Spokane Stealth ‘97 is “Playing for Cindy”

By Scott Steele

Spokane Stealth board of directors

Spokane Stealth ‘97, a 16-and-under ASA girls fastpitch softball team, is going pink this summer.

Cindy Schmitt, sister-in-law of head coach Bruce Schmitt and the aunt of player Lauren Schmitt, has breast cancer. To help create awareness of the disease and to show support for “Aunt Cindy” as she battles this disease, the team is doing battle on the field wearing pink uniforms on Sundays.

“The idea started a year ago when the mother of one of our player, Kim Johnson, was diagnosed with and treated for breast cancer,” Coach Schmitt said.

“The coaching staff thought it would be a great way for the team to show their support and the players really responded well,” he added. “They are proud to wear their ‘Pinks;’ they love playing in them and what they symbolize.”

Schmitt said the pink uniforms were introduced at a tournament late in the summer of 2013. “We were losing by several runs and the team came back to win the championship game on a walk-off hit in the last inning,” he said. “I believe the ‘Pinks’ were a big part of that victory. We never gave up.”

When the second cancer episode to touch the team in two years reared its ugly head this year, the coaches and players continued to show their support. And to keep everyone apprised of Cindy’s chemotherapy progress, on the day of a treatment, the girls fashion a placard showing the number of treatments left, pose with it for a picture and post it on Cindy’s Facebook wall.

Others, including the girls and their families, tag the post and put it on their Facebook pages to more widely spread the word.

Cindy attends games when she can, Coach Schmitt noted, and recently made it to a doubleheader after a chemotherapy treatment.

“I am honored to be recognized by the team,” said Cindy. “Like softball, cancer is a battle and a team effort. They play so hard it inspires me to battle just as hard. Seeing the girls in pink and knowing they are part of my team as well helps me to fight harder. I try to get to as many games as I can to support them as much as they support me.”

This summer is sure to offer many highs and lows for the team. But through it all, one thing will remain consistent: Family, friends, fans and opposing teams will know what the pink uniforms stand for – Aunt Cindy and the battle she and so many others are facing with this disease.

IN THIS ISSUE

5 General Tire World Cup of Softball
   General Tire steps up for second year as the title sponsor!

7 ASA Longhaul Bombers
   An update on the 2014 season for the ASA Longhaul Bombers

22 Responsible Sports Tips
   Tips from Liberty Mutual Insurance
   Responsible Sports
Greetings to everyone.

Please join me in congratulating the 17 young ladies who on June 22 were selected to the USA Women’s National Team that will represent the USA at this year’s International Softball Federation (ISF) Women’s Softball World Championship in Haarlem, Netherlands. On their way to the ISF World Championship, the team, led by Head Coach Ken Eriksen and his coaching staff of Laura Berg, Howard Dobson and Lisa Dodd, will make stops on the East Coast twice to participate in the World Cup of Softball IX in Irvine, Calif., the Canadian Open and an Invitational European Tournament in Italy before finally taking part in the World Championship in Haarlem.

The USA Junior Men’s National Team, led by Head Coach Tim Lyon and his coaching staff of Scott Standerfer and Gary Mullican, will represent the USA at the ISF Junior Men’s World Championship during July in Whitehorse, Canada. Beginning on July 1 the team will make tour stops in Hayward and Stockton Calif., Medford and Salem Ore., and Fife, Wash. before arriving in Whitehorse to take part in the World Championship. The USA Slow Pitch National Team, Led by Head Coach Steve Shortland and Assistant Coach Randy Raper, will play in Border Battle VI on July 26 in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. On the way to Kitchener the team, along with our USA Slow Pitch Futures National Team will make tour stops in Midland, Mich. and Parma, Ohio.

Please visit our website at USASoftball.com for each team’s complete schedule of events and go out to support our great ASA / USA Softball athletes who work so hard at representing our country. For the World Cup of Softball IX schedule and to purchase tickets, please visit: www.teamusa.org/USA-Sofball/Events/2014/July/07/World-Cup-9.

