USA SOFTBALL TO FIELD INAUGURAL WOMEN’S SLOW PITCH NATIONAL TEAM IN 2017

USA Softball announced the addition of women’s slow pitch exhibition games during the highly popular Border Battle IX. With the new division of play added to the three-day event, USA Softball has also announced the inaugural 15-athlete roster for the USA Softball Women’s Slow Pitch National Team (WSPNT), which will compete against Canada’s Women’s Slow Pitch National Team.

“With the success of our Slow Pitch National Teams and the popularity of Border Battle, we’re excited to provide our women’s slow pitch division the opportunity to compete on the international stage,” said USA Softball Event Manager, Rich Cress. “Since the creation of the event in 2009, we’ve seen the growth from a single exhibition game between Team USA and Team Canada to a series of contests that now includes the USA Softball Men’s Futures Slow Pitch National Team and USA Softball-affiliated teams in the upper divisions of adult slow pitch. We’re excited for the opportunity to promote our upper level of women’s slow pitch softball and see these athletes compete for the first time in the Red, White and Blue.”

Click here to see the inaugural roster for the USA Softball WSPNT

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Hello and welcome to the March 2017 edition of the Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of USA Softball. I hope you enjoy the news and find the information inside the newsletter helpful and inspiring as you continue to plan and organize tournaments and events in your state or local area.

We have released and distributed quite a bit of a news this month as we head into another season with our National Teams, welcoming the newly-formed USA Softball Women’s Slow Pitch National Team who will compete against Canada’s Women’s Slow Pitch Team and play alongside our Men’s and Futures Slow Pitch National Teams in Border Battle IX. The schedule for our Women’s National Team also was announced, in which they will hit the road on a four-city exhibition tour around the United States this summer while also taking part in the World Cup of Softball XI and the Pan American Women’s Softball Championship.

This year also includes the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) World Championship for our Men’s National Team (MNT) and Junior Women’s National Team (JWNT). The MNT will play in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada July 7-16, while the JWNT will continue international play in Clearwater, Fla. July 24-30. We’re proud to have the World Cup of Softball XII and Border Battle IX return to Oklahoma City and be played at historic USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex, the Softball Capital of the World®.

A lot of important dates are coming up in April, including our spring Board of Directors meeting at the National Office headquarters. Many important discussions will occur regarding the direction of our great organization, so if you haven’t already, please reach out to your Territory Vice Presidents to voice any questions, comments or concerns as they can share those with their fellow Board members when we meet.

Lastly, I ask that you visit the USA Softball website often for information that is important to you, regardless of your affiliation to USA Softball or to your local program. From resources that can help your players, coaches and umpires succeed to news about several up-and-coming events you don’t want to miss out on – there is something for everyone and it is constantly being updated.

Shani Neamen has been with Seattle for four years. She received the Rookie of the Year Award in 2013, and worked hard to earn a spot in the 14U A Western National Championship Tournament in 2014. Neamen is headed to her second National Championship this year (2017), but being a good umpire is only a small part of why she’s earned this award.

“Shani gives back big time to Seattle umpires, players and teams,” said Seattle’s UIC, Kayleen Dunson. “She is so much fun to be around whether she is working a Special Olympics Tournament, designing training sessions, or working a youth recreation league; she is always having fun.”

Neamen is the first person to admit her heart is with a community league. When the local youth league was in danger of losing umpires, it was Neamen who rallied her fellow Blues to help out to keep it going.

Stay up-to-date by reading this month’s Plays and Clarifications >>

If your local association has news to share and would like to be featured in next month’s newsletter, email Katie at kwillis@usasoftball.com by the 15th of the month.
Umpire assignments announced for 2017 WBSC World Championships

Seven umpires from the United States have been selected to represent the USA Softball umpire program internationally in the 2017 season as the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) recently announced the umpiring staff for the Men’s and Junior Women’s World Championships. Slated for July 7-16 in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, three U.S. umpires have been assigned to the WBSC Men’s World Championship while an additional four umpires have been selected to the WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship staff, which will be held July 24-30 in Clearwater, Fla.

