ASA Hall of Fame Complex teams up with OGE for a “wind-win” partnership
Greetings everyone. As the month of May comes to and end, we hope you had a wonderful Memorial Day Weekend celebrating the freedom and the many other things our great country assures through the sacrifices of our brave men and women of our military, but most of all remembering and honoring the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Memorial Day, as stated in my May letter to you in this publication last year, typically marks the start of the summer vacation season, thus the official beginning of the ASA/USA Softball Championship season.

As many of our local associations begin their championship qualifying process, some of our extended ASA/USA Softball family in the mid-area of our country are suffering through or recovering from devastating tornadoes and other violent storms which have caused the loss of lives and as well as much loss of personal and public property. Our friends and family in these hard hit areas, especially Texas and Oklahoma, need our thoughts and prayers but they will also need our support while they recover from the effects of these unprecedented storms. Let’s all do what we can to bring their lives back to normal as quickly as possible.

We have much to be proud of as members of the ASA/USA Softball. We are part of the largest, fairest, best organized, most diverse and longest standing softball organization in the world. We represent the United States of America in the softball world, we are USA Softball. No one else can make that claim. Let’s promote these facts along with all the other very good things we represent and provide, such as softball for everyone, unparalleled insurance coverage, the best softball coaching certification program available, the only true national championships at each level of play, the best trained umpire program in the world and sponsors who make available discounted products. Let people know that we love softball for what it is, an amateur sport meant to enrich lives not pocket books.

Lastly, the pinnacle of our sport is our USA National Teams Program. This summer four of our five National Teams will be preparing for and competing at international events in many different areas. Our Men’s National Team will compete at the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC)-Softball Division (SD) World Championship and the Pan American Games in Canada. Our Women’s National Team will compete at the World Cup of Softball X in Irvine, Calif. and at the Pan American Games in Canada. Our Junior Women’s National Team will compete at the World Cup of Softball X as well as the WBSC-SD World Championship at our ASA Hall of Fame Complex in August. Our Men’s National Slow Pitch Team will compete in the Annual Border Battle international event. During June and July all these teams will be participating in events throughout the country in preparation for the World Championships, Pan American Games and the Border Battle. Please visit our national website at www.asausasoftball.com for the schedules of each team. Come out to support our great athletes as they prepare to represent our country on the world stage.

Have a great summer of softball. Travel safe, play hard, but most of all have fun. Remember, possibilities abound when you prepare and persist.
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So Cal ASA/USA Softball held their annual trading pin contest. The winner was Hailey Burns! This is the pin she designed on the left. Congrats Hailey!

Do you have a photo you’d like to submit for the Inside Pitch? Submit your photos to ndorety@softball.org by the 20th of each month and you could be featured!

Florida ASA/USA Softball umpires worked the NCAA Division II Regional at Valdosta State, while Florida Junior Olympic Commissioner, Dwayne Sealy, worked a regional in Florence, Ala. Florida umpire, Cindi Brunot called the Conference-USA Championship and Matt Dunbar called the American Athletic Conference Championship. Way to go!
The Tyler Softball Officials Association (TSOA) dedicated a monument honoring Softball Umpires affiliated with the Amateur Softball Association on Sunday, May 17, 2015, at Lindsey Park #5. These umpires were chosen on the basis of their skill, dedication and support of the Texas ASA/USA District 25. Charter members honored were C.A. Young and Joe Nolen. Individuals honored in memoriam were Gene Pilkinton, Roy Ray and John Owens.

The ceremony was organized by TSOA President Jeff Mekalip. Speeches were made by TASA District 25 Commissioner Van Jordan, District 25 Umpire-In-Chief Allen Steele and District 25 Deputy Commissioner/City of Tyler Representative Gerald Palafox. Family members from each honoree were present and recognized for their support of ASA/USA Softball.

PICTURED ABOVE IN BOTH PHOTOS: Family members, friends, umpires and Texas ASA/USA staff. Photo credit: Van Jordan

This all female umpire crew from Seattle ASA/USA Softball spent their Mother’s Day on the diamond calling games! Sounds like a day well spent!