We are now in full stride toward our National Championships that will take place throughout our great country in divisions and classifications of play for slow pitch, fast pitch and modified pitch, for both genders (including co-ed slow pitch), and in the ages 10U to Men’s Seniors 75-Over Slow Pitch. Many teams have already qualified and are now anxiously awaiting the start date of their championship while even more teams are still in the quest for those berths still available. It’s important that we all familiarize or re-familiarize ourselves with the ASA/USA Softball Official Rules of Softball as well as the 2014 ASA Code. These two publications govern play, administratively and on the field of play, during all National Championships. One of the primary purposes of these publications is to promote competitive balance and to preserve the integrity of the sport. If you should have a question regarding any content of these publications please contact an ASA/USA Softball person for the answer. The first person you should contact for playing rules questions or interpretations is your local Umpire-in-Chief and for Code questions or interpretations your first contact should always be the local commissioner.

Good luck to each of you during our championship season.
Thank you for playing ASA/USA Softball!
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Arizona State University
2008 National Champions
Farrington Stadium, Tempe, AZ
Hello everyone and welcome to the June 2014 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball!

We’re well underway into our National Championship play season and more teams are starting to qualify for their respective ASA/USA National Championships. It’s always fun to check our social media pages and see teams “tweeting” or posting about how excited they are to be heading to a true National Championship!

If you follow ASA/USA Softball’s social media pages, you may notice that we are starting to utilize the hashtag #ASANationals. For those of you who don’t quite know what a hashtag is, it is a word or phrase that is used to mark topics in a conversation. Basically, it’s a great way for teams and athletes to search for a common topic, aka our National Championships!

One great thing about utilizing a hashtag is that you engage your audience and get them excited about a particular topic. For us, it’s a great way to congratulate our teams and get them talking about their path to qualify or their excitement when they do qualify. It’s a BIG deal to qualify for an ASA/USA National Championship! We’re proud of the fact that teams have to qualify for the right to play for a National Championship so teams know that to be 1-of-60 or more teams is a huge accomplishment!

Not only can you utilize a hashtag on Twitter, but you can also encourage your teams to add #ASANationals on their Instagram posts! Instagram users continue to rise so it’s very important to keep our presence alive and active on that platform! One thing I love about Instagram is how easy it is to interact with your followers and it’s users because they make very easy for you to search a variety of hashtags and engage with others!

Something I like to do on a regular basis is search for certain hashtags such as #softball, #playASA or #asasoftball and see the photos that people share and comment or “like” their photos. You’d be surprised at how many new followers you can get, or the excitement people have when you congratulate or thank them for playing ASA!

As always, if you’d like more tips on how to utilize a hashtag, or are wanting to come up with your own unique one, please feel free to reach out to me at cwarren@softball.org! Until next time, thank you for all that you do for ASA/USA Softball!
ASA/USA Softball is excited to announce that General Tire has once again stepped up as the title sponsor of the World Cup of Softball IX held in Irvine, Calif. July 7-13. With worldwide television coverage across the ESPN networks, coverage kicks off on July 10 with five international women’s fast pitch games featuring Team USA airing on ESPN or ESPN2. This marks the second-consecutive year that General Tire has served as the title sponsor for the World Cup of Softball, which is an International Softball Federation (ISF) sanctioned event.

Click here to see the complete coverage of the General Tire World Cup of Softball IX

“It’s an honor to continue our sponsorship of the World Cup of Softball in 2014,” says Travis Roffler, director of marketing for General Tire. “With a record high eight international teams, competing to be crowned the World Cup champion, we couldn’t be more excited to be a part of this series and to engage with this group of enthusiastic fans.”

The ESPN networks are the exclusive domestic home of the General Tire World Cup of Softball and feature over 10 hours of live coverage including the Championship Game on Sunday, July 13 at 12 p.m. ET. All telecasts will be aired in HD and also available for live streaming via WatchESPN. The games will also be available on the ESPN Pacific Rim International network.

This marks a historic year for the General Tire World Cup of Softball as a record eight countries, including Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, Puerto Rico, USA and Venezuela, are scheduled to participate. This also marks the first time the event heads west to Irvine, Calif. due to ongoing renovations at OGE Energy Field at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium. Held July 7-13 at Bill Barber Park, Deanna Manning Stadium, games that are not on the ESPN networks will be available via live-stream on USASoftball.com.

The complete domestic ESPN telecast schedule is below:

Single session tickets, which start at $10 for general admission seating and $30 for stadium seating, are now available for purchase. Visit SoCalASA.org or by email mailto:WorldCupIX@aol.com with any questions. Click here to purchase today!

