The hopes and dreams of millions of softball athletes across the globe have been answered as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted Aug. 3 to approve the addition of five new sports to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The decision, which comes after the IOC met in Rio de Janeiro, was made possible after the groundbreaking Olympic Agenda 2020, which provides flexibility for the future of the Olympic Movement to encourage innovation in the Olympic program. In addition to softball/baseball, other sports that will be added to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games are karate, skateboard, sports climbing and surfing.

“What a truly great day for the sports of softball and baseball,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress. “For softball and baseball to be added to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games program is a dream come true for many athletes across the world. USA Softball is proud to be the National Governing Body for the sport of softball and will continue to work diligently every day to promote our great sport of softball on the world stage.”

Softball and baseball’s global reach, loyal fan-base and positioning across many of the biggest sports markets, including Japan, offers a unique opportunity to further spread and elevate the Olympic brand. The decision further highlights the growing global appeal of the two sports, particularly among young people and women. In Japan, softball/baseball have remained atop the landscape and a central part of the culture for more than 70 years. Other factors considered in the sports package include the impact on gender equality, the youth appeal of the sports and the legacy value of adding them to the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Softball spent four “quads” as an Olympic sport debuting in the 1996 Atlanta Games with the final Olympic softball competitions taking place in Beijing in 2008. Softball and baseball were ousted from the 2012 Olympics following a vote from the IOC in 2005 in which softball, needing a simple majority of votes (53), received just 52. Despite its exclusion from the Olympics for the past eight years, international softball has become increasingly competitive as a record 30 nations competed in last month’s 2016 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Women’s World Championship in Surrey, B.C., Canada and a record-breaking 12 nations competed at the World Cup of Softball XI in Oklahoma City, Okla.
Hello and welcome to the August 2016 edition of the Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball – soon to be USA Softball as of next month.

The month of August was a monumental one for us to say the least. To have the sport of softball voted back into the Olympic Games is a dream come true for all of us – past and present – that have worked tirelessly to see that this sport continues to make strides towards greatness. On Aug. 3, the International Olympic Committee met in Rio de Janeiro before the 2016 Olympic Games began and voted to add surfing, sports climbing, skate boarding, karate and baseball/softball to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Programme. Although 2020 seems like awhile away, we know it will be here before we know it. For our National Teams and for all those that aspire to play for the Red, White and Blue, it is an everyday effort to make it happen and more importantly a great honor to represent our country. From our National Teams to our beginner teams just starting to play our game, we are all a part of ASA/USA Softball.

On another note, the past 30 days have been filled with National Championship tournaments all over the country. From coast to coast, softball is being played at all levels and it’s proving to be another memorable and successful summer of tournaments all around. There is no doubt a lot of time, hard work and dedication have been put into running these tournaments – and it doesn’t go unnoticed. Thank you to everyone that has been a part of making them happen.

As a reminder to those wishing to submit 2016 Code and Rule Change Proposals, those are due to the National Office by Sept. 15. The Code and Procedural Manual Review Committee will meet on Sept. 28-30 to prepare the change proposals submissions for our Council Meeting. In addition, the Playing Rules Review Committee will meet Sept. 24-28 in Oklahoma City, Okla. We are gearing up for another productive Annual Meeting and I look forward to seeing you all in Shreveport come November!

I encourage you to check our website ASAUSASoftball.com in addition to social media often to get the latest news and information of what’s happening around the country. As always, thank you all for your hard work and continued support of ASA/USA Softball!

Warren Jones
ASA/USA Softball President
The Official Supplier of ASA & USA Softball

Stabilizer
THE ORIGINAL NATURAL BINDER

Increase Your Field’s Performance

Arizona State University
2008 National Champions
Farrington Stadium, Tempe, AZ

Advancing the Evolution of Soil
26 Years Over 100,000 Projects 36 Countries www.StabilizerSolutions.com 800.336.2488
©2010 Stabilizer Solutions, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This was also highly showcased during the USA vs Japan All-Star Series in Tokyo and Sendai, Japan, where members of the USA Softball Women’s National Team squared off against Japan in a three-game series. A record-breaking 31,448 fans attended Stage One of the series at the Tokyo Dome, while an additional 3,000 fans attended the final two stages at Shellcom Sendai.

