USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL COACHING SCHOOLS OFFERED!

ASA/USA Softball in addition to local associations from Florida, New Jersey and Dallas/Ft. Worth will be hosting three USA Softball National Coaching Schools, presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance. The schools, which feature instruction from current and former USA Softball Women’s National Team (WNT) coaches and athletes, will take place during the months of November, December and January.

Open to 250 participants per school, the USA Softball National Coaching Schools are $200 per coach but those who make payment by the respective early-bird deadlines will be offered a rate of $175.

The school features firsthand instruction from members of the 2016 USA Softball WNT coaching staff, including Head Coach Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla./University of South Florida Head Coach) and former USA Softball WNT Head Coach turned ASA/USA Softball Director of Coaching Education Mike Candrea (Tucson, Ariz./University of Arizona Head Coach). Eriksen has been at the helm of the USA Softball WNT since 2011 and has led the program to a Pan American Games Gold, four World Cup of Softball titles and recently claimed Gold at the 2016 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) World Championship. Two-time Olympic Head Coach Candrea led the program to a Gold Medal at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens and a Silver Medal at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing as well as numerous other medals in international competition before retiring from his USA Softball coaching duties in 2008.

Schools held in Tampa, Fla. and Atlantic City, N.J. will also feature current USA Softball WNT member Jessica Moore (Sutter, Calif./University of South Florida Assistant Coach), while Assistant Coach John Rittman (Valencia, Calif./Kansas University Associate Head Coach) will attend in Plano, Texas.

For more information on the 2016-17 USA Softball National Coaching Schools, presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance, including special room rates, visit ASAUSASoftball.com.
Hello and welcome to the September 2016 edition of the Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball.

It seems as though the month of September flew by. It’s hard to believe how fast time has gone as we head into the month of October. Soon enough, we will all be reconnecting and joining together for our Annual Council Meeting in Shreveport come November! As the Annual Meeting gets closer, we are actively working to put together the agenda for all members and their involvement – from the topical meetings, Tradeshow, Hall of Fame banquet and more. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there and at the same time, celebrating what we all have worked together to accomplish for the sport this past year. When you receive information leading up to the Annual Meeting such as Code/Procedural Manual changes, please review these documents so you can be best prepared at the respective discussions.

I also want to remind and/or update you all on additional events that took place during the month of September. The beginning of the month saw the season for our Women’s National Team (WNT) come to an end as they returned from the Japan Cup on September 5 with a 4-1 record. Over the course of their week, they claimed wins over Honda, a Japanese pro-team, Australia, Chinese Taipei and split a pair of games with Japan. After falling to Japan in the final game, they walked away with the silver medal. The WNT 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. In addition, multiple National Championships continued to be held throughout the country. Concluding this month was the ASA/USA Softball Slow Pitch Championship Series which included four divisions; the Men’s Supers, Class A, Class D and the Women’s Open starting Sept. 29 and ending Oct. 2. Because of the free live stats and streaming provided, anyone, including those within your association, were able to easily visit ASAUSASoftball.com and watch softball all four of those days anytime. In the end, O&S Cattle/Mr. D battled through to claim the 2016 Super Slow Pitch National Championship while ASP/KV Weld/BHR won in the Men’s A division, OTW/Elite were crowned the Men’s D National Champions and Derby Girls/ASP/Combat claimed the title in the Women’s Open division.

Lastly, the Board of Directors had their meeting Oct. 1-2. Once again, we were able to provide live streaming on the portal for those of you who were unable to attend these meetings. Council Members can access these videos, along with the minutes, on the portal as soon as they become available.

Hope you all enjoy this month’s newsletter! Looking forward to seeing you in Shreveport.

Warren Jones
ASA/USA Softball President
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After a season of slugging softballs, the top six ASA Long Haul Bombers traveled to Miami, Fla. to compete in the ASA Stadium Power Tour Finals at Marlins Park, home of Major League Baseball (MLB)’s Miami Marlins, while the top two teams, Team DeMarini and Team Easton battled it out for the Manufacture’s Cup. Following a postgame show filled with back-to-back home runs, it was Kevin Filby with Team Miken who took home the ASA Stadium Power Tour title after an impressive 10-point performance, while Team DeMarini composed of Chris Larsen and Dale Brundgardt won the Manufactures Cup, ASA/USA Softball announced.

