Hello everyone and thank you for taking the time to read the Official Newsletter of ASA/USA Softball.

Championship season is right around the corner, so I want to address some key items that you should keep in mind when conducting a post-season tournament. We are proud to say we offer the best-of-the-best when it comes to quality, organization and competition of our National Championships. In order for us to continue this tradition, please be sure you have all the necessary forms and information available to your teams. These tournaments run much smoother when we’re one step ahead rather than fighting to catch up.

One thing I’d like to encourage every one to do during their National Championship is increase their social media outreach. This doesn’t necessarily mean creating a Facebook or Twitter for this specific event, but use your local association outreach to tease photos, videos or simply putting results out. It’s little things like that which can help further ASA/USA Softball.

Thank you all for everything you’ve done. Looking forward to another great Championship season!

See you next month!

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 4 | ACE Coaches awarded
- Page 6 | ASA Hall of Fame Qualifiers
- Page 8 | Photos from around ASA

U.S. Coaches tour the United Kingdom

Steve Shortland, Head Coach of the USA Men’s Slowpitch Team and Cheryl Trapnell, former All-Armed Forces Women’s Slowpitch Head Coach, traveled the United Kingdom (UK) in late June delivering sessions to coaches in the British Softball Federation (BSF) slowpitch leagues.

The tour, supported by ASA/USA Softball and the BSF, opened in London on June 20, and then moved on to the Pioneers Tournament in Canterbury. Unlike the previous clinics that ASA/USA Softball coaches engaged in, Shortland and Trapnell concentrated almost entirely on batting techniques. The mission of the clinics was to raise awareness of the value of coaching in slowpitch softball by working with those who coach slowpitch league teams around the UK, often without formal qualifications.

Steve and Cheryl arrived in London on Thursday, 20 June and went straight to work that evening, running a session in Regents Park for 11 coaches from the Greater London Softball Mixed League and three from the London Advertising Softball League.

The topics included pre-game warm-up drills, outfield cut-off drills, double play...
A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Codi Warren

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

Thank you all for your patience as I’m a tad bit late getting the June edition out. June was an exciting month for ASA/USA Softball. We completed the NCAA Women’s College World Series, which proved to be another success this year. We had record breaking crowds and teams returned who had been absent from the WCWS for quite some time. It’s always a fun event to be a part of, and I can’t wait until next year when we host it again.

Our Junior Women’s National Team geared up for their first taste at International play. These 17 ladies are the top athletes in their age (19-Under) division and are the future of the National Team program. I’m looking forward to watching their careers blossom.

Although we are reaching our busy season at the National Office, please feel free to reach out to us if there is anything we can do to help better your association.

Thank you all for your continued support of ASA/USA Softball! See you next month!

Eight things we bet you didn’t know about ASA/USA Softball!

To celebrate 80 years, ASA/USA Softball will feature a monthly segment in The Inside Pitch in which we give eight fun facts that you may or may not have known about our association. Do you have any interesting stories or moments from ASA’s history? Send them to Codi Warren, and you could be featured in the next issue of The Inside Pitch!

1. In 1957, a full-scale youth program was adopted.
2. The ASA Hall of Fame Stadium hosted its first NCAA Women’s College World Series in 1990.
4. ASA/USA Softball became a Class A member of the United States Olympic Committee in 1977.
5. The NCAA reaffirmed ASA as the sole governing body of softball in 1951.
6. The National Softball Hall of Fame was established in 1957.
7. The first umpire instructional film was produced in 1962.
8. The Hall of Honor was established in 1976 to recognize non-players who have contributed to the sport.

You can get images to promote the Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports Program on the portal!
The Official Supplier of ASA & USA Softball

Stabilizer
THE ORIGINAL NATURAL BINDER

Increase Your Field's Performance

Arizona State University
2008 National Champions
Farrington Stadium, Tempe, AZ

Advancing the Evolution of Soil
26 Years Over 100,000 Projects 36 Countries www.StabilizerSolutions.com 800.336.2488 ©2010 Stabilizer Solutions, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Coaches teaching coaches

Techniques and how to make more effective use of the catcher in slowpitch, along with some pitching and batting strategy and ideas for line-up optimization.

The next day, Shortland and Trapnell, along with BSF Treasurer Mike Jennings, ran another session in Regents Park for nine coaches from the Ad League and six from the GLSML. The topics were similar to those on the first day, but there was a review section at the end to see how much information had been assimilated, and there were plenty of questions from the trainees throughout the session.