“Thank you to the IOC and the WBSC for this tremendous honor for not only our sport, but our athletes and the millions of young girls who dream of one day being an Olympian,” said USA Softball Women’s National Team athlete Janie Takeda (Placentia, Calif.). “This means so much to not only our USA Softball Women’s National Team program, but to millions of girls across the world. Even if I’m not there, knowing that softball athletes will get to compete on the highest stage against the best competition in the world is amazing.”

In four Olympic Games appearances, the USA Softball Women’s National Team claimed three Gold Medals and one Silver Medal finish while setting numerous international records and are one of only two women’s sports involved in the Olympic movement to capture three-consecutive Gold Medals. In 2012, three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Lisa Fernandez and the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team were honored for their accolades with induction into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. Members of the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team set 18 Olympic records in Athens. Among the team records set were the most hits (73), highest team batting average (.343) and highest slugging percentage (.559). Fernandez set the individual record for batting average with .545 while Crystl Bustos’ 10 RBI and five home runs were also records.
ASA/USA Softball recently announced the creation of the USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch Invitational Tournament (NIT) which will take place January 13-15, 2017 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Slated to be held at Grand Park Athletic Complex, the Slow Pitch NIT will feature four different men’s divisions, while a women’s and coed divisions will also be eligible for play.

“This tournament was created following discussions from the ASA/USA Softball Slow Pitch Task Force Committee,” said ASA/USA Softball President and Ohio ASA/USA Softball Commissioner Warren Jones. “The Committee wanted to create an event that could be held in the winter with a nice destination while allowing for rule modifications that would otherwise not be eligible for Championship Play. Similar to the USA Softball JO Cup, this Slow Pitch NIT will give tournament directors the flexibility to adjust the rules based on feedback from the players and coaches.”

Unique to the Slow Pitch NIT are four open men’s divisions, which teams can choose to register under: Division I will allow for six home runs a game per team, Division II is allowed four home runs, Division III is allowed two home runs while no home runs will be allowed in Division IV. Additional Slow Pitch NIT tournament details include a three-game guarantee, no player classifications and prize packages, including sponsor awards and Championship rings.

Featuring 52/300 softballs for the event, which will be supplied, the blind draw for the Slow Pitch NIT will be streamed live on January 8 for teams and fans. An Opening Ceremony will also kick off the event on January 13 at 6 p.m. ET. Teams also have the opportunity to participate in a golf tournament on January 12 prior to the start of the tournament.

The deadline to enter the Slow Pitch NIT is January 5, 2017, and an entry form can be found online on the tournament website, www.USASoftballNJ.com
ASA/USA Softball, soon to be renamed to just USA Softball, announced the launch of their new online store, USASoftballStore.com. A redesign of the previous online shop, SoftballOutlet.com, the newly designed, user and mobile-friendly website is the softball fan’s one-stop shop for official USA Softball apparel, souvenirs and more.

“We’re excited to launch the newly designed USASoftballStore.com,” said ASA/USA Softball Managing Director of Communications Codi Warren. “With the excitement surrounding softball’s return to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, it was important for us to offer fans a better shopping experience for official USA Softball merchandise. We’ve made our site mobile friendly, so customers can now have 24-hour access to a variety of softball-related merchandise, all available in the palm of their hands. Along with our gift shop located at the National Office headquarters in Oklahoma City, the new USASoftballStore.com is the perfect place for athletes, coaches and fans to show their support for the Red, White and Blue and display their love for our great game!”

With a multitude of items to choose from, USASoftballStore.com gives fans a one-stop shop to order their favorite softball gear, whether through their computer, smartphone or tablet 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Featuring an updated homepage, USASoftballStore.com offers a variety of options ranging from official USA Softball apparel, officially-licensed NCAA collegiate merchandise, training material and other sports collectibles. The official shop for USA Softball is the only place to get officially-licensed Nike USA Softball apparel, so fans can wear the gear of their favorite USA Softball National Team athletes.

Enhanced features of USASoftballStore.com include:
- Improved site navigation with re-organized categorization, allowing customers to find their product quickly and easily.
- The “Featured Items” allows customers to quickly navigate to newly added or special event items.
- A new Wishlist feature, where fans can begin placing items into their account to keep track of everything they want and that allows for easy sharing on social media pages.
- A new “Sale” section, where customers can find discounts on apparel, training materials and more!
RPS Bollinger and ASA ~
Teaming up together for more than 50 years!

Let our team help you insure your teams!

