Taylor Hoagland, Dallas ASA host clinic

A year ago Women’s National Team Member and University of Texas standout, Taylor Hoagland, was preparing to take the dirt for her final season with the University of Texas, where she was recognized as one of the top women’s softball players in the nation.

In early January Hoagland hosted a youth softball clinic in conjunction with the Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department. Hoagland was host to softball players from across the city ranging in age from 6 to 18 years of age. The U.S.A. National team star couldn’t be happier to take the dirt with these players, in an effort to continue to highlight a game that she loves.

“I love the fact that I’m able to share my passion for softball with all of these young players,” said Hoagland. Hoagland who began her softball career at the age of 5 understands that it takes commitment, drive and dedication to earn a place on the dirt at the collegiate level. For a player then to go on and secure a roster spot on the USA National Team it takes even more determination and perseverance. “I hope that I am able to instill in these players not only the physical and time commitment needed to play at the highest level, but the necessity for a solid mental game. This game is so much bigger than just one player. It takes dedicated coaches, teammates, parents and an organization like ASA/USA to all come together in support of the game for players to succeed,” said Hoagland.

The day long clinic, focused on agility, proper hitting/fielding techniques, scrimmage and concluding with a QA session, autographs and photos with Hoagland. The Rockwall Parks and Recreation goal was to stimulate a love for the game while providing training and improvement of the player’s game. “We just wanted a chance to be able to give back to the community, and to be able to provide an opportunity for players to meet and train with one of the best players in the nation. We hope that this is just the beginning of great and continued success for these players, our community’s program and the ASA/USA organization.” said John Evans, City of Rockwall Athletic Supervisor.

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   Following Bill Maher’s retirement after 42 years, Gary Young appointed South Dakota ASA Commissioner

“This is a great time of the year, a time to look forward to challenges ahead of us and to plan for the achievement of the goals that we have set for ourselves, our local associations and ASA/USA Softball. I am confident that this New Year will be both exciting and significant!”

ASA/USA Softball President Phil Gutierrez

Read more from the President on Page 2!
Happy New Year!

As we begin the year 2014, our 83rd season of softball, preparations are in place throughout the country for a successful ASA/USA Softball season. The National Office has already distributed the 2014 ASA/USA Softball Code and Procedural Manual as well as the 2014 Participant Manual and Umpire Manual, also known as the Official Rules of Softball. Additionally, upgrades have been made to RegisterASA, our ACE Coaches program, TournamentASA.com and our background check procedures which make the use of these systems more convenient and faster. Moreover, from January 31 - February 1 ASA/USA Softball hosted its biennial Junior Olympic (JO) Workshop where the leaders of our very successful JO Program gathered to exchange ideas, disseminate information and plan for the future of the program. Our Adult Program has already begun hosting Qualifying Tournaments to put our slow pitch teams on the road to a National Championship, which this year again includes the Men’s Super Slow Pitch National Championship that will be held in Fort Worth, Texas.

Our Umpire Program is currently holding 13 National Umpire Schools throughout the country as well as an Umpire Fast Pitch Camp hosted by Indiana ASA and an Umpire Slow Pitch Camp hosted by Oregon ASA. These schools and camps prepare our umpires for upward movement in their umpire careers and assist the local associations in the development of their umpire training programs.

This year we will have four of our five national teams participating in events from now through October, with a good possibility of all five having events in which to participate. The USA Men’s Slow Pitch Team will again participate in the annual Border Battle versus Canada, only this year we travel to Canada for the first time in the history of the event. Our USA Men’s Fast Pitch Team participated in an International Men’s Fast Pitch Tournament in Altamonte Springs, Fla. this month and will travel to Parana, Argentina in October for the qualifying tournament of the 2015 Pan American Games and ISF World Championship. In June, the USA Junior Men’s Team will tour the West Coast on their way to Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada to participate in the ISF World Championship July 11-20. Also during the summer months, the USA Women’s Team will begin their preparations for a Gold Medal at the ISF World Championship in Haarlem, Netherlands August 15-24. Be sure to check USASoftball.com for a schedule for all our National Teams!

As stated at the earlier, this will be an exciting and significant year for ASA/USA Softball. We appreciate everybody’s contributions to the excitement created by our game and wish each of you an amazing softball year. Stay safe, and have a lot of fun!
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Hello everyone and welcome to the January 2014 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball!