PICTURED RIGHT: From left to right, Lori Cook, Shani Neamen, Jen Rose, JD Duso, Kayleen Dunson and Shelley Douma.
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1. Contact your ASA Commissioner. Visit www.ASASoftball.com for contact info
2. Contact RPS Bollinger Sports—ASA Department, Ph: 800-446-5311 • ASA@RPSins.com
Hello and welcome to the May 2015 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball!

As I’m sure everyone can imagine, this month was a lot of fun at the National Office for ASA/USA Softball. Construction wrapped up at OGE Energy Field at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium. New locker rooms, underground tunnels, two new concession stands, updated backstop for television, two new indoor media rooms, elevators, and the hospitality building on the first base side were all completed earlier in the month. By my estimation, around 75 people were out here working to get the facility ready for the NCAA Division II Championship and the NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS). People with all sorts of different skills came together to finish the facility, everything from electricians to bleacher installers to concrete finishers to landscapers. We are all thankful that the renovations were done in time for the fantastic softball!

This was the first time in the history of the ASA Hall of Fame Complex that the Division II Championship came to town. Eyes were wide open in anticipation as the players and coaches from the eight teams saw the legendary facility for the first time. The parity was present at the Championship, as the last three defending Champions failed to make it to Oklahoma City. The University of North Georgia Softball team, coached by Mike Davenport, won the Championship. The Nighthawks bats struggled during opening day, as Indianapolis threw a no-hitter against them. After that game, North Georgia was able to battle their way back into the title game after beating Shorter University twice in one day. This was North Georgia’s first NCAA DII National Championship. Congrats to all the Nighthawks fans out there!

There was a short gap between the Division II Championship and the WCWS: two full days. Not much time to rest before the massive crowds came to the Complex. Eight more teams arrived, ready to fight for a Championship. ESPN carried every game across their family of networks. With the exception of 1996, the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium has hosted the WCWS since 1990. Make sure to keep up with the end of the Championship on all ASA/USA Softball social media platforms.

It’s been exciting to work with host organizations for both the DII and WCWS for me personally having been an intern at the University of Central Oklahoma athletic department and at the Oklahoma City All Sports Association. It’s neat to work besides old friends and new ones at ASA/USA Softball.

This next month, I will be making my first trips for ASA/USA Softball and will be enjoying softball outside of Oklahoma City’s ASA Hall of Fame Complex. I will be in Northeast Ohio for the Junior Women’s National Team tour stop in the middle of June and will wrap up the month in Irvine, Calif. for World Cup X. If you see me around, stop by and introduce yourself.

As an employee at the National Office for ASA/USA Softball, it is my pleasure to help the local associations in any way I can. Please remember that I would love to hear feedback from you. Whether you have a comment about The Inside Pitch or anything else regarding ASA/USA Softball, I am open to talking to you. Hope you enjoy the newsletter!

PICTURED LEFT: Nick Dorety with his friend since the Boy Scout days, Jordan, who is now a member of the media covering the 2015 NCAA Women’s College World Series.
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Construction Finished!

Construction continued at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex and OGE Energy Field in Oklahoma City, Okla. over the last half year. This is part two of the second phase, with construction scheduled to continue in 2019 or 2020. Last year, dugouts and turf were added to OGE Energy Field. Currently the tunnels underneath the stadium are nearing completion, along with the new hospitality building. Fans will be able to enjoy the two new concession stands on each side upon completion. Media will also enjoy the new indoor press boxes as shown below.

Get your WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship Gold Passes

The future stars of international softball will meet in Oklahoma City August 9-15 for the 2015 WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship. Eighteen countries will aim for the Gold medal. Great tickets are available and start at just $20. Teams scheduled to appear include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, United States and Venezuela.

Staff member, Kaycee Boles has twins

Kaycee Boles, Register ASA/Events Coordinator, welcomed Brady and Brielle into the world earlier in the month. Brady was 6 lbs 4 oz, while Brielle was 5 lbs, 15 oz. These were her first children. A huge congratulations to Kaycee and her husband, Jeremy!

