July was a great month for ASA/USA Softball! For starters, we had four National Teams competing in major international events, and we kicked off our Junior Olympic National Championship season!

As most of you know, the fate of softball’s Olympic inclusion will be decided in September. A big part of the decision lies in the globalization and growth of our sport, which I believe was truly showcased during the General Tire World Cup of Softball and the ISF Junior Women’s World Championship. Every game at the World Cup was either streamed online at no cost to viewers or available on ESPN’s family of networks. It was a great way to promote the sport and our PlayBall2020 campaign.

On the national side of things, our 18U GOLD National Championship concluded with a great turnout. The staff in Clearwater did a phenomenal job and put together a first-class National Championship. We’ve heard several compliments about the quality of the event and I got to experience it first hand. Congratulations to the Atlanta Vipers GOLD - Giles on their National Championship, and thank you to all those who made the event such a success.

The remainder of our JO Nationals are taking place this week. Please be sure your teams know about ASA’s certified equipment. Also, please email Codi Warren at the National Office your photos of your National Championsip winners.

IN THIS ISSUE
- Page 6 | A letter from a fan
- Page 10 | ASA in the 1970s
- Page 14 | MLB Pitch, Hit and Run

Atlanta Vipers Giles wins GOLD

The ASA 18-Under GOLD National Championship title made its way back to Georgia as the Atlanta Vipers GOLD claimed the 2013 title with a 3-2 win over the Wagner’s GOLD.

**Box Score**

“What a great feeling,” said Head Coach Greg Giles. “I’ve watched or coached these girls since they were 12 years old. We’ve finished in the top 5 the last two years, so this team was seasoned and ready for this. It was our time this year, and I’m so proud of them.”

Wagner’s GOLD took the lead early in the top of the first inning when Jessie TenBroeck doubled to start the game. TenBroeck then stole third base and a throwing error by the catcher led to the first run of the game. Wagner’s then got two additional base runners when starting pitcher Sam Martin walked two batters, prompting a pitching change for the Vipers. Megan Betsa entered the circle and shut down the Wagner’s with a strikeout and a groundout to end the top of the first.

The Vipers would put a run of their own on the board in the bottom of the second inning. Jessie Finch led off with a single and was moved over on a sac-bunt by Jenna Abbott. A walk to Madison Whitmire put two runners on base for Alaina Hall, who belted a double to score Finch and tie the game at 1-1.

Wagner’s would regain the
A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Codi Warren

Hello everyone and welcome to the July 2013 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) and USA Softball.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the General Tire World Cup of Softball, Border Battle V and Slow Pitch Showdown such a huge success! Whether you purchased a ticket, watched it on ESPN or online, or worked at the event, your help was greatly appreciated.

This year’s World Cup played a big role in helping the Olympic movement for softball/baseball. Not only were all USA games on ESPN’s family of networks, the National Office was able to stream the remainder of the games online via USAsoftball.com. Not only did this allow fans the opportunity to experience more international softball, it also gave the world a chance to see the best players in the world playing softball!

The World Cup also helped spread the message about Playball2020. You may have noticed the “Playball2020” tattoos the athletes wore or saw the posters that so many young fans displayed during the game that read “We want softball back in the Olympics”! Want to know how you can help with the Olympic movement? Visit Playball2020.com to see how you can help!

Wishing all our Junior Olympic athletes the best of luck this week as they compete for the right to be called a TRUE National Champion!

Did you know there was a Powerpoint available to help you promote ASA/USA Softball?! Check it out on the portal!
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Passing of Hall of Famer Kay Purves

Kay Jane Purves (Lansing, Mich.) passed away peacefully on July 14 at Sparrow Hospice in Lansing. She was born Feb. 18, 1930 in Clare County to Harold and Mary Purves. She was a 1948 graduate of Midland High School and a 1952 graduate of St. Lawrence School of Nursing. Kay is preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Sue Horihati. She is survived by her brother, Hal, his wife, Lynn, a dear friend; a nephew and Godson, Terry (Kate) Purves of Farmington; two nieces, Mara (Gary) Huber, of Dublin, Ohio, and Kenda Braden of Midland; and special friends, Penny Knupp, Ann Liming, Doris Myers, and Diana Catallo Porter.

