With the 2016 international calendar quickly approaching, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA)/USA Softball announced the additions to two USA Softball National Teams that will compete this summer both in the U.S. and abroad. A member of the 2015 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Junior Women’s World Championship (JWWC) Gold Medalist team, Paige Halstead (Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.) will now join the 2016 USA Softball Women’s National Team (WNT) roster, while an additional seven athletes have been added to the USA Softball Women’s Elite Team roster.

Additions to the USA Softball Women’s Elite Team Roster:
Ali Aguilar (Orangevale, Calif.) - Washington - JR
Allexis Bennett (Corona, Calif.) - UCLA - SR
Hannah Flippen (Bonita, Calif.) - Utah - JR
Delanie Gourley (Lakeside, Calif.) - Florida - JR
Carley Hoover (Clemson, S.C.) - LSU - SO
Madeline Jelenicki (Santa Clarita, Calif.) - UCLA - SO
Amanda Lorenz (Moorpark, Calif.) - Florida - FR

Click here for the complete rosters for both the USA Softball WNT and Elite Team >>

Representing the U.S. this summer as a member of the USA Softball WNT, Halstead has had a stellar breakout season in her first year at UCLA.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Hello and welcome to the May, 2016 edition of the Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball. I hope the month of May was a pleasant one and that your association is continuing another successful season of softball. On Memorial Day, we had the opportunity to remember and honor the men and women who have given their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Thanking them for their service and dedication to our great country, Memorial Day also typically marks the start of summer and the start of ASA/USA Softball Championship season.

Whether you are getting ready or have already begun the Championship qualifying process, remember there is still time to add players and teams to the quest of qualifying for an ASA/USA Softball National Championship. Keep promoting your organization and inspiring those in your community to play the game of softball – the best of the best #PlayASA! I wish each of you and your association the best of luck through the summer in making it the best one yet.

Also, throughout the month of May we have continued to share the exciting news of our 70 local associations around the country in addition to the rosters and upcoming schedules for our National Teams. During June and July, these teams will see competition from Surrey, B.C., Canada to one of the hubs for Men’s Fast Pitch, Midland, Mich., as well as our own personal favorite – Oklahoma City at ASA Hall of Fame Complex.

One of the events I’m truly proud to introduce in its inaugural year is the Men’s Fast Pitch Invitation set to take place in Ashland, Ohio the weekend of June 10. At the tournament, athletes will be evaluated by the USA Softball Men’s National Team Selection Committee (MNTSC) and USA Softball Men’s National Team coaching staff in hopes of making it into an elite identified athlete pool.

It’s a great time to be a part of ASA/USA Softball. We’ve got an exciting lineup this summer, and offer several opportunities for athletes, umpires and fans to join us in our great game! Whether you’re out at the ballpark, or in your own backyard playing catch, softball is a game for everyone!
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Most recently honored to the First Team All-Pac-12 Conference All-Freshman Team, Halstead has previous international experience, having competed at the World Cup of Softball X and WBSC JWWC last summer.

Halstead finished the 2015 summer with a .273 (6-for-22) batting average, seven RBI and seven runs scored. Halstead and the USA Softball WNT will compete later this summer in the World Cup of Softball XI, a Japan vs. USA All-Star Series, the XV WBSC Women’s World Championship in Surrey, B.C., Canada and the Japan Cup. Representing the U.S. for the first time in their career, the additional seven athletes named to the USA Softball Women’s Elite Team roster will participate in a series of exhibition games against the USA Softball WNT in addition to the World Cup of Softball XI. The Women’s Elite Team will also participate in exhibition games at the USA Softball JO Cup in Marietta, Ga.
The World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) released the full competition schedule for the 2016 Women’s World Championship (WWC). The USA Softball Women’s National Team (WNT) will travel to Surrey, B.C., Canada and compete in the 15th WBSC Women’s World Championship from July 15-24, 2016, where they will look to improve upon a Silver Medal finish at the 2014 World Championship in Haarlem, Netherlands.

Competing in Pool B, Team USA will take the field against Israel in its opening match at 3:30 p.m. PT. The Red, White and Blue are also scheduled to play Austria and Brazil as part of preliminary round-robin action before heading into the playoff rounds. Teams will be allocated to one-of-eight sections of four in a second round-robin playoff based on their finish in the preliminary round-robin. The top two teams from each section will then advance to the Championship double page system. Teams finishing third and fourth in pool play will be placed in a placement pool and play in a double page system to determine positions 9-16. Remaining teams in each pool advance to a Double page placement pool for positions 17-31.

