Eight to be inducted into the National Softball Hall of Fame

Turn to page 27 to learn more about four of the 2015 inductees to be honored on October 31 in Louisville, Ky. Additional inductees to be featured in the October issue.

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Over 300 attend Rhode Island ASA/USA Softball’s annual awards banquet
Greetings everyone. Thank you for taking the time to review this publication, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball.

As I sat down at my computer to write this letter, I received the news release from the World Baseball Softball Confederation announcing to the baseball/softball world the wonderful news that the 2020 Tokyo Olympic organizing committee will recommend to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) the placing of softball on the 2020 Summer Olympics Program. Under the recommendations, baseball and softball would be contested by six teams. Amazing news that puts baseball/softball at the cusp of attaining our long standing goal of returning to the Olympic Program. Although we are knocking at the door, much work remains to be done between now and when the final decision is made by the IOC next August. However, as Yukiko Ueno, Japanese Olympic softball Gold Medalist, stated, “Everybody in baseball and softball has their sights on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and wants to play for gold.” The sun is rising in Japan and it’s looking very bright for the inclusion of baseball and softball in the 2020 Summer Olympics. Let’s continue to show the IOC that baseball and softball belong in the Olympic Program by supporting our sport in the best way that we can.

Our championship season ends the first weekend in October with the final slow pitch championships of the year. It will be a fun weekend of the best slow pitch in the world being played in Oklahoma City. If you are anywhere near Oklahoma City or can make the trip there, please visit this fantastic event at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium Complex. You will not be disappointed.

The 2015 Annual Council Meeting will take place beginning on October 31 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. The 2016 Code/Procedural Manual and Rules Change Proposals have been reviewed and are being prepared for distribution to you. Please review these documents when received as prior preparation helps conduct more effective meetings.

Our Board of Directors held their Fall Meeting during September at which several important decisions were made that will affect our organization for many years to come. The actions taken by the Board will be discussed at our Council Meeting; however, the Board minutes are being prepared now and will be forwarded to all council members as soon as approved by the Board Members. Please review the minutes and discuss any questions you may have with your Territory VPs. The VPs are your immediate representatives on the Board of Directors.

See you at the Council Meeting in Louisville!
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Special Programs ASA/USA Softball held a tournament in Wichita, Kan. last month. Proceeds went to the Special Olympics. Keep up the great work!

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!

South Dakota ASA/USA Softball umpires wore the pink collared shirts for Cancer Awareness at the JV State Championship Game. South Dakota ASA/USA Softball is the governing organization for high school State Championships. All teams register and #PlayASA!

PICTURED LEFT: From left to right, Andy Dooley Piedmont, VA Commissioner with a medic from the local Air Force Base.

PICTURED LEFT: From left to right, Jack Mowatt, Maryland-DC ASA/USA Commissioner and Fire Chief Ron Blackwell (Wichita, Kan.)

PICTURED LEFT: From left to right, Andy Dooley Piedmont, VA Commissioner with a medic from the local Air Force Base.

PICTURED LEFT: Matt Morgan (Sioux Falls, S.D.) behind home plate.

PICTURED RIGHT: From left to right, Matt Morgan (Sioux Falls, S.D.) and Dawson Johnson (Sioux Falls, S.D.).
Dallas ASA/USA Softball has partnered with Pinnacle Fastpitch and Flower Mound Jaguar Softball for the “Fill The Backpack” initiative. This program helps struggling families and students by providing them with free backpacks and school supplies. This year, 75 filled backpacks were provided to the Lewisville Independent School District.

“We started this program giving backpacks to students after learning that many students headed back to school with limited supplies, some even needing to borrow something as small as pencil to complete their school work,” said Nesa Grider, Dallas ASA/USA Softball Junior Olympic Commissioner.

Keep up the great work Dallas ASA/USA Softball!

Craig Cress, Codi Warren and Steve Walker from the ASA/USA Softball National Office attended the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Assembly in Colorado Springs, Co. This year’s conference was called ‘Power of Sport.’

This year’s assembly featured many great breakout sessions for National Governing Bodies (NGBs), provided networking opportunities and featured several different council breakout meetings. The assembly wrapped up with an awards dinner with keynote speaker, Mike Krzyzewski, Duke Basketball and Team USA Head Coach.

PICTURED RIGHT: Director of IT, Steve Walker and Craig Cress, Executive Director for ASA/USA Softball.
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Welcome!

Words from the editor of The Inside Pitch

Hello and welcome to the September 2015 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball!

First off, thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter and learning more about what is going on throughout the country within our organization. At the end of next month, as many of you know, we will be holding our Annual Meeting in Louisville, Ky. I have taken the lead on this year’s tradeshow and am excited for the opportunity to make it a huge success. Hopefully I’ll get the opportunity to meet many of you that I haven’t encountered yet, so feel free to just come up, mention where you are from and introduce yourself. I know that I’ve heard a lot about the annual meeting from people at our local organizations when I traveled this past summer and from many others up here at the National Office. It’ll be a great to learn more about how this organization runs and meet the people that help make it successful in many areas all across the country.