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and Holiday season! Normally, this section of our newsletter was reserved for “A note from the editor”, but as we head into the new year I thought I would switch things up a bit. With that said, welcome to “Codi’s Corner”, a place where you can find tips and tricks to help make your association the best it can be!

This month I’d like to give you some helpful hints when it comes to dealing with social media. I know what you’re thinking: “Enough with social media that’s all anyone ever talks about!” My thoughts on the subject are this...if that’s all that anyone talks about then why wouldn’t you want to be present on it! Social media can seem scary and confusing but trust me when I say that if my grandma can figure it out, anyone can (sorry grams, I love you but it’s true!)

Here are some tips you can use when either creating or maintaining your association’s social media:

1. **Keep it simple!** Ever heard the phrase “Less is more”? More often than not, that phrase rings true when it comes to social media! There’s a reason Twitter is so successful and it’s because you have to get out your message in less than 140 characters!

2. **Make sure you’re posts cover all age and division groups.** At ASA/USA Softball, we’re proud of the fact that we offer people from the age of eight to eighty the opportunity to play softball! Whether it’s fast pitch or slow pitch, our athletes and umpires have the ability to be active at all levels! If you only post information about youth fastpitch, you’ll lose your adult slow pitch or umpire followers. The list could go on and on, but you get my point. Post a variety of information!

3. **If you create an account, be active!** What I mean by this is that if you create an account, make sure you’re updating your posts/tweets at least every other day! People like to see fresh new content! If you don’t keep it fresh, people will stop going to your page.

4. **The stats don’t lie!** Did you know over 4.2 billion people accessed social media sites in 2013?! Over 1.15 billion people use Facebook, 25% of which check the site more than five times a day! That’s at least five times per day someone can find out about your association! Here’s another shocking statistic: 60% of consumers say that the integration of social media makes them more likely to share products and services!

5. **Just because it’s available doesn’t mean you need to be on it!** Please refer to tip No. 1 and remember that less is more! My advice is to find about two or three social media platforms where you believe your association will benefit the most and establish your presence there. If you have too many platforms it’s much harder to grow your following on every one. My top platforms: **Facebook, Twitter** and **Instagram**.

That’s all the tips I have for this issue, but fear not I will be back next month with more!
In December, the Dallas ASA participated in another exceptional “For the Love of Kids” Christmas event, with softball players from across the state supporting the effort! The Love for Kids organization provides numerous events during the year in support of unprivileged youth across the state of Texas. For the “For the Love of Kids” Christmas event, volunteers worked tirelessly all year in hopes that over 4,000 youth would have an opportunity to romp, play and enjoy a day of fun.

As hundreds of yellow school buses began to roll into Circle R Ranch, excitement filled the air for all who were waiting to greet each child as they exited the buses. All of the volunteers formed a very long two sided line to greet, hug, provide high-fives, fist bumps and just acknowledge each of children upon arrival. The last child was off the bus and greeted two hours from the first high-five…Whew!

For ten years the Flower Mound Lady Jaguars Softball team has supported and volunteered at the annual event. Each year, more and more players become involved and bring other players and organizations out in support of the event. Coach Larriba, Head Coach of the Lady Jags, worked the welcoming line from beginning to end.

“This is pretty overwhelming,” said Larriba. “[We] wanted to make sure that every child was welcomed and knew that we were excited that they were here to enjoy the day, and they were.”

The need at this event was coats, hats, gloves, scarves and small stuff toys to be gifted to the children. As in the past, there was an immediate call to action for the Lady Jags to begin the collection of these items. With the need being so great this year, a select-travel softball organization, Mizuno Impulse, answered the call as well. Mizuno Impulse quickly rallied all of their coaches and players to join in the effort to meet this need.

“This is the fourth year my players have participated in this event,” said Mizuno Head Coach Junior Torres. “It was certainly life changing for everyone. For us to be able to spend the day and bring smiles to the faces of these kids was very rewarding and humbling.”

While the weather was less than perfect, the celebration went on without a hitch. All attending enjoyed live music, dancing, face painting, carnival events, a petting zoo, sand art and a picnic lunch. Over 400 toys donated arrived in the nick of time and were provided to the winners of the carnival games….and EVERYONE won! The smiles were endless!

