This past weekend, 29 teams competed for three National Titles in the Slow Pitch Championship Series. This annual event, sponsored by Worth, includes the Men’s Class A, D and Women’s Open Division and relocated this year to Ridgeland, Miss. as the ASA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium is currently undergoing renovations. Thank you to the staff, umpires and volunteers who helped continue the tradition of putting on a great National Championship. If you were unable to attend the event in Ridgeland, you can watch all the games from the event by visiting USASoftball.com.

As we close out the National Championship season, our focus now shifts to the Annual Council Meeting, which will be held in Oklahoma City this year. Mark your calendars for November 9-16! There are a lot of great items on the agenda, including the Wilson Awards Banquet and the 33rd Annual Hall of Fame Banquet. We will also be holding a reception for Ron Radigonda, who will be retiring from the Executive Director position after 14 years. Please join us as we show our appreciation to Ron, who has helped ASA/USA Softball in countless ways.

You can find all the information you need for the Council Meeting by visiting ASAsoftball.com.

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A note from The Inside Pitch editor

Codi Warren

Welcome to the September 2013 edition of the Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) and USA Softball.

A lot of exciting things are happening here in Oklahoma City, most notably the renovations that are occurring at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium. We are also gearing up for the annual benefit auction for Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Central and Western Oklahoma. Be on the lookout for more information on the auction of the pink jerseys Team USA wore during the World Cup of Softball, presented by General Tire.

The national office is also gearing up for the Council Meeting, which we are excited to host November 9-16. We’re looking forward to welcoming our newest Council Members to our headquarters, especially with the renovations at the stadium. You’ll be able to get a first hand look at the progress and see what goes into the facelift!

Now that Championship season has come to an end, many teams are beginning their training and preparations for next year’s events. It’s also a great time for our members across the U.S. to recruit new leagues and teams to play ASA/USA Softball. Our organization offers numerous benefits to our members, provides first class play for our teams and has the most knowledgeable and trained umpires. Please reach out to the Marketing/Communications department if you need any items to help promote ASA/USA Softball in your area.

If you have any feedback on how to continue improving our department and organization, please let me know. Email (cwarren@softball.org) is the best way to reach me.

Talk to you soon.

Register for the 2013 Trade Show

Registration is now open for the ASA Trade show, which will again be held in conjunction with the ASA Council Meeting. **NEW THIS YEAR**, the Trade Show is on Wednesday, November 13 from 6:30-9:30 p.m., with all three hours open to ASA Council Members and other meeting attendees, at the Oklahoma City Convention Center in Exhibit Hall 1. Exhibitors can begin set up starting at 8 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

Only 80 booth spaces are available for the Trade Show and non-commercial (cities, visitors bureaus, etc.) and commercial preferred (companies, manufactures, etc.) booths will be intermingled. The cost per-space is $500 for non-commercial and $650 for commercial preferred. Each booth space measures 10 feet by 10 feet, and includes - 8’ high back wall drape, 3’ high side rail drape, (1) 6’ skirted tables, (2) chairs, (1) wastebasket, (1) identification sign.

**Click here to register >>**

Important dates/information for ASA/USA Softball members

- All proxy requests for the Council Meeting in Oklahoma City are due by **November 1**. The form to submit can be found on the portal under “Annual Meeting”.

- The deadline to submit all 2013 Local Association Champions is **November 15**. These will be included in the 2014 ASA Official Guide and Rule Book, so those received after November 15 will not be included. The form for this can also be found on the portal under “Tournaments”. Please contact Stephanie Brown for more information.

- **October 1** is the deadline to submit an application for the ASA Elite Umpire status. You can find the forms on the portal under “Umpire”.

‘Like’ ASA/USA Softball on Facebook

For exclusive ASA/USA Softball news and photos, “like” the ASA/USA Softball Facebook page at Facebook.com/asausasoftball/.

The Inside Pitch

Official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball

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Softball kept out of Olympic programme

was quickly added to a list of seven others, each vying for inclusion in the 2020 Games. The three sports, wrestling, squash and softball/baseball, were shortlisted in May by the IOC executive board from the group of eight sports originally in the running for the one spot. With Sunday’s selection of wrestling to return for 2020, the sport will not miss any Olympic Games despite technically being removed from the programme last year.