“I love Marlins Park,” Filby said. “I won it all as a rookie a few years back right here and today, my Miken bat gave me all the power I needed.” Filby joined the ASA Stadium Power Tour midway through the season by filling in for an injured Denny Crine. Filby ended his at-bat by hitting the money ball (worth 2 pts) out of the park, ultimately securing his 10-point win. Additional Long Haul Bombers who earned the spot to compete in the finals included Travis Clark, who finished in second with nine points, Chris Larsen (8.5 pts), Ryan Harvey (8 pts), Dale Brundgardt (7 pts), and Flip Washington (6 pts).

Team DeMarini, composed of Larsen and Brundgardt, combined for 15 points to beat out Team Easton’s Clark and Brian Wegman who finished with 14 points, respectively.

The 2016 ASA Stadium Power Tour consists of six different teams that are comprised of two members each: Team Monsta, Team Louisville Slugger, Team Miken/Worth, Team Combat, Team DeMarini and Team Easton. Teams compete five times at various locations throughout the year to see who can tally the most points that result from each homerun. Each team gets a total of 150 swings throughout the season, while individuals will receive 75 swings.
ASA/USA Softball continued its fundraising efforts for Susan G. Komen of Central and Western Oklahoma September 16-26 with the ninth annual “Pink Auction”. From September 16 through September 26 at 8 A.M. CST, fans had the opportunity to bid online through eBay on 19 autographed items from the USA Softball Women’s National Team “Pink Out” games at the annual World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City, Okla. and Irvine, Calif.

The USA Softball Pink Auction included autographed, game-worn jerseys from members of the 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 USA Softball Women’s National Team. Only items listed by USA Softball are a part of the benefit auction for Susan G. Komen of Central and Western Oklahoma. All items were accompanied by a USA Softball certificate of authenticity.

Since the inception of the “Pink Out” auction in 2008, ASA/USA Softball has raised over $75,000 for Susan G. Komen of Central and Western Oklahoma through the auctioning of game-worn USA Softball jerseys as well as bats, cleats, helmets and other softball apparel. In addition to the monies raised through the auction, ASA/USA Softball also creates additional awareness for the foundation by wearing specially made pink USA Softball jerseys on international broadcasts, both televised and streamed online.

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 ASAUSASoftball.com!
ASA/USA Softball announced it will begin accepting applications for the 2017-19 USA Softball Women’s National Team Coaching Pool from fast pitch coaches now through January 1, 2017. The coaching pool includes coaches for the Junior Women’s National Team and the Women’s National Team.

The USA Softball Women’s National Team Selection Committee will select coaches for the coaching pool. Pool coaches may be required to participate in international events, player evaluations, selection camps and other specified events as part of the evaluation process. These events primarily occur in the months of June, July, August and September each year. Coaches will work under the direction of the USA Softball Director of National Teams Ronnie Isham.

Pool coaches may be eligible for selection as a member of the National Team Coaching Staff for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. This staff will be selected by the Women’s National Team Selection Committee in accordance with procedures to be approved by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC).

The schedule for the Women’s National Team and Junior Women’s National Team has yet to be finalized for the 2017-19 cycle, but those international calendars will be highlighted by the 2017 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Junior Women’s World Championship to be held in Clearwater, Fla., the 2018 WBSC Women’s World Championship to be held in Chiba, Japan, the 2019 Pan American Games to be held in Lima, Peru and the 2019 WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship in Irvine, Calif.

To be considered as a candidate for the pool, please e-mail a letter of application and resume to arrive no later than January 1, 2017, which must include:

- National coaching and/or playing experience
- International coaching and/or playing experience
- Clinic and/or speaking experience
- Reasons you would like to be a member of the Women’s National Team Coaching Pool
- Please indicate if you are interested in a head coaching job, assistant coaching job or both

Please send letter of application and resume via email to – risham@softball.org
ASA/USA Softball also announced it will begin accepting applications for the 2017-2020 USA Softball Men’s National Team Coaching Pool from fast pitch coaches now through January 1, 2017. The coaching pool includes coaches for the Junior Men’s National Team and the Men’s National Team.

