Mary Mahoney earns Sprint Teamwork Award

Kansas City ASA JO Commissioner Mary Mahoney was honored with the Sprint Teamwork Award during the WIN (Women’s Intersport Network) for KC Annual Luncheon for her contributions and achievements in sports and fitness in the Kansas City area.

“Mary’s commitment really impacts girls from the age of 8 to 18 and she really uses all of her spare time to do that,” said Elli Harvey, Gear for Sports Customer Service Manager.

“It actually goes back to the roots I have with Gear for Sports because one of the core values we have there is ‘caring for and sharing with each other and our community,’ said Mahoney. “I really try to carry those values over to the programs we have with the Amateur Softball Association.”

During the luncheon, six local individuals were recognized for their community contributions and achievements in sports.

“Mary, being a devout advocate of all things sports, made it her mission to do something for Special Olympics”, said Gear for Sports Director of Customer Service Lori Seeling. “In a two month period, Mary raised $21,000 and presented a check to the Special Olympics of Olathe. They in turn were able to purchase a mini van to transport their athletes to their events.”

“To those who much is given, much is expected,” said Mahoney. “I’ve been given opportunities through where I work and through my softball association to give back to the community and to teach and I believe strongly that it’s what I’m here to do.”

You can read more about the award and see a video of Mary’s achievements by clicking here.

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Greetings everyone. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and review this fine publication, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball.

We just completed our last championship event in which four Slow Pitch teams were crowned 2014 ASA/USA National Champions. Congratulations to Long Haul/H. Auto/Easton, Compound Athletics/Bubbas, DIA Water Connection/Dutch Mafia and Derby Girls who each earned the crown in their respect division of play. It was truly a pleasure to witness such spirited competition and great sportsmanship throughout the three day event hosted by our National Office Staff at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex and the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark. This exceptional event also included the conclusion of the ASA Stadium Power Tour, won by Team DeMarini and featured Chris Larsen being named the 2014 World’s Greatest Homerun Hitter for the second time in his career. We encourage each of you to come to Oklahoma City at this time next year and be a part of this great event where the best Slow Pitch Softball in the world is on display.

During the coming month I am privileged and honored to accompany the Men’s National Team in their travel to Paraná, Argentina to participate in the 2015 Pan American Games qualifier tournament. The team will compete with nine other country teams for the five berths open to the Pan-American Games that will be held in the Toronto, Canada area next summer. Join me, please, in wishing the team safe travels and a successful tournament. Our Women’s National Team qualified for the Pan American Games last year in Puerto Rico.

I concluded my August letter to you by advising that the Board of Directors would hold their 2014 Fall Meeting on September 20-21 in Oklahoma City. The minutes of that Board Meeting will be sent to each Council Member as soon as they are approved by the Board Members. This action will take place shortly. Please share the information with any interested ASA/USA Softball members.

Our 2014 Annual Meeting at the Nugget Hotel in Reno, Nevada is quickly approaching as November 7 will soon sneak up on us. All the 2015 Code and Rule Change Proposals have been reviewed and preparation for their distribution to Council Members by the National Office personnel prior to the Council Meeting is almost complete. All Council Members should receive the Code and Rule Change Proposals in the next few days. Please take the time to review before arriving at the Council Meeting and when requested complete and submit your Consent Agendas to the appropriate committee chairs. Preparation on everyone’s part will make for a smoother, more efficient and effective Annual Meeting. I look forward to seeing each of you at the Annual Meeting but should you have a question or wish to provide suggestions or comments prior to the meeting please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

We very much appreciate your membership in ASA/USA Softball, the National Governing Body of Softball. You are very important to our organization so regardless of your degree or level of involvement thank you for what you do. Our success is brought about by all of us.
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VIEW ALL OTHER FUNDRAISING OPTIONS
(OH YEAH... THERE’S MORE!)
Hello everyone and welcome to the September 2014 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball!

What a great year for ASA/USA Softball! With over 100 National Champions that have been crowned, you can say it has been one busy season for our organization!