THREE EASY WAYS TO INSURE SOFTBALL:

1. Contact your ASA Commissioner. Visit www.ASASoftball.com for contact info
2. Contact RPS Bollinger Sports—ASA Department, Ph: 800-446-5311 • ASA@RPSins.com
Team Michigan, representing USA Softball of Metro Detroit, is a 18U Junior Olympic (JO) team that has always been centered on family. They believe in having well-trained athletes that place athletics in its proper perspective. Prior to each game, they gather in a circle and give thanks for the talents they have as players along with those who helped get us there. In 2016, Team Michigan decided to honor those who have and do serve in the United States military.

Each player has an individual that is dear to their heart that is or has served in the military. On the right sleeve of each player’s uniform is the branch of the military that the person they are honoring served, the left sleeve is the United States flag, and the on the back of each player’s uniform is the name of the individual they are honoring.

**Taylor Genzman #4:** Played for her great uncle Corporal James Chapman who served in the United States Marines, 7th Marines, 1st Division. Cpl. Chapman was deployed to the Korean War and gave his life defending his country.

**Emma Sikina #14:** Played for her uncle Petty Officer 2nd Class Clifton Green who served in the United States Navy from 1979 until 1985 during peace time.

**Kate Buckland #34:** Played for her grandfather Corporal Bruce Benson who served in the United States Marines during the Korean War and was stationed in Iceland with the 7th Tank Battalion.

**Emily Kanakry #15:** Played for her uncle Specialist Donald Holston who served in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany during peace time.

**Selene Pauley #6:** Played for her cousin Petty Officer Thomas Cafego who is currently serving in the United States Navy and is stationed in California with his wife and child.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**
Your dream is our dream. As a proud sponsor of USA Softball and Team USA, Hilton HHonors is helping you save up to 15% on your stay at any of our 10 distinct hotel brands. So no matter where your journey takes you, we have destinations in 90 countries ready to cheer you on.

Come dream with us.

<<< BOOK NOW AT HHONORS.COM/SOFTBALL >>>
ASA/USA Softball announced its first ever nutritional supplements partnership. As its exclusive nutritional supplement partner, Thorne Research will provide members of the USA Softball National Teams with safe and effective nutritional supplements to support their health, while offering discounted products to ASA/USA Softball members.

“Our partnership with Thorne Research is an example of a new era because it allows us to offer the highest quality line of nutritional supplements to our membership and highest performing athletes alike while having access to state-of-the-art health-related educational resources as well,” said ASA/USA Softball Managing Director of Marketing Stacey Hepp. “The fact that Thorne works so closely with the Mayo Clinic and has been vetted by the U.S. Olympic Committee gives us great comfort in building our partnership with Thorne.”

As part of the partnership, Thorne Research will provide USA Softball athletes with products that have the highest level of certification, baseline nutritional level testing through WellnessFX, educational materials, and risk protection. In addition, athletes will have access to reliable health information from Mayo Clinic, which has been compiled for easy access on the Thorne Research website. This content will help athletes evaluate supplement usage and understanding of supplement labels, manufacturing, and regulations, all provided by an objective resource.

“We are very excited to have Thorne Research as our partner for our athletes wellness program,” said USA Softball Women’s National Team Head Coach Ken Eriksen. “With a high performance program being developed following the announcement of softball’s inclusion in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, Thorne’s product line gives USA Softball some great options for our nutritional needs.”

Members of the USA Softball Women’s National Team (WNT) have already begun utilizing Thorne’s nutritional supplements, such as amino acid and electrolyte dietary supplements and whey protein isolates. Members of the USA Softball WNT also received one-on-one instruction from Thorne’s Director of Sports Performance, Tom Pazdernik, on utilizing Thorne’s products for maximum efficiency.

“I am so excited for our partnership with Thorne,” added USA Softball Women’s National Team athlete Valerie Arioto. “Thorne’s products will help us elevate our play today and keep us on our game in the process of training for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics!”

Thorne Research is very familiar with the NGB world, having recently inked partnerships with USA Gymnastics, USA Rugby, USA Triathlon, USRowing, USA Pentathlon, USA Fencing, and USA Taekwondo. Spurred by athletes’ desire to use nutritional supplements, coupled with the fear that those supplements might cause them to test positive for banned substances, the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) three years ago began a vetting process in search of a product line that it could recommend to competitors.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
Being a family member of Team USA has it’s 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.
...It landed on Thorne, then worked with the company on a program that it could offer to the NGBs. USOC dieticians worked with Thorne to determine which of the company’s more than 400 products would be submitted to the NSF Certified for Sport® program and then be made available to athletes. A product that is NSF Certified for Sport® is guaranteed to be free of all substances that are banned in the United States and internationally. Six such products will be available initially — including an amino acid complex, a fish oil product, and a vitamin D supplement — with the product line expanding to 25 by January.