“To receive an assignment to a WBSC World Championship is a true testament to the skills and abilities of a USA Softball umpire,” said USA Softball Director of Umpires Kevin Ryan. “Representing your country on the international stage is an extraordinary honor for our umpires along with the entire USA Softball umpire program. To be recognized by the WBSC is a credit to the work and dedication that these individuals have put into their career, and we know that they will represent USA Softball very well this summer and beyond.”

Click here to see the umpire staff for the WBSC Men’s World Championship

USA Softball umpires that have been selected for the WBSC Men’s World Championship will be Randy McLamb (Clinton, N.C.), Brian Sonak (State College, Pa.) and Casey Waite (Boise, Idaho). McLamb, who is affiliated with USA Softball of North Carolina, is an Elite Umpire and has Gold status in the USA Softball Umpire Medals Program. Sonak, who is affiliated with USA Softball of Pennsylvania, is also an Elite Umpire, has been in the National Indicator Fraternity (NIF) since 2003 and is Silver status in the Medals Program. Waite, who registers with USA Softball of Idaho, has been in the NIF since 2008, is an Elite Umpire and is also Silver status in the Medals Program. USA Softball Director of Umpires Kevin Ryan will also serve as an Assistant Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) for the Championship.

“I am very honored to have the opportunity to represent USA Softball as one of the few umpires at the 2017 WBSC Men’s World Championship,” said Waite. “I look forward to the great competition and the opportunity to make new friends from around the world. Whitehorse is a great community that supports the softball championships, and I am excited to be going back to enjoy their hospitality again.”

Click here to see the umpire staff for the WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship
USA Softball to field inaugural Women’s Slow Pitch National Team in 2017

Eighteen initial athletes to train and vie for spot on 2017 USA Softball Men’s National Team

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“The women chosen for this inaugural women’s Border Battle represent everything that is great about this sport: passion, dedication, sacrifice and class,” said team member Christan Dowling. “Being selected to represent your country means these women have blazed a trail to success, showing that we can all reach for more. I am honored to represent my country and share the field with these amazing women.”

Stated to be held June 30 to July 2, this inaugural event will offer softball fans an opportunity to see high-level, international slow pitch competition. The roster, which is comprised of members of the 2016 USA Softball Women’s Open Slow Pitch National Championship Team Derby Girls/OA/Easton, includes athletes from 11 different states who have earned numerous USA Softball National Championships and individual tournament accolades. The Derby Girls have claimed three of the last five USA Softball Women’s Open Slow Pitch National Championships, while Dowling has claimed Batting Champion (2012, 2014) and Home Run Champion (2014, 2015, 2016).

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USA Softball announced the complete coaching staff for the USA Softball Women’s (WNT) and Junior Women’s National Team (JWNT) Programs. Selected from the USA Softball WNT Coaching Pool, the coaches selected will lead their respective programs as they compete around the country this summer.

Joining USA Softball WNT Head Coach Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla./Head Coach at South Florida) on the coaching staff are Howard Dobson (Baton Rouge, La./Assistant Coach at LSU), Tairia Flowers (Tucson, Ariz./Head Coach at CSUN), John Rittman (Valencia, Calif./Associate Head Coach at Kansas), and Heather Harrigan-Mack (Las Vegas, Nev./Pitching coach at College of Southern Nevada). Both Dobson and Rittman were a part of the USA Softball WNT coaching staff who helped lead the U.S. to a Gold Medal finish at last year’s WBSC Women’s World Championship. Flowers returns to the USA Softball WNT coaching staff with prior experience coaching the JWNT and most recently leading the USA Softball Women’s Elite Team, who competed alongside the WNT in the World Cup of Softball XI last summer. Harrigan-Mack will head into her first season as a coach for the National Team Program.

Click here to see the athletes selected to the 2017 USA Softball Women’s National Team

Eriksen and his staff will lead the USA Softball WNT at the World Cup of Softball XII and at a Pan American Games/World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) World Championship Qualifier. The complete schedule for the Red, White and Blue, including exhibition games, will be released at a later date.