This past month was my first exposure to slow pitch softball when I helped run the Men’s Class C National Championship. As many of you know, slow pitch is definitely a different game from fast pitch. It’s sorta wild to see athletes upset when they hit a home run when their team is over the limit and it counts as an out. I joked during the event that if I could hit the ball to the outfielder that I would be impressed with myself!

In September, I was able to get away for a little bit and use some vacation time. I traveled through six college campuses on my roadtrip to see Oklahoma play at Tennessee. It was a blast hanging out at Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Alabama, Auburn, Tennessee and Vanderbilt. Each campus had something different to bring to the table and was unique in its own way. Something that I love to do is just people watch and try to get a taste of the culture of each college town, which is something that I try to do when I travel with ASA/USA Softball. I remember many times this past summer that I asked Warren Jones or the crew in Salem, Ore. tons of random questions about where they like to eat, hang out, cool things to see or even ask about the local mindset on certain things. That’s always my favorite part about traveling and something I encourage everyone to do when they are on the road for any occasion, work or pleasure. You never know when you’re going to be back in that area that you are traveling to, so you might as well enjoy the little things.

Hope everyone has a great month and I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting in Louisville.

Have a question for Nick Dorety?
Send it to ndorety@softball.org

PICTURED LEFT: Nick Dorety pictured at legendary Toomer's Corner on the campus of Auburn University.

PICTURED ABOVE: Nick Dorety, far left, pictured with his little sister at an Oklahoma football game.
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The ASA Hall of Fame Complex hosts several events

This past month, the Complex hosted the Men’s Class C and Class B Slow Pitch National Championships. Teams traveled across the country to Oklahoma City, as 15 states were represented at the Class C and 11 at Class B. Thirty-eight high school programs came to compete in the Oklahoma High School Shootout. Events look to wrap up at the Complex in October, as the Slow Pitch Championship Series begins October 1 and high school state championships will be played later in the month.

Episode 9 of Softball 360 now online

Can’t get enough softball? Keep up with all the latest around ASA/USA Softball all season long. Check it out now.

Stay stylish with the latest softball gear

Want to be the most stylish person at your office or school? Check out the new visors, hats, t-shirts and more on Softball Outlet.

8th Annual USA Softball Pink Auction held

The ‘pink auction’ went on during the month of September for 17 autographed, game worn Team USA pink jerseys. All proceeds benefit Susan G. Komen Central and Western Oklahoma. Since the inception of the “Pink Out” auction in 2008, ASA/USA Softball has raised over $71,000. This year’s game worn jerseys were worn at the “Pink Out” game against Puerto Rico at World Cup X in Irvine, Calif.

Sign up for the USA Softball National Coaching School

Registration is open for the USA Softball National Coaching School, presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance. Featuring current and former USA Softball Women’s National Team coaches, it will take place Nov. 20-22 at The New Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nev. Learn from the best, as highlighted by Ken Eriksen, Mike Candrea and the only four-time Olympian Laura Berg.
Check out the great Marketplace products!

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On Sat. August 22, in Kent, Wash., a team from the Seattle Metro ASA Umpires played a team from the WA State ASA Umpires in a slow pitch challenge game. Umpires from around the State came to play in this game, which started out to be nothing more than a challenge from Seattle Metro for the bragging rights among the umpire community of Washington.

In the week prior to the game there was naturally some good old fashioned “trash talking” flying back and forth over the emails, phones, etc. between the two factions. Based on this, it was decided that during the course of the game that any “outs” made by the players, along with any complaining by players about the quality of officiating would cost that individual $1.00 for each out/complaint. It was a full seven inning game per the rules, so a total of $42.00 was made for the outs. Needless to say, but LOTS of complaining took place also during the course of the game. You know that umpires usually have to take it, so giving it out was a refreshing change. Matter of fact the money bag had donations in it, even prior to the first pitch.

By the time the game was over, and the money bag was tallied up, a total of $435 had been collected. If you subtract the $42 for the “outs”, that means there was $393.00 in “whining fees”. I guess the players just needed to get it out of their systems!

It was decided that the fees should be donated to a worthy endeavor. The team decided that donation should be to the brave and hardworking firefighters and first responders who are busting their butts to save all they can in Eastern Washington. If it wasn’t for them, we’d be up that proverbial creek without a paddle.

PICTURED ABOVE: Athletes, umpires and staff gather for a quick photo. Photo credit: CJ Webb.
PICTURED LEFT: Cash collected that was donated to the hard-working firefighters.
The 2015 ASA Stadium Power Tour stopped at nine different locations this past summer before concluding with the National Finals. This year’s National Finals were held in Miami at Marlins Park on September 12.

The rules for the National Finals were the same as the rest of the season with each player getting 15 swings, one point per home run and a sudden death ‘hit-off’ in case of a tie.

Five Long Haul Bombers stepped up to the batters box to crush balls out of the park. Denny Crine (Team Miken) stole the show in the National Finals, as he had throughout the ASA Stadium Power Tour as he blasted a total of 62 points. The win for Crine secured his fourth Power Tour crown. See below for the results.

The win for Crine secured his fourth Power Tour crown. See below for the results.

Team Miken won the 2015 Manufacturers Cup.