Led by Head Coach Ken Eriksen, the roster for the 2016 USA Softball Women’s National Team was announced in January following a Women’s National Team Selection Camp in Irvine, Calif. The WNT heads north having won silver in their last two appearances (2012, 2014) and accumulated nine total Women’s World Championship wins. Boasting with Championship experience as part of previous WNT are Valerie Arioto, Amanda Chidester, Michelle Moultrie and Jaclyn Traina who were a part of the 2012 and 2014 teams, as well as Raven Chavanne, Haylie McCleney, Jessica Moore, Sara Nevins and Kelsey Stewart who competed in 2014.

Tickets for the 2016 WBSC Women’s World Championship are now available online. General seating tournament and day passes can be purchased by visiting Surrey2016.com/tickets.

Click here to view the complete schedule for the USA Softball WNT at the WBSC Women’s World Championship >>

Click here to see the 2016 USA Softball Women’s National Team roster that will be competing in Surrey this summer >>
In Loving Memory of Julie Johnson
May 2, 1957 - April 28, 2016

Obituary can be read below:

Julie A Johnson, 58 of Alexandria was carried by the angels to her heavenly home while surrounded by her loving family on Thursday, April 28, 2016. She was born in Anderson, Ind. on May 2, 1957 and was the daughter of James A. and Agnes Eileen (Roesler) Johnson. She was a graduate of Alexandria-Monroe High School and received her B.S. Degree from Ball State University.

Julie was highly respected educator, teaching Physical Education, Health Sciences and Drivers Education at the Elwood Community Schools where she was recently honored for her years of dedicated service. She was a member of the Church of St. Mary’s, Alexandria, Indiana Teachers Assn., National Federation of High School Sports, and National Director of Amateur Softball Assn., International Federation of Amateur Softball and the IHSAA. She also held memberships in other numerous softball sports organizations.

Since 1976, Julie has been a premier recognized umpire in high school, college, and national and international softball sports. She was honored to have officiated in the Chinese National Games in 2008, umpired in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, GA, WCWS Umpire in 1994 and the Pan American Games. She also was a NCAA Umpire from 1979 to 2007, umpiring in Division I,II, III NCAAA Championships. Because of her vast knowledge and experience she was considered to be the leading expert authority on league and game rules. On Nov. 9, 2011 she was inducted into the ASA National Softball Hall of Fame.

Left to cherish Julie’s memory is her mother, Eileen Johnson, her brother, Jimmie (Cathy) Johnson, her sisters, Catherine A. Carmack, Cecelia M Johnson and Ann Marie Hochstetler and several nieces and nephews, cousins and special friends like Chris McCain, Barb Yates on top of many other special friends. She was preceded in death by her father, James A Johnson.
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In memory of Sally Ann Commerford, 64, of Las Vegas, who went home to be with the Lord, May 15, 2016, after a valiant battle with a progressive illness. Sally passed peacefully, with family at her side, while a chaplain prayed over her. Sally was born Nov. 18, 1951, in Salida, Colo., to Robert and Teresa Pasquale. She graduated from South San Francisco High School in 1969. She had two children and six grandchildren. Sally will be remembered by the friends of her youth as a bright spirit with a beautiful nature. During her time in Salida, she opened a successful business, which continues to be a local favorite. She had a deep love for animals and spent many years involved with the rescue, breeding and showing of Shar-Peis. She retired from a distinguished career in the grocery industry. What Sally will be remembered for most is her immense contribution to girls softball before and during her tenure as ASA JO Commissioner for the State of Nevada. She was a true visionary who always had the girls’ best interest at heart. She has truly paved the way for girls youth softball in Las Vegas to be what it is today. Her hard work and dedication will carry on in the hearts and minds of thousands, for years to come. She was preceded in death by her mother, Teresa Tesi; her father, Robert Pasquale; and nephew, Robert Coulon. She is survived by her daughters, Tina Marie Gordon and Keely Ann Otano (Kris); her grandchildren, William, Robert, Gianna, Jayden, Bradley and Luke.

On Memorial Day, Greater Sacramento ASA held the 2016 Sacramento ASA Memorial Day Classic! Softball360 was on location to film and help promote the 14U Class A Western Nationals.