The USA Softball Men’s National Team Selection Committee will select coaches for the coaching pool. Pool coaches may be required to participate in international events, player evaluations, selection camps and other specified events as part of the evaluation process. These events primarily occur in the months of January, June, July and August each year. Coaches will work under the direction of the USA Softball Director of National Teams Ronnie Isham.

The schedule for the Men’s National Team and Junior Men’s National Team has yet to be finalized for the 2017-20 cycle, but those international calendars will be highlighted by the 2017 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Men’s World Championship, to be held in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, the 2018 WBSC Junior Men’s World Championship to be held in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Canada, the 2019 Pan American Games to be held in Lima, Peru, the 2019 WBSC Men’s World Championship to be held in Prague, Czech Republic and the 2020 WBSC Junior Men’s World Championship.

To be considered as a candidate for the pool, please e-mail a letter of application and resume to arrive no later than January 1, 2017, which must include:

- National coaching and/or playing experience
- International coaching and/or playing experience
- Clinic and/or speaking experience
- Reasons you would like to be a member of the Men’s National Team Coaching Pool
- Please indicate if you are interested in a head coaching job, assistant coaching job or both

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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

1-800-446-5311
In January visit us at
www.RPSBollinger.com
This past August, USA Softball of Metro Detroit and the Detroit Tigers joined forces to help support youth in the city of Detroit as part of the Detroit Tigers Hometown Championship.

Since USA Baseball and USA Softball began a partnership with Major League Baseball’s (MLB) Play Ball, an initiative about inspiring everyone to play ball, this was the perfect opportunity for USA Softball of Metro Detroit to get involved with this amazing event that is a product of the Detroit Tigers Foundation and Play Ball.

This year marks the 21st year of this week-long baseball and softball tournament that has hosted more than 80 teams at various ballparks in the city of Detroit. The Hometown Championship is a competitive end-of-the season tournament hosted in partnership by the Youth Development Commission, the city of Detroit Recreation Department, and the Detroit Tigers Foundation, an affiliate of the Ilitch Charities.

USA Softball of Metro Detroit Commissioner Stu Alderman spoke to youth players, parents and coaches at a clinic, part of the Softball College Development Program which was hosted at the University of Detroit Mercy. Although many attendees didn’t know much about USA Softball, they walked away with a wealth of knowledge!

Following the clinic, tournaments were held throughout the weekend for various age levels. Many other activities were held for the players, including an on-field closing ceremony at Comerica Park as part of the Detroit Tigers game.

Learn more about how your local association can team up with Play Ball for an event in your area >>
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USA Softball of Louisiana recently announced the 2016 Louisiana Softball Hall of Fame, to be inducted at the 7th Annual Hall of Fame Ceremony in New Orleans on October 29th.

This year’s class is highlighted by three of the most successful collegiate head coaches in Louisiana history, a trailblazing coach from Crowley who has made an impact at both the University of Alabama and for female athletes in Louisiana, a former long-time travel ball coach, a former high school and Louisiana Tech standout, three former players who have pioneered fast pitch and slow pitch in Louisiana, a long-time supporter in the Shreveport area, and a former LSU Men’s Basketball star and record holder whose support has been invaluable for the growth of the game throughout the state.

The 2016 class will be inducted into the Louisiana Softball Hall of Fame at the New Orleans Airport-Crown Plaza Hotel on October 29, 2016 at 5 pm.

Tickets for this year’s ceremony are $35 per guest, which includes a dinner, are available online at the USA Softball of Louisiana official website, LouisianaASA.net, or may be ordered by contacting State Commissioner Bill Skinner at Bill@usasoftball.net or (985) 507-0092.