Thanks to all the great fans that came out and supported the ASA Stadium Power Tour!

**ASA Stadium Power Tour Finals Results**

Denny Crine (Team Miken): 9  
Kevin Filby (Team Miken): 8.5  
Bubba Brungardt (DeMarini): 7.5  
Brian Wegman (Easton): 7  
Chris Larsen (DeMarini): 7
Being a family member of Team USA has its benefits.

Take advantage of partnership travel discounts.

United has flown Team USA for over 30 years, and we strive to be the airline of choice for Olympic family members as well. That’s why we offer discounted fares for USOC/NGB associated events. Go to united.com/USOC to book your flight, or to learn more.
The Olympic Dream for millions of softball athletes across the world is one step closer to realization as the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games announced five new sports, including baseball/softball, for inclusion in the Games in 2020.

“We are humbled and excited to continue in the next steps of the process for our sport’s Olympic reinstatement efforts,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress. “We are honored that the Tokyo 2020 organizing committee has selected our sport for inclusion onto the Olympic Program. We will continue to promote our sport and demonstrate the positive aspects of softball to the international world.”

The top sport in Japan, baseball/softball is the biggest sport not currently featured at the Olympic Games -- particularly in terms of youth participation in actual organized competition, as the vast majority of baseball/softball’s estimated 65 million athletes in over 140 countries are between the ages of 5 to 21.

Tokyo 2020’s proposal for additional events must be reviewed, voted upon and formally approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil next August ahead of the 2016 Games.

“Tokyo 2020’s decision to propose our sport is a ‘home run’ and giant leap forward for baseball and softball,” said World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) President Riccardo Fraccari. “On behalf of WBSC and our athletes, I would like to thank Tokyo 2020 as well as IOC President Thomas Bach, whose Olympic Agenda 2020 vision has paved the way for this extraordinary opportunity. The entire baseball and softball world is excited and ready to cross the Olympic home plate. But above all, I am happy for all our male and female athletes who today can see there is a real chance to fulfill their greatest dream of representing their country in the most important sporting spectacle there is -- the Olympic Games.”

WBSC’s previous Olympic bid, which proposed baseball and softball for the 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games, earned the second-highest amount of votes at the 2013 IOC Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, finishing behind wrestling.

In four Olympic Games appearances, the USA Softball Women’s National Team claimed three Gold Medals and one Silver Medal finish while setting numerous international records and are one of only two women’s sports involved in the Olympic movement to capture three-consecutive Gold Medals. In 2012, three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Lisa Fernandez and the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team were honored for their accolades with induction into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. Members of the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team set 18 Olympic records in Athens. Among the team records were the most hits (73), highest team batting average (.343) and highest slugging percentage (.559). Fernandez set the individual record for batting average with .545 while Crystl Bustos’ 10 RBI and five home runs were also records.
DONAL M. SNYDER SR.
April 12, 1922-July 30, 2015

“Some you win, some you lose, some get rained out, and some
shouldn’t have been scheduled in the first place.”

That was one of the mottos of well-known Biloxian, Donal M.
Snyder Sr., who passed away Wednesday, July 30, 2015 after a battle
heart disease at the age of 93.

Snyder, born in Chicago, Ill., spent time in several cities before he
and his family settled in Ocean Springs, where he graduated from high
school.

The track and field specialist competed at Oklahoma City Col-
lege then the University of Indiana, where he was an All-Conference
honoree in track and also earned his B.S. degree. Snyder earned his
Master’s degree and continued his track and field career at the United
States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New Jersey. His
military service also included a stint in the U.S. Navy aboard a liberty
ship during World War II.

He taught and coached track & field at Biloxi High School for five
years before serving as the City of Biloxi’s Recreation Director for 20
years. From there, his career continued in the Morale, Welfare, and
Recreation Department on Kessler Air Force Base until his retirement
in 1989.

Snyder then spent his so called “golden years” competing and
medaling in numerous Senior Olympic track and field events and was
recently inducted into the Mississippi Senior Olympic Hall of Fame.
He’s also an Amateur Softball Hall of Honor inductee, the City of Biloxi
Sports Hall of Fame, and a longtime member of the Biloxi Business-
men’s Club.

In 2001 Biloxi’s Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center (AKA “The
Grandpa Dome”), opened to the public in May 2001.

His parents, Chester and Louise T. Snyder, his wife of 66 years,
Audrey L. Snyder, his daughter Patricia, and sisters Regine Sanders,
Muriel Agregaard, Edward Snyder, and Frank Snyder preceded him in death.

He’s survived by his seven children, Donal Jr. (Pamela), Susan Richardson (Samuel), Christopher (Su-
san), Father Michael Snyder, David (Jan), Judith (Michael Kavanagh), and William, 13 grandchildren, Donal
Snyder III (Karma), Joseph Snyder (Andrea), Thomas Snyder (Alex), William Richardson (Christie), Elizabeth
(Jayson Newell), Rose Rider (Jason Rider), Cecilia Snyder, Susannah Snyder, Danielle Snyder, Adam Kava-
nagh, Kathryn Kavanagh, Colin Snyder, and Caroline Snyder, and five great grandchildren, Amy Snyder, Ian
Snyder, Amelia Snyder, Elizabeth Richardson, and Jackson Sukiennik, and three sisters, Emily Reed, Phyllis
Benson, and Carol Ready (Clyde).