For all of the latest information on all of the USA Softball National Teams, including a schedule of all 2014 events, visit www.USASoftball.com.
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June 5, 2014 – St. Petersburg, FL – Team Easton took a big step toward the manufactures cup on the ASA Stadium Power Tour.

Brian Wegman lead off and set the bar high with 12 points including the money ball. His Easton teammate Scott Kirby also chipped 12 points for a team total of 24 points.

The final batter, defending champ Miken’s Denny Crine looked sharp and his classic swing was on target. Crine blasted his way to 11 points going into the money ball, worth 2 points, but after one take, Crine’s blast came up short, he had to settle with 11.

**Final Results from St. Petersburg**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brian Wegman, Easton</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Kirby, Easton</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denny Crine, Miken</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Filby, Miken</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bubba Brungardt, DeMarini</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Grienert, Combat</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
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<td>Chris Larsen, DeMarini</td>
<td>6</td>
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**Arlington, TX – May 16, 2014** – Miken’s Denny “Grand Slam” lead round 5 of the ASA Stadium Power Tour Friday night in Texas. Crine also battled fierce head winds and a hot, swampy air in front of a sell out crowd after the Rangers-Indian’s game.

Team Combat rounded out the show as Johnny McCraw gave the fans show with a few upper deck blasts.

Two lucky Texas sluggers had their softball dream come true, as they enjoyed a rare opportunity to hit with the ASA Long Haul Bombers. Stu Snell and Lyff Nimoo, the Texas ASA All Stars made their home town proud, as they sent several Evil softballs out of the park.

**Final Results from Arlington**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denny Crine, Miken</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnny McCraw, Combat</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Grienert, Combat</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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**June 18 - Detroit, MI** - A hot, muggy, Michigan afternoon greeted the ASA Long Haul Bombers at Comerica Park. After dodging thunderstorms, the Bombers put on a big show before the division leading Tigers and Royals game.

The thick air may have held back a few Evil softballs, but it had little effect on Kevin “Flip” Filby. “Flip’s” 9 points, with the Money Ball put him on top in Tiger town. “Flips” Miken team mate Denny Crine, blasted 7 points to help Miken get back in the hunt for the Manufactures Cup.

**Final Results from Detroit**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Filby, Team Miken</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denny Crine, Team Miken</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Wegman, Team Easton</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnny McCraw, Team Combat</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Larsen, Team DeMarini</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Kirby, Team Easton</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Grienert, Team Combat</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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AS THEY TAKE ON THE WORLD.
Boots Duffy, age 77, born on Dec. 18, 1936 passed away June 9, 2014, in her home in Beaverton. She passed peacefully, surrounded by family members. A beloved mother, wife and friend, Boots lived a life full of passion, generosity and love for her family, the sport of softball and her Roman Catholic faith.

Boots was born Dec. 18, 1936, in San Francisco, to William “Will” and Anne Murphy. She was the eldest of two daughters and an adopted son. After graduating from Star of the Sea High School in San Francisco, she attended the University of Portland where she met her future husband, Dan. They were married June 14, 1958, and she joined Dan in St. John’s, Newfoundland, where he was stationed while serving in the U.S. Air Force. Several military transfers and children later, Dan and Boots moved back to Oregon where they had their sixth and final child.

Though she never considered herself a “pioneer,” in 1970, Boots and her sister, Cathy, became the first two female registered softball umpires in the Northwest and paved the way for other females to get involved in umpiring. After umpiring for eight years, Boots was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and changed her focus from umpiring games to training umpires. Through the years, she filled many roles in the softball community, as reflected by her induction into both the Portland State University Softball and Portland Metro Softball Association Halls of Fame in 1988.

In 2013, she was inducted in the Amateur Softball Association Region 15 Hall of Fame for her years of service as JO commissioner, regional commissioner and various other roles. Her service to the Oregon School Activities Association as commissioner for softball, as chair of the National Federation of State High School Association Rules Committee and as the assigner for area colleges and municipal parks and recreation softball programs earned her a wall full of awards and recognition for her contributions. After “retiring” from softball, Boots returned to one of her first loves, playing competitive bridge.