You can view the video in its entirety by clicking here >>
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Twenty-two umpires from six countries will showcase their skills at the highest level this July at the World Cup of Softball XI and Border Battle VIII as the Amateur Softball Association (ASA)/USA Softball announced the complete umpiring staff for both international events.

Slated for July 4-10 at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex – OGE Energy Field – INTEGRIS Field, seven umpires will represent the U.S. at the World Cup and an additional five will represent the U.S. at Border Battle VIII based on their performances as umpires with ASA/USA Softball. Featuring eight of the Top 10 Women’s National Teams in the world, the World Cup of Softball, a sanctioned World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Softball Division event, and Border Battle return to Oklahoma City for the first time since 2013.

“ASA/USA Softball is honored to have 12 umpires selected to umpire at the World Cup of Softball XI and Border Battle VIII,” said ASA/USA Softball Director of Umpires Kevin Ryan. “They have achieved this honor due to their hard work and dedication to ASA/USA Softball. It is because of these umpires and our program that ASA/USA Softball is known for top quality umpires at all levels.”

Umpires for the World Cup of Softball XI from the U.S. are: Don Alexander (Prospect, Ore.), Tim Ellis (Grand Prairie, Texas), Bubba Ewald (Ft. Worth, Texas), Jason Gehoski (Midland, Mich.), Steve McCown (Wylie, Texas), Erin Peterson (Seattle, Wash.) and Mindy Villa (Temecula, Calif.). Umpires selected to officiate in Border Battle VIII are: Dallas Apfelbacher (Mendota Height, Minn.), Darryl Brunson (Harker Heights, Texas), Justin Lauby (Tempe, Ariz.), Dave Reno (Milford, Conn.) and Rick Robertson (New Port Richey, Fla.).

CONGRATULATIONS to the following individuals:

World Cup XI Umpire Staff
Kyira Cox - Australia, Amanda Hoiuson - Australia, Sandra Allan - Canada, Annie Michaud - Canada, Zdenek Zidek - Czech Republic, Kazuhiko Otomo - Japan, Saeko Suda - Japan, Rodrigo Lugo - Mexico, Raul Salazar - Mexico, Don Alexander - USA, Tim Ellis - USA, Bubba Ewald - USA, Jason Gehoski - USA, Steve McCown - USA, Erin Peterson - USA, Mindy Villa - USA

Border Battle VIII Umpire Staff
Clark Jason - Canada, Dallas Apfelbacher - USA, Darryl Brunson - USA, Justin Lauby - USA, Dave Reno - USA, Rick Robertson - USA
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The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST) will be busy in June with four events:

On June 3-5 the WWAST visits Grand Forks, N.D. to play in the Grand Forks Early Bird Softball Tournament sponsored by Buffalo Wild Wings. In addition to the tournament, the WWAST will also be participating in two exhibition games on Saturday night.

On June 11, the WWAST ventures to Bowie, Md. for the 4th Annual Amputee Warrior Softball Classic produced by Pro Athletes Organization at 7:00 pm at Prince George’s Stadium. The Amputee Warrior Softball Classic will feature members of the WWAST joined on the field by current and former NFL stars for a seven-inning softball game filled with entertainment, activities and special guests. It will be Team Jackson vs. Team Breeland in this year’s battle. Washington Redskins’ Wide Receiver DeSean Jackson will lead the offense vs Redskins’ Cornerback Bashaud Breeland who will lead the defense. Other expected players include Will Compton, Kedric Golston, Jamison Crowder & many more! Tickets are available at www.Baysox.com.

On June 13-18 the WWAST hosts its annual Kids Camp in the Washington D.C. area. The camp this year will be held on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. The Kids Camp provides the opportunity to inspire and educate the kids who attend the camp as well as anyone who has the opportunity to attend the event. It also enhances the health and welfare of our Wounded Warrior amputees as it provides the power of making a difference in the life of a child. Our Kids Camp will bring together 24 children with an amputation or who are missing a limb. All expenses are paid for the child and an adult including travel, meals and lodging.

“We are excited to offer this opportunity to our campers and our Team. This is a wonderful chance for them to grow and learn from each other and become an example to others who face similar challenges,” said Kids Camp Director, Jolanda Janczewski. “This is truly a labor of love and community. Countless volunteers and sponsors come together to make this week-long event a success. WWAST is grateful to all who continue to reach out and contribute their time, their...
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...money and their heart.”