Among his numerous attributes, Snyder turned several beachfront lots vacated after Hurricane Katrina
into his own personal golf course. He also worked as an acclaimed but often times jeered high school and
college official and umpire, turned using duct tape into an art form, and at 90 years of age could still recite the
poem “The Charge of the Light Brigade” word for word.
Norwalk resident Tom Chiappetta has been selected to enter the Connecticut Amateur Softball Association's (CASA) Hall of Fame.

Chiappetta, a Stamford native, and the other Hall of Fame inductees were honored at the CASA Hall of Fame awards dinner on Sunday, Sept. 27 at the Costa Azzurra Restaurant in Milford.

This year’s other honorees are Jim Carey of Shelton, Larry Deschaine of Plymouth, Nelson Eddy of North Haven, Stephen (Spider) Eldridge of Farmington, Joseph Languell of Torrington, Michael Matarazzo of West Hartford, Buddy Phelps of South Lyme and Kevin Russo of Shelton.

As this year’s Bernie Iassogna Award winner for service to Connecticut softball, Chiappetta’s biggest contributions to CASA came on the administrative side.

In the early 70’s at age 15, he got his start in supporting softball when he kept score and did newspaper write ups for the legendary Stamford-based Shoreline League, which showcased some of the best teams in the Fairfield County area.

Chiappetta joined the CASA slow pitch HOF committee in 2003, brought in by the late George Ritchie. He worked as the ‘right-hand man’ for slow pitch committee chairman Jim Consiglio through 2009 before becoming chairperson in 2010. He resigned earlier this year.

Chiappetta also had a successful three-year managing stint leading National Auto of Stamford to a pair of Masters Over 35 Division national tourneys in 1987 and 1988.

Chiappetta also had a notable softball playing career, beginning in 1973 as a shortstop in Stamford area leagues. From 1976-1986 he pitched for some of the top teams in Connecticut, primarily VIP Limousine and DeVito Brothers of Norwalk. He pitched in seven state championship games, with one title in 1978 as he led VIP to the Major Division crown.

He later played for National Auto from 1986-91 in the Masters Division as the state and regional powerhouse went to three national Masters tourneys, finishing 9th in both 1986 and ‘87. Chiappetta earned third-team All-American honors in 1987.

Congrats to all inductees!
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The clock is ticking to register for the 84th ASA/USA Softball Annual Meeting to be held in Louisville, Ky. from Oct. 30-Nov. 6, 2015. This year’s host will be the Galt House Hotel, located in the heart of downtown Louisville.

Over 300 voting members of the National Council for ASA/USA Softball will be in attendance. Anyone is welcome to attend the Annual Meeting.

Click here for an agenda.

This year’s tradeshow will take place on Wednesday, November 4. Registration will open soon for the event.

The 35th annual National Softball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 31. Inductees include Bonnie Anderson (Springfield, Ore.) - Umpire-Posthumous, John Davide (Centereach, N.Y.) - Slow Pitch Player, Andy Dooley (Thaxton, Va.) - Commissioner, Sue Enquist (San Clemente, Calif.) - Meritorious Service, Mark Ingrao (Falls Church, Va.) - Umpire, Charles Moss, Sr. (Lanexa, Va.) - Meritorious Service, Steve Padilla (Manteca, Calif.) - Fast Pitch Player and Mike White (Eugene, Ore.) - Fast Pitch Player.

The “Swing For A Cause” golf tournament is back! This annual event benefits the ASA/USA Special Programs and Special Olympics NIT. Registration is due to Andy Dooley by October 17, 2015. This year’s tournament will take place at the Cherokee Golf Course. Limited club rentals are available at Cherokee and will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Click here for a flyer.

For additional information (forms for council members, training session information, etc.) on the Annual Meeting, visit the event page.
Through their commitment to making a positive impact on their athletes and community, the Utah Liberty Softball team (South Jordan, Utah) has earned the 2015 Bright Light Award presented by Musco Lighting. This marks the second time that the Utah Liberty, coached by John and Codee Flores, has achieved the award, as they last won in 2014 and become the second two-time winner. Created in 2011, the award honours an ASA/USA registered Junior Olympic (JO) team that has shown a commitment to its community through service and volunteerism.

The Utah Liberty was formed six years ago as the coaching staff’s primary goal has been to produce well-rounded young athletes in their pursuit to achieve their dream of playing collegiate softball and to help shape their future success off the field in society. Throughout the years as a program, the Utah Liberty has tried to develop and stay true to these specific core values: giving back, setting meaningful goals, leadership, commitment to one another and the team as a whole, to develop chemistry on and off the field and lastly to develop a team identity that would reflect the goals of who the team wanted to be. A key focus of the program that was identified in their values is to give back to the community. The Utah Liberty athletes have collaborated with coaching staff to come up with new ideas to support many causes that affect their community daily. The coaching staff has been overwhelmed to see their team’s excitement and passion towards helping others, as they believe that it says a lot about the character of their young ladies.

