great Britain 0 (4)</td>
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<td>August 10: USA 6, Australia 2</td>
<td>August 19: USA 4, Australia 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>August 20: USA 10, Dominican Republic 0 (4)</td>
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<td>August 21: USA 7, Italy 0</td>
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<td>August 23: USA 6, Canada 1</td>
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<td>August 23: USA 1, Japan 6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>August 24: USA 8, Australia 1 (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 24: USA 1, Japan 4 - USA wins silver</td>
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Dallas ASA JO Nesa Grider, along with USA Softball Women’s National Team member Taylor Hoagland, delivered an unbelievable amount of softball equipment for players in need as part of the “Play for 7” Foundation.

“The response for donation for the ‘Play for 7’ foundation was overwhelming, allowing us to share not only with players in USA, but across the world” said Dallas ASA JO Commissioner Nesa Grider.

The “Play for 7” Foundation is a non-profit charity founded by University of Texas alum and current Team USA athlete, Taylor Hoagland. Hoagland teamed up with WSN 24/7 co-founder, Christina Ferrante, and Texas A&M alums Jami Lopbries, Amanda Scarborough and Savan Lloyd.

“For each one of us, the sport of softball has empowered us to be strong women, healthy athletes, and passionate leaders,” said Hoagland. “The love we have for the game and the passion we share in empowering future generations fueled our desire to grow the game of softball internationally. The mission of the ‘Play for 7’ Foundation is to share that love and passion with the international softball community. Through instructional clinics, educational seminars, and inclusive gatherings we hope to share our passion, knowledge, and appreciation for the life lessons the game of softball can instill in each of us. Ultimately, we want to make the international softball community more equipped on and off the field.”

Hoagland will be holding seven international clinics, providing training and mentoring to players in an effort to empower players for success both on and off the field. Launching the tour in South America, these clinics will not only provide softball training but general fitness and health lessons.

“I was astounded at the rallying of the softball community,” said Hoagland. “The donations were more than I could have ever imagined. I am so happy not only to be able to provide seasoned equipment but also new equipment and uniforms donated by Locker Room Sports of Lewisville. With a large amount of donations arriving daily, Locker Room graciously offered to become central point of drop off and collection for ‘Play for 7’ which was beyond supportive of our efforts.”

“Supporting ‘Play for 7’ in the collection and de-

ABOVE: USA WNT Member Taylor Hoagland collecting equipment at a Dallas ASA event; BELOW: Taylor Hoagland with Steve Cross of Locker Room Sports.
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Fort Worth ASA News

James Foust appointed as new Fort Worth ASA JO Commissioner

Fort Worth ASA is proud to announce the appointment of James Foust as the JO Commissioner for Fort Worth ASA. James Foust is an accomplished, high-performing coach, softball visionary, mentor and trainer with over 15 years of softball and baseball experience. He possesses a high level of proficiency in building a solid coaching staff, player development, and budgeting and team management. James has a solid reputation as a straight talker, a fierce competitor and a great motivator. Since 2010 when James graduated his first class of players, he has played an active role in over 30 players recruiting processes successfully placing them at all levels from DI to JUCO.

“What a privilege to be appointed as the Fort Worth ASA JO,” said Foust. “With the tenure that I have in this sport, I have seen and been in all aspects of the game and I know what tremendous impact the ASA/USA Softball organization has across the county. I am eager to be part of the vision and innovative vigor that Dallas/Fort Worth is bringing to the softball market place. I am looking forward to working with coaches, umpires and teams to further elevate and enhance their experience with ASA.”

“In speaking with James, it is clear that he is fully prepared to hit the ground running and has already starting the planning, formulation and implementation of a strategy for the recruitment of new programs and affiliations with new parks and organizations,” stated Fort Worth ASA Commissioner Brenda Grubbs.

“Working with James as my counterpart in Fort Worth certainly strengthens our ability to continue to excel at meeting the ASA/USA Softball mission statement,” said Dallas ASA JO Commissioner Nesa Grider. “There is no doubt that Foust brings a wealth of knowledge and softball expertise to his new role as Fort Worth ASA JO. James has progressed through various levels in the softball world as a coach, player mentor and business development professional excelling in all of his endeavors.”

“He is well versed in all aspects of softball and will provide outstanding leadership to ASA,” said Grubbs. “We are excited to have him as part of the ASA team.”
Create a flyer for your own local association! Email Steven Embree at sembree@softball.org to get yours today!

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10. Equipment Standards/Testing Protocols and Player Classification System to Ensure Competitive Balance

Indiana ASA - Where the Playing Field is Level.
The best slow pitch players in the world return to Oklahoma City as the ASA/USA Men’s Super Slow Pitch Championship has relocated to the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark in Downtown OKC. Slated for September 26, the Super Championship will now coincide with the Men’s and Women’s Slow Pitch Championship series weekend as well as the Finals of the ASA Long Haul Bombers Stadium Power tour.

A series of participating Super tournaments have taken place all summer and ASA will crown the National Champion with $25,000, the 2nd place team with $15,000 and the 3rd place team with $10,000 in OKC in September.

For more information about the ASA Super Championship Series program, click here.

In addition, the top five ASA Long Haul Bombers will square off Friday night September 26 at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark for the Bombers Finals. After a summer of slugging softball’s at Major League Ballparks across America, the top five sluggers will go head to head, to earn the title as world’s greatest softball home run hitter.

Teams from Easton, DeMarini and Miken will also compete for the Manufactures Cup as best home run hitting team in the nation. Last season, Team Easton won the Manufactures Cup and Denny Crine of Miken was crowned world’s greatest softball home run hitter.