PICTURED ABOVE: Director of Championships, Chris Sebren with Kaycee Boles.

Nominate your athletes for ASA/USA Junior Olympic Player of the Week

Starting May 27 until August 7, coaches and parents can nominate an athlete for JO Player of the Week. Winners will receive a new Worth Bat. This program is brought to you by WORTH Sports and FullCountSoftball.com. Recipients will receive a brand new WORTH bat along with a certificate from ASA/USA Softball. Nominations can be submitted through FullCountSoftball.comhere. This program recognizes JO players 18 years or younger for outstanding play at an ASA/USA sanctioned event. The program is in its second year. For more information, click here.
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Lauren Haeger (Peoria, Ariz.) was selected as the 2015 USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year earlier in the month. Haeger, a Florida pitcher/infielder, is currently in her pursuit of a second NCAA National Championship at the 2015 NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS). Haeger helped Florida get back to the WCWS this season and was rewarded individually, as this marks the first time an athlete from Florida has won the prestigious award.

“There are so many amazing players in this country,” said Haeger. “And to think I am standing here just feels awesome. At the beginning of the season, I did not have my expectations this high. I cannot thank my coaches and teammates enough for telling me that they thought I had the potential. I have worked harder this season than I ever have and it is cool that it paid off. It is very humbling and cool and can’t thank enough people for supporting me.”

The 2015 SEC Pitcher of the Year, Haeger has established a 28-1 record this season and ranks sixth in the country with a 1.24 Earned Run Average (ERA). In just 186.1 innings of work in the circle, Haeger has amassed 194 strikeouts while giving up just 33 earned runs on the season and holding opposing batters to a .183 batting average. If that wasn’t enough, the senior also produces at the plate for her squad, producing 64 RBI while totaling for a .329 batting average this season.

Haeger played a major role in the post-season success for the Gators, picking up four shutout wins through 29 innings of work while giving up just 10 hits while retiring 24 batters via strikeout.

In her four seasons as a Florida Gator, Haeger has compiled an 69-1 record with 511 strikeouts ranking her sixth all-time in Florida history. Additionally, Haeger is the all-time leader in home runs with 67, also an SEC record, and RBI. She also ranks among the all-time leaders in ERA and wins.

“I think her season was a tremendous season as an individual,” said Florida head coach Tim Walton. “But just like we preach to our players all the time, without a great team, typically individuals don’t get great awards. She has meant so much to our team and our team has meant so much to her. This is just a tremendous accomplishment for our whole program and thanks to ASA/USA Softball for recognizing Lauren’s achievements.”

The other two finalists for the 2015 award were back-to-back Pac-12 Pitcher of the Year, Oregon’s Cheridan Hawkins (Anderson, Calif.) and two-time Big Ten Player of the Year, Michigan’s Sierra Romero (Murrieta, Calif.).

Haeger now joins the ranks of past winner of the award, which include UCLA’s Stacey Nuveman, Florida State’s Jessica Van der Linden, three-time winner from Texas Cat Osterman, Tennessee’s Monica Abbott, Virginia Tech’s Angela Tincher, two-time winner Washington’s Danielle Lawrie, Stanford’s Ashley Hansen, back-to-back winner Oklahoma’s Keilani Ricketts and 2014 winner Lacey Waldrop from Florida State.
Spot the differences
Spot 5 differences from Picture A to Picture B; turn to page 33 to see if you are correct.
Being a family member of Team USA has it’s benefits.

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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.
The ASA/USA Softball Hall of Fame Museum and four-field complex has become the first softball venue in the country to earn the EPA Green Power Partnership with their commitment to offset 100 percent of its electricity consumption with renewable wind power, following a recent agreement with Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company (OG&E).

The 10-year agreement between ASA/USA Softball and OG&E provides the ASA Hall of Fame complex with renewable energy credits for its OGE Energy Field, ancillary fields, museum and administrative offices. This encompasses the new improvements with the completion of the first phase of its multi-million dollar renovation.