Kay was an avid gardener, MSU sports fan and Michigan softball fan. She enjoyed both bowling and golfing. Kay was defined, however, by her talent and love for women’s fastpitch softball. She was player/manager of the Lansing Laurels for nearly three decades, from 1963 to 1986. When her family moved to Midland she played on a woman’s fastpitch team that won the Michigan ASA Class C state title in 1945 and the Class B title in 1946. After moving to Lansing, in 1961 Kay continued to play in Midland while organizing and coaching the Bud Kouts Chevrolet team in Lansing. In 1963 Kay joined the Lansing team as player/manager. Over the years the Laurels won or placed high in many tournaments and won many league titles in the U.S. and Canada.

Kay was named to numerous All-Star teams including, 2nd team All American in the ASA National Softball Tournament in 1974 and 1975. Kay was player/manager in eight national ASA tournaments and a manager in a ninth. In addition, Kay was selected to the coaching staff of the USA Softball Women’s National Team for the Pan American Games in 1979 and 1983, was an ASA delegate to the U.S. Olympic Committee from 1980-1982, and served on the ASA National Council. Kay is in the Greater Lansing Area Sports Hall of Fame, the Michigan ASA Hall of Fame and the Midland County Sports Hall of Fame. She is also a member of the ASA Hall of Fame for Meritorious Service. In 1986 she received the ASA’s Richard Pollak Memorial Award as the sports woman of the year in women’s softball. After the Laurels team folded at the end of the 1987 season, Kay continued her love of softball by becoming an umpire. She worked in five MASA state tournaments, six Michigan High School Athletic Association state tournaments, and one NAIA collegiate national tournament. In 2005 Kay finally hung up her glove for good. Kay touched the lives of many young women and often did not realize how far-reaching her influence was. She was especially pleased that so many of her players went on to become coaches themselves. Funeral services were held July 22 at Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes.

Atlanta Vipers see GOLD

lead in the top of the third after Martin issued a walk to Mary Warren. Ashia Kerr, who started the game as the flex player, subbed in to replace Warren on the base path. Kerr then stole second base, but an error on the defense provided her enough time to round third and score, putting the Wagner’s up 2-1.

The game would remain at 2-1 until the bottom of the sixth inning. Jenna Abbott hit a double to start the rally for the Vipers. With Abbott on second, Madison Whitmire connected for the long ball, sending a shot over the left field fence to plate two runs and giving the Vipers the 3-2 lead. The lead would prove to be enough, as two strikeouts by Betsa and a groundout ended the game in the top of the seventh, with the Vipers coming out with the National Champion title.

“We’ve worked so hard this week,” said Betsa. “We had a bad game early on where we got really down on ourselves, but once bracket play started we picked up a new mentality and pushed through. We hit the ball really well and played together as a team, and that’s what I’m so proud of is how much we came together.”

In the circle, Betsa earned the win after entering in the top of the first for Martin. Betsa issued 12 strikeouts through 6.2 innings of work, allowing only three hits and no earned runs. For the Wagner’s, Aleshia Ocasio took the loss after pitching her second-consecutive game of the day. She gave up three runs off of seven hits while striking out six.

A complete order of finish and bracket of the 64-team championship can be found at USASoftball.com. The 2014 18-Under GOLD National Championship will take place in Oklahoma City at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex.
Traveling this Summer?
Why not stay where Team USA stays? Save up to 15% by staying at any hotel in the Hilton Honors portfolio of brands!

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A letter from a USA Softball fan

While competing at the ISF Junior Women’s World Championship, a fan of USA Softball sent the below email to a parent of one of our Junior Women. This email is a great example of how our athletes inspire so many young players and their families.

Dear Team USA, players, coaches, and families,

Happy 4th of July 2013! What a wonderful way to celebrate the 4th of July, by cheering you on as you represent our country! We have been watching you play fastpitch softball for days and you all have truly inspired me and my two daughters!