Softball spent four “quads” as an Olympic sport debuting in the 1996 Atlanta Games with the final Olympic softball competitions taking place in Beijing in 2008. Softball and baseball were ousted from the 2012 Olympics following a vote from the IOC in 2005 in which softball, needing a simple majority of votes (53), received just 52. The decision to extend the two sport’s exclusion came in 2009 when the IOC’s executive board chose not to include them on a short-list of sports for the 2016 programme opting instead for golf and rugby.

Despite its exclusion from the Olympics for the past five years, international softball has become increasingly competitive. Japan, winners of the 2008 Olympic Gold, took the top spot in the 2012 International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championship with a 2-1, extra-inning decision over the USA. Australia and Canada have remained strong contenders on the international scene and European countries like Great Britain and the Netherlands continue to increase their level of play year-by-year. The sport will no doubt continue to grow both domestically and internationally despite not being selected for the 2020 programme.

Register for the 6th Annual Fun Walk!

Join us for the 6th annual Fun Walk, presented by the Missouri ASA! On Thursday, November 14 at 6:45 a.m., get the chance to say you survived Oklahoma City’s underground! Walk a little, walk a lot the important factor is that you WALK! Receive a FREE t-shirt and 80th Anniversary flipping coin (while supplies last)! Meet in the Renaissance Hotel lobby at 6:30 a.m. for a group photo and to receive your FREE items!
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!
The year 2013 marks a special milestone for ASA/USA Softball as it celebrates 80 years of innovation, leadership and excellence. When the first organized softball tournament occurred September 2-9, 1933 during the World’s Fair in Chicago, ASA/USA’s founding fathers Leo Fischer and Michael J. Pauley realized a universal set of rules needed to exist, thus establishing what would soon be known as the ASA. With the formation of the ASA, softball finally had a foundation from which to grow and develop. Since that time, ASA/USA Softball has emerged as the nation’s leading softball organization and offers athletes from the ages of eight to eighty the opportunity to play “The Game America Plays.”

Did you know...

ASA/USA Softball is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization which means our goal is not to make a profit. Every dollar generated from grassroots softball goes directly back into improving and furthering the sport.

Commissioner sought for Dallas ASA

ASA/USA Softball is seeking applicants for the position of Commissioner for the Dallas ASA association. The ASA/USA Softball Commissioner should be an individual who is interested in serving as the principal liaison between the local association and the ASA National Office. Those interested in the complete duties of an ASA/USA Softball Commissioner may review them on the ASA website at www.asasoftball.com under the About ASA section and ASA Procedural Manual Article 105.

A panel will interview and make their recommendation of an interim commissioner to the ASA/USA Board of Directors for confirmation. If a qualified candidate is not appointed by the next ASA Council Meeting, the Board of Directors will make a recommendation to the entire Council regarding whether or not the association is to be merged with another.

The ASA was founded in 1933 and has evolved into the strongest softball organization in the country. The growth and development of the association led the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) to name the ASA as the National Governing Body of Softball, pursuant to the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

Those interested in serving as the ASA/USA Commissioner for the Dallas ASA association should forward a resume to:

Amateur Softball Association
c/o Craig Cress, Director of Membership Services
2801 NE 50th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
E-mail: ccress@softball.org
Fax: 405-424-3855

Résumé’s must be received at the National Office by October 8, 2013. Any questions regarding this position should be directed to Craig Cress, Director of Membership Services for the Amateur Softball Association.
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AS THEY TAKE ON THE WORLD.
ASA/USA Softball is proud to announce that Team Mizuno Impulse (The Colony, Texas), coached by Junior Torres, is the recipient of the 2013 Bright Light Award presented by ASA/USA Softball and Musco Lighting. Created in 2011, the award honors an ASA registered Junior Olympic (JO) team that has shown a commitment to its community through service and volunteerism.

“Team Mizuno Impulse has made great efforts to better their communities all year long,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “Their involvement in a variety of volunteer projects speaks volumes about their commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. Their dedication to shaping a better future is phenomenal and we are honored to have such an outstanding group of athletes representing our organization.”