Those in need of coats, scarfs and other items were allowed to “shop” in a room filled with over 1,700 coats, jackets, gloves, hats and scarfs. As they entered the “coat store” the only thing that those shopping were limited too was their size! Mizuno Coach Lozoya and team donated over 170 coats, sweaters and toys for this event.

“To see where these donations were going was amazing,” said Lozoya. “The need was much more than anyone could have anticipated. We were excited to have participated in this event and have a better understanding of the need.”

“This year was especially touching and emotional. Kids were greeted and many came wearing only shorts and T-shirts and with temperatures at 40 degrees. It was exhilarating to see cold, frowning kids sort through piles of coats to find that perfect new coat, a pair of gloves and more”, said event coordinator and Lady Jaguar Booster President, Nesa Grider. “Each year many in the community count on these coaches, players and parents to step up to be difference makers both on the dirt and off. Many only know these teams and players as outstanding athletes, what most don’t know are that these ladies are young adults on a certain path to impact and change lives.”

The Lady Jaguars and Mizuno Impulse community service motto is “Change a girl, change a family and you will most certainly change the community.”

The Lady Jaguars and Mizuno Impulse are committed to being champion’s on the dirt and in the community!
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Even with renovations continuing at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex, 22 events, including the NCAA Women’s College World Series, the 18U GOLD National Championship and the Slow Pitch Championship Series will make up the 2014 season for the ASA/USA Softball National Office staff. Events held in March, April, August and September will be hosted at the brand new Edmond 66 Park in Edmond, Okla., while events held from May-July will be played at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City.

### 2014 ASA Hall of Fame Complex Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Tournament Info</th>
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<td>The Preview</td>
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<td>Spring Challenge (10, 12, 14U)</td>
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<td>April 4-5</td>
<td>ASA Spring Classic (HS SP)</td>
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<td>April 11-13</td>
<td>Combat Capital City Classic</td>
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<td>April 25-27</td>
<td>Spring Challenge (14, 16, 18U)</td>
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<td>May 29 - June 4</td>
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<td>June 13-15</td>
<td>14U HOF Qualifier</td>
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<td>June 20-22</td>
<td>18U GOLD HOF Qualifier</td>
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<td>June 26-28</td>
<td>16U HOF Qualifier</td>
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<td>June 28-30</td>
<td>18U HOF Qualifier</td>
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<td>July 4-6</td>
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<td>Aug. 15-17</td>
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<td>Edmond 66 Park</td>
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<td>Aug. 29 - Sept. 1</td>
<td>Men’s C SP Nationals</td>
<td>Edmond 66 Park</td>
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<td>Sept. 19-20</td>
<td>ASA Okla. Shootout (HS FP)</td>
<td>Edmond 66 Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 26-28</td>
<td>Slow Pitch Champ. Series</td>
<td>Edmond 66 Park</td>
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AS THEY TAKE ON THE WORLD.
Seattle ASA Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) Kayleen Dunson decided to take the plunge into the 2014 season. Literally. On New Year’s Day Dunson, along with Seattle ASA Commissioner Mike Rabin, National Umpire Staff member Malcolm Boyles, Sean Wells and Mike Sepe put on their ASA/USA Softball finest and jumped into waters of Alki Beach.

On that crisp 42-degree morning, over 500 swimmers entered the Puget Sound as part of the annual event. Always coming up with creative ways to generate interest in umpiring, Dunson and the Seattle entourage definitely achieved their goal. They came armed with information about the ASA/USA Softball Umpire Program and walked away with an interested new umpire, some free cocoa and and a refreshed (yet slightly frozen) outlook for 2014.

Back in April of 2013, The Inside Pitch featured an article on Seattle Style, which is a great approach to inspire and retain umpires. With their passionate approach, Seattle ASA’s umpire program continues to grow.

You can find more pictures from the event on the Seattle Metro Softball Umpires Association Facebook page.

“It was an AMAZING experience with my umpire family! Truly can’t express how much JOY I felt when these blues showed up to do this with me.” - Dunson
In Memoriam
ASA/USA loses softball greats

Norm Davis
Norman C. Davis, 79, of Fairview Avenue, died Sunday, Dec. 29, at his home. Born in Augusta on March 16, 1934, he was a son of the late Marguerite and Sam Davis. He graduated from Edward Little High School in 1952.

