A note from Amateur Softball Association President Andy Dooley

I extend my warmest greetings, on behalf of everyone at the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, for a successful season. Best of luck to all teams as they work toward their goals. I hope you all find success in local tournaments, ASA National Championship Qualifiers, ASA/USA Softball National Championships or wherever the season takes you.

While winning remains a focus for many of the coaches and athletes, please remember that safety also needs to be a priority for everyone involved in the ASA. Nothing is more important than ensuring that our organization provides a safe and secure environment to the coaches, athletes, umpires and anyone else enjoying a day at the ballpark.

I encourage associations, leagues and teams to work together to get background checks for all of the volunteers involved, including umpires. Any person who wants to be involved with ASA should be held to a high standard of personal conduct.

On the note of safety, I also encourage leagues to administer field inspection tests frequently. We have to provide the safest fields of play possible.

I also encourage everyone to take advantage of opportunities provided through national partnerships. Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports is currently running the spring grant program, which allows leagues/teams to win $2,500.

Recently, ASA partnered with Musco Lighting for the new “Bright Light Award”, which recognizes ASA Junior Olympic teams that excel in community service. For those teams looking for ways to become active in the community, please consider becoming involved with national partnership with Special Olympics North America and Moose Fraternity. Anyone who volunteers with the Special Olympics knows that it can be a life changing experience.

I look forward to all of the great things to come for ASA. Thank you for all you do.
Jamie Blanchard

Welcome to the April 2011 edition of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America.

Earlier this month at the National Office, we held our first staff meeting for the World Cup of Softball VI and Border Battle III, which comes to the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in July. The World Cup, which is sanctioned by the International Softball Federation, is known for bringing the world’s best athletes to Oklahoma City. I think it also showcases some of the best behind the scenes work.

The meeting served as a reminder of all the different people it takes to put on the event. Just at this stage, almost 50 people have a role in the event, and that does not include the people who will become involved closer to the event, managing the parking lot, selling concessions and more.

Hard work is not exclusive to just the World Cup -- there is a lot of it behind every ASA event in the country. Tournaments do not happen on their own. And tournaments do not happen with just athletes, coaches and umpires. Without the ticket sellers, the scoreboard operators and all of the behind the scenes workers, our events would not be as successful as they are.

On behalf of the National Office, I extend our deepest gratitude to everyone involved with making ASA the leading softball organization in the country. Thank you so much for all of your effort.

Talk to you next month.

Indiana ASA Commissioner

Dave Nolan passes at age 54

David Nolan, the commissioner of the Indiana ASA since March 2010, passed away at 5:08 a.m. Sunday, March 27, 2011, at Bloomington Hospital in Indiana.

Born December 16, 1956, he was the son of Donald E. and Hilda (Tyree) Nolan. He graduated from Mitchell High School in 1974 and Indiana University Southeast in 1979. He established his accounting business in 1982 and was very active in the Mitchell Community.

He was currently serving as the president of the Greater Mitchell Chamber of Commerce and had been director of the organization for 12 years. He was past chairman of the 1984 and 1996 Persimmon Festivals, served as parade chairman five years and in 2006 was honored as Grand Marshal; he has devoted more than 30 years as a tireless volunteer to the festival. He was honored as Volunteer of the Year in 1997 and Citizen of the Year in 2007.

He served on the Board of Directors at Mid-Southern Bank, was past president of the Mitchell Rotary Club and served more than 17 years as treasurer of the Dunn Memorial Hospital Board.

Dave enjoyed sports and had attended every baseball stadium in the United States. Memorial gifts can be made to the Mitchell Community Schools Scholarship Foundation.

Renneisen takes lead role with Indiana ASA

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, the National Governing Body for the sport of softball in the United States, announced April 4 that Mick Renneisen has been appointed the temporary commissioner for Indiana ASA. Dave Nolan, who held the commissioner position since March 2010, passed away on March 27 in Bloomington, Ind.

Renneisen has been involved with the ASA as a slow pitch player since 1975 and in service roles since 1981. Among the highlights of his career with the local association, he served as a district commissioner from 1983-85, an executive board member from 1985-2010 and the executive board vice president from 2000-02. He was the tournament director for eight national tournaments in Indiana, all of which won the Jim Farrell Award of Excellence.

Nationally, he serves on the ASA Board of Directors as the vice president for the northern territory. Renneisen has also served as the chairman of the long range planning committee since 2000 and is a current member of the testing and equipment standards committee as well as the allied members committee. From 1995-2000, he was the chairman of the tournament organizing committee, which he also served on as co-chair from 1994-95.