The award as well as a Bright Light Award banner will be presented to Team Mizuno on November 10 during the opening session of the 82nd ASA/USA National Council Meeting in Oklahoma City, Okla. Additionally, as the recipient of the 2013 Bright Light Award, Team Mizuno will receive a $2,000 credit to use toward tournament fees for any 2014 ASA/USA sanctioned events in the United States and 20 Bright Light Award T-shirts for athletes, coaches and staff.

With a team motto of “Change a player, change a family and change the community,” Team Mizuno has done just that through their contributions to a number of causes and needs within their community. In February and March, their team worked with Habitat for Humanity with the building of a home in Plano, Texas. The team also aided the Denton County Friends of the Family Shelter in the collection of personal items for the Denton County Friends of the Family Shelter and worked with Love for Kids. A Dallas/Fort Worth based charity, team members interacted and mentored young children. Following the tragic West, Texas Explosion in April, Team Mizuno staff and athletes organized a prayer vigil and collection of water, supplies and funds for the victims and their families.

“As coaches, we are charged with proving players the opportunity to be seen and potentially recruited to play at a collegiate level,” said Team Mizuno head coach Junior Torres. “Team Mizuno Impulse emphasizes the importance of players producing on the field, but stresses that it is equally important to perform in the classroom as well as in service to your community. Knowing that we as coaches and players are making a difference in someone's life is worth getting up at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, and as a team see it as no better way to start the weekend. We ask that each of our players become involved and assure them that being a part of each of Team Mizuno Impulse community service projects is just one way that we can continue to give back to the community and change lives. Regardless, if we are laboring to build a home, interfacing with battered/neglect children or serving dinner to those in a shelter, each of us has gained and continues to gain valuable life lessons and skills that allow us to continue to learn how to work effectively as part of a team. The Team Mizuno Impulse program is known for giving back and thrives on making a difference in others lives.”

Initiated in 2011 by Musco Lighting, the Yard Sharks 18-Under A team (Carmichael, Calif.) coached by Joe Price have won the previous two Bright Light Awards. Applications for the 2014 Bright Light Award presented by ASA/USA Softball and Musco Lighting will be accepted starting next spring. Additional information will be available at http://www.asasoftball.com.

Did you know...

ASA/USA Softball completed over 70,000 background checks this year on coaches and personnel who surround our game because we care about the athletes safety and protecting our athletes and environment is our TOP priority!
SOME OF AMERICA’S BEST SOFTBALL PLAYERS ARE TEAMING UP TO HELP YOU!

The camp will cover Hitting, Slapping, Defense, Pitching, Catching, and Mental Training. There will also be a Q&A session with the USA Players. There will be an autograph and picture session for the campers at the end of each day. The camp will feature players from Team USA and Three-time All-American Pitcher, Jolene Henderson, University of Cal Berkeley (2013).

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

CAMP SCHEDULE:
Saturday October 12: Private Sessions only
Morning Sessions (9-12)
Afternoon session (1:30-4:30)
Sunday October 13: Camp only (9-4:30)

REGISTRATION:
Campers must register by October 10, 2013
Contact: Kim Swafford, Phone: (423)-987-4402
For more information, cost, and
Sign Up: www.chattanoogasa.com

Register online at www.chattanoogasa.com
A month in review: ASA/USA Softball around the U.S.

An action shot from the Wyoming ASA’s Fall season in Rock Springs.

ASA umpires work a Wounded Warrior game at Seattle University. Pictured (R to L): John Wright, Glenn Brown, Paul Turner, Mike Hodge, John Carney, Steve Browne, Dan Pease and Malcolm Boyles.

Athletes competing in the Minnesota ASA Co-Ed State Tournament.


Did you know...

ASA is the primary funding source for the USA Softball National teams programs! All five programs are still alive and well because of the efforts of the ASA and keeping athletes wearing the Red, White and Blue is a top priority. We are the only softball association who supports this effort and provides financially to these teams!
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Registration is due to Andy Dooley by Nov. 1, 2013

NAME OF GOLFER NO. 1
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□ YES □ NO
DOES GOLFER NEED TRANSPORTATION?

NAME OF GOLFER NO. 2
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CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE
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Questions? Please contact Andy Dooley at (540) 587.6844 or piedmontasa@verizon.net.
Illinois ASA strives to keep adult fastpitch moving forward

Illinois, a longtime hotbed of men and women’s ASA fastpitch softball teams, is doing their part to keep the sport going. Two novel tournaments have been introduced to stimulate interest in young and old, men and women.