Comments from the two London sessions were enthusiastic and there was an appetite for more extended sessions than the coaches were able to deliver:

“Excellent knowledge and experience. Some great quick drills to keep the whole team involved.”

“These guys were great and their enthusiasm was infectious. Really useful and clear coaching, with a good insight, especially into training/warming up with limited time before a game.”

The ASA coaches spent the weekend of June 22-23 at the Pioneers Tournament in Canterbury, observing and interacting with team coaches, some of whom had requested in advance that Steve or Cheryl join them “on the bench” for game management tips and advice.

Late on Saturday afternoon, there was a chance for Steve and Cheryl to work with members of the GB Slowpitch Team in preparation for the upcoming European Slowpitch Championships in the Czech Republic.

During the week beginning June 24, the Shotland and Trapnell delivered a session for coaches from the Windsor and Oxford Leagues at Farnham Park, and then travel for sessions for the Solent, East Midlands and Manchester Leagues.

On the weekend of June 29-30, Steve and Cheryl worked with teams on game management and strategy at the Leeds Tournament, and the tour finished with a session for team coaches from the Edinburgh and Central Scotland (Glasgow) Leagues on July 2.

The tour had been organized by Mike Jennings on behalf of the BSF and ASA/USA Softball. The object of the tour was to help further coach-training initiatives and develop the growing interest in slowpitch softball in the UK area.

“Thanks are particularly due to ASA/USA Softball who have now arranged for two sets of high-level slowpitch coaches to come to the UK over the past three years,” said the British Softball Federation.

ACE Coaches surpass 17,000

ASA/USA Softball is excited to announce that the ACE Coaching Certification program has surpassed 13,000 ACE Coaches. In an effort to thank and award those coaches who achieve an ACE Certification, the ASA has teamed up with sponsors Pocket Radar and Powerchalk to provide ACE coaches with a prize pack. Every time the ACE Program reaches an odd-numbered 1,000th milestone, ASA will award that coach with a Pocket Radar ($200 value) and the next coach with a custom Powerchalk account ($100 value).

The following is a list of the latest recipients of the Pocket Radar and Powerchalk prize packs:

**Name, Hometown, Prize**

15,000 - Steve Jezierski (Cloquet, Minn.) – Pocket Radar
15,001 - Dave Perkins (Concord, N.C.) – Powerchalk Account
17,000 - Andrea Lane (Pleasant Hope, Mo.) – Pocket Radar
17,001 - Linsie Palmer (Pocatello, Idaho) – Powerchalk Account

“The longer I coach, the more I realize I don’t know everything,” said Jezierski. “So in my ongoing thirst for knowledge, I happened upon Mike Candrea and ASA/USA Softball and the ACE Certification Program. The ACE Coaching Certification is beneficial no matter how long you have been coaching. There is pertinent information of which I think, most importantly it reminds you of why we do what we do and it never hurts to reassess why you coach. I try to play as many ASA tournaments as possible, because in my short term involvement I have come to realize it is where the competition plays.”

The ACE Certification program is online and you can access the tests by login at [www.registerasa.com](http://www.registerasa.com). More detailed instructions are located on the homepage.

“The ACE program is very good at getting new coaches off on the right foot,” said Lane. “It is important to start kids off with sound fundamentals to provide immediate performance improvements and injury prevention, and to head off frustration in the future from having to correct ingrained bad habits. The ACE Certification Program also addresses the mental aspects of the game by teaching coaches to deliver constructive criticism in a productive way, which really gets the kids pulling for each other and boosts the whole team. We enjoy the quality of competition and the professionalism of the umpires at ASA/USA Softball events, as well as the fun we have strengthening friendships with our teammates.”
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!
Click here to access your savings!

GIVING IT

110%

CAN SAVE YOU UP TO 15%.

SAVE UP TO 15% AT ANY HOTEL IN THE HILTON HHONORS™ PORTFOLIO OF BRANDS.

Your dream is our dream. As a proud sponsor of USA Softball and Team USA®, Hilton HHonors is helping you save up to 15% on your stay at any of our 10 distinct hotel brands. So no matter where your journey takes you, we have destinations in 90 countries ready to cheer you on. Come dream with us.

<<< BOOK NOW AT HHONORS.COM/SOFTBALL >>>

Offer subject to availability and exclusively available online through HHonors.com/teamusa.stays and HHonors.com/softball. Exclusive NGB Discount is off the Best Available Rate. Offer cannot be combined with other discounts. Not valid for group bookings. Each hotel has policies addressing deposits, cancellations and blackout dates that may apply. Other restrictions may apply, please see individual hotel website for additional information.