He currently works as an administrator for the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department, where he has been employed in various capacities since 1981. He graduated from Indiana University in 1979 with a bachelor of science in physical education. In 1988, he received his master of science in public parks and recreation administration.

The Inside Pitch

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Assistant Editors Julie Bartel and Holly Krivokapich
Increase Your Field’s Performance

Arizona State University
2008 National Champions
Farrington Stadium, Tempe, AZ
‘Bright Light’ deadline is August 31

“This award is a way to recognize and give back to ASA Junior Olympic teams that are involved in the community and take time as a team to help others,” said ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “We are thrilled to work with Musco, our official lighting partner, on this project to give back to the teams who make ASA shine everyday both on and off the field of play.”

The winning team will be selected by a panel of administrators from ASA and Musco, using the following criteria for evaluation:

- Service must be 100-percent volunteer in nature (no payment)
- Service must be performed as a team with 75-percent of the roster in attendance
- Team must be ASA Registered by August 31, 2011
- Service must take place between January 1, 2011 to August 31, 2011

The panel will take into consideration the following:

- Positive effect on community
- Number of people affected
- Impact of service to the team
- Total number of hours
- Total number of participants

The deadline for submission is August 31, 2011, and the winning team will be announced on September 15. Applications must be submitted via email to Julie Bartel at jbartel@softball.org. Applications can also be submitted to the address below.

Julie Bartel
ASA National Office
2801 N.E. 50th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Find an Aquafina MLB Pitch, Hit & Run (PHR) event

Major League Baseball is looking for youth softball players to participate in free Aquafina MLB Pitch, Hit & Run (PHR) competitions across the country. Check out the PHR website at www.mlb.com/phr/ for a listing of competitions in each state, including many this weekend.

Top competitors in each market advance to MLB ballparks and the top 24 kids each year earn a free trip to the MLB All-Star Game!

If you don’t see an event near your area, you can register to host a competition by visiting www.mlb.com/phr/.

ASA supports CMN Hospitals through OKC tournaments

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America will partner with an Oklahoma student on her quest to raise community awareness through tournaments in Oklahoma City. The overall goal of the campaign is to spark nationwide interest about Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

In 2010, Courtney Acord attended a benefit honoring Cheyenne Elise Bauer, 12, who died of cancer that year in Tulsa, Okla.

“After the benefit, I knew I wanted to do something to help the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals,” 9-year-old Acord said. “It’s important to help others because one day I might need help.”

Acord and the ASA will coordinate a special donation table at this year’s tournaments in Oklahoma City and also give softball fans an opportunity to meet Miracle Children, Miracle Workers and Oklahoma Pageant Winners. All donations will benefit Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

“Through my work with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, I have had the privilege of meeting some amazing young people and Courtney Acord is no exception,” said ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “We are thrilled to assist Courtney with her fundraising for the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals at our tournaments this summer in Oklahoma City. I encourage everyone to come to the ASA Hall of Fame Complex this summer to not only experience some fantastic softball but to also support Courtney and the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.”

Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals is an international non-profit organization dedicated to helping these children by raising funds and awareness while keeping 100 percent of donations in the community where they were raised. Children’s Hospital Foundation is a proud affiliate of CMNH and is dedicated to providing funding for pediatric research which in turn helps improve education and clinical care at The Children’s Hospital at OU Medical Center.

The first tournament Acord tabled at was the Combat City Classic on April 2 at the ASA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium.

“We also hope to be present at the 2011 World Cup of Softball July 21-25 and the ASA Softball Championship Series in September, both are also held at the Hall of Fame Stadium,” said Joe Acord.

For more information about ASA’s efforts or to learn more about donating, contact Lacey Payne at (405) 271-9043 or lacey-payne@ouhsc.edu. More information can also be found at www.okchf.org.
50k strong on Facebook

Over 50,000 people now “like” the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America/USA Softball, the National Governing Body for the sport of softball in the United States, on Facebook. One of the top ranking sports in the U.S. Olympic Movement when it comes to online reach, the ASA Softball page hit the 50,000 landmark on April 12 when Kaci Carpenter of Bowling Green, Ky., “liked” the page.

To celebrate the 50,000 milestone with all supporters, five popular SoftballOutlet.com items were discounted by 50-percent or more April 15-17. The deals included $5 Nike visors identical to those worn by the USA Softball Women’s National Team in practice, regularly a $20 value, and a 2008 U.S. Olympic Team poster pack featuring 11 athlete and team posters ($24.50).