The second annual Men’s Wooden Bat Tournament was conducted last month in Casey, sight of the Illinois ASA Hall of Fame and Museum. Eight teams fought for this year’s crown with Rockford BAC coming out on top. Fan support for the event was great and Illinois ASA Executive Vice President Emeritus and Museum Director Joe Snedeker reported that $2,500 was raised for the Hall of Fame.

Interest continues to grow in this unique event and 10 teams are expected in next year’s tournament. Also a part of next year’s Hall of Fame Wooden Bat event will be a Co-Ed fastpitch tournament. Four teams are expected to compete in this first-time mini-tournament.

Some of those teams are prepping for the inaugural tournament by participating in a Fall Co-Ed League in Vandalia. That league consists of four teams of high school boys and girls participating on Sunday afternoons. The league has introduced fastpitch to young male players, some of whom knew little or nothing about the game. The league is the novel idea of Vandalia School Superintendent Richard Well who also directs the Casey Wooden Bat Tournament. Well plans on including at least four Co-Ed fastpitch teams at Casey next year as part of the Hall of Fame fastpitch festivities. Well is well-suited for this leadership role as he is an Illinois ASA fastpitch commissioner and a two-time manager and catcher for the now retired Vandalia Freight. The Freight won the ASA Men’s Class A Fastpitch National Championship in 2005 and 2007.

MORE ILLINOIS FASTPITCH NEWS: Illinois ASA also conducted their Men’s Fastpitch Class C State Tournament this summer. Tournament Director Gary Nohren had 12 entries with the Central Illinois Knights coming out on top. The Nokomis-Villa Grove based team went on to win the Class C National Championship in Owensboro, Ky.

Relive the 2013 Super Slow Pitch Championship

Fans can now watch all three games from Championship Saturday at the 2013 Super Slow Pitch Championship online at USASoftball.com. Catch up on all the action as Hortenbach Auto/Easton claimed the first Super Slow Pitch title since 2003 after blasting past Sonny’s in the Championship Game. All three games were held at the historic Midway Stadium in St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minn.

“This was an exciting Championship series with eight great teams,” said ASA/USA Softball Director of Membership Services Craig Cress. “This is the first time we’ve held this event since 2003, and we couldn’t think of a better way to crown a Champion than at the historic Midway Stadium.”

Hortenbach Auto/Easton finished the tournament in dominant fashion, combining for 10 homeruns, three by way of tournament MVP Brian Wegman, and collected for 27 hits to defeat Sonny’s 29-14 in five innings.

“Anytime you get a win with such a great group of guys it’s pretty amazing,” said tournament MVP Brian Wegman. “It means a lot to us to come out with the win today and earn the Super Slow Pitch title.”
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Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. announces that they will formally honor Andy Dooley as a member of their Hall of Fame. The recognition ceremony will be held on October 19, 2013 at the Moose Lodge in Bedford. Dooley is a current resident of Thaxton, Virginia.

Dooley was elected as the first State Director for Virginia in 1979. The program had a very humble beginning with seven teams and two leagues in that first season. Under the leadership of Dooley, the program grew to 29 teams in 1980. The rapid expansion of the Virginia program created a need to elect District Directors. At one time the state had over 175 teams while registering over 100 umpires. Dooley was directly responsible for managing a well-organized state program that provided recreational opportunities for youth through the game of baseball.

Andy served as State Director through the 1991 season. Dixie Boys Baseball recognized his dedicated service by naming him Vice President of the national organization in 1992. Included in his many achievements were the 1992 Dixie Boys World Series in Bedford and expanded recreational opportunities for youth that he directly spearheaded for Bedford County and the entire Dixie program. He served as Vice President until accepting the Marketing Director position with Dixie Boys Baseball in 2000. He retired in 2002 and was deservedly named as a Life Member of Dixie Boys Baseball.

The Hall of Fame was created in 2011 with the first inductee being Bubba Brasher, program founder. Dooley joins an impressive Class of 2012 that have all made outstanding contributions to the program. This class is comprised of those that have also achieved the status of “Life Members” with the Dixie Boys Baseball organization. The inclusion of each member to the Hall of Fame is based on their many years of dedicated volunteer service to the organization.