He umpired softball for 30 years and was on the National Umpire Staff for ASA/USA Softball and the State and Regional Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) until 1999. He gave clinics on softball rules and mechanics and umpired in 34 states across the U.S. and overseas for the U.S. Air Force in Italy, Turkey, Germany and England. He spoke at many testimonials and was inducted into the Auburn-Lewiston Sports Hall of Fame in 1997. He always said that any success he had was due to his beloved wife, Elaine, as she was “the wind beneath his wings.”

He was instrumental in getting many local umpires into national tournaments. He was UIC for 50 national tournaments and was highly regarded by ASA/USA Softball.

Ted Germain
Theodore H. Germain of Mayville, age 64, passed away on Sunday, January 19, 2014 at his home, following a lingering illness. He was born June 5, 1949 in Saginaw, the son of Russell J. Germain & Esther Scholl, and grew up in Millington. Following his graduation from Central Michigan University and service in the U.S. Army during the end of the Vietnam War, Ted began a career at Mayville Community Schools where he taught English. He was very active in his student’s lives and school activities that included coaching football, teaching physical education and umpiring softball for Michigan ASA (MASA) games in the area. Ted was inducted in the MASA Hall of Fame in 1999. In November of 2013, he was also selected to be inducted into the National Softball Hall of Fame. He was happily married for thirty-six years with Nancy, who survives him. They have always resided in Mayville.

Dean Amick
Dean D. Amick August 31, 1935 January 26, 2014
Dean D. Amick, 78, of State College, died Sunday, January 26, 2014, at his residence surrounded by his family. Born August 31, 1935, in New Enterprise, he was the son of the late Luther and Lavina Eweis Amick. On March 6, 2009, in Hawaii, he married Grayce W. Rote, who survives.

He was a 1953 graduate of Replogle High School in New Enterprise. Dean served in the United States Army as a military policeman from 1955 until 1957. Dean retired on December 31, 2009 as the Director of Field Operations for the Dairy Herd Improvement Association. He attended Calvary Baptist Church in State College. Dean was inducted into the Pennsylvania Softball Hall of Fame in 1980 as a player and a manager. He was president of the Pennsylvania Amateur Softball Association from 1999 until his death.
USA Athletes of the Year
Arioto, Palazzo and Wegman earn honors

Valerie Arioto
In her third year with the USA Women’s National Team, infielder Valerie Arioto showed why she’s considered one of the best in the game. The 24-year-old saw action in 22 games and helped lead Team USA to Silver in the General Tire World Cup of Softball, a Bronze at the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International and Gold at the Pan-American Games/World Championship qualifier in Puerto Rico this past summer.

The Cal-Berkeley alum hit .404 on the year with five home runs, 23 RBI and 18 runs scored. She compiled an astonishing .606 on-base percentage and an .830 slugging percentage.

In the field, Arioto recorded just one error in her 22 outings. The slugger also saw time in the pitching circle where she went 2-0 and allowed just two runs on eight hits in 11.2 innings for a 1.24 ERA.

Matt Palazzo
Power hitter Matt Palazzo led the USA Men’s Fast Pitch National Team in hitting at the 2013 ISF World Championships to earn the USA Softball Male Fast Pitch Player of the Year title. Palazzo was successful in 10 of his 18 at-bats during the World Championships to amass a .556 batting average. He totaled 10 runs, four doubles, and four home runs as well as eight RBI in the event.

“It’s truly an honor to be recognized as the USA Softball Male Fast Pitch Player of the Year,” said Palazzo. “ASA/USA Softball does a great job of promoting our sport and I appreciate the confidence they have shown in me to invite me to participate on the National Team over the past few years. There’s nothing like representing your country in the sport that you love.”

Brian Wegman
Brian Wegman earned his first USA Softball Male Slow Pitch Athlete of the Year honor in style. Wegman, along with the USA Slow Pitch National Team, went 4-0 on the year including a 25-10 (5 inning) run rule over Canada in Border Battle V and a 32-16 (5 inning) victory over the USA Slow Pitch Futures Team in the Slow Pitch Showdown.

In his four games with the Team USA, Wegman went 14-of-15 from the plate for a .933 batting average and scored 14 runs. The Ohio native hit five home runs and three doubles on his way to recording 13 RBI.