Carpenter received an ASA/USA Softball gift pack that includes autographed items from current and former members of the USA Softball Women's National Team. For being No. 49,999 and No. 50,001, Catherine Hogg (Brooklynn, N.Y.) and Felicia Hager (Louisville, Ky.) also received gift packs that include various ASA/USA Softball merchandise including a poster promoting the World Cup of Softball VI, July 21-25, in Oklahoma City.

With special offers including discounted tickets to the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum as well as previous World Cups of Softball, exclusive photos, videos and news updates, Facebook is a great way to stay connected with ASA/USA Softball. Become a fan at www.facebook.com/asausasoftball/.

ASA/USA Softball also has more than 9,650 followers on Twitter, putting the reach of the page just a couple thousand short of the mark held by the U.S. Olympic Committee. To connect with ASA/USA Softball on Twitter, go to www.twitter.com/asausasoftball/.

New items for ASA Umpires at OfficialGear.com

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America’s Official Gear catalog and the OfficialGear.com website now offers equipment and uniforms for basketball and football officials, the ASA announced April 13. Earlier this year, the ASA also began offering new items for softball umpires including the three-disc ASA Umpire Mechanics Volume II Set ($39.95), offered at OfficialGear.com.

“We know that when many of our umpires are not on the softball field, they take the professionalism and integrity they have learned through ASA Softball and bring it on to other fields of play,” said ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “We’re pleased that Official Gear can become a one stop shop, offering our umpires everything they need to umpire or officiate a game. Umpires can expect the same great service and quality merchandise to supply them with uniforms and accessories to umpire and officiate other sports like baseball, football, and basketball.”

Items that can now be purchased include a basketball referee shirt, both in black and white and gray with black pin stripes, and football official jersey as well as caps, belts, knickers, shoes and socks for football referees. Whistles and lanyards are also offered through Official Gear. New flipping coins are offered for umpires along with a variety of equipment including chest protectors, face masks and leg protectors.

A follow up to ASA Umpire Mechanics Volume I, the new ASA Umpire Mechanics Volume II is an animated instruction DVD that gives umpires a look at the one, two and three umpire systems, including the proper positions and movements for each system. The full set can be purchased for $39.95 or separately at $19.95 per disk. Official Gear items can be ordered online seven days a week at OfficialGear.com.

Orders can also be made by calling ASA Properties at (800) 654-8337 weekdays.
Every day, millions of lives are shaped with a softball and a little open space.

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Far from the stadium lights and the roar of the crowd come the moments when youth sports matters. These opportunities help form bonds that enrich the game and enhance the lives and life skills of young players. That’s why Liberty Mutual and our partners are proud to bring you the Responsible Sports™ program – offering educational resources, training tips and teaching tools for youth sports parents and coaches, plus coaching awards and valuable community grants.

Memorable youth sports moments are waiting for you. Visit ResponsibleSports.com/Softball today.
Spring Community Grant period halfway over: Get past winner tips and hints with Extra Point

At Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports, we get a lot of questions asking for tips on how to rally the community to help win a $2,500 grant. Questions about what past winners have done and what they’re doing with the money. So we created Extra Point, our exclusive Community Grant eNewsletter.

Extra Point will be sent two times per month throughout the three-month grant period. Each issue will feature:
- A Key Grant Promotional Theme with exclusive downloads
- “Where Are They Now?” Past Winner Feature
- “What I Learned” Parent Perspective

Once the grant period ends and the winners are announced, you will be automatically unsubscribed from this list.

This is the only way to get these insider tips and what you can be doing to make sure your softball team can come away with a $2,500 grant. A total of 20 grants will be awarded May 31.

Sign up today! >>

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Have you checked your lights this spring for correct light levels and equipment performance?

Every spring, leagues around the world review their facilities and make repairs to fix concerns. But if you have lighted fields, are you checking those for safety, too?

People's experience with lighting may lead them to assume their lights are fine just because they are not burned out. The fact is lamps lose light output over time, so the same lamps you installed in 2000 may ignite, but they may only provide 60% of the light they initially did.

The more hours the lights are used, the less light they will produce. Low light levels reduce reaction time, meaning your players and fans will have less time to react to a hard-hit ball coming toward them. That's why it's important to know your lights are putting the needed light on the field.

HOW TO TEST FOR LIGHT LEVELS
This requires a light meter that reads in footcandles, but the measurements can be taken by anyone carefully following the instructions. Check with your local electrician or lighting manufacturer to find a light meter. You can also find out the proper way to take light levels by going to the ASA website and under the About ASA tab click on lighting guidelines.