Boots is survived by her husband, Dan; sister, Cathy Davis; sons, Mike (Laura), Daniel (Lori) and Sean (Vlasta); daughters, Shannon (Rhoda), Erin and Kerry; and grandchildren, Vonnie, Hannah, Courtney and Brayden. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made at any First Citizens Bank branch for the Boots Duffy Memorial Scholarship Fund.
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Following a selection camp and series of exhibition games the roster for the 2014 USA Softball Women’s National Team that will compete in a number of events this summer highlighted by the International Softball Federation (ISF) Women’s World Championship is now set. The 17-person roster will regroup next month for an exhibition game in Morgantown, W. Va. before traveling to Irvine, Calif. for the General Tire World Cup of Softball July 7-13.

“This group of 24 athletes that tried out is one of the rarest groups I’ve been around in a long time,” said USA Softball Head Coach Ken Eriksen. “Their college coaches, parents and teammates need to understand the greatness that is within each and every one of them. As always, it’s a very tough decision to narrow the group to 17 but I’m very excited about the potential this team has.”

In preparation for the ISF Women’s World Championships, August 15-24, 2014 in Haarlem, Netherlands, the 2014 Women’s National Team will compete in exhibition games as well as three tournaments that include the General Tire World Cup of Softball IX in Irvine, Calif July 7-13, the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada July 15-21 and Italian Softball Week in Azzano, Italy August 6-10. Their complete schedule, including exhibition game dates and locations can be found here.

Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla./Head Coach at USF) will lead the National Team and will be assisted by three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Laura Berg (Corvalis, Ore./head coach Oregon State) as well as Howard Dobson (Orange, Texas/assistant coach at LSU) and Lisa Dodd (San Diego, Calif./head coach at UNLV) throughout the summer events.

Visit www.usasoftball.com all summer for the most up to date coverage of all USA Softball National Teams.

### 2014 Women’s National Team Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valerie Arioto</td>
<td>Pleasanton, Calif.</td>
<td>California - 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raven Chavanne</td>
<td>Thousand Oaks, Calif.</td>
<td>Tennessee - 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Fischer</td>
<td>Simi Valley, Calif.</td>
<td>San Diego, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kellie Fox</td>
<td>Pasadena, Md.</td>
<td>Loyola Marymount - 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Gibson</td>
<td>Elk Grove, Calif.</td>
<td>Arizona - Sr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jolene Henderson</td>
<td>Flower Mound, Texas</td>
<td>Tennessee - 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Hoagland</td>
<td>Corona, Calif.</td>
<td>California - 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destinee Martinez</td>
<td>Pineallas Park, Fla.</td>
<td>Texas - 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haylie McCleney</td>
<td>Wichita, Kan.</td>
<td>Oklahoma - 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Moultrie</td>
<td>South Florida - 2014</td>
<td>Oregon - 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara Nevins</td>
<td>North Tustin, Calif.</td>
<td>Florida - 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Plaza</td>
<td></td>
<td>South Florida - 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Stewart</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stanford - Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaclyn Traina</td>
<td></td>
<td>Florida - Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hallie Wilson</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alabama - 2014</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

College
- California - 2012
- Tennessee - 2013
- Michigan - 2012
- Loyola Marymount - 2012
- Arizona - Sr.
- Tennessee - 2013
- California - 2013
- Texas - 2013
- Oklahoma - 2014
- Alabama - Jr.
- Oregon - 2013
- Florida - 2012
- South Florida - 2014
- Stanford - Jr.
- Florida - Jr.
- Alabama - 2014
- Arizona - Sr.
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From the Midland Daily News

Longtime softball sponsor and player Dan Wallace of Midland hopes that a big-time event will draw a lot of fans to Dow Diamond on Monday, July 21, and in the process give the game of softball a shot in the arm locally.

The USA Men’s Slow Pitch National Team will play a doubleheader at Dow Diamond in preparation for Border Battle VI against Team Canada later that week in Ontario.

Admission to the doubleheader is free to the public.

“Team USA is the best of the best,” said Wallace, who sponsors and plays on the Wallace Landscaping team that will face Team USA in the first game of the doubleheader. “It’s a great honor to be able to play against these guys. As a ballplayer, this is what you dream about being a part of.”

The second game of the doubleheader will pit Team USA against the USA Future’s Team, which consists of up-and-coming players who may someday be on Team USA.

The Michigan ASA is arranging Team USA’s visit to Midland, and Wallace Landscaping, owned by Wallace, is the title sponsor of the event.