“We are honored that USA Softball has chosen to partner with us to help provide safe and proven nutritional supplements to contribute to the well-being of the competitive and elite athletes in the sport,” said Paul Jacobson, CEO of Thorne Research. “Major advances in the development, research, and monitoring of nutritional supplements have enabled us to provide safe, clean supplements that are scientifically formulated, made with rigorously studied and clinically researched ingredients, and are NSF Certified for Sport for softball.”

For more on Thorne Research, visit usa-softball.thorne.com.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Erin Utter #33: Played for her uncle Captain Shawn Murphy who began service in 1978 and continues to serve today in the United States Navy as a commissioned officer. Cpt. Murphy has served as a submariner and in the communications field and is currently stationed at the Pentagon.

Hope Longenbarger #17: Played for her uncle Specialist 4th Class Matthew Husted who served in the United States Army from 1985 until 1988 during peace time.

Delanie Grundman #22: Played for her grandfather Seaman David Murdock who served in the United States Navy on the USS Saratoga during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Elizabeth Grumeretz #7: Played for a dear family friend Lieutenant John Richard Milliman who served in the United States Army during World War II. Lt. Milliman was a combat infantryman and military police who fought in the battle of Monte Cassino and received a Purple Heart for his sacrifices.

Jimi McNew #38: Played for her grandfather and namesake, Specialist James McNew who served in the United States Army and fought proudly in the Korean War.

Nicole Wojcik #25: Played for her uncle Corporal Charles Albert Weiler who served in the United States Army and fought proudly in the Korean War.
USA SOFTBALL MOBILE APP

- All the latest in breaking news, results, announcements and stories
- Watch live-streaming from ASA/USA softball events across the U.S.
- Find photo galleries and athlete profiles for members of USA softball national teams
- Discover the membership benefits of playing ASA/USA softball and learn how to register
- Locate an ASA/USA softball event near you
- Expansive photo galleries
- Links to social media accounts
- Visit our online store, softballoutlet.com
- Donation opportunities
- Free and available for both Android and Apple products

For more information and to download the app, please visit asausausa softball.com
JACK HUTCHERSON ACCEPTS MARYLAND-DC-DELWARE ASA/USA SOFTBALL COMMISSIONER POSITION

ASA/USA Softball announced that Jack Hutcherson (Centreville, Md.) will take over as Commissioner for the Maryland-DC-Delaware ASA/USA Softball association, soon to be USA Softball of Maryland-DC-Delaware, beginning January 1, 2017.

“It is a real honor to be selected as the USA Softball of Maryland-DC-Delaware Commissioner,” Hutcherson said. “Taking the place of dedicated member of 34 years, Jack Mowatt, will be a real challenge. I will work hard to continue his outstanding work and hope to add new programs to continue supporting USA Softball’s history.”

READ MORE HERE >>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CRAIG CRESS HONORED WITH GAMECHANGER AWARD

The 2016 Connect Sports Game Changers represent individuals at the top of their game across the sports tourism industry.

READ MORE HERE >>
As a member of USA Softball, you could receive exclusive savings on auto and home insurance from Liberty Mutual.¹

Join thousands of satisfied customers with Liberty Mutual Insurance.²

$ Discounted Rates—You could save up to $119.52 a year¹ on auto insurance and receive additional discounts on home insurance.

Exceptional Service—Whether you're in an accident or just need some advice, know we'll always be on call for you.