To measure your lights, kneel down and hold the light meter away from your body horizontally to the ground at a height of three feet, with the light sensor over the mark at the center of the grid. Keep the sensor out of any shadow and take the measurement.

MATH CHECK FOR LIGHT UNIFORMITIES
Uniformities, or the comparison between the brightest and darkest point in the readings, can also be checked after the readings are complete. The infield maximum to minimum uniformity should be no greater than 2:1, (ex.: the highest measurement is 65, and the lowest is 32, or 2:1). In the outfield, the uniformities should be within 2.5 to 1.

The field uniformities and light levels can both be affected by twisting wood or leaning poles, drooping or misaligned crossarms, and individual fixtures becoming misaligned. Older systems are especially susceptible to this concern, where the weight of the fixture causes it to lose its original aiming point, and aim either more light to the infield or just in foul territory.

It's important to have smooth light uniformities because balls appear to change speeds if they pass from light to dark areas, making it difficult to follow the flight and gauge the velocity. Fields not meeting the light level or uniformity performance requirements should contact a lighting professional to discuss ways to bring your lights back to compliance.

HAVE ELECTRICIAN INSPECT SYSTEM
While almost anyone can check the light levels, a trained professional must do the annual inspection of your lights' components, for your safety and to ensure finding any concerns. The wires and electrical parts that operate your lights can be subjected to the same weather conditions you have to watch to keep your players safe: high heat, humidity, and lightning.

Inspecting these components annually by a qualified electrician will help to discover issues before they can cause problems.
Three champions were crowned April 3 at the Combat Capital City Classic, following two days of intense competition at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City. The first adult slow pitch event of the year is a part of the ASA 2K Series presented by Combat. The winning teams received a prize pack courtesy of Combat.

Photos of the event can be found at www.facebook.com/asaussasoftball. Evicted captured the Men’s Open title with a 28-16 victory over Fence Brokers/Game Time Supply/Worth. These two teams faced each other two times during the tournament including an opening game 16-2 Evicted victory. Evicted outscored opponents 109-60. Evicted now leads the ASA 2K Series presented by Combat with events remaining in Owatonna, Minn., Cincinnati, Ohio, San Diego, Calif., Portland, Ore., and Bismark, N.D. In the Women’s Open Division, Hit List Softball won four straight games to capture the title. Hit List outscored opponents 90-39 with their closest contest coming against LOA, a 14-13 win. The Championship game saw a rematch between Hit List and LOA which ended in a 13-9 Hit List win.

J&R Logistics captured the Men’s Class D title with a championship game 17-7 win over ASC Softball. J&R Logistics avoided an early entry into the loser’s bracket with a narrow 8-7 win over Turmoil Softball in the opening game. They went on to move through the bracket undefeated with five wins.

Idaho ASA honors 10 umpires at Hall of Fame luncheon

Umpires who have served the Idaho Amateur Softball ASsociation (ASA) for 30 or more years were honored during the annual Idaho ASA/Musco Lighting Hall of Fame Luncheon held during the annual Idaho ASA state meeting, held March 11-12 in Boise.

Pictured are Gary McCarney, Jim Lawson, Gary Carlson, Dave Lamb, Dave Sherman, Wayne Auer, Harlow Kibbey and Shane White, representing Musco. Also recognized were Chuck Norton, Robie Johnson and Tony Luzzo.

Combat Capital City Classic kicks off ASA 2K
The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced on April 13 the Top 25 Finalists for the 2011 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award, which will be announced at the opening of the 2011 NCAA Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City. This award, which is considered the most prestigious honor in Division I women's collegiate softball, is designed to recognize outstanding athletic achievement by female collegiate softball players across the country.

The Top 25 list represents 17 schools and six different NCAA Division I Conferences. The list is comprised of nine seniors, six juniors, nine sophomores and one freshman. The 2011 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year will be chosen from the 25 finalists.

Click here for the complete list.

Now in its 10th year, past winners of the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award include UCLA's Stacey Nuveman, Florida State's Jessica Van der Linden, Texas' pitcher Cat Osterman (three-time winner), Tennessee's Monica Abbott, Virginia Tech's Angela Tincher and Washington's Danielle Lawrie (two-time winner).

USA Softball names 11 Players of the Week

Every Tuesday following the release of the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll, USA Softball announces the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week recipient via USASoftball.com.

Megan Yocke of Kentucky (March 7-13), Blaire Luna of Texas (March 14-20), Brianna Hesson of Georgia (March 21-27), Kenzie Fowler of Arizona (March 28-April 3), Anissa Young of LSU (April 4-10), Morgan Melloh of Indiana (April 11-17) and Kelsey Bruder of Florida (April 18-24) have all recently been named the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week.