“Our team was honored to receive this award last year,” said John Flores. “We decided to step up our game and give back even more this year. We love that we can represent Utah ASA/USA Softball. I feel like our volunteering this past year in the community has helped our athletes to start high school on a positive note. They have learned skills from our program that will help them to be better student athletes throughout high school as one day as they apply for college. They have learned to see how working in a team environment for others and not just yourself can make the team stronger.”

The Utah Liberty has been able to help raise awareness to causes such as the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball, the Children of the Earth Foundation, the Fight Against Childhood Cancer, the Salt Lake County Animal Shelter, the Utah Healing Fields, Days of 47 Parade and the Swing for Life softball tournament that raises awareness for breast cancer research.

"I see the impact volunteering has had on our young athletes," said Flores. "It has built a camaraderie and a level of trust between the girls. They have been able to meet people from different backgrounds to work towards a goal. Volunteering has promoted team bonding, respect for others and really has opened up conversation to a deeper level between team members. A lot of our volunteering opportunities tend to be geared toward people and organizations that need a little extra love and care in their lives. Our athletes realize that they have the power to brighten someone’s day and to be appreciative of everything they have."

The award, as well as a Bright Light Award banner, will be presented to the Utah Liberty on November 1 during the opening session of the 84th ASA/USA Annual Meeting in Louisville, Ky. Additionally, as the recipient of the 2015 Bright Light Award, the Utah Liberty will receive a $2,000 credit to use toward tournament fees for any 2016 ASA/USA sanctioned events in the United States and 20 Bright Light Award T-shirts for athletes, coaches and staff.
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If Lorrie Ivie isn’t the most famous person at the Champions Cup, she’s certainly the most well-liked by the players, college coaches and travel ball coaches.

She knows nearly every college coach by name and greets them with a hug when they check in at the ASA Players Association tent at Harvard Park.

“The ASA Players Association has developed a networking program designed to bring talented, motivated student athletes to the attention of colleges across the entire country,” said Ivie, who has worked with ASA Softball for about 30 years.

Ivie, the director of the ASA Players Association, has helped put together a massive mailing and email network for softball players and college coaches to make connections.

“If a college is looking for a certain type of player, they can email me,” Ivie said. “If they are still looking for a 2015 (player), I’ll blast it out to everyone on the network. I’ll tell them, ‘If you’re a 2015, colleges are still looking.’ We’re kind of helping each other bring more information to the student athlete.”

Ivie has four daughters and two of them played softball and ended up playing in college. One of her daughters, Tamara Ivie, ended up playing professional softball and professional baseball and she coached softball at New Mexico State and Arizona State. Lorrie’s been involved with with the ASA Players Association “for a long time. I know most of the college coaches.”

“I was never a coach, just a mom with two kids being recruited and I found out that a lot of moms didn’t know what to do,” Ivie said. “A lot of travel ball coaches or coaches would zero in on certain kids and the others would be forgotten and didn’t know where to turn. So I thought it would be a good way to pay it forward, so that’s what I’m doing to help these kids.”

American Pastime Gold (Calif.) manager Larry Farnworth raves about the work Ivie and the ASA Players Association does for players.

“What they do at the Players Association is beyond belief,” Farnworth said. “Every team in ASA and even beyond ASA (is on the network). Every team and every athlete should be involved. It’s to benefit them.”

Ivie said the program was originally just supposed to be for Southern California players, but Ivie admits, “I can’t say no.”

“If somebody comes up to me,” she said, “I’ll put them in.”
This summer has definitely been one for the books. It was a long, crazy, and fun summer. I met amazing people along the way and the opportunity we all had this summer was very special. My favorite part about it was meeting my life long friends. The girls I played with were great players but even better people. This group was one of a kind and our coaches were simply amazing. It was very neat to watch how quickly our team bonded and how close we all got within a matter of three months.

As you all know the Junior team had the World Championships out in Oklahoma City at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex. It was what we have been preparing for all summer. We all wanted ONE thing and that ONE thing was a Gold medal. That week was the best week our team has ever played and the best part about it was that our timing was perfect. We ended up playing Japan in the Championship and beating them 8-1. When the last out was made I ran right to Nicole DeWitt, who was playing second base, and hugged her out of excitement. It was one of the best feelings I have ever felt.

After the game we had the ceremonies where they announced the medalists for the event and they played our National Anthem. At that moment it was a feeling I never will forget. Playing in front of our home crowd and winning a Gold medal was amazing. It was a very touching feeling when the National Anthem was being played. This has been the dream and goal of every single girl on this team...and we did it! We plan on keeping this a dream and goal each year. There is nothing better than walking off that field with your team by your side and wearing USA plus a Gold medal across your neck. This is a summer I will never forget.

Right after Worlds, I came straight to the University of Oklahoma, where I will be a freshman. I just finished my first week of college and it was better than I expected. I was nervous because the transition is a lot different and I was in a different state from my hometown. My team is great and they helped all the freshman out with anything we needed. It has been a very fun week and I am excited for the rest of my school year and I can’t wait to start playing with my team! I have been waiting years to get here and now that it is finally here it is unreal. I am loaded with excitement and I am happy that I am here. With that being said, follow the Oklahoma Sooners this year for an amazing year! Thank you for reading.