As we head into the offseason, please be sure you have mailed all appropriate National Championship documents to the ASA National Office. It’s very important in helping us in promote our winners and those who played in our tournaments.

One topic I’d like to touch on in this issue is keeping the ASA/USA brand in the forefront of your complexes, fields and facilities where ASA/USA Softball is played. What I mean by this is that hanging up split logo banners, flags or putting stickers onto padding can do wonders in promoting ASA/USA Softball to your teams and fans. You’d be amazed at how something as small as a cling-on sticker on some padding can do in creating a “high level” feel at the ballpark.

Here at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex, we utilize a variety of items to keep the ASA/USA brand prevalent throughout the facility. One thing in particular we use is stickers on our backstop padding and dugouts on the Stadium Field. For any place where we can’t put stickers, we hang up our split logo banners. Something that is also new this year is the awesome blue netting on the outfield fences that read “ASA Hall of Fame Stadium” and have a split logo in the design. One thing that’s great about the way we use these items is that regardless of what angle someone is looking (or taking photos), you can see “ASA/USA”.

It’s always fun to go through our photos that we post on social media and see which athletes tag themselves in them. Once those athletes tag themselves, it provides an opportunity for our brand to be pushed to countless friends and family of theirs. Perhaps some will see just how much fun softball looks, will see our logo and then in turn want to play the best softball there is, which is ASA/USA Softball!

If you’re interested in learning how you can utilize some of these items at your facilities/ball fields, feel free to reach out to our Marketing/Communications Department (myself or Julie Bartel). We’d be more than happy to help you in obtaining them!

As always, if you have any news items, photos or stories you want included in the next issue of the “Inside Pitch”, feel free to email me at cwarren@softball.org! Until next time, thank you for all that you do for ASA/USA Softball!
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Playing for Lorison & Ally
A mother’s wish for her daughter

Submitted by Tom Shuell

It was Thursday, July 10 when I dropped Ally and her mother, Lorison, in oncology. Lorison had the symptoms of the stomach flu since the preceding Sunday. During this time in oncology they talked of the next softball tournament that Ally would be playing in. Lorison was not aware the cancer had spread, but she told Ally that she was very proud of her and whatever she does she should always try her best, but most importantly Ally was to have fun in all of her endeavors.

By the end of the night Lorison had a CAT scan and it was determined that her ovarian cancer that she had battled for 18 years had metastasized into the brain. We had hoped that radiation would work but it did not. Ally visited her mother every day and during times of lucidity Ally always talked of her softball, saxophone and Tae Kwon Do. At one point, Ally gave her mom the softball that an umpire had given to her after making a very special catch that only her mom saw. He was so impressed that he gave her the game ball. Lorison was extremely proud of that connection with Ally.

On Thursday, July 17, Ally had her final conversation with her mother. Her mom told her to always try her best but most importantly, have fun.

Ally had gone to Lacey, Washington for a softball tournament with a team family the next morning, during which time Lorison passed away. Having already told the team of her mother’s dire situation, the team stepped behind Ally and made special shirts for the tournament.

After the conclusion of their first game, the news of her mother’s passing was given to Ally. With the team’s support behind her, Ally played the next game, knowing that was the best way to honor her mom. Her team, completely inspired, beat a team that had an 18-game winning streak.

Ally is a true competitor that her mom always enjoyed supporting. Her mom and she had a special bond on the softball field.

Ally’s softball team, Stark Street Smash, has been extremely supportive in her ability to fulfill her mother’s wish that she strive to be her best and have fun while doing it.
Being a family member of Team USA has it’s benefits.

Take advantage of partnership travel discounts.

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In their first event as a team, the 2014 USA Softball Men’s Fastpitch National Team took the championship of Durk Sherman Classic in Elkland, Pa. during Labor Day weekend. Using the event as a tune-up for the IX Conpasa Men’s Fastpitch Panam in October, Team USA went 5-0 in the event capped off with a 7-0 win over the USA Futures in the Championship game.