They join Dallas Escobedo of Arizona State (Feb. 7-13), Reina Gaber of Houston (Feb. 14-20), Michelle Moultrie of Florida (Feb. 20-27) and Chelsea Thomas of Missouri (Feb. 28-March 6), who claimed the honor during the first four weeks of the season.

For more information on the USA Softball Collegiate Players of the Week, click here.

No athlete has won the award multiple times this season, although Florida has produced two 2011 winners. In 2010, Danielle Lawrie of Washington, the eventual USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year, set the record by being named USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week three times in a season.

ASU No. 1 in Top 25 poll

On April 26, Arizona State reclaimed the top spot in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll, following a historic sweep of Arizona in Tucson. Since the construction of Arizona's Hillenbrand Stadium in 1993, the Sun Devils had only won one game in Tucson before winning three straight in Week 11, sweeping the Wildcats 4-0, 13-10 and 8-3, and claiming all 20 of the first place votes.

In Week 10, Michigan was voted No. 1. Michigan is the first team from the Big Ten Conference to hold the coveted No. 1 spot in 2011, an honor only held by Pacific-10 (Pac-10) and Southeastern Conference (SEC) schools this season. Other teams that have previously held the No. 1 spot this season are Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia and UCLA.

Click here for all 2011 ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 polls.

The ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll is released every Tuesday.
THE AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION (ASA) OF AMERICA AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL® (MLB™) INVITE YOU TO HOST AN AQUAFINA® MLB™ PITCH, HIT & RUN™ (PHR) LOCAL COMPETITION!

It's time to mark your calendar for the PHR. Host a free Local Competition this Spring (March-early May) and provide this great opportunity for the youngsters in your community. Space is limited this year, so we encourage you to visit www.mlb.com/phr and register today. If you do not have a date/time in mind yet for your event, the system will allow you to enter TBD and we will follow-up with you in early 2011.

Hosting a free PHR competition provides boys and girls ages 7-14 the opportunity to showcase their baseball and softball skills. Participants have the chance to advance through four levels of competition, including Team Championships hosted at Major League ballparks, and the 2011 PHR National Finals hosted during MLB All-Star Week.
The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, the National Governing Body for Softball in the United States, announced April 1 an extension of its partnership with Boombah, Inc. as the official uniform provider of the USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team. Since the inception of the Border Battle in 2009, Boombah has completely outfitted both the American and Canadian’s men’s slow pitch teams for their competitions during the summer.

“Boombah’s support of our men’s slow pitch program has been outstanding,” said ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “It is an honor to continue working with them through 2012 and we thank them for their support and dedication to the Border Battle. The quality of their products and service is excellent and we look forward to the future.”

The partnership includes complete uniforms for both Team USA and Team Canada teams including jersey, pants, cleats, belts and hats. The agreement also provides value for Border Battle fans as the same uniform jerseys developed for the USA and Canada will be available at Boombah.com before, during and after the July 23 event.

“Boombah, the uniform provider for Border Battles I and II is once again proud to be partnered with the ASA as the exclusive uniform provider for the third installment of the Border Battle Slow Pitch Softball Series,” said Boombah Director of Slow Pitch Softball Rick Jackson.

“The past two Border Battle games have proven to be very competitive matchups and we are excited to see the outcome of this year’s “rubber match.”

Boombah will also receive signage, marketing, and promotional opportunities at the Border Battle, World Cup and ASA Junior Olympic National Championships throughout the summer months.

“Looking at this year’s USA roster it is arguably the best team ever to be put on the field,” added Jackson. “It is always an honor to be associated with those who are considered to be the best at what they do.

Boombah strives to be the best by offering the highest quality products and the largest selection of styles and colors at the lowest prices possible. We wish both team USA and Softball Canada the best of luck in this 2011 Border Battle event.”

Tickets are on sale now for the Border Battle and World Cup of Softball July 21-25 at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City. Log on to SoftballOutlet.com or call (800) 654-8337.

Take a break from interest payments in 2011

Take a break from interest payments in 2011 with the Amateur Softball Association Visa Signature® Card that offers 0% Intro APR on purchases and balance transfers for nine billing cycles! Plus, you’ll earn one point for every net dollar spent anywhere Visa is accepted, whenever you use your ASA Visa Signature® for everyday purchases or that major purchase you’ve been waiting to buy. Now is the time to apply!