OG&E Vice President Jesse Langston presented Craig Cress, Executive Director of ASA/USA Softball with the company’s Positive Energy Partnership Award during the evening session of the NCAA Women’s College World Series on Thursday, May 28.

“We are thrilled to have ASA/USA Softball as a 100 percent OG&E Wind Power customer,” said Langston. “It is a natural collaboration with this organization as we pursue our Green Field initiative which will help distinguish the complex as a destination for sustainable practices and education of their fans for using energy wisely. We congratulate them on achieving the EPA Green Power Partner recognition and joining a list of prestigious sports venues around the country. In Oklahoma, we call this a ‘wind-win’ for everyone.”

“Our partnership with OG&E has a bright future as we are collaborating on improvements in lighting, energy management and the fan experience. As the first OG&E “Green Field” venue we are excited to expand our collective efforts with this commitment to modeling green practices,” Cress said. “OG&E has been a tremendous leader in expanding the use of wind power, and we are proud to partner with them as part of our efforts to support Oklahoma’s energy future and cultivate an educational environment for our fans, players and industry.”

“The EPA is excited to welcome ASA/USA Softball as a Green Power Partner and applauds their purchase of green power and its support of the voluntary renewable energy market,” said James Critchfield, Program Director of EPA’s Green Power Partnership. “ASA/USA Softball is helping to reduce harmful air pollution and demonstrating that using green power is smart for the environment.”

ASA/USA Softball and OG&E have partnered to create a state-of-the-art electric technology venue, an outcome of the 20-year agreement formed last year between OGE Energy Corp. and Oklahoma City All Sports Association to support the venue improvements required to retain the NCAA WCWS. Other elements of the partnership include the stadium field name, now called OGE Energy Field, as well as adding a platform to educate fans and OG&E customers on wise energy use for residential and commercial application.

A subsidiary of OGE Energy Corp., OG&E serves more than 800,000 customers in a service territory spanning 30,000 square miles in Oklahoma and Western Arkansas. The company is a leading provider of renewable energy in Oklahoma, accounting for 850 MW of renewable energy, representing approximately 10 percent of the company’s total generation capability.

For more information on OG&E, visit the following pages below: OG&E web site, Twitter and Facebook.
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In Memory
Celebrating the lives of our ASA/USA Softball family members

Louise Marie Temar (Harrison, Ohio) suddenly passed away on Saturday, May 23, 2015. Temar was 77.

Temar was the mother of Cincinnati ASA/USA Softball Commissioner, David Maury, as well as the beloved wife of Robert Temar and the late Charles Maury. She is survived by Faith Day, David and Tim Maury. Also survived by 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Step-mother of Robert and Julie Temar. Sister of Dorothy Raines, Helen Martinez, Fred and Jim Savage and Murlie Branscum. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

For more information or to leave a message of condolence, click here.

North Dakota ASA/USA Softball hosted their 2015 Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony on April 25th. They honored the following individuals:

**Reinhold Fleck** (Moorhead, N.D.) has played, umpired, and served in various administrative positions both in Fargo and for the North Dakota ASA/USA for over 30 years.

**Rodney Nelson** (Havant, N.D.) has been involved in softball for over 35 years as a player, manager, coach, umpire and as an organizer.

**Lamar Noriega** (Fargo, N.D.) played nearly 30 years in the Fargo fastpitch league as a catcher. He caught for two Hall of Fame pitchers during his career and was a member of the 1998 Fargo team that won the Class A National fastpitch National Championship.

**Bob Piatz** (Jamestown, N.D.) has played for over 30 years and is regarded as one of the all time greatest players in the state’s history. He is also a member of the Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame.

**Roger Weigel** (Bismarck, N.D.) has been an active player in the community for over 40 years and continues to play in the Master’s levels of competition. Weigel has been involved in the administrative aspects of the game at both the local and state levels.