Wegman also earned MVP honors in the 2013 ASA Super Slow Pitch Championship, where he went 12-for-17 for a .706 average with six home runs, 13 RBI and 14 runs scored. Wegman also collected MVP honors at the Men’s Class A Slow Pitch National Championship where he hit .900 (18-for-20) with eight home runs, 19 RBI and 19 runs scored.
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Tennessee ASA Hall of Fame Induction

On Saturday, January 25th the Tennessee ASA held its annual Hall of Fame Banquet. Seven new inductees were honored and inducted based on their contributions to ASA/USA softball in the state. Many are still highly involved in softball to this day. We at ASA are extremely appreciative of all the work they’ve done to promote softball from the youngest ages on up. A Commissioner’s Award was also given to Jennifer Gentry for all her work in 2013 to promote ASA/USA softball.

Inductees of the TN ASA Hall of Fame Class of 2013 are: Sherrell Gage, Patty Giffin, Rita Hannah, Ernie Montgomery, Glenn Rose, Ralph & Karen Weekly.

Metro Detroit hosts successful softball summit

The Metro Detroit ASA staff held a Softball Summit in December for all softball administrators! The successful event attracted 48 people as they kicked off the 2014 season. Invitations were sent to ASA and non-ASA agencies in hopes to recruit those non-ASA agencies into our program (which some non-ASA agencies did attend!)...and tell the Metro Detroit ASA story!

Valuable information was discussed regarding the ASA program and its benefits. Door prizes were distributed to attendees as well as everyone received an ASA shirt compliments of Metro Detroit ASA. Two invaluable partners of Metro Detroit also attended - Dave Beachnau, Executive Director of the Detroit Sports Commission (see below photo) and Ann Conklin, COO of the Michigan Recreation and Park Association. Also distributed was the 30-page 2014 Handbook produced by MDASA for all agencies that is a valuable resource tool for everyone!

Dallas ASA holds umpire clinic

ASA/USA’s commitment to the highest level of play and professionalism was further magnified at the annual DFW-ASA Umpire Clinic and certification, Sunday January 5. Being one of the largest officiating organizations is great, but being the best trained and equipped is paramount to all ASA/USA umpires.

“The goal of this clinic is to provide continued quality training to all umpires in an effort to fully promote uniformed and professionalism on the dirt,” said Dallas ASA Commissioner Dave Devine. “With this training, classroom sessions are filled with detailed and comprehensive instruction in umpire mechanics, procedures, and rules and interpretations. We want our umpires to be the best of the best and a continued current knowledge base is how that is accomplished”.

With over 150 ASA umpires in attendance, these umpires take great pride in the training they receive, the uniform they wear and the ability to provide exceptional service during their careers.

“For those serious about umpiring, the ASA training is the best available in any sports organization today. Whether it’s mechanics, base positioning, signals, working with players and coaches, or just tips in umpiring, the continuing education provided by the ASA is unmatched”, said Dallas ASA Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) Steve McGowan.
ASA/USA Softball recently donated $4,800 to Susan G. Komen for the Cure® of Central and Western Oklahoma. The money, raised by an eBay auction of pink items used by 2013 USA Softball Women’s National Team athletes during July’s World Cup of Softball, brings USA Softball’s six year donation total to $65,700.

“We’re happy to continue this tradition of donating to Susan G. Komen for the Cure® of Central and Western Oklahoma,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress. “Breast cancer is a horrific disease that touches so many and we as an Association will continue to raise awareness with our National Team programs as well as our Junior Olympic and Adult events across the country until a cure can be found. We appreciate our partners Nike for providing the Pink uniforms that our USA Softball Women’s National Team wears each year in the Pink Out game.”

The USA Softball Women’s National Team donned pink uniforms in a “Pink Out” game during the General Tires World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City to honor breast cancer survivors and create awareness for breast cancer research. In October, more than 20 items went up for bid on eBay, including not only the game worn jerseys of the National Team athletes, but also team signed posters.

Pink items worn and used by USA athletes throughout the past four years are permanently on display at the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum, 2801 N.E. 50th Street in Oklahoma City.
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What's your ACTIVE?
As a new season approaches, Liberty Mutual Insurance Responsible Sports talks to Ken Eriksen and Mike White about how to kick it off right.