Superior Benefits—Enjoy a number of superior benefits, such as 24-Hour Claims Assistance, Accident Forgiveness³, Roadside Assistance⁴ and Better Car Replacement ™

For a free quote, call 1-800-216-0304 or visit libertymutual.com/usasoftball
122324

¹Discounts and savings are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify.
²Based on Liberty Mutual Insurance Company’s 2013 Customer Satisfaction Survey in which more than 85% of policyholders reported their interaction with Liberty Mutual service representatives to be “among the best experiences” and “better than average.” Average annual savings based on countrywide survey of new customers from 01/27/2014 to 01/26/2015 who reported their prior insurers’ premiums when they switched to Liberty Mutual’s group auto and home program. Savings do not apply in MA. For qualifying drivers only. Accident Forgiveness is subject to terms, conditions and limitations of Liberty Mutual’s underwriting guidelines. Not available in CA and may vary by state. With the purchase of optional Towing & Labor coverage. Applies to mechanical breakdowns and disabilities only. Towing related to accidents would be covered under your Collision or Other Than Collision coverage. Optional coverage. Applies to a covered total loss. Deductible applies. Does not apply to leased vehicles and motorcycles. Not available in NC.

Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

©2016 Liberty Mutual Insurance
Valid through May 16, 2016.
Over the course of four days, 19 teams battled it out at the 2016 ASA/USA Softball Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship with the goal of earning a spot in Sunday’s Championship Game. Accomplishing that feat were the A1 Bombers and New York Gremlins, who went head-to-head in the final game at Sunset Park in Kimberly, Wis. in front of softball fans from around the country. In the end, it was the New York Gremlins who claimed the championship trophy following a 14-1 (five inning) victory after taking an early 9-0 lead in the first two innings.

In addition to the final two contenders, the 2016 ASA/USA Softball Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship saw teams from across the country compete, including the Bar Buz, BC A’s, Bloomington Stix, Circle Tap, Dolan & Murphy, Hill United Chiefs, Hitters, J&B Printing, NorthEast Drillers, Optimum Crush, Ostrander, Peligro Gremlins, Pueblo Bandits, Scarborough Force, Stoneyard, Tin Cup and Topeka Toros.

In the Championship Game, the New York Gremlins were the team to strike first. After a hit-by-pitch that sent Mathieu Roy to first, No. 2 hitter Ladisao Malarczuk homered to left, giving the New York Gremlins an early 2-0 lead. Shut down with three straight strikeouts to follow, the A1 Bombers took to the plate but were left scoreless as a strikeout by Kris Walushka and two fly outs by Derrick Kennedy and Freddy Carmona would end the inning.

The momentum continued in the Gremlins’ favor as they exploded in the second, tacking on an additional seven to the scoreboard. Zenon Winters led off with a hard ground ball hit towards right field, while Rafael Flores would follow suit with a single of his own to left on a line drive. Despite Bryan Abrey’s fly out, Nick Mullins saw an opportunity with two runners on base and after reaching a 2-1 count, sent a long ball to center to stretch the Gremlins’ lead to 5-0. With only one out, Roy walked and would advance to third on a single to center field by Malarczuk. Both Roy and Malarczuk would cross home after a three-run homerun by Blair Ezekiel would put the Gremlins up 8-0. Matt Palazzo didn’t let up either and would blast another homerun into left field on the next at bat to give the Gremlins a 9-0 advantage before a groundout by Jeff Goolagong and fly out by Bryan Flores ended the half inning. Although the A1 Bombers’ managed to get their first hit on a double by Marshall Kronk, he was called out next on a double play after Tyler Dudley’s groundball to third. Gremlin pitcher Roman Godoy would work his magic on the next hitter to get his second of six total strikeouts of the game.

Sitting comfortable with a 9-0 lead, the Gremlins headed into the third inning but it was quick compared to last, starting off with a fly out by both Kyle Ezekiel and Mullins following a pitching change by the Bombers that brought in Marshall Kronk. Dan Loney would beat out the throw and reach first on a grounder to shortstop but was called out at second following a fielder’s choice ground ball by Leonardo Latasa. Despite two strikeouts to lead off the third inning, an infield error resulted in Gilbert Saenz gaining a base where he later advanced to third on a double by Walushka and made it home on the throw to plate the Bombers’ first run of the game. Jorge Sequna would strikeout to get the third out and send the two teams to the fourth.

Leading off the fourth with a strikeout by Jose Hernandez, Palazzo made contact on a full count and would go yard for his second homer of the game, putting the Gremlins at a double digits lead at 10-1. Followed up by back-to-back fly outs, the Bombers’ were presented with another chance to do damage but fell short after a double play and fly out forced the start of the fifth.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18
You’re not just buying lights. You’re buying an affordable system that reduces energy and maintenance costs year after year. That means while decreasing wasted energy, you’ll save money and help protect the environment for her future.