©2013 Hilton Worldwide. 36 USG 2205606
**ASA Hall of Fame Qualifiers**

The ASA Hall of Fame Complex hosted four National Championship Qualifiers during the month of June. Over 90 teams competed from 12-Under to 18-Under, vying for a berth to their respective ASA/USA Girls’ National Championship.

For the 12U age group, 19 teams vied for eight berths to the 12U National Championship, July 28 – August 4 in Chattanooga, Tenn. The Frost Falcons 00 finished first, with TX Kaos 00 coming in second and Georgia Impact Lewis placing third.

For the 14U age group, 26 teams vied for eight berths to the 14U National Championship, July 28 – August 4 in Normal, Ill. The Texas Kaos came in first, with Ohio Lasers Gray 98 and Texas Impact Gold 14U Fisher coming in second and third, respectively.

For the 16U age group, 24 teams vied for eight berths to the 16U National Championship, July 28 – August 4 in Sunnyvale, Calif. The St. Louis Gamers came in first, with Texas Glory Naudin and Texas Sudden Impact Davis coming in second and third, respectively.

For the 18U age group, 22 teams vied for eight berths to the 18U National Championship, July 27 – August 4 in Salem, Va. The Oklahoma Force finished first, with Missouri Rattlers coming in second and Vienna Stars placing third.

For more information on all ASA/USA Softball National Championships, please visit [USASoftball.com](http://USASoftball.com).

---

**South Dakota ASA announces HOF inductees**

The Idaho ASA is proud to announce that Haley Loffer, who plays for the Northwest Wildfire, recently won her age division in the MLB Pitch, Hit and Run finals, which were held on June 23, at Safeco Field in Hayden, Idaho. Haley Loffer placed first in the 11/12-year-old girls division who did so well that she was one of the top three in the nation and advanced to the National Finals! Because she is a National finalist, she received an all-expense paid trip to the All-Star Game, which is July 16 in New York, N.Y.

Loffer will participate in an array of festivities upon arrival, including a PHR Welcome Reception, MLB Brunch and All-Star FanFest. She will also be competing in the Pitch, Hit and Run finals on-field prior to shagging fly balls during the Home Run Derby and attending the All-Star Game! Only 24 youths in the nation experience this amazing achievement!

Pitch, Hit & Run, the official baseball skills competition of Major League Baseball, allows youth to showcase their talents in pitching, hitting, and base-running with scores determined by individual performances.
EVERYTHING SOFTBALL
GET 5% BACK ON BATS, GLOVES, CLEATS & MORE WHEN YOU JOIN THE LEAGUE BY SPORTS AUTHORITY
ASA/USA Softball at work around the country

Local youth in Glenville, W. Va. participate in a clinic, which included instructions from the 2013 Junior Women's National Team and Women's National Team Head Coach Ken Eriksen.

Umpires chat at the Missouri ASA 16U State Championship.

Cassie Rogers with the Sacramento ASA poses with Sacramento ASA youth that made it to the team competition for Pitch, Hit & Run! 7/8 - Jaylee Ojo, 9/10 - Korina Kemp, 11/12 - Renee Cho, 13/14 - Evelyn Andrews!

The Miami Stingrays earned a berth to the 18U GOLD Nationals, which will be held in Clearwater, Fla. July 21-27!

RIGHT: The Australian Junior Women's National Team competed against Southern California ASA teams during their preparations for the ISF Junior Women's World Championship.
You’re not just buying lights. You’re buying an affordable system that reduces energy and maintenance costs year after year. That means while decreasing wasted energy, you’ll save money and help protect the environment for her future.

To learn more visit: www.musco.com/generations
USA Women’s National Team named for 2013

Following a three day selection camp at the ASA Hall of Fame complex in Oklahoma City, the roster for the 2013 USA Softball Women’s National Team is now set. The 18-person roster will regroup for their first competition, the World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City July 11-14 before competing in two other international events.