I’m going to date myself a bit here, but just wanted to share this with you as we head back to Minnesota. In the 1980s, my father took me to my first international fastpitch softball tournament (which happened to be in our backyard of Fargo, N.D.).

Our summers were all about fastpitch softball as my dad played and coached, plus 4 of us kids played on 3 different teams. As girls, there was not high school fastpitch softball yet, so we had to play women’s league as very young players. So watching teenagers from around the world playing this game I truly love was an eye-opening experience and incredibly inspirational!

After watching that tournament, my dream was to play for Team USA someday. That of course did not become a reality, but a future full of fastpitch softball continues. My brother played for Team USA in the 1990s. My father coached 23 & Under Championship teams on a national level. I played in college and have been coaching softball for 27 years (started coaching in 7th grade) and serve on our local Board of Directors for Fastpitch Softball.

All of this stems from being inspired by watching a Junior World Fastpitch Tournament that happened to have future Olympians on it!

YOU, not only inspire dreams, you inspire a love for the game of fastpitch softball! Thank you for your dedication, passion, and love for the game! You are inspiring everyone around you to give something back to the game we all love so much! Plus, giving girls like my daughters, Brita and Liv, to dream of being on Team USA someday!

People thought we were crazy to drive out here on a girl’s trip with no one in particular of family or friends to follow. Our response has been rather, “Why Not!” Why not be inspired by females role models who have work ethic, love to compete, have caring hearts, and are driven to make a difference through a sport they love!

Life is also too short, so embrace every moment as it all can change in an instant. My father (Loren Thompson), who loved fastpitch softball more than anyone I have ever known, died at the age of 51. It was a very sudden and massive stroke when I was pregnant with Brita at the time. He also taught me to share what is on my mind and in my heart by not being afraid to show & share it.

So why not drive 20hrs one way when I know my daughters will be forever changed by it. Thank you for sharing your passion, talent, and smiles. We are so grateful for the team signing my daughters’ program and softball. It will be keepsakes they will treasure forever and always. I know I still have mine,

- Lana, Brita, and Liv Birkeland
Your Minnesota Fans

PS. I think I even have keepsakes from your Team USA coaches in their early years of their fastpitch softball careers. Can’t wait to peek through my stashes of world tournaments when we get home as I have been flooded with memories.... Maybe even autographs, pictures, and trading cards too.

Junior Women’s Team member Emily Crane with Brita and Liv Birkeland at the ISF Junior Women’s World Championship in Brampton, Ontario, Canada.
CHECK OUT THE NEW USASOFTBALL.COM SITE!

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USA Men’s Slow Pitch collect two wins

The Men’s Slow Pitch National Team collected two wins via the run-rule during the Border Battle V and Slow Pitch Showdown. A 25-10 win over Team Canada in Border Battle V and a 32-16 win over the Futures Slow Pitch National Team secured bragging rights for the Men’s SP National Team for 2013.

**Border Battle V – Canada 10 USA 25 (five innings)**

Team USA secured it’s fourth victory at the battle of the border against the Canadian Men’s Slow Pitch National Team. The Red, White and Blue collected their 25 runs via 25 hits, while Canada was held to 14 hits.

The long ball was heavily utilized by the U.S. as Bryson Baker (Magalia, Calif.), Johnny McCraw (Lake Wylie, S.C.), Travis Clark (Kenosha, Wis.), Brian Wegman (Hamilton, Ohio), Brett Helmer (Cicero, N.Y.), Kevin Filby (Cardington, Ohio) and Lee Powers each collected one home run while Robert Blackburn (Indian Trail, N.C.) knocked out two.

Team USA shut down the Canadians in the first inning before opening their offensive power early in the bottom of the first. With two runners on, Filby utilized the long ball and put the U.S. up to an early 3-0 lead. Canada would respond with four runs in the top of the second with a solo shot and a three-run Homer.

The U.S. men would add another six in the bottom of the second off a string of hits from Rick Baker (West Harrison, Ind.) and Jeff Hall (Gastonia, N.C.), while Wegman, B. Baker sent two out of the park, putting the U.S. lead to 9-4.