On June 24-26 the WWAST will travel to Bismarck, N.D. for the Sam McQuade Sr./Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament. This will be the second time the WWAST has participated in this prestigious tournament. On Friday night the WWAST will be participating in two exhibition games with local First Responders and a Veterans Team. On Saturday and Sunday it is “game on” as the WWAST participates in the tournament.

If you are in the vicinity to any of these events, be sure to come out and see the WWAST. You can check out their entire schedule for 2016 by clicking here.

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USA SOFTBALL MEN’S FAST PITCH INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD IN ASHLAND, OHIO FROM JUNE 10-12

ASA/USA Softball recently announced the creation of the USA Softball Men’s Fast Pitch Invitational Tournament to be held June 11-12 in Ashland, Ohio. For the first time in its history, ASA/USA Softball will be introducing this opportunity for Men’s Fast Pitch players to participate in this inaugural tournament, where athletes will be evaluated by the USA Softball Men’s National Team Selection Committee (MNTSC) and USA Softball Men’s National Team coaching staff in hopes of making it into an elite identified athlete pool.

“This tournament is important for a player to be seen and evaluated so they have a chance of making the identified athlete pool,” Tournament Director and Men’s National Team Head Coach Denny Bruckert said. “If a player is selected to be part of the pool, that player has the chance to be invited to January’s Men’s National Team Selection Camp, where the roster for the USA Softball Men’s National Team will be chosen.”

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⁵ Valid through May 15, 2016.
WEEK 12
HOLIDAY CAHILL

Towson’s Holiday Cahill (Cypress, Calif.) was named the Week 12 USA Softball Collegiate National Player of the Week. The junior etched her name in the Tiger’s softball program record books, setting a single-game home run and RBI record after a lights out performance where Cahill sent three home runs out of the ballpark during Week 12 of play. The honor marked the first time that Cahill has been selected as the USA Softball Collegiate National Player of the Week. Cahill also earned her second career Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) weekly honor in the same week.

“It’s an amazing and a humbling honor,” said Cahill. “This recognition doesn’t happen without my teammates, coaching staff, trainers and our strength and conditioning coach. From the time we returned to campus on August 27, we’ve come together as a team and made a commitment to each other. Every kid and athlete has a dream of doing something three times in a row. I never personally have been like ‘I want to hit three homers in a game’. To have it happen is amazing, however, those three homers don’t mean anything if Ambar Hickman isn’t dealing and my teammates aren’t making plays.”

Cahill started Week 12 with a 4-for-6 performance as the Tigers squared off against Villanova in a doubleheader. Cahill collected a single while scoring a run in Towson’s opening game against Villanova before exploding for a 3-for-4 performance in game two. Helping the Tigers rally from a four-run deficit, Cahill had an RBI double in the first inning and a solo home run in the sixth...

WEEK 13
SYDNEY SMITH

LSU freshman pitcher Sydney Smith (Maple Grove, Minn.) was the Week 13 USA Softball Collegiate National Player of the Week following an impressive showing against then-No. 11 Washington. The Minnesota native picked up two wins to help the Tigers take two-of-three from the Huskies in the non-conference matchup. For her efforts, Smith also garnered Southeastern Conference (SEC) Pitcher of the Week honors for the first time in her career.

“It’s a great honor to be the USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Week after all the hard work and my team’s hard work behind me last weekend,” Smith said. “It shows that the hard work that we all put in during practice really pays off and I cannot thank my coaches and teammates enough for their belief and confidence in me.”

Smith earned both of LSU’s wins in the circle against a ranked Washington team that came into the series with the eighth-best batting average in the nation, and holding the Huskies to just a single run on 11 hits in 13.2 innings of work in the circle. Washington had not been shut out all year until Smith twirled her seventh of the season in the series opener, holding Washington to just three hits with four strikeouts. In the finale, she came off the bench in relief and pitched the final 6.2 innings in a thriller, holding Washington to just a single run and scattering eight hits as LSU rallied to win 5-4 in nine innings.

Smith had won five-straight decisions, and until Washington scored its lone run of the weekend against the freshman that Sunday in the...
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...inning. The highlight of Week 12 was Cahill’s perfect performance in Towson’s series-clinching finale against Delaware, where the junior first baseman hit two three-run home runs and a solo shot. Finishing the game 3-for-3, Cahill picked up seven RBI while scoring three times. She also added a sacrifice bunt that ultimately led to a Towson run early in the game.