“Last year, Bill Humphrey and ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress asked me if I’d be interested in doing something like this, and I said, ‘Yeah,’ just to promote softball and bring it back around to the area,” Wallace said. “We’re losing a lot of softball players. I’ve been playing ball for 36 years and I’m not seeing the kids playing like when I was younger. To have an opportunity like this, maybe we can try and get kids interested in softball again.”

The doubleheader will start at approximately 4 p.m., following a Great Lakes Loons’ baseball game that starts at 12:05 p.m. The bases have to be moved after the baseball game in order to accommodate the different dimensions for softball.

Humphrey, a Midlander and a former ASA president, explained that the Border Battle had always been held in Oklahoma City in the past, but due to construction on the stadium there, the Border Battle this year will be held in Kitchener, Ont., on July 26.

So Team USA wanted to find some sites to play tune-up games before heading to Kitchener. Midland became one of those sites.

Humphrey said that the Team USA players are enthusiastic about the idea of helping to promote the game of softball by playing at Dow Diamond.

“They’re here to promote the game,” Humphrey said.

Jim Wallace, Dan Wallace’s cousin, will be the manager of the Wallace Landscaping team that will play against Team USA.

“It was about being in the right place at the right time,” Jim Wallace said of being able to bring Team USA to Midland.

Dan Wallace added that players from other parts of the state will join the Wallace Landscaping team for the July 21 game.

“Jim knows the talent throughout the state,” Dan Wallace said. “We’re trying to make it a state-wide thing.”

Dan Wallace is excited that fans will be able to watch the softball doubleheader for free, and is thankful to be able to hold it at Dow Diamond.

“I want to thank the Loons for letting us host something like that in their stadium,” Wallace said. “I don’t think (Team USA) will disappoint people, when you see these guys play.”
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Lauren Gohacki (Finleyville, Pa.) posted a .714 (20-for-28) batting average for the Pittsburgh Diamond Stars 14U to earn the sixth ASA Junior Olympic (JO) Player of the Week award, presented by Worth Fastpitch and StudentSports.com. The utility player (centerfield and second base) helped her team to a 7-2 record and a runner-up finish at the ASA Rage in the Valley tournament in Beaver Falls, Pa.

“First of all, I would like to thank both ASA/USA Softball and Worth for this award,” said Gohacki. “The ASA tournaments in my area are always top notch. I aspire to play softball at the collegiate level and would also like to thank my Pittsburgh Diamond Stars teammates, coaches and especially my Dad for teaching me how to play ball and to always play the game and practice like it was the last game of the World Series”.

Posting 20 hits including a double and a triple, Lauren also knocked in 10 RBI over the weekend and a recorded a .821 slugging percentage. In addition, she tallied two walks and has also helped lead her team to one championship already in 2014 at the Hornets Early Bird ASA Tournament.

“We are very proud of Lauren and how much she has grown both on and off the field in the last three years that she has been playing travel softball,” added her parents Michele and Dwayne Gohacki. “She is very dedicated and committed to playing fast pitch softball to the best of her ability into her collegiate years. We will always support her in every way to get her to the next level so she can realize her dreams.”

“Lauren is a tremendous centerfielder with great closing speed,” said head coach Josh Caler. “When she’s at the plate she always comes up with the big hit her team needs. This past weekend we were down a starting pitcher. Lauren picked up the slack for us with great defense and a consistent bat.”

Avery Winchell (New Cumberland, Pa.) led the Cumberland County Magic 12U Red with dominating performances at the plate and in the circle, earning her the seventh ASA Junior Olympic (JO) Player of the Week award, presented by Worth Fastpitch and StudentSports.com. The pitcher and first baseman helped her team to a 7-0 record and a championship finish at the ASA of PA Invitational in Sunbury, Penn.

“It was a really nice tournament,” said Winchell. “Everything was pretty organized. We all played really well. I had really good defense behind me, and that’s where all the fire came from. It was really good.”

Posting a batting average of .631 with two homeruns and 10 RBI, Winchell also had four other hits for extra bases over the weekend. In addition, she garnered a 5-0 record as a pitcher. Finishing the tournament with a 0.19 ERA with 16 strikeouts, Winchell gave up only nine hits and five earned runs. In her first appearance on Sunday, Winchell threw a no-hitter and ended the game with a two-run walk off home run. She went on to pitch two more games that day, including a four-hit shutout in the championship.