Joining USA Softball JWNT Head Coach Laura Berg (Corvallis, Ore./Head Coach at Oregon State) on the coaching staff are Trisha Ford (Fremont, Calif./Head Coach at Arizona State), Kristie Fox (San Diego, Calif./Head Coach at UT-Arlington), Natasha Watley (Irvine, Calif./Director of Operations at CSUN), and Lori Harrigan-Mack (Las Vegas, Nev./Pitching coach at College of Southern Nevada). This marks the second-consecutive season for Ford and Fox on the USA Softball JWNT coaching staff, while Watley and Harrigan-Mack will have their first stint as coaches with the National Team Program.

Click here to see the athletes selected to the 2017 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team

The USA Softball JWNT coaching staff will look to lead the Red, White and Blue at the World Cup of Softball XII and the WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship, which will be held July 24-30 in Clearwater, Fla. The complete schedule for the USA Softball JWNT, including exhibition games, will be released at a later date.

For more information on the USA Softball National Team Programs, visit USASoftball.com.
The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) honored the Pac-12 Conference and its member institutions during the 2017 Pac-12 Men’s Basketball Tournament March 11 in Las Vegas, Nev. The special event recognized Pac-12 institutions’ long-standing commitment to Olympic sport programs and honored the success of its athletes at the Olympic Games Rio 2016. The conference tribute was the first of its kind and part of a key organizational initiative to enhance broad-based Olympic sport programming at the collegiate level.

As part of the celebration, an Olympian from each Pac-12 university was in attendance to highlight the importance of collegiate sport opportunities, with the University of Arizona being represented by three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Leah O’Brien-Amico (Chino, Calif.).

“I could have never been a three-time Olympian without the coaching and teammates I had at the University of Arizona,” said O’Brien-Amico. “It grew my confidence, courage and goals that I never would have had prior to attending the University of Arizona.”

One of just four women who hold three Olympic Gold Medals in the sport of softball, O’Brien-Amico earned numerous accolades throughout her career. Claiming two World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Women’s World Championships and two Pan American Games Gold Medals as a member of the USA Softball Women’s National Team (WNT), O’Brien-Amico was also a member of the inaugural U.S. Olympic softball team at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Ga. Helping lead the U.S. to a Gold Medal finish, she would go on to claim two additional Olympic Golds in Sydney, Australia in 2000 and in Athens, Greece in 2004. O’Brien-Amico, along with her 2004 Olympic teammates, were inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame for their outstanding performance at the 2004 Olympic Games. Dubbed the “Real Dream Team” on the cover of Sports Illustrated magazine, the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team went 9-0 in Athens, a record that included eight consecutive shutouts and four run-rule wins. In total, the Americans outscored opponents 51-1, not allowing an opponent to score until 55 2/3 innings into the tournament when Australia scored in the sixth inning of the Gold Medal Game.

In addition to her USA Softball accolades, O’Brien-Amico also is a three-time NCAA National Champion while at the University of Arizona. Claiming the NCAA title in 1993, 1994 and 1997, she is also a four-time All-Pac-12 Conference honoree and was voted the 1997 NCAA Woman of the Year for the state of Arizona.
2017 college corner rankings

Week FOUR with 2017 record
1. Florida (20-1)
2. Florida State (17-1-1)
3. Oregon (19-0)
4. Auburn (19-2)
5. Texas A&M (19-1)
6. Arizona (18-1)
7. Minnesota (18-0)
8. Washington (15-3)
9. Alabama (19-2)
10. Oklahoma (15-4)
11. UCLA (16-5)
12. LSU (17-4)
13. Tennessee (18-2)
14. James Madison (19-0)
15. T15. Florida (20-1)
16. T15. Texas A&M (19-1)
17. Arizona (18-0)
18. Washington (15-3)
19. Alabama (19-2)
20. Oklahoma (15-4)

RV:
South Alabama, Missouri, North Carolina, USC Upstate, Ohio State, Notre Dame, Texas, BYU, South Carolina, Cal State Fullerton, and Coastal Carolina.