Additionally Jim Hanley received a Distinguished Service Award for his many years of service in Grand Forks and North Dakota ASA/USA for 17 years.
Chris Ball is the head coach of the Maroon Crush Fastpitch 14U team, which has six softball teams and two baseball teams and is based out of Botetourt, Va. Chris Ball approached me about helping him put on a benefit tournament together for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in 2013. Chris has been involved with Cystic Fibrosis Foundation since 2001, because his middle daughter, Lynsey, was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) in 2001. In 2003, his youngest son, Jonathan, was also diagnosed with this disease and he has been working and advocating with the foundation ever since.

In 2014 Virginia ASA turned the ASA Spring Kickoff into a benefit for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation since it was already an established tournament and we raised over $4,500.

In 2015 the tournament was renamed the ASA Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Benefit Tournament. The tournament reached its capacity of 48 teams and $6,200 was raised and donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Two more fields have been secured for 2016 so that we can accommodate 60 teams.

CF is a life-threatening genetic disease that affects mostly the lungs but also the pancreas, liver, kidneys and intestine. An estimated 30,000 children and adults in the United States have CF.
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Men’s Fast Pitch National Team
Photos from their training camp; check out the behind the scenes action shots.

Check out some of the great photos from the Rodney Fox Memorial Tournament, where the Men’s Fast Pitch National Team competed in preparation for their international summer!
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The Arizona heat isn’t anything to mess with and neither is the Special Olympics USA traditional softball team from Arizona. Led by Coach Amy Remfrey, this team is as unique as the beautiful landscape of the southwestern United States.

Team Arizona held try-outs for the World Games team and many great players made the team. While all of the positions are important, the one at the center of the attention is often the pitcher. Not only do they have to communicate with the catcher and other teammates, but also lead the team on and off the field. Arizona’s pitcher Vanessa Robles doesn’t mind stepping up to the mound to lead her team: “Coach Amy walked right up to me and handed me the ball and said, ok, you’re pitching.”

What makes Vanessa unique is not only is she a terrific pitcher but she’s also the only female on the team. She says she doesn’t mind it: “To be honest, the boys treat me like a big sister.” Coach Amy Remfrey says that not only is Vanessa a great softball player but she’s tough.

Coach Remfrey tells the story of when they were warming up for a game last year when she hit a line drive that accidentally hit Vanessa in the chin and left a huge gash. "She got a bandage on it and played the entire game." Vanessa says, "I was stubborn and didn’t want to leave." She pitched the entire game and they went on to win the Gold medal, in part thanks to two home runs by Vanessa.

Vanessa has been involved with Special Olympics Arizona for 15 years. She got involved when she was in school and says her family are her biggest supporters: “My whole family comes to watch me play,” Vanessa said. She is also a Special Olympics Global Messenger – a program that trains and empowers Special Olympics athletes to be advocates and public speakers for the organization. In fact, when the Super Bowl was in her home state this year, she did countless national TV and radio interviews in tandem with NFL players and legends who support Special Olympics.

Robles says playing for Special Olympics USA is a "life’s dream coming true." She says it’s amazing to be a part of something so "big" and an honor to represent her country. She’s looking forward to trading pins with athletes from around the world.

She also says she’s confident in her team’s shot at the Gold: “We’ve got a good team and great coaches.”

In addition to the Arizona squad, Special Olympics USA will be represented by two additional softball teams from Missouri and Southern California. The softball venue for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games will be Easton Field at UCLA.

Nearly 7,000 athletes from 170 nations will compete in twenty five Olympic-type sports at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games: Aquatics, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Bocce, Bowling, Cycling, Equestrian, Golf, Gymnastics, Judo, Kayaking, Half Marathon, Open Water Swim, Power Lifting, Roller Skating, Sailing, Softball, Soccer, Table Tennis, Team Handball, Tennis, Triathlon and Volleyball. More than 500,000 family, friends, volunteers and spectators are also expected to attend. Learn more at www.la2015.org.