“Having Holiday recognized shows how far our program has come, but also the respect that the CAA has,” said Towson Head Coach Lisa Costello. “I think over the last several years, we’ve gotten a lot of recognition as a conference. Holiday always does whatever we need her to do. She’s definitely a kid who wants to win and she’s going to do everything possible to make sure that happens. I mean defensively, she’s a catcher, but she moved to first base and she’s become very good. She did a nice job and Sunday was a monster day for her.”

In Week 12, Cahill was outstanding at the plate and recorded an astonishing 1.400 slugging percentage while blasting four home runs and collecting nine RBI over five games. Her performance over Week 12 helped put Cahill at second all-time in Towson softball history with 26 home runs, while her 99 career RBI is just one shy from Cahill becoming the eighth player in Towson history to drive in 100 runs. The honor marked the first USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week honors for Cahill and the first for an athlete from Towson.

...seventh inning, she had gone 31.2 innings without giving up an earned run.

“Sydney pitched great for us, has worked really hard and deserves this honor,” LSU head coach Beth Torina said. “A lot of credit goes to her for believing and staying with the plan, along with the defense playing well behind her all weekend to give her the confidence to go out there and pitch like we know she can.”

It’s the first USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Week honor for Smith and the second for an athlete from LSU as fellow Tiger Bianka Bell earned Player of the Week honors earlier this season in Week 5.

Click here to see past Player of the Week honorees from this season!
After leading her team to a second Big Ten Tournament Championship in three years, Minnesota’s junior ace Sara Groenewegen (White Rock, B.C., Canada.) has earned the final USA Softball Collegiate National Player of the Week honors for the 2016 season. Groenewegen pitched every inning for the Gophers in the Big Ten Tournament, including a 10-inning thriller over top-seeded Michigan that helped land her Tournament MVP honors.

“It is an honor to be recognized as USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week,” said Groenewegen. “That week was an exciting one for Gopher softball. Our grit and resilience that we played with won us the Big Ten Tournament and I could not be more proud of my team.”

Groenewegen pitched every frame for Minnesota throughout the Big Ten Tournament Championship, collecting three victories en route to MVP accolades. Riding an 11-game winning streak heading into the Big Ten Tournament, Groenewegen pitched a complete game one-hit, 2-0 shutout over Illinois to land her team in the semifinals. Facing a high powered offense and battling Mother Nature in their semifinal match against Northwestern, Groenewegen put Minnesota on board with a three-run home run to lead off the first inning of the game to put her team on top early. Groenewegen also took care of business in the circle for the Gophers, issuing nine strikeouts to pick up the 8-4 win.

The win over Northwestern thrust Minnesota into the Championship Game against No. 2 Michigan. In a three hour and forty minute marathon of a game, Groenewegen pitched her team to victory, striking out 11 batters as the Gophers claimed the Big Ten Tournament title. For the Tournament, Groenewegen threw nearly 400 pitches, amassing 29 strikeouts and a 1.75 ERA in 24 innings pitched.

“Sara Groenewegen laid it all out on the line,” said Minnesota Head Coach Jessica Allister. “That’s one of the gutsiest performances that I’ve ever seen.”

This is the second USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Week honor for Groenewegen, her first coming in Week 13 of the 2015 season. The Gophers now set their sight on the NCAA Tournament as they travel to Seattle, Wash. for their NCAA Regional. Facing North Dakota State in their first game of the Seattle Regional, Weber State and No. 14 Washington also await the Gophers.
WEEK 12
WITH 2016 RECORD

1. Florida (47-4)
2. Michigan (41-4)
3. Oregon (38-6)
4. Alabama (43-10)
5. Florida State (42-5)
6. Auburn (45-7)
7. Oklahoma (41-7)
8. James Madison (41-4)
9. Tennessee (38-12)
10. Louisiana-Lafayette (37-7)
12. Kentucky (40-11)
13. UCLA (33-13-1)
T14. LSU (40-13)
T14. Missouri (37-12)
16. Georgia (39-14)
17. Baylor (43-12)
18. Fresno State (37-9-1)
19. Minnesota (35-12)
20. Arizona (32-17)
21. Notre Dame (37-9)
22. South Florida (43-12)
23. Texas A&M (35-16)
24. Florida Atlantic (44-7)
25. Utah (31-15)

RV: Ohio State, Texas, UCF, Nebraska, USC Upstate, Louisville, Cal State Fullerton.