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In addition to the WBSC Men’s World Championship, four umpires were selected for the WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship: Cindi Brunot (Lantana, Fla.), Matt Dunbar (Miami, Fla.), Jason Gehoski (Midland, Mich.) and Minda Villa (Temecula, Calif.). Brunot and Dunbar, who both register with USA Softball of Florida, are members of the NIF, are Gold status in the Medals Program and are Elite Umpires. Gehoski, who registers with USA Softball of Michigan, is also an NIF member, is Silver status in the Medals Program and is an Elite Umpire, while Villa, who registers with USA Softball of Southern California, is an Elite Umpire. In addition to the umpire assignments, Chris Drumm (San Louis Rey, Calif.) has been appointed as an Assistant UIC for the Junior Women’s World Championship.

“It is a great honor to represent our country, give back to the sport that has given me so much, and be able to work and learn from umpires around the world,” said Brunot.

USA Softball of Florida Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) Dunbar echoes Brunot’s sentiments stating, “I am extremely honored and humbled to once again represent my country on the international stage. It is always satisfying that others feel that you have what it takes and reward you with these opportunities. I like working with umpires from other countries and enjoying some camaraderie with them through softball. I have had a couple of other opportunities to do this having worked World Cup in 2007 and the Pan Am Games in Guadalajara Mexico in 2011. There is no experience like working in front of packed stadiums and feeling the electricity in the air!”
Continued: 2017 College Corner
USA Softball Player of the Week Recipients

Week Seven
With 2017 Record

1. Oregon (29-0)
2. Florida (29-1)
3. Florida State (32-1-1)
4. Arizona (32-1)
5. Texas A&M (28-3)
6. Minnesota (28-2)
7. Auburn (27-9)
8. Washington (26-6)
9. Alabama (30-4)
10. LSU (27-7)
11. James Madison (26-4)
12. Oklahoma (28-7)
13. Baylor (28-6)
14. UCLA (24-8)
15. Utah (21-7)
16. Georgia (26-7)
16. Kentucky (22-6)
18. Michigan (22-7-1)
19. Tennessee (26-6)
20. Louisiana (23-5)
21. Wisconsin (23-3)
22. California (19-8)
23. Arizona State (23-8)
24. Arkansas (22-9)
25. Ohio State (18-7)

RV: North Carolina, BYU, Tulsa, Oklahoma State, Ole Miss, Missouri, Illinois, Louisville, Texas State, USC Upstate, Cal Poly, and Florida International.

USA Softball Collegiate National Player of the Week Honorees

Week 3 - Mo Mercado
Week 4 - Nicole Schroeder
Week 5 - Alexis Osorio
Co-Week 6 - Sierra Hyland
Co-Week 6 - Missouri
Week 7 - Danielle O’Toole

To view the 2017 USA Softball College Corner, click here >>
USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA
INDUCTS 2017 HOF CLASS

On Saturday March 4, USA Softball of Alabama held their 2017 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony to recognize and honor eight individuals who have contributed and brought attention to the great game of softball through their performances, whether through playing, managing, sponsoring, umpiring or a combination of these skills, and/or a high level of promotional support. USA Softball of Alabama thanks and salutes them, and now honors them by placing them into the USA Softball of Alabama Hall of Fame. Congratulations to USA Softball of Alabama 2017 inductees!

David Cater – Commissioner (Lake Wales, Fla.)
David Cater began his career as a player in 1973, playing in the Church and Open Leagues. He began his lengthy career as an umpire in 1976. During his career as an umpire, he served as the Booking Agent for the Tuscaloosa Umpires Association. He umpired in many Alabama District and State Tournaments. David was selected to umpire in four USA Softball of Alabama National Tournaments where he received an excellent rating. As a result of his hard work and dedication, David was appointed District 8 Commissioner in 1983. He served in this capacity until he retired in 2001. While working within the USA Softball of Alabama program, David organized over 275 District Tournaments and assisted with many State and National Tournaments. He was selected to be the Umpire Coordinator in three National Tournaments.

Deborah Dixon – Slow Pitch (Attalla, Alabama)
Deborah began her bat and ball experience playing youth baseball in 1979. In 1983, she began her USA Softball of Alabama playing career with Kelly’s Cougars, a dominate Junior Olympic team, playing with them until 1989. During these years the Cougars won their League Championship four times and the League Tournament five times. Deborah was named to the All-Tournament team several times. She also was an All-American once and MVP several times.