Special Olympics USA will send a 481 member delegation of athletes, coaches and official delegates to represent the United States at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games, being held July 25-August 2, 2015, in Los Angeles, California. The “home team” will include 300 athletes and 44 Unified Partners, representing all fifty states and the District of Columbia. U.S. athletes will compete in 17 sports, including aquatics, athletics (track & field), basketball, bocce, bowling, cycling, equestrian, golf, gymnastics (artistic and rhythmic), kayaking, powerlifting, sailing, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball. The team includes several Special Olympics Unified Sports® teams, where people with and without intellectual disability compete together, as teammates. Special Olympics USA is supported by 96 volunteer coaches and 41 volunteer sports and management team members.

Official sponsors for Special Olympics USA include Finish Line, Toyota, Champion, The Coca-Cola Company, American Federation of Teachers, Tommie Copper, Midwest Trophy Manufacturing, KPMG – Golf team sponsor, Mattel – Cycling team sponsor, and Speedo USA – Swimming team official supplier.

Follow Vanessa, Arizona’s team, and all of Special Olympics USA during the Games on the following platforms, online on our website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Use the hashtag #Cheer4USA to show off your pride!
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The NCAA Division II Softball Championship came to Oklahoma City, Okla. for the first time. The event was hosted by the Oklahoma City All Sports Association and the University of Central Oklahoma athletics department.

Teams participating in the Championship included eight teams from all across the nation: Adelphi, California-Pa., Central Missouri, Dixie State, Indianapolis, North Georgia, Shorter, and St. Mary’s (Texas). The Championship was an eight-team, double-elimination tournament.

As play began on May 21st, skies were blue and the field was green, as each of the eight teams played their first game on OGE Energy Field at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium. The first day alone had a perfect game, three shutout performances and even a triple play. Eyes were wide open as each team entered the field and praises were shown in the press conferences after each game from players and coaches.

Days 2 and 3 of the Championship saw games played at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex on Field 3 and Integris Field. Unfortunately after record breaking amounts of rain in Oklahoma City, the ASA Hall of Fame Complex was not able to finish out the Championship, as weather continue to wreak havoc. The semi-finals and National Championship game was moved to nearby Oklahoma Christian University’s Tom Heath Field at Lawson Plaza. The facility has an artificial playing surface that drained almost instantly.

With the venue change, Oklahoma Christian Athletic Director, Curtis Janz, called this the biggest sporting event to ever be played on campus.

The University of North Georgia team dropped their first game to Indianapolis, yet rebounded and came out of the consolation bracket to secure their place in the Championship game. North Georgia’s bats were alive throughout the entire Championship after opening day and it continued into the title game, where they defeated Dixie State 5-0. This was the Nighthawks first NCAA Division II Softball Championship in program history.

“I want to commend Oklahoma City, the staff at ASA/USA, and Oklahoma Christian for the oppportunities that they gave these young ladies here this week,” said North Georgia head coach Mike Davenport. “There’s no better place to win a National Championship than in Oklahoma City.”

For more details on the 2015 NCAA Division II National Championship click here. For pictures, click here.
As softball season has begun, umpires all across the country are preparing for the competition.

Indiana ASA/USA Softball held a slow pitch umpire school at the beginning of May. Umpires came from all across the states to fine-tune their skills and to learn more about the game they love. They used a few apparatus that provided a physical visual reference for umpires. One apparatus showed the strike zone, while the other allows the umpires to see pitch height to help them judge illegal pitches. For additional photos and videos, visit the Indiana Facebook page.

Wyoming ASA/USA Softball held the 2015 National Umpire School. Umpires enjoyed a full day of field mechanics as well as participated in several breakout sessions. Dave Epperson, Kansas Umpire-In-Chief (UIC), and Western Deputy Director, Malcolm Boyles were in attendance to teach the crew. For additional photos from the 2015 National Umpire School, visit the Wyoming Facebook page.
The World Cup of Softball is back in Irvine, CA!