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1 The 0% introductory APR does not apply to Cash Advances and is valid for the first nine billing cycles on Purchases and Balance Transfers. Thereafter, the APR may vary and as of 01-01-11, the undiscounted variable APR for Purchases and Balance Transfers is 9.99% - 21.99% (depending on your credit history). The variable APR for Cash Advances is 23.99%. Cash Advance fee: 4%, $10 minimum. Convenience Check fee: 3%, $5 minimum. Cash Equivalent fee: 4%, $20 minimum. Balance Transfer fee of 3%, $5 minimum. There is a $2 minimum finance charge when interest is due. The annual fee is $0. Foreign Transaction fee: 2% of each foreign purchase transaction or foreign ATM advance transaction in U.S. Dollars. 3% for each foreign purchase transaction or foreign ATM advance transaction in a Foreign Currency.

2 Accounts must be open and in good standing (not past due) to earn and redeem points.

3 Certain restrictions and exclusions may apply. Individual transactions are evaluated by U.S. Bank based on factors such as suspected fraud, Account history, credit record, payment resources, revolving balances, prior cash advances, and safety and soundness considerations. If U.S. Bank authorizes a transaction that causes you to exceed your revolving credit line, then you must pay, as a part of your monthly minimum amount due, the amount by which your new balance exceeds your credit line.

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SportaFence Product

Product Description

SportaFence™ is a revolutionary new design that allows softball and baseball outfield fences to be easily moved from field to field. It quickly adjusts to specific field dimensions.

Staffing Solutions

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- Constructed of durable galvanized steel with 8-gauge coated chainlink fence material.
- Connectors secure panels together to form one continuous fence.
- Legs collapse for easy storage.

References

- An ASA Official Portable Fence; NCAA Women’s College World Series®; NCAA Division II and III Softball Championships; City of Woodland, City of Santa Maria, Salem VA, etc.

Dan Gentry, President SportaFence and ASA Championship Facility Oklahoma

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Flying America’s Team for 30 Years
Former USA Softball head coach Mike Candrea has helped earn the U.S. Olympic Achievement award for the University of Arizona, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced today. The award, given by the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), U.S. National Governing Bodies for Sport (NGBs) and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA), honors the colleges and universities whose student-athletes and coaches have won Olympic medals.

“For many Olympic sports, collegiate athletics programs are an integral part of the athlete developmental pipeline for Team USA,” said USOC CEO Scott Blackmun. “These awards acknowledge the critical role universities play in our continued Olympic success and the necessity of supporting Olympic sports at the collegiate level.”

Candrea (Tucson, Ariz.) retired from his USA Softball coaching duties following the 2008 Olympic Games, where the team won a Silver Medal, but he currently serves as USA Softball’s Director of Coaching Education. While serving USA Softball, Candrea has built the Arizona program into one of the premiere collegiate softball programs in the country. The Wildcats have won eight NCAA National Championships (1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2006 and 2007) under his direction.

“Whether it be his through legacy with the USA Softball program, or his tradition at the University of Arizona, Mike Candrea’s name has become synonymous with excellence,” ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda said. “We cannot thank him enough for what he brought to the USA Softball program, including an Olympic Gold Medal in Athens and the Silver Medal in Beijing. We also extend a ‘thank you’ to the University of Arizona for allowing Coach Candrea to contribute his talents to our program. The U.S. Olympic Achievement Award is a well deserved honor Coach Candrea and Arizona.”

Candrea’s resume with the USA Softball National team dates back to being an assistant coach with the 1994 Women’s World Championship team that captured the Gold Medal. Since that time, Candrea has been involved with over ten Women’s National Teams while taking over the head coach reigns for the 2002 World Championship. During his tenure, Team USA captured two World Championship Gold Medals, two Pan-American Gold Medals, two World Cup titles, one Olympic Gold Medal and one Olympic Silver Medal.

Candrea is the 2004 USOC Coach of the Year award winner. Also in 2004, he was awarded with the USOC’s highest honor, the Olympic Shield award. An honor given in recognition for an individual’s outstanding service to the U.S. Olympic movement, Candrea was only the 45th person to receive this award since 1966. He was the first ever coach to receive the Olympic Shield.

A total of 43 institutions contributed to the USA’s medal success at the last two Olympic Games, Beijing in 2008 and Vancouver in 2010. Colleges and universities will be recognized based on two criteria: having a current student-athlete who was part of a medal-winning performance or a coach who was a credentialed member of the U.S. Olympic Team delegation and his/her athlete or team won a medal.