Terry Jackson – Umpire (Selma, Ala.)
Terry began umpiring in 1982 in Selma, and is still umpiring today. During his 34 years, he attended all the USA Softball of Alabama District 9 and State umpire clinics. Terry umpired many district and state tournaments over the years, and also umpired in five USA Softball National Tournaments. Terry is known for his laid-back demeanor, his quiet personality, and for always doing a solid job when on the field. He has umpired out of the Selma Association and also the Montgomery Umpire Association. Terry supported the USA Softball of Alabama Hall of Fame by attending several of the inductions.

Richard “Will” Kirkpatrick – (Posthumously) Fast Pitch (Pelham, Ala.)
Will began his softball career at the age of 14 as a member of the Dolomite Baptist Church RA team. His career was with teams in the Birmingham and Tuscaloosa area, but most people remember him for playing in the Birmingham Leagues. His career as a pitcher spanned over 40 years, and during those years, Will competed with many players already in the USA Softball of Alabama Hall of Fame. Will played in the Central Alabama Association, as Jefferson County was a separate association from USA Softball of Alabama, participating in many local invitational tournaments. Will played in 12 USA Softball Southern Regional Tournaments and in 11 USA Softball National Tournaments. One of his many outstanding accomplishments was pitching a no-hitter in the National Tournament played in Miamela, Ga.

Steve Nelson – Umpire (Springville, Ala.)
Steve attended his first umpire meeting with the Etowah County Umpires Association in 1979. As Steve’s career advanced, he became an officer of the local umpire group and held the group together for a few years after G. Pat Adkison retired. Over his career, Steve umpired in more State Tournaments and National Tournaments than any other umpire in USA Softball of Alabama. He has umpired in over 50 State Championships and in 30 USA Softball National Tournaments. Steve also umpired in other prestigious tournaments, including the Men’s Border Battle between USA and Canada, as well as the Armed Forces Championships. In addition, Steve umpired in Team USA’s exhibition game in Montgomery in 2008. Steve is a member of the National Indicator Fraternity and he earned both Gold Medal Status and Elite Certification in Slow Pitch in 2003.
USA Softball recently announced the USA Softball Men’s Fast Pitch Invitational Tournament will once again be held June 9-11 in Ashland, Ohio. For the second year in a row, USA Softball will be providing an opportunity for Men’s Fast Pitch players to be evaluated by the USA Softball Men’s National Team Selection Committee (MNTSC) and USA Softball Men’s National Team (MNT) coaching staff in hopes of making it into an elite identified athlete pool.

“I would like to personally welcome all players, teams, and sponsors to participate in the second annual USA Softball Men’s Fast Pitch Invitational Tournament,” said MNT Head Coach, Denny Bruckert. “Last year’s tournament was a huge success as several athletes were identified and placed in the player pool to be considered for the final USA Softball Men’s National Team Selection Camp. This camp could be held in late 2018 or early 2019 for the next cycle for the 2019 World Baseball Softball Confederation and 2019 Pan American team. As a Coaching Staff and Selection Committee, we need to develop these players and continue to watch them throughout the 2018 season in the major tournaments and finally in the USA Softball Men’s Major and ISC World. If you feel you have ambition of playing for the USA Men’s National Team, this is your best option to be seen by the committee and the coaching staff.”

The weekend tournament officially starts Friday, June 9 with a technical meeting, where managers and sponsors will meet at the local Elks Club to decide the format of the tournament. Team representatives will be given time to provide their input and preferences for the weekend. However, all teams should prepare and be ready to take the field the morning of June 10 with the expected championship games to start Sunday afternoon. Games will be held at Brookside Park, 123 Parkside Dr, in Ashland, Ohio.

“We want to get back on that medal stand and it’s our job as a coaching staff to develop our players,” Bruckert added. “Nobody wants to see softball in the United States take a backseat to anybody. Currently sitting at No. 6 in the WBSC World Rankings, we hope to improve and move up by the performance we put on this season and in the future.”