To learn more visit: www.musco.com/generations
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

It didn’t take long for the Gremlins to adjust to the Bombers’ Kronk as Flores led off the fifth with a triple to left field and reached home following an error by shortstop on the next play. At the plate next for the Gremlins, Mullins singled to center, moving Abrey to second. The Gremlins would start to bring in the runs as Mullins and Abrey would score on back-to-back RBI singles by Malarczuk and Hernandez. With two runners on and two outs sitting at 13-1, Goolagong hit an RBI double to left field, scoring Malarczuk with Hernandez moving to third. With the inning ending on a groundout to Saenz, the Bombers’ would be up to bat and face their last chance to rebound from the 13-run deficit. Unfortunately, two groundouts and a strikeout would end the ballgame, with the Gremlins left to revel in their newly-earned championship status.

The New York Gremlins ended the tournament with a perfect 5-0 record after outscoring their opponents 46-7, while the A1 Bombers showed resiliency battling back from their early-on loss to the New York Gremlins, 4-1 to force a rematch in the championship game.

For more information on ASA/USA Softball, visit www.ASAUSASoftball.com.

Congratulations to Francesca Albanese of North Providence Velocity 12U Blue for her perfect game in the Sea Devil Vortex Tournament in Westerly.

Photos courtesy of Rhode Island ASA/USA Softball

USA SOFTBALL
NATIONAL COACHING SCHOOLS
presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance

Info: November 18-20, 2016 in Tampa, Fla.
Info: December 2-4, 2016 in Atlantic City, N.J.

Learn more by visiting USASoftball.com!
It was a quiet night offensively for the USA Softball Women's National Team (WNT), who fell 9-1 (five innings) to Japan to claim second at the 2016 Japan Cup. The U.S. could not overcome a four-run first inning by Japan, as the offense managed just two hits off a strong Japanese pitching staff.

“This wasn’t the outcome we wanted,” said Assistant Coach Howard Dobson. “As a whole, for us to get a chance to come over here to Japan and play tough competition is only going to help us in the long run to get to where we want as a team. Japan pitched and hit the ball really well tonight. They scored early and we just couldn’t get anything done.”

The U.S. looked to strike early in the top of the first inning after Kelsey Stewart (Wichita, Kan.) was hit by a pitch with one out. Japan was able to keep Stewart at first, getting a ground out and a strikeout to keep Team USA off the board. Japan would have a four-run outing in the bottom of the frame, capitalizing on a pair of walks and doubles.

USA would respond in the top of the second inning as Delaney Spaulding (Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.) hit a solo home run to make it a 4-1 ballgame. Responding with a two-run home run, Japan extended their lead in the bottom of the second. Adding another run in the bottom of the third, Japan held a 7-1 lead through three innings of play.

The U.S. would be unable to get things going offensively until the top of the fourth inning when Jazmyn Jackson (San Jose, Calif.) led off with a single to left field. That burst was halted, however, after a line drive to the third baseman, a strikeout and a stolen base attempt by Jackson.

Japan would earn the walk off win in the bottom of the fifth after a two run home run ended the game via the run rule with Team USA suffering a 9-1 (five inning) loss. Jessica Moore (Sutter, Calif.) suffered the loss for the U.S., issuing two walks, three hits and five runs. Jaclyn Traina (Naples, Fla.) entered the game in relief in the second inning, issuing one walk, four strikeouts and two runs in her two innings of work, while Kelly Barnhill (Marietta, Ga.) issued two runs in one inning in the circle.

The Japan Cup marked the end of the 2016 season for the Women’s National Team, who finished the summer with a 19-4 record while reclaiming the Gold at the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Women’s World Championship last July. As a team, the U.S. finished the summer with a .366 batting average while outscoring opponents 161-35. Arioto led the offense for the U.S., amassing a .480 (24-for-50) batting average while picking up eight home runs, 23 RBI and scoring 21 times. For the pitching staff, Delanie Gourley (Lakeside, Calif.) issued 21 strikeouts while finishing the season with a 0.65 ERA through 21 and two-third innings in the circle. Moore led the staff with an 8-2 record and 43 strikeouts in 36 and two-third innings.
The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST) played in three events over the past month. At the end of July 29-31, the WWAST returned to Binghamton, N.Y. for a game on July 30 against the Broome County Law Enforcement Team. This is the third time the team has visited Binghamton. While rain threatened the event, the groundskeepers for the Binghamton Mets did an incredible job keeping the field playable and safe for the players.