Sydney Joy Romero, #4 USA JR Team
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Rhode Island honors champs

Over 300 attend Rhode Island ASA/USA Softball’s annual awards banquet and dinner

Rhode Island (RI) ASA/USA Softball held their Junior Olympic (JO) Banquet at the end of August in Harrisville, RI. Bev Wiley, RI Commissioner, and Dave Ethier, RI JO Commissioner, hosted over 300 people to the annual awards ceremony and banquet. The top two or three teams, in some cases, officially received their state tournament trophies. Congrats to all of the following teams that were honored and thanks for playing ASA/USA Softball!

**Congrats to all the winners!**

- **10U Class B**
  - 1st Cranston Ravens Gold
  - 2nd East Coast Drama Gold

- **12U Class C**
  - 1st Gateway Fury
  - 2nd Cranston Ravens Black

- **12U Class B**
  - 1st CLCF Bombers Gold
  - 2nd Cranston Ravens Purple

- **14U Class B**
  - 1st Apponaug Pride
  - 2nd Cranston Ravens Purple

- **16U Open**
  - 1st Smithfield Storm
  - 2nd Ct

- **18U Open**
  - 1st New England Impact
  - 2nd North Providence Aftershock
Special Olympics USA Softball teams knocked it out of the park at this year’s 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles, Calif., July 25 – August 2. The competition was tough, but the US teams came out on top.

Special Olympics USA Softball featured three teams from Arizona, Southern California and Missouri. They squared off against teams from Australia, India, Canada, Puerto Rico and Mexico throughout the World Games, setting up a rare all-US Gold medal game between USA Arizona and USA Missouri. USA Arizona came out on top and won the Gold, with USA Missouri winning Silver. USA Southern California won Bronze after two tough games with Australia and India. All softball competition was held at UCLA’s Easton Stadium.

With 6,500 athletes and 2,000 coaches representing 165 countries, the 2015 Special Olympics World Games were the largest sporting and humanitarian event in the world this year, and attracted some big names such as LA Dodgers’ third baseman, Justin Turner, who came out to support the US teams during divisioning rounds. Turner watched the USA Missouri team defeat Mexico and afterwards, had a meet and greet with the team.

Happy to see them come out with a victory, Turner shared what he loved about the game, saying, “It’s just inspirational. You see how passionate and determined and committed these athletes are to their sport. I don’t know if people appreciate their commitment and passion enough.”

But there was more... Turner had a special surprise for the team: he arranged transportation and tickets to the Dodgers home game the following evening where they received VIP treatment. Missouri coach Susan Shaffer said, “When we arrived at the stadium we headed down to the field to watch batting practice. All of a sudden, out came General Manager Don Mattingly and the batting coach, Mark McQwire: it was just so cool! Over the next few days that’s all the guys could talk about.”

Written by Amie Dugan, Director of Marketing and Communications for Special Olympics North America
All Things Softball

Get 5% Back on Bats, Gloves, Cleats & More When You Join The League by Sports Authority

sportsauthority.com
2015 National Softball Hall of Fame
Learn about four of this year’s inductees to be honored in Louisville.

Bonnie Anderson (Springfield, Ore.) - Umpire - Posthumous

Ask anyone in the Northwest and they’d tell you that Bonnie Anderson was considered the premier umpire from Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Umpiring from 1974-1998, Bonnie’s achievements go far beyond the playing field. Bonnie umpired in 29 ASA/USA Regional Tournaments throughout her career and received her first National assignment in 1981 at the Women’s Class A Slow Pitch National Championship. She would go on to umpire in five additional National Championships before breaking into the international scene at the 1995 ISF Junior Women’s World Championship in Normal, Ill. Anderson also served as an umpire at the 1982 National Sports Festival and the U.S. Olympic Festival in 1984.

Other accolades include being ISF Certified and a charter member of the National Indicator Fraternity. While her umpiring resume is impressive, her off-field work is just an outstanding. Bonnie became the first woman Umpire-in-Chief for ASA/USA Softball in 1981 and established a top-notch training and education system for Oregon umpires. Sadly, Bonnie passed away in January, 2012, but to this day, her military-style of teaching continues to groom umpires in the Northwest.

John Davide (Centereach, N.Y.) - Slow Pitch Player

In a time where teams played fewer than 100 games a year, John Davide was a staple of the County Sports softball organization for many years. Known as an intense competitor, Davide was well known throughout the Men’s Major Slow Pitch world as an outstanding shortstop and a feared hitter.

Many teammates, coaches and opponents often referred to him as the best home run hitter in the game. He left little to doubt, often hitting anywhere from 70 to 100 homeruns every year he played. Davide was a member of several ASA All-Tournament and All-American squads while capturing numerous Tournament MVP titles throughout his career.

His playing accolades didn’t stop at the Major Slow Pitch level as he continued his playing career through the Master’s and Senior Softball divisions.