“We look forward to hosting the tournament for the second year in row and watching the incredible talent of Men’s Fast Pitch teams from across the country,” said USA Softball President and USA Softball of Ohio Commissioner Warren Jones. “This tournament continues to bring in the best in the country, and will help build the future of USA Softball men’s fast pitch.” If teams or individual players wish to participate, they can visit the tournament website at TournamentUSASoftball.com.
Wisdom is defined as, “the soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment”. In the definition, there is no mention of age as it isn’t a precursor to being wise.

Let me introduce you to Sarah Logan, USA Softball Umpire who received her training from Roseville Girls Softball. She attended the National Umpire School in Roseville, California, in February. In one of the breakout sessions the topic was discussed on how young umpires deal with coaches that tell them they shouldn’t be on the field because they are too young or don’t know what they are doing. Sarah proudly spoke up and said she would tell the coach, “I am an umpire!” Think about the strength of that statement? ”I am an umpire!” She imparted that she knows the game, the rules, the mechanics and is confident in her abilities.

Much of the credit goes to UIC Elaine Dykhouse who for the 20 plus years has led the Roseville Girls Softball Umpire Training Program. Elaine, “I have great passion for this program and feel strongly that our youth, particularly our young females, gain invaluable lessons, lessons that could never be taught in a classroom, that will reach far beyond just umpiring a softball game.” The premise of the program is to teach skills that include, critical thinking, conflict resolution, decision making, accountability, responsibility, leadership and being a role model. These young umpires are wise beyond their age and are the future of the USA Softball Program.

Pictured: Elaine with Kelsey, Hope, Kaily, Ashley, Bella, Abby and Layla. These are Roseville Girls Softball Umpires who attended the NUS. These young ladies have from four years to ten years of experience and their ages vary from 15 to 21 years old.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ROSEVILLE GIRLS SOFTBALL UMPIRE PROGRAM ON PAGE 27 >>**
I love watching young women having fun and being active,” said Neaman. “I will admit I was a bit timid when I heard a girl say ‘this is my first time playing catcher,’ but I had so much fun. The experiences with the youth league reminds me so much of my own childhood experience on the field; girls laughing, making mistakes, cheering for each other even when they were on opposing teams and the families in the stands having a blast.”

Neaman gets that umpiring with USA Softball is about family. Last year, she organized the first USA Softball of Seattle versus USA Softball of Washington Umpire Challenge, where umpires from the two USA Softball associations battled on the slow pitch field for bragging rights. Following the challenge, they all shared a potluck and BBQ which raised over $400 for the fire fighters battling wild fires in Eastern Washington. It was such a great hit that it is now the most anticipated event of the summer – and the friendly smack talk has already begun.

Shani Neaman represents true USA Softball ideals. She is a great umpire with a great attitude who gives back to her local association and the game of softball ...and does it while having so much fun.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN BECOME A USA SOFTBALL UMPIRE >>

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The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST) participated in two major events in the month of March – one softball related and one non-softball. On March 19, for the second year in a row, several WWAST players honored veterans by participating in the Bataan Memorial Death March in White Sands, N.M. WWAST players: Greg Reynolds, Mike Brown, Cody Rice, and Tim Horton conquered the challenging march of 26.2 miles. They trekked through the high desert terrain of White Sands Missile Range in honor of the heroic service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II, sacrificing their freedom, health, and, in many cases, their lives. While there, they also got to meet some of the survivors of Bataan. This was the second year in a row that Greg, Mike, and Tim participated in the march with the WWAST. On March 24-26, the WWAST travelled to Mission Viejo, Calif. to play in a doubleheader against the Orange County All-Stars. The WWAST came out victorious on both games by scores of 19-9 and 8-5. The games were part of a Veterans Resource Fair hosted by Assemblyman William Brough and Senator Patricia Bates. As part of the event weekend, the WWAST participated in helping with the VetNet 5K run sponsored by Working Wardrobes. WWAST player and double amputee, Rob Jones, ran in the event and was fourth overall! The WWAST would like to thank everyone - the event organizers, sponsors, and fans who made this event such a great success.