J. Sandy Jones, Commissioner/CEO commented, “It is wonderful that Dixie Boys Baseball will recognize the many contributions of Andy Dooley by naming him to the Hall of Fame. We were very fortunate to have the leadership of Andy and without a doubt he made a lasting impression on our organization. He gave of his time and talents and we are forever indebted to him for his dedicated service to young people in Virginia as well as the entire program.”

Show us your “Play at Home” and you could win a FREE Easton bat!

We want to see you recreate the famous “Play at Home” statue at the ASA National Office and Headquarters! Through October 4, send or share your photos for a chance to win a prize pack, including a brand new bat from Easton!

How to enter:
- Share your photo on our Facebook wall
- Tag us on Twitter using the hashtag #PlayatHome
- Share your photo on Instagram and tag us using the hashtag #PlayatHome
- Send your photo to promotions@softball.org

Did you know...

Over 30,000 umpires register and certify with ASA/USA each and every year! ASA/USA is the ONLY softball association to offer complete training and bi-annual Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) clinics, in which over 300 umpires and UIC’s attend, to help umpires achieve their goals and promote a positive experience for athletes and coaches.
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At ResponsibleSports.com, you’ll find:
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• Tips and tools for volunteer youth sport coaches
• Insight from softball players & coaches on their youth sports experience
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*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.

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Your team could earn $2,500 from Liberty Mutual Insurance Responsible Sports

Your team could be the next ASA Softball team to earn $2,500 from the Liberty Mutual Insurance Responsible Sports program. Visit the Community Grant overview page for more information on how to get started.

Also, make sure to check out the Tell-A-Friend Tool. It is a free and easy-to-use email tool that helps you spread awareness about your Community Grant effort. All you have to do is enter your contacts. Then sit back and let us handle the heavy lifting. And don’t forget to check out the Community Grant Toolkit for more helpful resources including social media ideas!

This is a great opportunity for your softball organization to earn $2,500 to purchase equipment, fix up fields, register for tournaments, and assist with player scholarships.

Get started today! >>
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For Your Budget
For The Environment
ASA/USA Softball recently crowned three adult slow pitch National Champions at the 2013 Slow Pitch Championship Series, presented by Worth. The Men's Class A, D and Women's Open National Championships were held in Ridgeland, Miss. September 27-29 and 27 teams took to the field at Freedom Ridge Park. LongHaul/JJ’s/Easton/Doerflinger won the Men’s Class A title, Faith & Hope/JN42 claimed the Men’s Class D crown and Low Bob/Kinder/Louisville Slugger took home the Women’s Open title.

Click here for complete tournament brackets & results from all three divisions!

Click here for LIVE STREAMING from Mississippi from all four fields!

Competition kicked off on September 27 afternoon and will conclude on Sunday morning for all three divisions. Defending Men’s Class A Champion earned a bye in the first round and will begin their back-to-back quest at 6 p.m. on Friday evening against the winner of Xtreme Nutrition

4 the Fallen/Miken (Anthem, Ariz.); Longhaul/JJ’s/Easton/Doerflinger; (Albertville, Minn.); Pro Gutter/Hemphill Construction (Pearl, Miss.); Rip City/Iron Hawk/DeMarini (Denver, Iowa); Armed Forces (Washington, D.C.); Buzinis/BWW/Worth (Brandon, Miss.);

Xtreme Nutrition (Miss.).

In the Men’s Class D Division, 11 teams traveled to Mississippi after earning ASA territorial berths finishing in the top four at Labor Day weekend championships in their territory: Meredith Digital (Torrance, Calif.); Us vs. Them (San Diego, Calif.); Timeout Softball (Clinton, Iowa); 381 Main Bar & Grill (Pequannock, N.J.); Faith & Hope/JN42 (Clinton, La.); Brew Crew (Killeen, Texas); Comatose Softball/Spiderz (Beloit, Wis.); JPS (Urbandel, Iowa); Linedrive (Winder, Ga.); AVC (California); LCP (East Los Angeles, Calif.).

The Women’s Open division was represented by four participating teams from four states: Low Bob/Kinder/Louisville Slugger (Harrodsburg, Ky.); Armed Forces (Washington, D.C.); Maguire and Son Auto Brokers (Virginia); Power Full Nutrition Renegades (Iowa).
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