Andy Dooley (Thaxton, Va.) - Commissioner

Andy Dooley has a storied career with ASA/USA Softball beginning in 1984 when he served as an At-Large Player Rep for Piedmont VA ASA/USA. Ten years later, his commitment and dedication to the organization helped earn him the title of Commissioner and helped lead the association to one of the most prominent in the Region. Along with his local accolades, Andy has made an impact at the National level, serving on the ASA/USA Board of Directors as the Eastern Territory Vice President and as the President of ASA/USA Softball from 2009-2011.

Since 1992, the Piedmont VA ASA has held several ASA/USA events, including National Championships and USA Softball National Teams. Andy is also extremely active with the Special Olympics Program in both Virginia and on the National level and helped establish the ASA Special Programs Committee.

Sue Enquist (San Clemente, Calif.) - Meritorious Service

A true icon in the softball world, Sue Enquist has been a driving force for the sport of softball at all levels for nearly four decades. Her resume alone speaks for itself. Enquist has three ASA/USA All-American titles, five ASA/USA National Championships, five Gold Medals as a member of the USA Softball Women’s National Team and three as a coach of the program.

Perhaps her most notable accolades came during her time as the Head Coach of the UCLA Softball program. With a 27 year career at the helm of the Bruins, Enquist compiled an 887-175-1 record and 11 NCAA National Championships while producing 15 U.S. Softball Olympians and 65 NCAA All-Americans.

Beyond her role as a coach and player, Enquist is highly regarded as a clinician and advocate for softball. A true legend of the game, Enquist continues to instill her passion and excellence to players and coaches around the country.
Registration is officially open for the 2015 National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) National Convention. To access the registration form as well as get information on speakers, local attractions, the updated schedule and exhibitor info, please visit the official NFCA Convention website by clicking HERE.

The 2015 NFCA National Convention, hosted by the city of Atlanta, will take place Dec. 2-5 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. Conveniently located in the Peachtree Center, the Marriott is just steps away from the World of Coca-Cola, Georgia Aquarium and close to the CNN Center, GICC, Georgia Dome and College Football Hall of Fame.

Reservations - The NFCA has blocked rooms at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis at a $139 rate (plus tax) for one to four people in a room. To make your reservations, you can do this online or call 866/469-5475 and ask for rooms in the NFCA block.

The cutoff date for reservations is November 6, 2015. You must identify yourself with the group to get the special hotel rate. All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. For full hotel and reservation information click here. Be sure to also check out our pre-convention seminars, speakers, mentoring session and keynote speaker, best-selling author and motivational speaker Jon Gordon.
Submit your favorite photos to Nick Dorety, ndorety@softball.org

'Nick's pics'
Favorites from September

ASA Men’s CWest Fast Pitch National
September 5-6, 2015
Wallace Marine Park, Salem, Oregon

Photo from Indiana ASA/USA Softball
Photo from North Dakota ASA/USA Softball
Photo from Southern New York ASA/USA Softball
Photo from Warren Jones
Photo from Minnesota ASA/USA Softball
Photo from Texas ASA/USA Softball
Photo from Florida ASA/USA Softball
Photo from Sacramento ASA/USA Softball
Photo from Softballcityusa
Wallace Marine Park
Photo from Connecticut ASA/USA Softball
Photo from Minnesota ASA/USA Softball
Photo from Seattle Metro Softball Umpires Assn.
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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.

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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 celebrates the 20,000th and 25,000th coaches that registered for the 2015 season for 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. At every 5,000th milestone, ASA/USA Softball awarded that coach with a brand new Ball Coach Training Tool, courtesy of Pocket Radar™ ($300 value).

20,000th: Lorrie Sanger (Kittery, Maine)

Sanger, a coach with Maine ASA/USA Softball, coaches the Lady Mavericks 14U in Portsmouth, N.H.. She began playing softball in 1977 after playing baseball for several years. Sanger played through college, but has always dreamed of coaching and sharing her love of the sport with young women.

“My experience with the game brought confidence, determination and success through adversity,” said Sanger. “My hope is that the young women I coach will not only learn those needed skills but also gain strength of mind and a resilient attitude.”

The 14U Lady Mavericks came into this season with one goal in mind: qualify for an ASA/USA National Championship. After a summer filled with many practices and conditioning workouts, they accomplished that goal and went to their first National Championship, the ASA/USA Girls’ 14U Class A Western in Findlay, Ohio. Sanger believes that the quality of coaching in ASA/USA leagues is outstanding.

“These coaches know the game and they care about the girls we work with,” said Sanger. “The level of play and the dedication shown by players, parents and coaches is a huge plus for ASA/USA teams. I have enjoyed reacquainting myself with the game and being the best role model that I can be for these awesome girls. After playing in adult slow pitch leagues and being out of the loop on fast pitch for so long, to come back and see the training videos and ACE Certification program is awesome.”

25,000th: David White (Banks, Ore.)

White, a coach with Oregon ASA/USA Softball, coaches his daughter’s team in Banks, Ore. He began coaching when he thought he could make a difference to improve each player’s ability and knowledge of the game. His team played in 14U leagues, as they went through a lot of growing pains this past year. White is confident in his team moving forward as they compete in ASA/USA leagues.