“She’s probably one of our heart and soul players,” said coach Jim Skonezney. “She’s our three-hole batter and is listed as our No. 1 pitcher. She is coming into her own this year. She’s learned how to pitch against quality teams. That transition from 11 to 12 has really made a big difference for her. She has the opportunity to be one of the better ballplayers that I’ve coached.”

A near-perfect performance at the plate earned Tri-City Fuzion 12U athlete Morgan Hirai (Pasco, Wash.) the eighth ASA Junior Olympic (JO) Player of the Week award, presented by Worth Fastpitch and StudentSports.com. The catcher helped lead her squad to a 5-0 record and a championship finish at the ASA Summer Warm up in Selah, Wash.

“Morgan is one of our most consistent hitters, everything she hits is hard,” said Tri-City Fuzion head coach Brent Bishop. “She is consistently hitting over .500 and is a true clean up type hitter. Where she really shines is the plate, she is a beast back there.”

Amassing a .769 batting average (10-for-13) and a 1.46 slugging percentage, Hirai connected for one home run and five extra base hits over the course of the tournament. Hirai was also a key contributor to her squad’s run to the championship title, crossing the plate for a total of 10 runs scored and punching nine RBI.

“Morgan knows the complicated task of hitting requires many hours of good habit development,” said Tri-City Fuzion hitting coach Kelly Richards. “I foresee Morgan having a great future in this sport. She’s very humble and loves to play the game!”

To nominate an athlete for ASA JO POW, please visit http://www.studentsports.com/softball/2014/02/12/asa-player-week-form/
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
Create a flyer for your own local association! Email Steven Embree at sembree@softball.org to get yours today!

Top Ten Reasons to Play Indiana ASA Softball

1. Organizational structure for leagues and tournament play for all ages
2. Rulebooks, scorebooks for each registered team
3. Training for umpires (in-person clinics/schools in addition to video support)
4. Training (video) for youth softball coaches
5. Affordable background checks for coaches and other league officials
6. Insurance discounts with national provider for field owners, league directors, teams and individuals
7. Tournament (invitational, national qualifiers, territory and national championship) hosting opportunities
8. Marketing exposure for tournaments on state and national websites
9. Access to merchandise (apparel, bats, balls, prizes) discounts for leagues and tournaments
10. Equipment standards/testing protocols and player classification system to ensure competitive balance

Indiana ASA - Where the playing field is level.
Eight umpires representing four countries will partake in the
General Tire World Cup of Softball IX. The World Cup of Softball, an
international women’s fast pitch event includes six countries and is
scheduled for July 7-13 at Bill Barber Park in Irvine, Calif. Four ASA/
USA umpires have been selected to work the prestigious tourna-
ment.

“To be selected to work a world class international tourna-
ment is one of the highest honors an umpire can receive,” said ASA
Director of Umpires Kevin Ryan. “These umpires have earned the
right to work at this level through their hard work and dedication to
the game. Having this many umpires selected to work international
events in one summer just goes to show the quality of the ASA/USA
Umpire program.”

In addition to the World Cup, umpires for two ISF World Championships this summer were also
announced. Five ASA/USA Umpires are included to work the ISF Junior Men’s World Champion-
ships July 11-20 in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada at the ISF Women’s World Championships in Haar-
lem, Netherlands August 15-24.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Tire World Cup of Softball Umpires</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frankie Billingsley - Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saeko Suda - Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazuhiko Otomo - Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renzo Ruiz - Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Head - USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Sawyer - USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby Shelton - USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Branda Terpstra - USA</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>ISF Jr. Men’s Worlds Umpires</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Hardage - So Cal ASA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Tait - Michigan ASA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casey Waite - Idaho ASA</td>
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<tr>
<th>ISF Women’s Worlds Umpires</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sue Sawyer - So Cal ASA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branda Terpstra - Seattle ASA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Tickets for the General Tire World Cup IX are now on sale and can be purchased by visiting
www.socal-asa.org. Single-session tickets can be purchased for $10-$15 for general admission per
day or $30 for reserved seating per day.