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Curious about all the ongoings about the 2015 NCAA Women’s College World Series in Oklahoma City? Check back in June’s issue of “The Inside Pitch” for all the latest pictures, stories and tidbits from the event. Complete Inside Pitch coverage will be available then, as the event is currently ongoing as of release.
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THE USA SOFTBALL LEGACY CLUB PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAMS AND ATHLETES THROUGH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING. THESE CONTRIBUTIONS ASSIST IN SUPPORTING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRAINING TEAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL PLAY AND TRAVEL FOR COMPETITION. LEGACY CLUB MEMBERS ARE FRIENDS, ALUMNI AND ADVOCATES OF USA SOFTBALL WHO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF CONTINUING THE LEGACY ESTABLISHED BY THOSE IN THE PAST WHO HAVE WORN THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE.

USA SOFTBALL LEGACY CLUB MEMBERSHIP IS EASY AND GRANTS YOU ACCESS INTO A FRATERNITY ALONG WITH WORLD CHAMPIONS AND OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALISTS. EVERY DOLLAR DONATED MAKES A DIFFERENCE AND GOES DIRECTLY TOWARDS SUPPORTING OUR INTERNATIONAL TEAMS.

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TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO JOIN FOR JUST $100, CONTACT US AT (405) 425-3422, LegacyClub@softball.org or visit USASoftball.com and select Legacy Club under the Team USA
The ACE (Achieve, Certify, Educate Coaching) Coaching Certification Program is designed to provide softball coaches of all levels, from beginning coaches to experienced veterans, an opportunity to certify as a coach with the National Governing Body of Softball. ASA/USA Softball recently reached the 15,000th milestone marker for coaches that registered for the 2015 season with the ACE Coaching Certification Program. For a fourth-consecutive year, ASA/USA Softball has teamed up with Pocket Radar™ to provide coaches with a prize pack.

Our winners at each 5,000 milestone have been Jeremy Cantu (Kyle, Tex.), Tina Dark (Tulsa, Okla.) and Mary Ellen Stewart (Santa Clara, Calif.).

“The online instructions and tools that ACE offers to coaches are very helpful,” said Cantu. “At first, I was a little bit skeptical as to how much the training videos could help me. I was surprised that I took away several good drills that we could use in practice to help our girls learn the fundamentals of the game. Every bit of information helps with teaching and coaching these younger girls.”

Dark also found the program very beneficial. “I encouraged my husband to finish the ACE Coaching Certification Program at the same time as me, so that we could talk about it” said Dark. “It’s a great program that any coach can take away something from.”

Stewart also agrees with Cantu and Dark, mentioning that “the ACE Coaching Certification Program is great. It helps to assure parents that the people coaching their children have been screened and are in good standing with ASA/USA Softball.”

Encourage coaches in your local association to be a part of the ACE Coaching Certification Program. Coaches of all different experience levels and from all across the country are learning from the ACE Program. There is something in it for every coach on the youth and adult levels. The ACE Certification videos and the ACE Certification Manual are practical guides to the everyday situations you will encounter as a youth softball coach.

It is highly recommended that all coaches wishing to coach at the Championship Play level or those coaches wanting to receive full ACE benefits become an ACE Certified coach. Coaches can do so online using the ACE Online System on RegisterASA.com. There are four levels to the ACE Program and upon successful completion of each level; benefits include Bollinger insurance coverage, a background check clearance and ID card. For more information on the ACE Online Coaching Certification Program, please contact your local ASA Association Commissioner or visit ACE Coaching Certification.
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Ten umpires from four countries will partake in the 2015 World Cup of Softball X. Slated for June 29 - July 5, five umpires will represent the United States at the World Cup based on their performances as umpires with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball. Hosted by Southern California ASA, Argentina, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and both the USA Softball Junior Women’s and Women’s National Teams are scheduled to participate at Bill Barber Park, Deanna Manning Stadium this summer. A sanctioned event by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Softball Division, Team USA looks to defend its World Cup title as they defeated Canada 5-2 in the championship game in 2014.

Umpires selected from the United States are Chris Drumm (San Luis Rey, Calif.), Laura Head (Signal Hill, Calif.), Linda Hoover (Marshall, Mich.), Katrina Kershaw (Lakewood, Calif.) and Bobby Shelton (Henderson, Nev.).