“This award is an important step to expand the recognition and appreciation from the U.S. Olympic movement back to the colleges and universities that help our country win medals,” said Rich Bender, chairman of the NGB Council. “The dream of becoming a collegiate athlete is as real as that of aspiring to an Olympic medal. Collegiate sports are vital to the U.S. Olympic movement and represent the pinnacle of achievement for so many athletes beyond their Olympic success.”
The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced April 6 nine athletes who will join the already released 12 athletes who have accepted an invitation to the 2011 USA Softball Women’s National Team Selection Camp at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif., June 12-17. Names of additional participants will be announced in May.

The nine athletes who recently accepted the invitation to compete for a spot on the 2011 USA Softball Women’s National Team:

- Kat Dotson (Savannah, Ga./Tennessee)
- Taylor Hoagland (Flower Mound, Texas/Texas)
- Whitney Larsen (Vestavia Hills, Ala./Alabama)
- Meagan May (Spring, Texas/Texas A&M)
- Michelle Moultrie (Jacksonville, Fla./Florida)
- Keilani Ricketts (San Jose, Calif./Oklahoma)
- Brittany Schutte (Fountain Valley, Calif./Florida)
- Jessica Shults (Valencia, Calif./Oklahoma)
- Rhea Taylor (Buford, Ga./Missouri)

Participants announced on March 16:

- Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif./California)
- Ashley Holcombe-Bell (Fayetteville, Ga./Alabama)
- Katelyn Boyd (Phoenix, Ariz./Arizona State)
- Raven Chavanne (Thousand Oaks, Calif./Tennessee)
- Kaitlin Cochran (Yorba Linda, Calif./Arizona State)
- Molly Johnson (Tucson, Ariz./Kentucky)
- Megan Langenfeld (Bakersfield, Calif./UCLA)
- Jenaie Leles (Sacramento, Calif./Arizona)
- Blaire Luna (Austin, Texas/Texas)
- Jordan Taylor (Valencia, Calif./Michigan)
- Niki Williams (Mission Viejo, Calif./Washington)
- Shawna Wright (Lancaster, Calif./Washington)

The approximately 17 athletes selected for the 2011 USA Softball Women’s National Team will compete in six events in three countries. Fans in the United States will get four opportunities to see the team in action with three exhibition stops scheduled as well as the World Cup of Softball IV, July 21-25, in Oklahoma City. For ticket information on the World Cup as well as exhibition stops in Salem, Va., Bowie, Md. And Tampa, Fla., which will also feature the 2010-11 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team, visit USASoftball.com.

The team will also seek the program’s eighth Pan American Championship title at the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, Oct. 17-23.

National Foundation for Cancer Research joins softball teams in fighting cancer

The National Foundation for Cancer Research is teaming up with softball players around the country for a nationwide fundraiser entitled “Beat Cancer with a Bat!” Any softball team, whether high school, college, or community-based, can participate by dedicating proceeds from one or more games to be donated to NFCR.

“There are countless ways you can help fund cancer research, but a great place to start is by utilizing the talents you already possess,” said Franklin C. Salisbury Jr., President of NFCR.

“Fundraising programs like ‘Beat Cancer with a Bat’ allow you to do what you love and help save lives at the same time.”

NFCR is providing numerous resources to help participants get started, including an event manual and cancer information materials. The campaign lasts throughout the end of the year. To sign up or get more information, visit www.nfcr.org/beatcancerwithabat.
Hilton HHonors™ Snapshot

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Achieve with 16 stays, 36 nights, or 60,000 Base Points
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†† Hilton HHonors points required for a free reward night range between 7,500 points for a Category 1 hotel and up to 80,000 points for Waldorf Astoria Hotel & Resorts
* Must be requested and is subject to availability  ** Please see program Terms and Conditions at HHonors.com for more details  † Not applicable to extraordinary demand dates as determined by the hotel
Arrow softball makes a point with pink

By Terry Hoffman
Watertown Public Opinion

From pink fire trucks to pink softball uniforms, everyone seems to be getting in on the act. Cancer, no matter what form it takes, has unfortunately touched most people somehow, someway.

Raising awareness - and funds for those suffering with the disease - has taken on many forms.

One of the latest at the Koch softball complex. Watertown and Sioux Falls Lincoln girls’ softball teams got in the act, donning pink uniforms and passing pink batting helmets through the crowd between games for donations.

“Pink night was pretty special for both teams,” said Watertown coach Gary Young. “They raised some money for the cancer patients, got to wear their pink and had some fun on the diamond.”

The Arrows, who were celebrating homecoming week and parents night, swept the twinbill from the Patriots 5-4 and 6-5.