Canada utilized two home runs in the top of the third to plate another three runs. Powers, B. Baker, Wegman punched in a total of four runs for the U.S., while Helmer and Blackburn each plated two to push Team USA’s lead in the bottom of the third to 17-7. Two more runs were added by Canada in the top of the fourth via a triple and a single. Powers quickly responded in the bottom of the inning with a two run shot over the fence, a miscue by the defense plated a run and McCraw brought home three to push the score to 23-9.

In the final inning of the game, Team Canada collected their final run of the game with a sac-fly. Needing only two runs and having six home runs available for the game, the U.S. secured a run-rule victory with a pair of home runs from Blackburn and Clark.

Box score can be found at [USASoftball.com](http://www.USASoftball.com).

**Slow Pitch Showdown – USA Futures 16 Team USA 32 (five innings)**

In the second annual Slow Pitch Showdown in Oklahoma City, the Men’s National Team de-throned the Futures squad as they collected a 32-16 (five inning) run-rule, their second of the day. The Futures team jumped out early at 2-0 lead in the first inning before the National team responded with a seven run second inning to take the lead.

For the National team, Wegman racked up six RBI on four hits for the Men’s National team. He homered in the second and twice in the fifth innings. For the Futures team, Scott Zaciewski (Toledo, Ohio) led the team with four RBI, going 2-for-3 with one home run.

It was an offensive game as both squads tallied 48 runs off of 48 hits. The Futures team accounted for 17 hits, including 16 RBI. The Men’s National Team collected their 32 runs off of 31 hits, punching in 31 RBI.

Box score can be found at [USASoftball.com](http://www.USASoftball.com).
ASA/USA Softball captured in photos

Teams arrive at the 16-Under National Championship Opening Ceremony.

Former members of the Clearwater Bombers Men’s Fast Pitch Team at the 18U GOLD in Clearwater, Fla. (L to R): Billy Cooper, Gary Kane and Jim Videtich.

Umpires for the Championship Game at the 18U GOLD National Championship in Clearwater. (L to R): Anthony Small, Naomi Erdahl and Steve Meeker.

An athlete slides at home during the 2013 Missouri ASA vs. Illinois ASA All-Star Game.

Jurgens Printing celebrating after winning the 16-Under Slow Pitch National Championship at Caswell Park in Minnesota.

Steven Choi (L) and Brooke Wilcox at the 14-Under National Championship in Normal, Ill.
ASA in the 1970s

From its humble beginnings, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball has become one of the nation’s leading sports organizations. As the association celebrates its past 80 years in 2013, numerous individuals have helped make ASA/USA Softball the nation’s foremost softball organization. Here, we salute those who played a vital role in the fifth decade of ASA/USA Softball’s history.

The 1970s

Milestones: The USA competed in the first-ever Men’s Pan American Games in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The U.S. lost the Gold Medal in a 1-0, 14-inning heartbreaker to Canada. Another milestone was the groundbreaking for the Hall of Fame and National Headquarters in Oklahoma City.

Great Players of the Era: Ty Stofflet won the Most Valuable Player award in the Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship five times (1971, ’74, ’75, ’77 and ’78). He led Reading, Penn. to three titles. Hall of Famers Barbara Reinalda and Kathy Arendsen established themselves as a dominant one-two pitching tandem for the Raybestos Brakettes. Reinalda won a team-record 441 games while Arendsen recorded victories in 334 games during the decade. Hall of Famer Ted Hicks of Springfield, Mo. had a .632 batting average in the 1978 Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship. He also shared the MVP award with Stofflet that year. In 1978, Hall of Famer Bruce Meade set a record for the longest slow pitch home run on record (510 feet). With that, he became the most recognizable slow pitch player of that era.