“It is an honor for an umpire to be able to represent their country on the highest level in the sport they love,” said Kevin Ryan, Director of Umpires for ASA/USA Softball. “These umpires work tirelessly during their career to get to this point and to be recognized by this honor for all their hard work and dedication to ASA/USA Softball. All of them deserve this achievement.”

**Complete list of World Cup of Softball X Umpires:**

- Masao OTA (Japan)
- Daisaku SAIKA (Japan)
- Jesús Rodrigo Lugo López (Mexico)
- Sal Gara (Canada)
- Laura Head (USA)
- Katrina Kershaw (USA)
- Linda Hoover (USA)
- Bobby Shelton (USA)
- Chris Drumm (USA)

Tickets are available for both premium stadium seating and general admission and start at $10 a ticket. Tickets for the event are for an entire day with fans having the opportunity to watch all games played on their selected dates. Visit [www.socalasa.org](http://www.socalasa.org) for more information or email WorldCupXIrvine@aol.com with any questions. A complete media coverage schedule including live streamed games will be released at a later date as well as special promotions and autograph session days.

The World Cup of Softball X marks the first international event of the 2015 season for both the Women’s National Team (WNT) and Junior Women’s National Team (JWNT). For the WNT, the World Cup is one of three international events in 2015. Following the World Cup of Softball, Team USA will travel internationally to compete in the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Ontario, Canada July 15-26 and will then head to Japan August 2-10. For the JWNT, the World Cup will give the team their first international competition before taking on the world at the WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship (JWWC), August 9-15 in Oklahoma City, Okla. at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex.

For complete coverage of World Cup X including bios, rosters, live stats, streaming and results log on to [www.ASAUSASoftball.com](http://www.ASAUSASoftball.com).
Several staff members from Ohio ASA/USA came in early for the 2015 NCAA Women’s College World Series. Lead by Commissioner Warren Jones, the staff followed in his footprints and were a tremendous help to Director of Championships, Chris Sebren, before the big event. Jones and his crew were always asking if they could do more to help out in their annual pilgrimage to Oklahoma City for the big event. ASA/USA Softball would like to thank all who came out to Oklahoma City and volunteered. The word around the National Office is that Jones is pretty good at driving around a forklift! The crew also enjoyed some of the best fried chicken around.
As a youth sports parent, it is easy to get caught up in the thrill of the game and before you know it, you’re yelling from the stands. But a commitment to good sportsmanship is not just the job of the athletes and coaches, parents too play a critical role.


Be a role model for your child by practicing good sportsmanship before, during and after the game. Learn what you can do in our article ‘Sportsmanship from the Stands for Youth Sports Parents.’

See how you can get your game face on when it comes to good sportsmanship with the ‘4 Ways to Practice Good Sportsmanship From The Stands.’

Tell us “What behavior in the stands do you find most disruptive to your child’s sports game?” Take the PlayPositive YourCall Poll.

Watch top athletes and coaches such as Coach Mike Candrea, Sam Fisher and Jessica Mendoza’s parents, as they give advice for parents and fans on the sidelines and in the stands in Liberty Mutual Insurance Play Positive® exclusive videos.

Keep the spotlight on the field and not in the stands by trying hard not to be “that dad” or “that mom” who loses their cool. To learn more, visit PlayPositive/Sportsmanship-From-The-Stands.

Visit PlayPositive.com for helpful advice, tools and resources you can use on and
PUTTING SPORTSMANSHIP BACK INTO YOUTH SPORTS

Liberty Mutual Insurance started the Play Positive™ program to encourage good sportsmanship and help parents and coaches promote a better youth sports experience.

Visit PlayPositive.com for helpful advice, tools, and resources you can use on and off the field.

Learn more at PLAYPOSITIVE.COM

Interviews with world-class athletes, coaches, and Olympians  Tips and tools for youth sports coaches  Expert advice and resources for parents  Pledge to promote good sportsmanship