The Arrows traded in their traditional purple and gold uniforms for pink jerseys, socks and helmets. The Lincoln girls were provided powder blue jerseys with pink trim.

“A relative of one of the players was undergoing testing for the disease and that prompted the girls to do this,” said Young. “They voted (Thursday) morning to give the money to the cancer center here.”

The original plan was to turn the dollars over to the Cancer Society, but plans changed when the team realized most of the money would be spent somewhere other than Watertown.

After checking several sources, the team voted to donate the money to the Prairie Lakes Healthcare System’s Cancer Care Unit. The dollars will be used to help families pay for overnight stays at the Watertown facility.

“They liked the idea of it staying local,” said Young. “The money provides for lodging and gas cards.”
Background

The Missouri Amateur Softball Association (ASA) is a massive non-profit that oversees over 2,000 individual teams, 300+ umpires and thousands of players across The Show Me State. Missouri ASA offers teams for both young and old, male and female and for first timers and experienced players, as well. Summers are busy with games, statistics and logistics and the fall off-season is shrinking every year as parents, players and officials look to get next year’s information earlier and earlier.

Challenge

When you have thousands of eager softball players and hundreds of dedicated volunteers looking to you for information, clear, concise communication is going to be your top priority. Previous to discovering Clubspaces, Missouri ASA was using Microsoft Frontpage to build and maintain the official association website, which doubled as the primary communication tool.

Missouri state commissioner Joey Rich:

“The biggest thing that we use Clubspaces for is the association website itself. Microsoft Frontpage was okay, but it wasn’t a tenth as easy as Clubspaces. I can update my website from anywhere in the world, all I need is a computer. Before, I had to be on my computer with my software and it was nowhere near as easy to manipulate as Clubspaces.”

Solution

Missouri ASA made the move to Clubspaces two years ago and the transition was smooth.

“We did the initial testing with Clubspaces and we got a lot of extra attention from your staff in terms of how we were going to set the whole site up. I gave them an idea of what I’d like the site to look like and they came up with several possibilities for me to choose from. I was able to pick the general format and the colors, so that helped get it started.”

It wasn’t long before Missouri ASA began using Clubspaces for more than just website building. In the two years since their site went live, it has begun using Clubspaces dynamic online player registration, payment processing, state tournament scheduling, team creation and more. It is looking at adding umpire registration and management in 2011. Missouri ASA also links to the Clubspaces-driven national ASA website that offers additional resources for softball enthusiasts from coast to coast.

Clubspaces also helped to alleviate some of the communication and logistical issues Missouri ASA was having, as well. It utilizes a combination of social media, timed email blasts and frequent website updates to keep players, coaches and volunteers in the loop.

“You have to keep that information pipeline stocked up, you’ve got to have new information on your site or people will stop coming to it.”

Clubspaces is the Official Online League Management System of ASA
Missouri ASA also uses its Clubspaces website to grant limited access to high-level volunteers so they can efficiently distribute forms, instructions and waivers.

“All district officers in our nine districts have access to a special page of forms that is used just by them and volunteers. There is a link on the main website that says “districts only” and “commissioners only” and they can go on there to save time. That page is the first place they look if they have a question and it is password protected so only they can get on there.”

Result

The goal of Clubspaces is to save coaches, volunteers and even league commissioners time and effort.

“I would say Clubspaces saves me a good six hours a month, and that’s probably conservative. Over the course of a year, I would say that Clubspaces saves me anywhere between 75 to 100 work hours. Saving this kind of time per year is a big deal. “

Missouri ASA is a vibrant, healthy organization that has more demands put on it every year and Clubspaces is helping to meet that challenge.

Clubspaces is the Official Online League Management System of ASA
RAY MACONE MEMORIAL
MEN’S “OPEN” FAST PITCH TOURNAMENT
JULY 15—17, 2011
CAMBRIDGE, MA.

The tournament will be held in historic Cambridge, Ma. The fields are within walking distance of Harvard University and less than 5 miles from Boston. There are many historic and family friendly destinations within the area. In addition to good softball this event can be a very great shared experience for the players and their families.

Tournament format - round robin, 4 game guarantee

Entrance fee—$300.00

1st place—$2000.00 travel stipend, 2nd place-$1000.00 travel stipend

3rd & 4th place $250.00 travel stipend each

The host hotel for the tournament is the Holiday Inn Select, Woburn, which is offering a discounted rate for the tournament of $99.00 per room, per night. For Reservations: 800 315 2621

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The tournament is cosponsored by Massachusetts A. S. A., Sea Dog Softball and the Holiday Inn Select, Woburn, Ma.