Ken Eriksen, USA women’s softball head coach, tells softball players why they shouldn’t play the sport year-round: “If you’re playing softball in the summertime, I don’t believe you should be playing softball in the fall...Go out there and do some other things.”

Listen to Ken Eriksen now >>>

Mike White, former ASA Player of the Year and current University of Oregon head coach, tells softball players what they should work on in the offseason. White also shares this valuable coaching tip: “You know, when we steal from somebody, it’s plagiarism, right? And when we steal from a lot of people, it’s called research...I go to see as many people speak on the game as I can. I can always learn something new.”

Listen to Mike White now >>>

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WHEN YOU JOIN THE LEAGUE BY SPORTS AUTHORITY
Border Battle VI is heading North! Starting with a series of exhibition games on July 24, the annual Border Battle event will be held July 26 at the Peter Hallman Ballyard in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. The USA Men’s Slow Pitch National Team, the USA Future’s Slow Pitch National Team and two Canadian teams will go head-to-head July 24-26 to compete for bragging rights for another year. This marks the first time that Canada will host the event as the ASA Hall of Fame (HOF) Stadium in Oklahoma City, Okla. has played host since its inception in 2009.

“What a great opportunity for Men’s Slow Pitch National Team Program to travel to Canada and participate in Border Battle VI and for the first time in the history of the Slow Pitch National Team program it will occur on foreign soil,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress. “We know that Softball Canada and the City of Kitchener will do a tremendous job of hosting this event and we look forward to continuing this great rivalry and competing in Border Battle VI.”

Created in conjunction with the inaugural Border Battle slow pitch competition against Canada in 2009, the Men’s Slow Pitch National Team program is now in its sixth run. With a 25-10 victory last year in Oklahoma City, Team USA extended its lead to 4-1 in the Border Battle series. The Americans won Border Battle I 30-23 but Canada evened the series in 2010 with a 30-29 win. The USA men rebounded in 2011 with a dominating 25-3 performance and won 32-21 in 2012.

The USA Future’s Team is now in its third season after being established in 2012 to compete in the inaugural Slow Pitch Showdown against the Men’s Slow Pitch National Team. The Future’s claimed the first Slow Pitch Showdown in dramatic fashion when they defeated Team USA 38-37. Team USA responded strong in last year’s matchup, needing only five innings to defeat the Futures 32-16.

“I’m excited that the Border Battle will continue and am humbled to be selected again as the Head Coach for Team USA,” said Men’s Slow Pitch National Team Head Coach Steve Shortland. “I have no doubt that Softball Canada and their representatives will be gracious hosts. Although it will feel a bit different to play away from home, it won’t detract from the honor of wearing a Team USA uniform. Nothing in sports matches the pride and emotion associated with representing your country on the field of play, no matter where the venue is. I look forward to a competitive event in what’s sure to be a great experience for everyone involved.”

The final roster for the USA Men’s teams will be announced in March on USASoftball.com. For more information on Border Battle VI, please visit SoftballCanada’s website at http://www.softball.ca/.
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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: 800-526-1379 • ASAInfo@Bollinger.com

1-800-526-1379
www.BollingerSports.com
Sacramento ASA recently gave out almost $10K worth of scholarships this year (their third year of doing so). Each tournament director that runs an ASA sanctioned “A” tournament, donates $10 per team per tournament into the fund.

In all, Sacramento ASA gave out 11 scholarships in increments of $500, $750, $1000 and $2500.

Florida ASA Commissioner Carlton Benton with Jennie Finch during a photo shoot at the University of Central Florida.

An action shot at a 14-Under Qualifier in Papago Park in Phoenix, Az.

ASA/USA was well represented at the Cherry Hill, N.J. “Be the best you are” coaches clinic. Pictured (L to R): Women’s National Team member Taylor Hoagland, Jack Hutcherson, Warren Jones, Chris Sebren, Julie Bartel and Tina Sanders.
BOWLING GREEN ASA SOFTBALL

USA SOFTBALL CAMP

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SOFTBALL CAMP

March 8 - 9, 2014
Michael O’Buchanone Park
9222 Nashville Road,
Bowling Green, Kentucky
Open to girls 7-17

The camp will cover Hitting, Slapping, Defense, Pitching, Catching, and Mental Training. There will also be a Q&A session with the USA Players. There will be an autograph and picture session for the campers at the end of each day.