“I was very happy with our defense,” said USA Head Coach Denny Bruckert. “We had some questions coming into this tournament and I think our 17 guys answered them. They were an extremely professional group and they all accepted their roles. The defense was a bright spot for us. Coming in we as a coaching staff knew that we could hit the ball well but our defense was equally as impressive in this tournament. I think we only had one error in the five games that we played. I was very happy with the way we played on that side of the ball.”

**Championship: USA 7, USA Futures 0**

Click here to view the Box Score

A no-hitter from USA pitcher Josh Johnson (El Paso, Texas) coupled with seven runs on nine hits from the USA batters spurred a 7-0 shut out by the USA National Team over the USA Futures Team in the finals of the Durk Sherman Classic. Johnson finished the game with five strikeouts in six innings in the circle. Nick Mullins (Toms River, N.J.) paced a hot USA lineup going 2-2 with a run and three RBI.

After a scoreless first inning, the USA National Team blew the game open with five runs on three hits and an error in the top of the second. After allowing four runs on two hits, Jerlin Rutt (Bernville, Pa.) was replaced by B.J. Hunhoff (Sioux Falls, S.D.) midway through the second. Hunhoff finished up the game for the USA Futures by allowing three more runs on seven hits while striking out four.

The 5-0 score held to the fifth when Chase Turner (San Jose, Calif.) scored on a wild pitch to make it 6-0. Needing just one more run for the run rule in the sixth, Johnson doubled to center field and later came around to score giving Team USA a 7-0 advantage.

Down to their last at-bat the USA Futures needed one run in the bottom of the sixth to extend the game but Johnson had other plans in the circle. Back-to-back groundouts were followed up with a Johnson’s fifth strikeout of the game to end it.

Following the tournament championship, the USA Softball Men’s National team regroup in October and travel to Parana, Argentina to compete in the IX Conpasa Men’s Fastpitch Panam where they will look to earn berths to the 2015 Pan American Games as well as the 2015 International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championship.
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Through their commitment to making a positive impact on their athletes and community, the Utah Liberty Softball team (Sandy, Utah) has earned the 2014 Bright Light Award presented by Musco Lighting. This group of 12 athletes, coached by John and Codee Flores, put in over 100 volunteer hours from January 1 through August 31, making them the third team to earn the Bright Light Award. Created in 2011, the award honors an ASA/USA registered Junior Olympic (JO) team that has shown a commitment to its community through service and volunteerism.

“The Utah Liberty family is extremely grateful to ASA/USA Softball and Musco Lighting for the recognition they have bestowed on the Utah Liberty team,” said Co-Head Coaches John & Codee Flores. “As coaches, we are honored to have the opportunity to coach these young ladies and have them be a part of our lives. We cannot even begin to measure the ways these young women and their parents have touched our lives and the lives of so many others. We are extremely proud of each and every one of them.”

The award as well as a Bright Light Award banner will be presented to the Utah Liberty on November 9 during the opening session of the 83rd ASA/USA Annual Meeting in Reno, Nev. Additionally, as the recipient of the 2014 Bright Light Award, the Utah Liberty will receive a $2,000 credit to use toward tournament fees for any 2015 ASA/USA sanctioned events in the United States and 20 Bright Light Award T-shirts for athletes, coaches and staff.

Athletes with the Utah Liberty Softball team try to reach beyond softball diamonds across the United States. Formed five years ago, coaches aim to produce well-rounded young athletes in their pursuit to achieve their dream of hopefully playing college softball one day and to help shape their future success in society. A mainstay of the program is that there is a need to give back to those around us and to strive to achieve good grades in the classroom, which the young athlete have embraced. Causes such as The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, Brylee in 5 (The Children of the Earth Foundation), The Fight Against Childhood Cancer, The Road Home Homeless Shelter in Salt Lake City, and the Swing for Life Softball Tournament (raising awareness for Breast Cancer Research) are just a few of the causes these young athletes have volunteered at and supported through community service.

“As coaches we cannot begin to say or show how proud we are of the young women of Utah Liberty Softball, and how thankful we are to have the opportunities we have to show support to these great causes,” said Codee Flores. “They are more than ready to start a two-hour practice early at 8:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning so that they can go and be big sisters to kids with special needs later that day at the Miracle League fields. We never hear them complain and they always strive to show pride and respect to every effort they take on. It is just the opposite with these young ladies; they have started looking for more opportunities and have even enlisted the help of friends and family members when opportunities arise. They realize that there is much more to being a well-rounded athlete and person besides working hard on the field.”