The General Tire World Cup is sanctioned by the International Softball Federation.
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The schedule for the 2014 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team and Futures Team has been determined and will included two exhibition stops prior to the 2014 Border Battle festivities the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball announced today. Due to stadium renovations at OGE Energy Field at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, the sixth edition of the annual Border Battle between the USA National team and the Canadian National Team moves to Kitchener, Ontario, Canada this year. In addition the USA National Team and Futures Team will compete in exhibition games in Midland, Mich. on July 21, Parma, Ohio on July 22 and in Kitchener July 24-26 leading up to the Border Battle.

Click here to see the 2014 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team and Futures Team Rosters

The action kicks off in Midland, Mich. on July 21 when the USA National Teams will take the field in an exhibition double header sponsored by Wallace Landscaping. In the first game of the evening, the USA National Team will take on the Wallace Landscaping All Stars and in game two the USA Futures Team will get in on the action when they face the USA National Team.

Following the Midland stop, both teams will travel to Parma, Ohio for an evening of slow pitch at Nike Park on July 22 hosted by the Ohio ASA/ Parma City Softball. Both teams will take turns playing the Cleveland All Stars 1 and Cleveland All Stars 2 before facing off for the nightcap at 8:30 PM.

The USA Slow Pitch National and Futures Teams will then travel to Kitchener, Ontario for their first ever games on Canadian soil. On July 4 the Futures will take on Quebec and Canada while the National Team faces Europe and Canada Selects. On day two, the Futures team will take the field with Home Run Sports and the Nationals will play Europe with both teams coming back together to face one another in the final game of the day.

The culmination of the summer comes on July 26th when the USA Futures Team takes on the Canada Selects at 2:00 PM and Border Battle VI between the USA Nationals and Canada cap the event at 4:00 PM.

Both tour stop events will be free to the public while weekend passes for the three-day Canadian event can be purchased for $20 prior to July 1 and $30 after July 1. Click the links in the schedule below to purchase tickets.

Visit www.USASoftball.com for all of the latest news on all of the USA Softball National Teams all summer long.

### Complete USA Slow Pitch Summer Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Matchup</th>
<th>Tickets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>Midland, Mich.</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Nationals vs. Wallace Landscaping</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>Midland, Mich.</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Nationals vs. USA Futures</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Parma, Ohio</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Nationals vs. Cleveland All-Stars 1</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Parma, Ohio</td>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Futures vs. Cleveland All-Stars 1</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Parma, Ohio</td>
<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Nationals vs. USA Futures</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Kitchener, Ontario</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Futures vs. Quebec</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Kitchener, Ontario</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Nationals vs. Europe</td>
<td>Tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Kitchener, Ontario</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Futures vs. Canada</td>
<td>Tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Kitchener, Ontario</td>
<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Nationals vs. Canada Selects</td>
<td>Tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Kitchener, Ontario</td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Nationals vs. Quebec</td>
<td>Tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Kitchener, Ontario</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Futures vs. Home Run Sports</td>
<td>Tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Kitchener, Ontario</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Nationals vs. USA Futures</td>
<td>Tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Kitchener, Ontario</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>USA Futures vs. Canada Selects</td>
<td>Tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Kitchener, Ontario</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>Border Battle IV</td>
<td>Tickets</td>
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</table>
The hyper-competitive youth sports environment has created a culture that has become accepting of poor sportsmanship. This culture of competition is putting the positive youth sports experience that we want for our kids at risk, threatening to ruin the game for them. As a parent, what can you do to fight poor sportsmanship and reverse this trend?

One of the most impactful things you can do is simply have a conversation with your kids on the topic of sportsmanship. Are you wondering how to start the conversation on sportsmanship? Download the Liberty Mutual Insurance Responsible Sports handout which includes 4 easy steps:

- Step 1: Start with explaining What Is Sportsmanship?
- Step 2: Talk about When Sportsmanship Happens
- Step 3: Discuss What To Do When You See Bad Sportsmanship
- Step 4: Talk about Your Role As A Parent Is In Sportsmanship

While truly reversing this “win-at-all-costs” mentality cannot solely be accomplished with a single conversation, it is the first step in creating a culture that promotes and displays sportsmanship in youth sports. It is your chance to remind your kids that sports can be much more than a series of games that are won or lost.

Learn more about teaching good sportsmanship on ResponsibleSports.com. You can also download the FREE Sportsmanship handout now.

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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!

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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

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