Teams to Remember: The Raybestos Brakettes (Stratford, Conn.) won eight-consecutive Women’s Major Fast Pitch National Championships between 1971-78, compiling a won-loss record of 541-60. The team also won a pair of ISF World Championships in 1974 and ’78. Men’s Major Fast Pitch was dominated by two teams that won three National Titles: the Raybestos Cardinals (Stratford, Conn.) in 1970, ’72 and ’76 and

Billard Barbell/Rising Sun Hotel (Reading, Penn.) in 1975, ’77 and ’78. In Men’s Slow Pitch, Howard’s Furniture (Denver, N.C.) won back-to-back Major National Championships in 1973-74. The Dots (Miami, Fla.) dominated the women’s division, winning back-to-back titles twice in the decade (1973-74 and 1978-79). Dr. Carlucci Bobcats (Chicago, Ill.) emerged as a force in Men’s Major 16-Inch Slow Pitch, capturing four consecutive National Titles during the decade.
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Box Score

Japan jumped out to an early 5-0 lead to down the United States 6-3 in the championship game of the General Tire World Cup of Softball. The win marked Japan's first at the event since 2005.

“The effort, hustle and fight from our girls was incredible,” said USA Head Coach Ken Eriksen. “We still have some adjustments to make, but I’m excited for our future. Fortunately for us we got to play two games against Japan and get that experience that we needed.”

Leadoff hitter Misato Kawano reached on a base hit and scored on a single from Yukiyo Mine to give Japan the early 1-0 lead after a half inning. The Japanese added four runs in the top of the second to extend the lead to 5-0.

Back-to-back one-out singles from Natsuko Ono and Nozomi Shimasaki gave Japan two runners aboard. The pair came around to score on a single from Yuka Ighiguchi. Prior to Ighiguchi’s single, Kawano walked and then a single from Yuki Hayaghi stretched the lead to 5-0 after two.

Team USA got one run back in the bottom of the second and another in the third.

Kourtney Savarola (Arnold, Md.) reached on a one-out single for Team USA’s first hit of the game in the second inning. Savarola scored on Michelle Moultrie’s (Jacksonville, Fla.) base hit to trim Japan’s lead to 5-1. Lauren Gibson (Pasadena, Md.) unleashed a home run to start the third inning to cut that lead to 5-2.

Japan added an additional run in the fourth when Ighiguchi reached on a triple and came around to score on a Hayaghi single to give the Japanese a 6-2 lead.

Team USA threatened in the fifth but left runners stranded at the corners to end the inning. Savarola led off the sixth with a single and pinch hitter Nicole Hudson (Webb City, Mo.) walked but an infield fly and pop out ended the frame.

Team USA retired Japan in the top of the seventh and kept the game alive as Nakano gave up a single to Amanda Chidester (Allen Park, Mich.) in the bottom half of the inning. Chidester scored on a Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif.) double to the gap in right to cut the lead in half to 6-3. Arioto reached third on a throwing error and was stranded there to end the game.

“I think these past few games have shown that this team is full of fighters,” said Chidester. “We’re such a young team and the fact that we never give up is amazing. We come in and keep scoring down until the last inning. We’re not going to give up and roll over to anyone. We just need to start that from the beginning and start getting ahead at the start of the game instead of falling behind.”

Ono ended the game 3-for-4, while Ichiguchi, Hayashi and Mine all went 2-for-4 for Japan. Moultrie and Savarola were the only Team USA players with multiple hits, going 2-for-3 each.

Kana Nakano earned the win in the circle in relief. Nakano pitched the game’s final five innings for Japan after replacing Nana Okamura. Nakano gave up two runs on five hits and three walks. Starter Nana Okamura lasted two innings, allowing one run on three hits and one walk.

Jessica Moore (Sutter, Calif.) went 3.2 innings, giving up six runs on 10 hits and two walks in the loss. Sara Nevins pitched the final 3.1 innings, holding Japan to just two hits and one walk. She struck out six.
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The 24 national finalists in the 2013 Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run (PHR) competition presented by Scott’s, the official youth skills competition of Major League Baseball (MLB), recently competed and eight champions were crowned on July 15 at Citi Field in New York City as part of the Gatorade All-Star Workout Day. More than 685,000 youth participated in over 4,000 competitions that took place across North America.

For the fourth year in a row, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America teamed up with the MLB PHR team for a nationwide Girls Softball Division which allowed girls to compete and advance separately from the boys throughout the competition.