Initiated in 2011 by Musco Lighting, the Yard Sharks 18-Under A team (Carmichael, Calif.) coached by Joe Price captured the inaugural Bright Light Award and followed up with another in 2012. Last season, Team Mizuno-Impulse (The Colony, Texas), coached by Junior Torres, brought the award home to Texas. Applications for the 2015 Bright Light Award presented by ASA/USA Softball and Musco Lighting will be accepted starting next spring.
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Local ASA News
News and notes from around the country

Five Missouri ASA umpires travelled to South Kansas City on September 5-6 to work the Special Olympics of Missouri regional tournament. Shown, left to right are: Joey Rich (St. James), Ed Loubey (St. Joseph), Mike Vogel (Jefferson City), Dean Homan (Sedalia), and Terry Beas (Windsor).

The Missouri State Tournament will be held in Jefferson City on October 4-5.

Massachusetts ASA Hall of Fame Induction

Fourteen individuals will be forever enshrined into the Massachusetts ASA Hall of Fame on Saturday, November 29. Held in Sheraton Framingham, Mass., tickets and menu items can be ordered by clicking here.

Below is the list of inductees for the Massachusetts ASA Hall of Fame, Class of 2014:
- Anthony Aresco
- Vernon (Gus) Chester
- Joseph Duarte
- Joseph Gallagher
- James Jones
- Godfrey (Ace) Jordan
- Charles Leto
- Raymond Macone
- Kevin Morrison
- James Palmer
- William (Dick) Rose
- Diane Schumacher
- Richard Silva
- Gil Vigeant

Commissioner sought for New Jersey ASA

ASA/USA is seeking applications for the position of Volunteer Commissioner for the New Jersey ASA/USA. Those interested in serving as the ASA/USA Commissioner for New Jersey should forward a resume and cover letter to:
Amateur Softball Association/USA Softball
c/o John Miller, Director of Membership Services
2801 NE 50th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
E-mail: jmiller@softball.org
Fax: 405-425-3430

Résumé’s must be received at the National Office by October 6, 2014. Any questions regarding this position should be directed to John Miller at the contact information listed above.
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Softball fans might see a familiar face on their television screens as three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Lori Harrigan-Mack (Las Vegas, Nev.) is competing on the latest season of *The Biggest Loser*. Aptly titled *Glory Days*, the 16th season of the NBC hit features 20 professional and non-professional former athletes who will aim to change their lives and earn “The Biggest Loser” title and a $250,000 grand prize. Be sure to tune into this season of The Biggest Loser every Thursday at 7 p.m. CT on NBC.

“After I retired in 2004, I met my husband, got married, we had a beautiful boy and after that I suffered eight miscarriages,” Harrigan-Mack told People Magazine. “So after that I think I kind of went into, obviously, a depression and I just didn't deal with it at all. With my husband 100 percent behind me, I said The Biggest Loser is where I have to change. I have to do this.”

Harrigan-Mack is a member of an elite group of four women who hold three Olympic Gold Medals in the sport of softball, setting a record at the 2000 Olympic Games after becoming the first individual pitcher to throw an Olympic no-hitter. Harrigan-Mack’s Olympic accolades include a perfect 4-0 record with a 0.00 ERA, 29 strikeouts and just seven hits allowed in 27.2 innings of work. In addition to her three-Olympic Gold Medals, Harrigan has won three International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championships (1994, 1998, 2002) and three Pan American Games Gold Medals (1995, 1999, 2003) during her 12 seasons as a member of the USA Softball Women’s National Team.

A three-time ASA Women’s Major Fast Pitch All-American, Harrigan-Mack collected one Women’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship with the California Commotion in 1999. Enshrined into National Softball Hall of Fame in 2011, Harrigan-Mack is also a member of the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame as a member of the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team.