“We started with a new team this past year and struggled at times,” said White. “Recognizing that the players can play at the level we know they are capable of is important. We worked this past summer on each player building more confidence fielding, throwing and hitting. Confidence breeds winning. Each girl made a lot of progress and by the end of the year, they refused to give up even under trying circumstances and large deficits. It was a transformational year for a lot of the girls to believe in themselves and their teammates no matter what the odds are.”

White likes the ACE Coaching Program and believes that the yearly updates to the program are the most beneficial, as they provide excellent coaching techniques.

“Coming from a baseball background, I have found that softball is played at a much faster pace and the young women need to be much more proficient. The updates to the ACE Coaching Program help me become a better coach. The ACE Coaching Program adds to why ASA/USA softball is the premium league. ASA/USA has the best resources for coaches and has the highest level of professionalism here in Oregon. The tournaments, tournament directors and umpires are the best.”
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Champions were crowned at each of the Men’s Class B and C Slow Pitch National Championships, in Oklahoma City at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in September.

Men’s Class B Slow Pitch National Championship
C-Town/GTS/Beus Excavation/Action Garage Door defeated Above All Landscaping 23-22 in the Championship Game. C-Town went undefeated throughout the tournament en route to the title as both teams utilized all six of their allowed long balls in the close fought game.

C-Town got on top early, scoring eight runs in the bottom of the first inning with help from a three-run homer by Nick Utley. Two more home runs from Chris Hoshaw and Corey Gilbert gave C-Town a 10-1 lead after two innings. Above All Landscaping would close the lead in the top of the third inning as a three-run blast from Tom Paturzo scored the second, third and fourth run of the inning to cut C-Town’s lead in half.

The game would get interesting in the fourth inning as Above All Landscaping put five runs on the board to bring them within one run, but C-Town responded with a three-run home run from Corey Gilbert to extend their lead by four. The game would come down to the seventh inning as Above All Landscape mounted a last-inning rally, but they came up one run short as C-Town claimed the Championship.

Men’s Class C Slow Pitch National Championship
Russell’s Paint and Body, from Florida, defeated OC, from Iowa, 28-24 in an exciting and intense National Championship game on OGE Energy Field. OC emerged from the consolation bracket after winning two games earlier in the day and had to beat Russell’s in back-to-back games to be named National Champions. OC continued their momentum from earlier in the day into the Championship Game, as they came out and scored 11 runs in the first inning. Down 13 runs in the third inning, Angelo Petracca started the rally for Russell’s Paint and Body with a big single. A huge grand slam from Adam Baker continued to get Russell’s Paint and Body back in the game. A big third inning resulted in a twenty run outburst that put them back on top. OC would not go away easily however, as Spencer Black’s home run highlighted a six run inning. A late comeback was necessary for Russell’s Paint & Body and they did so in the sixth innings, as they piled on several doubles that helped put the game away late.

This was Russell’s Paint and Body’s fourth time to Oklahoma City to compete and second time to win the Class C National Championship, as their first came in 2005.

First Team All-Americans
IF- Brian Kbetzke – Showbombs
IF- Travis Thomson – OC
IF- Gabe Bower – OC
IF- Noah Wethington – OC
IF- Martin Musgrave – Russell’s
OF- Matt Vellieux – Showbombs
OF- Adam Baker – Russell’s
OF- Junior Carlin – Russell’s
OF- Pete Seden – Russell’s
UT- Ken Tulington – All Army Black
UT- Eric Reynolds – OC
UT- Brandon Johnson – OC
UT- Devon Anderson – Russell’s
UT- Donnie Hammonds
P- Robert Kerr – Russell’s
Tournament MVP – Donnie Hammonds

First Team All-Americans
IF- Chaun DeMars - T’s 13
IF- David Miller - Above All Landscaping
IF- Tim Bowser - Fence Brokers Inc.
IF- Michael Cervantes - Fence Brokers Inc.
IF - Ryan Goodman - C-Town
IF- Michael Powers - C-Town
OF- Christopher Hoffer - Tailgaters
OF- Brad Carleson - C-Town
OF- Nick Peterson - All American Restoration
OF- Jon Gastineau - C-Town
UT- Clint Murray - Above All Landscaping
UT- Steven Whaley - Fence Brokers Inc.
UT- Willie Allen - Above All Landscaping
UT- Jonathon Williams - BBS/Mr. D’s/Rip City
UT- Corey Gilbert - C-Town
P- Cole Peterson - C-Town
Time on the bench and not in the game can be difficult. For athletes, being on the bench shouldn’t be seen as a punishment. Learn how to help bench players contribute to the team and stay engaged in the game.


Help athletes recognize their role in the success of a team from the sidelines with this Liberty Mutual Insurance Play Positive® article “Sportsmanship from the Bench.”

Athletes on the bench might not be playing, but they can still be an integral part of the team. See how you can keep bench players engaged and a part of the team in “Four Ways to Involve Bench Players” from Liberty Mutual Insurance Play Positive®.

Watch top athletes and coaches as they talk about helping bench players stay engaged in the game in our exclusive videos.

Tell us, how your child’s coach keeps bench athletes involved in the sport in the Play Positive YourCall Poll.

To learn more how parents and coaches can help bench athletes have an active role on the team and keep them engaged in the sport, visit PlayPositive.com/Bench-Athletes
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