### 2013 National Finalists

#### 7-8 Year Old Girls Age Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>MLB Team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macy Richardson</td>
<td>Tecumseh, NE</td>
<td>Colorado Rockies*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Feldman</td>
<td>Lithia, FL</td>
<td>Tampa Bay Rays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haylee Allen</td>
<td>Campbellsville, KY</td>
<td>Cincinnati Reds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Hufnagel</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
<td>Pittsburgh Pirates*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walker Buchanan</td>
<td>Myers, FL</td>
<td>Miami Marlins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banks Hartman</td>
<td>Fuquay-Varah, NC</td>
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#### 9-10 Year Old Girls Age Division

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebecka Mellor</td>
<td>Nokomis, FL</td>
<td>Miami Marlins*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avery Greider</td>
<td>Wayne, IN</td>
<td>Chicago White Sox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allison Lowrey</td>
<td>Bridgewater, NJ</td>
<td>New York Mets</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brett Allen</td>
<td>Mechanicville, VA</td>
<td>Washington Nationals*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parker Lee</td>
<td>Friendswood, TX</td>
<td>Houston Astros</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter Krawchuk</td>
<td>St. Catharines, ON</td>
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#### 11-12 Year Old Boys Age Division

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<td>Jaden Lyburtus</td>
<td>Guadalupe, CA</td>
<td>Los Angeles Dodgers*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ty Bender</td>
<td>Woodland, PA</td>
<td>Pittsburgh Pirates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colten Shumway</td>
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<td>Colorado Rockies</td>
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#### 13-14 Year Old Girls Age Division

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<tr>
<td>Laura Farnsworth</td>
<td>Frankenmuth, MI</td>
<td>Detroit Tigers*</td>
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<td>Grace Lyons</td>
<td>Glendale, AZ</td>
<td>Arizona Diamondbacks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison Wittrout</td>
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<td>Pittsburgh Pirates</td>
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#### 13-14 Year Old Boys Age Division

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<td>Lower Gwynedd, PA</td>
<td>Phil. Phillies*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Lewis</td>
<td>Swansea, MA</td>
<td>Boston Red Sox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson White</td>
<td>Charleston, SC</td>
<td>Atlanta Braves</td>
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#### 11-12 Year Old Girls Age Division

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<tr>
<td>Sophie Dubreuil</td>
<td>Niantic, CT</td>
<td>New York Mets*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haley Loffer</td>
<td>Hayden, ID</td>
<td>Seattle Mariners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renee Cho</td>
<td>Rancho Cordova, CA</td>
<td>Oakland Athletics</td>
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Junior Men hold camp in Michigan

Coming off of their best ISF World Championship finish in over 20 years, the USA Softball Junior Men’s Fast Pitch National Team conducted its first camp of the year July 7-13 in Midland, Mich. With their sights set on the 2014 ISF Junior Men’s World Championships, 31 athletes came together for training, exhibitions and a four-game guarantee tournament. From these participants, a roster of 17 players will be selected at a later date to represent their country as members of the 2014 USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team.

“We’re really excited about this next World Championships cycle,” said Head Coach Tim Lyon. “The training week gave us a great opportunity to get these guys together and really evaluate the talent and assess our needs as a team as we continue with preparations for the 2014 ISF World Championships.”

Upon arriving in Midland, the athletes came together for a day of training followed by scrimmages.

**Athletes participating in the week-long camp are:**
- Ty Hess (Benton Harbor, Mich.)
- Philip Zimmerman (New Holland, Pa.)
- Daniel Centeno Jr. (Salem, Utah)
- Tristan Sensenig (Denver, Pa.)
- Collin Hopkins (Decatur, Ill.)
- Tyler Bouley (Champlin, Minn.)
- Taylor Dykgraaf-Meyering (Wayland, Mich.)
- Anthony Annunziata (Stoneham, Mass.)
- Anthony Aresco III (Stoneham, Mass.)
- Eric Enriquez (West Covina, Calif.)
- Faron Apauty Jr. (Anadarko, Okla.)
- Aaron Madrid (Stockton, Calif.)
- Jordan Lichnovsky (Vassar, Mich.)
- Christian Keskindis (Stoneham, Mass.)
- Jason Aguilar (Humble, Texas)
- Ryan Barnes (Lehi, Utah)
- Justin Perez (North East, Pa.)
- Zane Chason (Grand Ridge, Fla.)
- Cody Valeros (Stockton, Calif.)
- Dakota Stilson (Clovis, Calif.)
- Caiden Coates (Tucson, Ariz.)
- Carson Criner (Stockton, Calif.)
- Steven Nessler (North Mankato, Minn.)
- Colton Neilson (Lehi, Utah)
- Jared Rogers (Boron, Calif.)
- Isaac Gonzalez (Kerman, Calif.)
- Kyle Gnatkowski (Saginaw, Mich.)
- James Pernette (Ceres, Calif.)