CAMPERS WILL NEED:
Proper attire, mitts, bats, water bottles, and bagged lunch.

CAMP PACKAGES:

| Package | Description                              | Cost  
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Package A</td>
<td>1 hour Session on Saturday</td>
<td>$45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Package B</td>
<td>4 hour All-Around Camp on Sunday</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Package C</td>
<td>2 1-hour Sessions on Saturday and All-Around Camp on Sunday</td>
<td>$100</td>
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</tbody>
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CAMP SCHEDULE:
Saturday March 8:
Morning Session 9am-12pm, Afternoon Session 1pm-4pm

Sunday, March 9:
All-Around Camp 10am-5pm
(lunch break 12pm-1pm)

REGISTRATION:
Registration will begin February 7, 2014
For more information,
Contact: Brenda Petty, Phone: (270)-779-2689
www.bpettyasa@aol.com

Register online at http://www.kyasa.org
(Registration will begin 2/7/14)
Fifty student-athletes from across the country have been selected for the “Watch List” for the 2014 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award. Now in its 13th year, the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award is designed to recognize outstanding athletic achievement by female collegiate softball players across the country.

Click here for the 2014 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Watch List


The Top 25 Finalists for the 2014 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award will be announced April 9. While an athlete does not have to be on the “Watch List” to be considered for the Top 25, the eventual USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year will come from the Top 25 Finalists. The Top 10 Finalists will be announced May 7 and the Top 3 Finalists will be announced May 21. On May 27 prior to the start of the 2014 NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) in Oklahoma City, the 2014 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year will be revealed.

In addition to bestowing the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award, ASA/USA Softball is now in its 12th season of presenting the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 Poll and the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week, which are announced Tuesdays during the regular season. The pre-season ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 Poll was released Jan. 28 with Tennessee, Oklahoma, Florida, Michigan and Washington taking the Top 5 spots respectively.

2014 Player of the Year “Watchlist” By the Numbers

Number of Seniors - 24
Number of Juniors - 20
Number of Sophomores - 6
Number of Universities Represented - 36
Number of Athletic Conferences - 12
Athletic Conference with the most athletes represented - Southeastern Conference (SEC) with 7
Young appointed Commissioner

Gary Young has been appointed the commissioner for the South Dakota ASA (SD ASA) following the retirement of long-time SD ASA Commissioner Bill Maher, who served as commissioner for 42 years.

Young got started with ASA/USA Softball in 1974 as a men's fast pitch player, and started umpiring the following year. In 1979, Young was appointed the Northeast South Dakota Area fast pitch commissioner before becoming the Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) for Northeast South Dakota in 1980.

"What an honor to be chosen as the next commissioner of South Dakota ASA," said Young. "In the 40 years I have been involved, I have seen all aspects of the game and I know what a tremendous organization ASA/USA Softball is because of people like Bill Maher, who is retiring. Just as important are all the sponsors, volunteers, players, umpires and media. I am looking forward to working with those in South Dakota as well as fellow commissioners in ASA and the National Office staff to keep SD ASA successful."

Young has served on the SD ASA hearing board since 1986 and has also held a seat on the SD ASA scholarship committee. He also helped implement the website for the SD ASA.

Young worked for Hubbard Milling in Watertown for almost 20 years before starting his own screen printing company in 1990. He currently is the owner of Primetime Sports Embroidery & Screen Printing, which specializes in corporate and school spirit wear.

Maher retires after 42 years

From the Black Hills Pioneer

Spearfish resident Bill Maher has stepped down as South Dakota Amateur Softball Association commissioner after 42 years. Maher said age played the biggest role in his decision. "I will be 83 at the end of the month," he said. "I am not getting it done in the time I used to."

Maher said he has really enjoyed seeing the growth in the number of teams. "We have 350 teams statewide when I started," he said. That number grew to more than 2,000 teams in 2013, as it has done for many years. Almost 500 umpires have also registered." Maher has also enjoyed representing ASA/USA at many national tournaments.

State commissioner duties for Maher started in 1972, when he lived in Pierre. The acting president and vice president asked Maher’s wife Rosemary if her husband would like to serve in the commissioner role. "She said he might take it for a couple of years,” Bill Maher said. “Four or five years turned into 42.”