The remainder of the WWAST 2017 schedule has been posted to their official website. Be sure to check it out here >> The WWAST recently opened up the 2018 schedule. If your community is interested in hosting the WWAST for an event in 2018, please contact WWAST Executive Director, Dennis Wince, for details by emailing dennis@thewwast.org. There is very limited availability for the 2017 season.

The Roseville Girls Softball umpire program is a predominately youth umpire program, although some have aged through the program. Elaine Dykhouse has been the Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) for 20+ years and has strived to make the program unique in that the youth obtain skill sets that they would not be able to attain elsewhere given their age. Skills that include: critical thinking, conflict resolution, decision making, accountability, responsibility, leadership and being a role model. Kids are filtered through the program to where they are promoted through age, effort and skill set and in time, the rookie becomes a junior umpire, a junior umpire becomes an advanced junior, an advanced junior becomes a mid-senior and a mid-senior becomes a full senior umpire. The program averages 72 registered umpires, both male and female, with ages ranging from sixth grade through college age.

Senior umpires have the responsibility of supervising fields, detecting when a young umpire is struggling and helping them gain their foothold without the young umpire losing their confidence. They are responsible for training the younger umpires through skill sets they learn as an umpire but also methods that they learn through Dykhouse’s teaching, for example, how to read eyes, how to read body language, and how to detect what their trainee is feeling through their voice. These are skills that will take them far into their college and professional careers. They learn how to control their emotions, and how to articulate a rule to an adult under a contested moment clearly and professionally. This aids them when they need to challenge their college professor for a grade or perhaps need to ask their future boss for a raise or promotion. Through the program, they learn not only self-confidence and self-reliance, but also how to lean in and work with a partner in addition to believing and relying on their training.

Dykhouse has a great passion for this program and feels strongly that our youth, particularly our young females, gain invaluable lessons, lessons that could never be taught in a classroom, that will reach far beyond just umpiring a softball game.
USA SOFTBALL ALL-AMERICAN GAMES TO BE HELD AUG. 18-20, 2017 AT HOF COMPLEX

Held at the “Softball Capital of the World®” in Oklahoma City, Okla., the USA Softball All-American Games provide national exposure to elite athletes in the 12-under Junior Olympic (JO) fast pitch division and will highlight the top competitors from across the country.

“The USA Softball JO Commissioners are very excited to host an event that showcases 360 of the best 12-under players from around the country,” said USA Softball of Southern California JO Commissioner Kristi Allen. “We are excited to give these athletes the opportunity to play at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex representing USA Softball.”

With teams selected from the 10 USA Softball Regions, a total of 24 teams from across the U.S. will compete in the USA Softball All-American games. Each region can select up to two teams to represent their region at the USA Softball All-American Games and each team will consist of 15 athletes and two coaches. Athletes must be on a USA Softball registered team for the 2017 season and must be age eligible for the 12-under JO division. Each region is responsible for the selection process for their teams, and players must commit and be registered no later than July 1.

Teams competing in the USA Softball All-American Games will be invited to participate in an exposure camp to highlight their skills. The USA Softball All-American Games will also have an Opening Ceremony, free live streaming and live stats through USASoftball.com and players will be provided with a tournament “swag” bag, which will include their USA Softball All-American jerseys and other official USA Softball and sponsor merchandise.

For more information, visit USASoftballAllAmericanGames.com >>

USA SOFTBALL OF MARYLAND-DC-DELAWARE

USA Softball of Maryland-DC-Delaware held its annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony March 18, to formally recognize and celebrate the honorees. The inductee list was impressive - featuring players that have won numerous world and national titles at the highest levels the country offers, while the Seniors have stacked up as many wins and championship titles themselves. It also highlighted an umpire with nine National Championship appearances, and a sponsor that has done a variety of work to support his teams. The team representative and promoter were also honored for their accomplishments and work in supporting USA Softball. The list includes the following inductees: Butch Reed and Mark Urbain (players); Katy Page, Nolan Forness, Ricky Grimm, and Patti Martin (senior players); Bill Savage (umpire); Al Doong (promoter); Jim Cryer (sponsor), and the Pennies (team).
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