During the training camp, the athletes got their first action in USA uniforms as they competed with one another to make a spot on the final 17-person roster which will be announced at a later date. The week began with training drills and exhibitions followed by the team competing in a three-day tournament.

**July 13**

The two USA Softball Junior Men’s National Teams continued their winning ways on Saturday. USA Blue won their first game of the day 12-2 behind the home run hitting of Christian Keskindis (MA) and Jimbo Pernetti (CA). Anthony Aresco (MA) picked up the win in the circle with 14 year old Kyle Gnatkowski getting the save.

USA Red won 11-1 to also go to 2-0 in the tournament. Zachary Schebal (MI) picked up the win. The offense was lead by Faron Aputay (OK) who collected a home run and triple.

Both teams played later in the day on Saturday and will finish pool play at 9:00 a.m. Sunday.
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Heavy rainfall proved to be a foe for the Junior Women’s National Team as they fell 4-0 to Japan at the ISF Junior Women’s World Championship (JWWC). The game was called in the top of the seventh inning due to the inclement weather after two rain delays halted the game.

“I’m proud of this team and how far they’ve come,” said Head Coach Tairia Flowers. “They have so much talent and personality and it showed during our time together. For us to only give up runs in one inning out of the entire tournament, I think it says a lot for our team and what we’re capable of. Unfortunately we fell short, but we fought back. Up until the game was called, we were ready to compete and take the game back, but unfortunately that opportunity didn’t happen.”

Cheridan Hawkins (Anderson, Calif.) got the start in the circle for the USA. The left hander threw four and a third innings, giving up four run on four hits. Hawkins, who’s JWWC record moved to 4-1, struck out six Japanese batters in the game. Erica Nunn (Apex, N.C.) entered in relief in the fourth, issuing two strikeouts and no hits.

Kana Nakano went the complete game in the circle for Japan only giving up one hit while striking out nine USA batters.

The game was scoreless through the first five innings of play. Japan’s Enomoto put their first base runner on in the top of the first on a miscue by the U.S. defense. Okuda followed with a single but Hawkins closed the top half of the inning with the two runners stranded. Emily Crane (Troy, Mo.) would respond in the bottom of the first with a walk, but two groundouts and a strikeout retired the inning.

Japan would go down in order in the second inning via two strikeouts and a groundout. The Red, White and Blue would get another base runner in the bottom of the second when Jessica Plaza (Huntington Beach, Calif.) was hit by a pitch, but once again the U.S. offense failed to produce and Plaza was left stranded at first.

Japan would put another two runners on base in the third inning as two singles put a runner in scoring position, but Hawkins produced a strikeout and Mysha Sataraka (Honolulu, Hawaii) caught a pop up to end the Japanese threat for the second time.

The top of the fifth inning proved to be the downfall for the U.S. defense as Japan put two runners on via the bunt. With a runner on first and second, a groundout pushed the two runners into scoring position. Okuda then sent a single to center to score the two runners and put Japan up 2-0. Aoki then sent a long ball over right field fence to extend the lead to 4-0. With the home run, Nunn came into the game with one out, and retired the Japan offense.

The U.S. would load the bases in the bottom of the fifth as Plaza, Danica Mercado (Temecula, Calif.) and Haylie McClenny (Morris, Ala.) received a walk, hit-by-pitch and another walk put the first runners in scoring position for Team USA, respectively. Nakano then pitched three-consecutive strikes to bring her team back to the plate. Nunn would retire Japan in order, bringing the U.S. up-to-bat for what would be their last time.