2013 Women’s National Team Roster
Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif./California 2012)
Lauren Chamberlain (Trabuco Canyon, Calif./Oklahoma junior)
Raven Chavanne (Thousand Oaks, Calif./Tennessee 2013)
Amanda Chidester (Allen Park, Mich./Michigan 2012)
Aimee Creger (Yukon, Okla./Tulsa senior)
Amber Freeman (Lakewood, Calif./Arizona State junior)
Lauren Gibson (Pasadena, Md./Tennessee 2013)
Cheridan Hawkins (Anderson, Calif./Oregon sophomore)
Taylor Hoagland (Flower Mound, Texas/Texas 2013)
Nicole Hudson (Webb City, Mo./Missouri 2013)
Destinee Martinez (Corona, Calif./Oklahoma senior)
Jessica Moore (Sutter, Calif./Oregon 2013)
Michelle Moultrie (Jacksonville, Fla./Florida 2012)
Sara Nevins (Pinellas Park, Fla./South Florida senior)
Kourtney Salvatora (Arnold, Md./South Florida senior)
Rhea Taylor (Buford, Ga./Missouri 2011)
Taylor Thom (Cedar Park, Texas/Texas senior)
Lindsey Ziegenhirt (Elk Grove, Calif./California 2013)

Team USA will compete in three separate events in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Following the World Cup, the Women’s National Team is slated to compete July 16-22 at the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International Championship in Surrey, B.C., Canada and August 5-18 at an International Softball Federation (ISF) Women’s World Championship/Pan American Games qualifier in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla./Head Coach at USF) will lead the National Team and will be assisted by four-time Olympic Gold Medalist Laura Berg (Corvalis, Ore./head coach Oregon State) as well as Suzy Brazney (Huntington Beach, Calif./head coach Golden West College), Howard Dobson (Orange, Texas/assistant coach at LSU), Karen Weekly (Edmonds, Wash./co-head coach at Univ. of Tennessee) and Mike White (Eugene, Ore/ head coach Univ. of Oregon) throughout the summer events.

Aimee Creger is one of four pitchers named to the roster and the only Oklahoma native.

Valerie Arioto returns for her third season on the Women’s National Team.
Being a family member of Team USA has it’s 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.
MY ACTIVE IS...

Find your ACTIVE at ACTIVE.com
THEN
Four double plays in one game.

NOW
$423* in policy savings for a family in my community.

At Liberty Mutual Insurance, we aim to achieve our personal best. Youth sports taught us valuable life lessons like dedication, teamwork and sportsmanship. And those same lessons influence our business today. We’re committed to doing our best – for our policyholders and their communities.

We created the Responsible Sports™ program to celebrate and champion responsibility in youth sports. And to teach those same life lessons to today’s kids.

Ashley Thomas
Second Base, Northwest 45 1984
Sales Representative, Liberty Mutual Insurance 2006

At ResponsibleSports.com, you’ll find:
• Expert advice and resources for parents
• Tips and tools for volunteer youth sport coaches
• Insight from softball players & coaches on their youth sports experience
• Videos, podcasts, downloadable handouts
• Much more!

*Figure reflects average national savings for customers who switched to Liberty Mutual. Based on data collected between 1/1/12 and 6/30/12. Individual premiums and savings will vary.
© 2013 Liberty Mutual Insurance Company.
Three-time Olympic Gold Medalist and current Oregon State University Head Softball Coach Laura Berg shares the importance of learning from your mistakes on and off the field. She also provides advice to parents about how to handle a situation when their child is not getting enough playing time.

“When one person is successful, everybody else is successful. You know, you win as a team; you lose as a team.”

Listen to Laura now!
Visit ResponsibleSports.com/Softball to listen to more podcasts from other softball greats—past and present.

---

NEW COLLEGE-6 SWING TRAINER PACKAGE
FOR SOFTBALL

$60

LAURA BERG • MIKE CANDREA • CELESTE KNIERIM • MICHELE SMITH • RALPH WEEKLEY • MIKE WHITE

Package Includes:

**THE COLLEGE-6™ SWING TRAINER** for SOFTBALL
- a 33-inch, 23-ounce, solid aluminum bat with a cushioned polyurethane grip. Same length and feel as a standard bat, but with a 1-inch eye-hand training barrel.

**THE COLLEGE-6™ SOFT TRAINING BALLS**—Optic Game-Ball Yellow™ (3)
- a smaller 8.5-inch, 3.5-ounce, high-quality soft leather ball. Perfect for eye-hand coordination drills.

**30-MINUTE INSTRUCTIONAL DVD**
- Featuring six top coaches demonstrating Tee, Toss and Live-Arm Drills using the Swing Trainer.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK HERE or CALL 1-800-547-6843**
Bollinger and ASA ~ Celebrating the 50th year of our partnership!!

Let our Team help you insure your Teams!

THREE EASY WAYS TO INSURE SOFTBALL:

1. Contact your ASA Commissioner—Visit www.Softball.org for contact info
2. Call Bollinger Sports, ASA Department—Ph: 800-526-1379 or ASAinfo@Bollinger.com

Bollinger
Insurance Solutions
Sports Insurance

1-800-526-1379
www.BollingerSports.com