To find out more information on this season of *The Biggest Loser* and to find a list of contestants competing, visit [http://www.nbc.com/the-biggest-loser](http://www.nbc.com/the-biggest-loser).
In a rematch of last year’s Super Slow Pitch National Championship Game the result remained the same as Long Haul/H. Auto/Easton kept a hold on the title. Long Haul/H. Auto/Easton’s Brian Wegman forced the “if-game” with a two-run walk off home run to secure the 21-20 win in the Championship Game, and his team came alive at the plate to claim the Championship with a 39-16 (five inning) run-rule victory.

An outstanding effort by Travis Clark hoisted Long Haul/H. Auto/Easton to a 36-19 win in five innings over Sonny’s, racking up eight RBI on four hits. For Sonny’s, Bubba Mack hit two home runs, going 3-for-4 in the game with three RBI and three runs scored.

Long Haul/H. Auto/Easton’s bats came to life in the first inning, scoring 21 runs off nine home runs. Their hitters combined for 37 hits, 35 RBI and 36 runs scored, while Sonny’s combined for 20 hits, 19 RBI and 19 runs scored.

For his efforts at the plate, Long Haul/H. Auto/Easton’s Wegman took home tournament MVP and Batting Champion titles, while Sonny’s Bubba Mack and Long Haul/H. Auto/Easton’s Dale Brungardt shared the Home Run Champion title.

As a team, Long Haul/H. Auto/Easton finished the 2014 Super Slow Pitch Championship with a .582 batting average, punching 25 home runs and racking up 96 hits and 79 RBI. Sonny’s combined for a .542 team batting average, 18 home runs, 88 hits and 79 RBI while Rip City/DeMarini finished the tournament with a .361 batting average, 15 home runs, 22 hits and 15 RBI.
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Questions? Please contact Andy Dooley at (540) 330.9635 or piedmontasa@verizon.net.
The ASA Long Haul Bombers put on quite the show on September 26 during the ASA Stadium Power Tour Finals. Five Bombers, Easton’s Brian Wegman and Scott Kirby, DeMarini’s Chris Larsen and Dale Brungardt and Miken’s Kevin Filby swung for the fences, while Miken’s Denny Crine hit for the Manufactures Cup.

Wegman and Kirby put up good numbers for Team Easton as Wegman connected for eight long balls and Kirby slugged nine home runs to give their team a total of 17 points.

Those numbers would be matched and more once Team Miken’s Filby and Crine stepped up to the plate. Filby, the only lefty in the group, sent nine sailing over the fence while Crine, who narrowly missed out on making the finals in the individual category, sent 10 home runs flying. With a total of 19 team points, Team Miken looked to be a major contender for the coveted Manufactures Cup.

That hold would not last long as Team DeMarini came ready to swing. Made up of the “Bruise Brothers”, aka Dale “Bubba” Brungardt and Chris Larsen, Brungardt proved that a the young ones can hang with the best of him, put up 11 points to take the lead in his second season on the ASA Stadium Power Tour. Seeking his second title, Larsen stepped up big time, blasting 12 out of the park to earn the title of “World’s greatest home run hitter”. With a combined total of 23, Team DeMarini left no doubt and earned the Manufactures Cup.
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An outstanding effort by Neil Haglund lifted the Compound Athletics/Bubbas to a 39-18 win in four innings over 4 the Fallen/Miken/Evo 9X in the Men’s Class A title game. The win came just after 4 the Fallen/Miken/Evo 9x forced the “if-necessary” game in a 33-30 win.

Haglund was unstoppable at the plate, going 5-for-5 in the game for Compound Athletics. Denny Crine led the way for 4 the Fallen with a flawless 3-for-3 performance at the plate with three RBI and three runs scored.

Compound Athletics set the tone early in the game, scoring 37 runs in the first three innings of the game.

Three Compound Athletics players were flawless at the plate as Haglund, Travis Clark and Steve Edwards each went 5-for-5 while Mike Umscheid led the team with 10 RBI and three home runs in the game.

On the other side, 4 the Fallen had five players who went 3-for-3: Jake Mays, Chris Hansen, Cory Large, Clayton Shaw and Crine.