The ASA Super and the Finals of the ASA Stadium Power Tour will be televised nationally on the CBS Sports Network at dates to be announced. The ASA Stadium Power Tour Finals and the ASA Super can also be viewed on “Softball 360” the week of Oct 7 and 21. For networks and playback times in your region log on to Softball360.com.

The Super Division is an open-roster event which differs from the Men’s Class A, currently the highest level of Championship Play where each team can have no more than three players from the ASA restricted slow pitch players list. On a Super Championship roster, each team can have as many restricted players as they so choose.

For more information, contact Rich Cress at the ASA National Office – rcress@softball.org.
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What’s your ACTIVE?
From the Cody Enterprise
A team that was thrown together at the last minute went undefeated at the Wyoming Amateur Softball Association Women’s Slow Pitch State Tournament.

I was shocked,” catcher Nikki Butler said of winning the state championship. “We barely got 10 to go down there. To go undefeated was a big deal for us.”

“We were hoping to have solid play and enjoy ourselves,” pitcher Yvonne Dewey said. “But after a couple of wins we realized we could do this and if we played our game we’d have success.”

The tournament was Aug. 8-9 in Casper. The Smart Pokes won on the 10-run rule against three of the five teams they played.

“All I ever expect to do when I play is have as much fun as possible. But after the first game, when we did so well, I started to think we’d do well in the tournament,” said second baseman and right fielder Lindsey Brice.

They faced a Casper team in the championship. The Smart Pokes defeated Casper earlier in the tournament 11-1, but it was a closer championship game, with the Cody/Powell team winning 13-8.

“Everyone was yelling and we all ran up and hugged each other,” Brice said.

The team included Stefanie Salcido of Worland, Lindsey Woodward of Thermopolis, and Laura Shipley, Butler, Mandy Wagner, Becky Voss, Yvonne Dewey, Carol Nielsen, Jaci Heny and Brice of Cody and Powell.

“We all knew our positions and did what we had to do,” Dewey said. “I was impressed with how well we played.”

After winning the title, half the team joined the rec level co-ed team Your Mama’s Favorite and helped it win the state championship that same weekend. Your Mama’s Favorite also went undefeated.

“Our next day some of us helped the co-ed team go un-

defeated and win state,” Butler said. “That’s when I felt super excited.”

With the state title, the women now are going to compete in the 2014 ASA National Championship Finals Women’s Class D in Dallas, Texas, on Aug. 30-31.

“After state we realized we had an opportunity we might not be able to take advantage of again,” Brice said. “We’re all excited to go.”

Because Voss, Heny and Wagner can’t attend, the team has picked up three new players – Shawnea Harrington of Powell, Alissa Nelson of Rock Springs and Monica Deleon of Casper. All three played on the runner-up state team.

“It’s a great opportunity,” Dewey said. “We’re just going to play one game at a time, have fun and make the best of it.”

The team is seeking sponsors to help with expenses. To donate or for more information on becoming a sponsor call Butler, 250-3310.
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USA Softball Women’s National Team first baseman Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif.) has been selected as a finalist for the Women’s Sports Foundation’s Sportswomen of the Year award in the team sport category the Women’s Sports Foundation announced today. A member of the USA Softball Women’s National Team since 2011, Arioto was selected based on her achievements between August 1, 2013 and July 31, 2014.

Arioto helped Team USA capture a Gold Medal at the Pan American Games Qualifier in August 2013, where she batted .500 with five home runs, 18 RBI and 13 runs scored. Most recently, Arioto helped lead the 2014 USA Softball Women’s National Team to a Gold Medal at the General Tire World Cup of Softball IX in Irvine, Calif. The University of California - Berkeley grad turned in a .400 performance at the plate, sending five balls out of the park to record 12 RBI while scoring seven runs. Arioto finished the General Tire World Cup IX with a 1.400 slugging percentage and a 1.926 on-base percentage.

A two-time USA Softball Female Athlete of the Year, Arioto also earned a silver medal at the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International this past July where she continued to shine in the batter’s box. Arioto compiled a .474 batting average with five home runs, 14 RBI and 12 runs scored.

The Sportswoman of the Year award winners will be determined by a combination of a public vote (50%) and the Women’s Sports Foundation’s Awards Committee’s vote (50%). The winners will be the two athletes – one individual sport finalist and one team sport finalist – who receive the highest combined share of a public vote and the Awards Committee vote. Voting has already begun, and fans can visit http://wspr.tc/VoteTeamSOY2014 to cast their vote for the Sportswoman of the Year award. Fan voting will conclude on September 8.

The winner in each category will be invited to attend the Annual Salute to Women in Sports Awards Gala on Wednesday, October 15 at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City, where they will accept their awards.

Past USA Softball Women’s National Team members who have won the Women’s Sports Foundation Sportswomen of the Year award include Lisa Fernandez (1994), Cat Osterman (2005), Monica Abbot (2007), and Jessica Mendoza (2008).
Join the hundreds of youth sport coaches and parents who will take the Liberty Mutual Insurance Play Positive™ Pledge to promote good sportsmanship in youth sports. Teams that recruit the most supporters have the chance to earn $2,500.

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• Next take the Pledge to promote good sportsmanship
• Last, connect with all your family and friend to recruit their support

Remember this is a competition based Pledge – the top 5 organizations in the small division and top 5 organizations in the large division which each earn $2,500.

The deadline for the Fall period is October 15, 2014.

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