The South Dakota ASA created a scholarship program in 1993 to provide $500 scholarships to eligible high school seniors in the program. Between $80,000 and $90,000 has been awarded; 17 scholarships were awarded in 2013. The Sioux Falls People for Youth organization donates $2,500 per year for this purpose.

One of Maher’s most memorable episodes occurred when the U.S. Women’s Olympic Team played in Rapid City in 2008. He also fondly remembers the camaraderie and friendships that the years have produced.

Maher has enjoyed a bird’s-eye view of the sport at the national level. He said the most significant change has occurred in the area of improved equipment. One of those equipment changes featured the development of a safer ball. "It does not come off the bat as fast and has a truer bounce," Maher said in describing the ball.

Another significant change centering on safety includes prohibiting certain bats. Maher hopes more young players and teams will materialize in the future. "The lifeblood of the sport is the youth program," he said.

Other changes over the years reflect the times. "When I was a coach and a player, I felt that players and families looked out for each others’ kids," Maher said. He added that background checks are now part of the vetting process.

Maher said he would try to watch the college players now that he has officially stepped down as state commissioner. A granddaughter also plays the fastpitch game.

Young said Maher immediately gives credit to others, including Rosemary Maher. She has served as receptionist, secretary, chauffeur, and sounding board as well as a wife and mother.

"It’s been a fantastic group to work with,” Maher said in describing all of his colleagues. “They are the ones that make the program.”

South Dakota hosts some of the highest-rated national tournaments, which Young said has occurred during Maher’s term. Young credited Maher for developing a volunteer network that is one of the state’s best.

“Bill (Maher) will never be replaced,” Young said. “My hope is to carry on the tradition and standards he has set.”

*Thank you Mr. Gross for writing an excellent article and also for sharing it news media through out the state. The media in South Dakota is very helpful to SD ASA success.
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For Your Budget
For The Environment
The USA Men’s Fast Pitch National Team entered bracket play at the ISGU International as the number one overall seed but finished 1-1 in the single-elimination format. In their first game of the day, a walk-off, three-run homer from Matt Ratliff (Sandy, Utah) sealed the win for the Americans but the pitching of Australian Adam Folkard, whose widely considered the top pitcher in the world, proved too much in game two as Team USA fell to Sureno Soy 1-0.

Click here for complete box scores and photos from the ISGU International.

Bracket Play Game 1
USA 5, Venezolanos 3

The USA Men jumped on Venezolanos early via a Chris Miljavac (Easton, Mo.) home run in the first and a Bobby Rosthenhausler (Tucson, Ariz.) RBI single that scored Nick Mullins (Toms River, NJ) in the second but the scoring stalled for the next four innings.

Josh Johnson (El Paso, Texas) earned the start in the circle for Team USA and held Venezolanos scoreless through the first four innings until three singles and a double resulted in three runs in the top of the fifth to give the South American team a 3-2 lead. The score held into the seventh and the Americans found themselves one out away from an opening game loss. Pat Sagdal (Richland, Wash.) led off the at-bat with a double and Venezolanos chose to intentionally walk Matt Palazzo (Pleasant Hill, Iowa) three batters later. With two outs and two on, trailing by one, Ratliff pinch hit and came up huge for Team USA as he connected sending a long fly ball over the fence for the walk-off victory.

Johnson finished the game with 13 strikeouts, giving up three earned runs on seven total hits.

Bracket Play Game 2
Sureno Soy 1, USA 0

In their second game, Team USA found themselves squaring off with a team that had defeated them 5-0 just one day earlier. Sureno Soy, led by Folkard, scored one run early and it proved to be enough as they defeated the USA 1-0. A single in the first at-bat of the game was the only hit that USA pitcher Tony Mancha (Las Cruces, NM) gave up in the game but a fielding error two batters later scored the sole run of the game for Sureno Soy.

Sagdal lead the way offensively for Team USA going two-for-four with a pair of singles but the Americans struggled to bring runners home throughout the game as they stranded seven on base.

Mancha finished the game with eight strikeouts, allowing just the one unearned run on one Sureno Soy hit.

Matt Ratliff prepares to throw a ball during the ISGU Tournament. Ratliff finished the tournament with five RBI and one HR.
Being a family member of Team USA has its 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.