Below is a complete list of individual awards for the Men’s Open Division:

**First Team All-Americans**
- Nick Utley - 4 the Fallen
- Orlando Castillo - Compound Athletics
- Mitch Johnson - All American Athletics
- Mike Umscheid - Compound Athletics
- Dennis Rulli - Compound Athletics
- Nick Santana - All American Athletics
- Neil Haglund - Compound Athletics

**Batting Champion - Nick Santana (.913)**
**Home Run Champion - Denny Crine - 11**
**Tournament MVP - Brad Reckart**
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DIA Water Connection/Dutch Mafia jumped out to an early lead on the Chingon/Monsta Athletics and captured a 14-3 victory in the Championship Game of the Men’s Class D.

The game was decided quickly as DIA Water Connection/Dutch Mafia exerted its will early with 11 runs in the first three innings. A two-run home run by Michael Parrish during the first inning and an RBI double by John Brown and a three-run home run by Justin Thayer in the second inning helped DIA Water Connection/Dutch Mafia put some runs on the board early.

DIA Water Connection was led by Thayer, who went 3-for-3 in the game with one home run and five RBI. Chingon/Monsta Athletics’s Dillon Wood provided the offense for his squad, going 1-for 2 with one home run and two RBI.

John Brown, from DIA Water Connection/Dutch Mafia took home Tournament MVP honors, finishing the weekend with a .600 batting average (6-for-10) with three RBI and six runs scored.

As a team, DIA Water Connection/Dutch Mafia finished the tournament with a perfect 4-0 record, including three run-rule victories. The squad put together a team batting average of .553 with eight home runs and 64 RBI.
Reminiscing about the days when you played on your first sports team probably puts a big smile on your face. The friends you made, the coaches who helped train you, and all the fun you had taught you that there’s more to the game than just winning or losing.

Unfortunately, many children today are not learning some of those same lessons because of a win-at-all-cost mentality growing throughout youth sports. For them, winning a game has become more important than the valuable lessons behind the game — the benefits of sportsmanship.

Liberty Mutual Insurance Play Positive™ has some good news - parents have noticed this change in attitude, and are working together to reinforce good sportsmanship in youth sports.

When parents and coaches keep what’s really important in mind during the game, they help shift the spotlight onto the impact of good teamwork, hard work, sacrifices, friendships and specific athletic skills that are all more important than winning. Download this helpful tool from Play Positive to remember why we play sports.

Inspiration is waiting for you!
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.

Interviews with world-class athletes, coaches, and Olympians
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Despite forcing an “if-game” with a 16-13 win earlier in the day, the All Armed Forces were unable to overcome the powerful Derby Girls squad, who captured the Women’s Open National title with a 16-6 (six inning) win.

Derby Girls scored five runs in the fifth on an RBI double by Tara Salcedo, a two-run double by Megan Miller, an RBI triple by Dara Toman, and an RBI single by Amy Doerflinger. The teams traded runs for most of the contest, leading to seven lead changes in the game.

Derby Girls pulled out the win thanks in part to a strong fourth inning as Doerflinger connected for a three-run triple, scoring Christian Dowling, Marie and Toman. Salcedo had a busy day at the plate, collecting three extra-base hits.

Melessa Graves was solid at the plate for All Armed Forces. Graves went 3-4, drove in one and scored one run. She singled in the first, fourth, and sixth innings.

Tournament MVP Salcedo finished the weekend with a .562 (9-for-16) batting average, seven RBI and five runs scored.

Below is a complete list of individual awards for the Women’s Open Division:

**First Team All-Americans**
- Christian Camp - All Armed Forces
- Leina Braxton - All Armed Forces
- Terri Hodges - All Armed Forces
- Kasey Castor - All Armed Forces
- Melessa Graves - All Armed Forces

**Batting Champion** - Christian Dowling
**Home Run Champion** - Christian Dowling
**Tournament MVP** - Tara Salcedo

Above: Derby Girl’s Tara Salcedo was named Tournament MVP.
Below: Members of the Women’s All Armed Forces squad pose with their All-American plaques.
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