On August 5-7, the WWAST returned to Long Island, N.Y. for a third time this season to play. This was a homecoming for local hero, Matias Ferreira. On Friday Aug. 5, team members visited the Long Island State Veterans Home where they got a chance to meet and interact with veterans. On Aug. 6, they started the day with a home run derby won by WWAST players Mike Gallardo and Brian Crennan. The team then played at the Moriches Athletic Complex against the Suffolk County Police Officers. On Sunday the team was at the Medford Athletic Complex and played against the Friends of WWAST Team. On August 12-14, the WWAST headed to Fond du Lac, WI. This was a homecoming for WWAST player Josh Wege. Former WWAST player Jon Herst (Fond du Lac, Wis.) attended the event where current player Saul Bosquez now lives. The team was hosted on Friday night for a dinner held at South Hills Golf and Country Club where players got a chance to tell their personal stories of injury and triumph. The team participated in three games on Saturday against the Fire Department, the Police Department, and the Fond du Lac Softball Board as well as local veterans to cap a great weekend of events.

The WWAST would like to thank all the event organizers, sponsors, and fans who made all of these events huge successes.

As the summer winds down, the WWAST is poised for another busy month as they will be playing in three events over the next 30 days:

- September 2-4, Sioux Falls - ASA North National Tournament
- September 9-11, Columbus, OH – Exhibition games
- September 23-25, Adrian, MI – Exhibition games
AROUND THE COUNTRY:
SOFTBALL IN PHOTOS

SOFTBALL SEASON IS HAPPENING AROUND THE COUNTRY AT ALL LEVELS!
SEND YOUR GAME PHOTOS TO KWILLIS@SOFTBALL.ORG TO BE FEATURED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF INSIDE PITCH >>

PHOTOS FROM ASA/USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
EVERY DONOR MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
BE A PART OF OUR LEGACY!

THE USA SOFTBALL LEGACY CLUB PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAMS AND ATHLETES THROUGH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING. THESE CONTRIBUTIONS ASSIST IN SUPPORTING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRAINING TEAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL PLAY AND TRAVEL FOR COMPETITION. LEGACY CLUB MEMBERS ARE FRIENDS, ALUMNI AND ADVOCATES OF USA SOFTBALL WHO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF CONTINUING THE LEGACY ESTABLISHED BY THOSE IN THE PAST WHO HAVE WORN THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE.

USA SOFTBALL LEGACY CLUB MEMBERSHIP IS EASY AND GRANTS YOU ACCESS INTO A FRATERNITY ALONG WITH WORLD CHAMPIONS AND OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALISTS. EVERY DOLLAR DONATED MAKES A DIFFERENCE AND GOES DIRECTLY TOWARDS SUPPORTING OUR INTERNATIONAL TEAMS.

NEW MEMBERS CAN JOIN ANYTIME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND START TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MANY BENEFITS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE USA SOFTBALL LEGACY CLUB.

TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO JOIN FOR JUST $100, CONTACT US AT (405) 425-3422, LegacyClub@softball.org OR VISIT USASoftball.com AND SELECT LEGACY CLUB UNDER THE TEAM USA
FOLLOW ALONG ON SOCIAL TO SEE THE LATEST
NEWS AND UPDATES + SHARE PHOTOS AND
CONNECT WITH OTHERS AROUND THE COUNTRY!

WEBSITE: USASOFTBALL.COM
GEAR + ACCESSORIES: USASOFTBALLSTORE.COM / OFFICIALGEAR.COM
FACEBOOK: ASA USA SOFTBALL
TWITTER: @USASOFTBALL
INSTAGRAM: @USASOFTBALL
SNAPCHAT: USASOFTBALL

#PLAYASA #ASANATIONALS
#USASOFTBALL #TEAMUSA #ROADTOOKC

ASA and USA Softball @ASAUSASoftball Just Now
Share updates, team accomplishments, photos and
more here!
CATCH UP WITH LONG HAUL BOMBERS AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE ASA STADIUM POWER TOUR FINALS >> ONLY ON USASOFBALL.COM

SOFTBALL SECRETS

GET TIPS TO HELP IMPROVE YOUR GAME WITH ASA/USA SOFTBALL! FROM GROUND BALL FUNDAMENTALS TO BATTING TIPS, STEP UP YOUR GAME WITH THESE SHORT HELPFUL VIDEOS!

WITH JENNIE FINCH