From the plate, the USA struggled for the first time in the JWWC as they failed to produce a hit until the sixth inning when Crane connected for a single. Sataraka followed with a walk, but the U.S. couldn’t get anything going as two strikeouts and a pop up ended the inning.

As heavy rain started to pour for the second time in the game, ISF officials and the field crew met to discuss the possibility of continuing the game with another rain delay. Unfortunately for the U.S., that opportunity didn’t happen and the game was called after the sixth inning with Japan walking away with the default 4-0 win.

With the loss the 2013 USA Softball Junior Women’s season came to a close. USA finished the World Championships with a 9-1 record (Venezuela dropped out of the JWWC so the U.S. won that game via forfeit), outscoring their opponents 70-4.

Crane finished the season with the highest batting average (minimum of 10 plate appearances) for the USA at .583. As a team the USA batters hit for a .443 average on the year.

From the circle the USA pitching staff finished with a combined 0.47 ERA, with Hawkins receiving only 2 earned runs in the JWWC for a 2.33 ERA.

“I’ve made some lifelong friendships and being able to play with these girls made it so much more fun,” said Emily Crane. “The opportunity to represent my country is something I’ll never forget, and although I wish the outcome was different, I’m proud of how much we accomplished as a team in such a short amount of time.”

USA will now turn its sights toward the 2015 ISF Junior Women’s World Championships, which are scheduled to be held in Oklahoma City, Okla. at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex. To find out more information on how to become a member on the 2015 Junior Women’s National Team, please visit USASoftball.com for details.

USA Softball falls to Japan 4-0 in at the ISF Junior World Championship
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Responsible Sports invites you to check out our Ask the Expert Forum for answers to your youth sports questions. We have gathered together some of the leading experts in youth sports – from Positive Coaching Alliance as well as ASA Softball’s own Coach Mike Candrea to answer your questions.

A softball parent recently asked – “How do you get youth athletes through the mental part of batting? My daughter is an excellent fielder but batting is constantly getting to her mentally.”

- Jim, a Responsible Sports Dad

Coach Candrea – Head Softball Coach at The University of Arizona and former USA Softball Head Coach, had this to say:

Mental skills are trainable and can be acquired! Hitting is all about handling failure as the best hitter’s only get a hit 3 out of 10 times and is considered great! The key is to understand the task at hand and control the controllable. Mental skills need to be practiced as much as the physical skills of the game. Once a player understands how important those skills are and has the tools to control their mental game, they can reach a higher level of performance.

There are many good books on the market that do a great job in describing the mental skills necessary for bettering your performance.

Visit us on Facebook and ask your question today! We regularly post answers on Facebook. com/Responsiblesports and ResponsibleSports. com/AskTheExperts.

Former USA Softball athlete Steve Andrew passes away

Steven R. Andrew, 63, of Cedar Rapids won his final victory in life, crossing home to be with Jesus on July 25. A Celebration of Life Service was held July 27 at the Cedar Valley Bible Church.

Survivors include his wife, Josie, a daughter Melanie (David) Lynch of Bettendorf; two sons Quinn (Nicole) and Joel all of Cedar Rapids; two sisters Jeanette (Ron) Anderson of Decorah, Barb (Dick) Sharp of Geneva, Illinois and two grandchildren Scott and Spencer. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Steve was born on May 17, 1950 in Cedar Rapids the son of Everett and Roberta Hartung Andrew. He married Josie M. Eattoni on July 7, 1973 in Illinois. Steve worked in sales at the AR-Jay Center for over 30 years.

He was a faithful attendee at the Cedar Valley Bible Church. He achieved national recognition in fast pitch softball and played for the USA Softball Men’s National team at the 1972 ISF Men’s World Championship, where he brought home a silver medal. Throughout his twenty years of participation, he was on two championship teams in 1971 with Welty Way and in 1987 with Teleconnect. He was inducted into the Iowa ASA Softball Hall of Fame in 1993. He continued his love for the game playing slow pitch softball with his sons and church.

Steve was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend. His memory will be cherished by all who knew and loved him.

A memorial fund has been established.
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