WEEK 13
WITH 2016 RECORD

1. Florida (52-4)
2. Michigan (44-4)
3. Oregon (42-7)
T4. Alabama (45-11)
T4. Oklahoma (45-7)
6. Florida State (45-8)
7. James Madison (43-4)
8. Auburn (46-9)
9. Tennessee (40-13)
10. Louisiana-Lafayette (40-7)
11. Kentucky (43-11)
12. UCLA (35-13-1)
13. LSU (42-14)
14. Washington (33-13)
15. Missouri (39-13)
16. Baylor (43-12)
17. Fresno State (39-9-1)
18. Georgia (40-16)
19. Minnesota (38-12)
20. Texas A&M (37-17)
21. Arizona (34-18)
22. Florida Atlantic (47-7)
23. Notre Dame (39-10)
24. South Florida (43-13)
25. Texas (37-14)

RV: Ohio State, Louisville, UCF, Utah, Ole Miss, Cal State Fullerton, California, North Dakota State.

WEEK 14
WITH 2016 RECORD

1. Florida (53-5)
2. Michigan (46-5)
3. Oklahoma (47-7)
4. Oregon (44-8)
5. Auburn (49-9)
6. Alabama (46-12)
7. Florida State (47-8)
8. James Madison (46-4)
9. Louisiana-Lafayette (43-7)
10. Tennessee (41-4)
11. Kentucky (43-12)
12. LSU (45-15)
13. UCLA (35-13-1)
14. Washington (36-13)
15. Minnesota (41-12)
16. Missouri (39-13)
17. Baylor (43-12)
18. Fresno State (41-10-1)
19. Georgia (40-17)
20. Texas A&M (37-18)
21. Florida Atlantic (50-7)
22. Arizona (36-19)
23. Notre Dame (41-11)
24. South Florida (44-14)
25. Texas (37-14)

RV: Ole Miss, Utah, Ohio State, USC Upstate, Cal State Fullerton, North Dakota State, UCF.
ASA/USA Softball announced that Michigan senior infielder Sierra Romero was selected as the 2016 USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year. The award, which is considered the most prestigious honor in Division I women’s softball, is designed to recognize outstanding athletic achievement by female collegiate softball players across the country. This season, Romero helped lead Michigan to its 12th NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) appearance, where the Wolverines look to build upon runner-up honors at last season’s event. This marks the first time an athlete from Michigan has won the prestigious award and is the first honor for an athlete from the Big Ten Conference.

“It’s an unreal feeling to win the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award,” said Romero. “I’m glad that my team is here to celebrate it with me. It would not be the same if I was here without them. This award is great, and now we focus on the big picture of winning a National Championship.”

The 2016 Big Ten Player of the Year, Romero ranks in the Top 10 in the country with a .465 batting average, 19 home runs and a .585 on-base percentage while ranking in the Top 5 in the nation with 77 RBI and a .916 slugging percentage. Earning a unanimous selection to the All-Big Ten first team each year in her career, Romero became just the second player in conference history to garner three Big Ten Conference Player of the Year honors.
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ASA/USA Softball recently announced that Jim Pellegrini (Helena, Mont.) was appointed as Commissioner for the Montana ASA/USA Softball association.

"Being appointed State Commissioner will mean an increase in responsibility for the teams and players in Montana to ensure fair play and also provide youth and adults the opportunity to participate in a sport that creates lasting friendships and memories," Pellegrini said.

With more than 45 years of being active in the ASA/USA Softball community, Pellegrini brings a wealth of experience from all areas of the game. Starting out in 1968 as a player for the Embassy Fast Pitch team of Anaconda, Mont., Pellegrini eventually moved to Helena where he took on the role as District Commissioner in 1982. A year later, he became the local ASA/USA Softball Men's League President and shortly thereafter, was elected to serve as the Montana ASA/USA Softball State President (1985). As President, Pellegrini worked with his predecessor, State Commissioner Bob Rowling, to implement by-laws for the state in addition to registering teams and players, and running invitational and state tournaments for youth and adult divisions of play. In 2012, Pellegrini stepped up to the plate by becoming Montana ASA/USA Softball's Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioner and has been a major factor in the state’s JO tournament becoming the largest softball tournament in Montana since then.

Pellegrini is an independent consultant and seminar leader for a number of different organizations. In this position, he provides training and audit support for government and private groups throughout the country. Pellegrini can be reached at jdpelle@aol.com.