Click here to read an extended bio for each of the individuals listed above >>

SPOTLIGHT: Richmond Classics win the Men’s 70AA National Championship

A local men’s team, the Richmond Classics, won the 2016 ASA Nationals in Burlington, N.C. in the 70+AA Division. They are managed by Lacy Lusk and Ed Hutcherson. The MVP for this year’s tournament was Walter Bailey. Additional players on the team included Ronald Bailey, Walter Bailey, Jr., Richard Burks, Mike Carney, Calvin Cooks, Bobby Ellis, Steve Fritton, Richard (Dicky) Globman, Woody Hancock, Ed Hutcherson, Jerry Johnson, Lacy Lusk, Greg Pearson, Bobby Riddle, Wayne Sears, Robert Shires, Bobby Shumake, Gerald Swaim, Mason Tillman, Bill Woodson and Frank Williams.
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USA SOFTBALL OF ST. LOUIS RECOGNIZES SUICIDE AWARENESS MONTH

Over the weekend of Sept. 24-25, USA Softball of St. Louis held their annual suicide prevention tournament.
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
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- Donation opportunities
- Free and available for both Android and Apple products

For more information and to download the app, please visit asausasoftball.com
Welcome New Commissioners

**Bill Parks Accepts Idaho ASA/USA Softball Commissioner Position**

ASA/USA Softball announced that Bill Parks (Eagle, Idaho) will take over as Commissioner for the Idaho ASA/USA Softball association, soon to be USA Softball of Idaho, beginning immediately.

“Being selected to be Idaho’s next commissioner is an honor and I look forward to the challenges going forward,” Parks said. “I know I have my work cut out for me replacing former Commissioner Steve Anthony. Anthony was not only a great commissioner but an even better friend. We will all miss his leadership. He left me with a great staff to continue his legacy. I will work hard to promote the new USA Softball brand and lead Idaho into the future.”

Read more here >>

**Matt Stoddard to Take on Role as West Virginia ASA/USA Softball Commissioner**

ASA/USA Softball also announced that Matt Stoddard (Linn, W. Va.) will take over as Commissioner for the West Virginia ASA/USA Softball association, soon to be USA Softball of West Virginia, beginning January 1, 2017. Stoddard will be taking over the West Virginia association from Andy Dooley (Thaxton, Va.), who has served as the interim Commissioner for West Virginia in addition to his role as Piedmont, VA Commissioner.

“I am humbled and honored to be named the West Virginia State Commissioner,” Stoddard said. “The fact that we are now named as a separate association in West Virginia is exciting and a tribute to the hard work of many coaches and administrators. I want to thank Andy Dooley and John McPhail for getting me started and mentoring me in all my roles with ASA/USA Softball over the past five years. I am looking forward to seeing USA Softball of West Virginia continue to grow. Thank you for allowing me to be a representative of West Virginia and USA Softball! Let’s play ball!”

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³ Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.
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The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST) played in three events over the last 30 days. On August 19-21, the WWAST ventured to Toledo, Ohio to play a doubleheader. On Friday, Aug. 19, the team attended a meet-and-greet with the event sponsors and event organizers. On Saturday, Aug. 20, the WWAST played two games; the first game was played against the Local Combined Fire/Police Departments while the second game was against a local All-Star Team. On September 2-4, the WWAST traveled to Sioux Falls, S.D. On Friday night, Sept. 2, the WWAST played in an exhibition game against the Sioux Falls All-Stars followed by the ASA North National Tournament on Saturday and Sunday. On September Sept. 11, the WWAST headed to Columbus, Ohio. On the evening of Friday, Sept. 9, the team attended a meet-and-greet with event organizers and fans. On Saturday, Sept. 10, the team visited the Doan Hall Rehab Hospital where they had the opportunity to meet with patients and staff and then were hosted by the Ohio State University for their football game vs. Tulsa. On that Sunday, which was the 15th Anniversary of September 11, 2001, the WWAST participated in a solemn memorial ceremony honoring all the heroes and victims of that tragic day. They went onto play in a doubleheader against the Columbus Police/Fire Team and the Columbus All-Stars. The WWAST would like to thank all the event organizers, sponsors, and fans who made all of these events huge successes.

As the year winds down, two more events will close out 2016:
- October 21-23: Huntsville, Ala. – 2 Exhibition Games
- December 1-4: U.S. Virgin Islands – 2 Exhibition Games

Be on the lookout for our 2017 schedule in the coming months!

You can check out the entire schedule for 2016 here!

Click here to view the WWAST online store!
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