A note from Amateur Softball Association President Andy Dooley

I recently had the opportunity to attend the World Cup of Softball VI and Border Battle III in Oklahoma City, where I watched our 2011 USA Softball Women’s National Team and 2011 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team compete for our country. While it was exciting to watch the Red, White and Blue claim victories on national television, it was most exciting to see the five other countries in the event. Australia, Canada and Japan have always been strong competitors but in Oklahoma City earlier this month, I witnessed the greatest teams from Czech Republic and Great Britain that I have ever seen. The growth in their programs is really inspiring, especially as we look toward our sport being included in the 2020 Olympic Games.

Thank you to everyone who made the World Cup possible from the athletes to the National Office staff to the field crew, umpires and volunteers. It is an event that provides great exposure to the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and our National Team programs. A special thank you to the fans who traveled from across the world to watch the event in person. The crowds were great!

While our National Team athletes became Border Battle and World Cup champions this month, they are not the only ones who became Champions. Over 20 national tournaments are held at least partially in July. Congratulations to all of the outstanding teams that won ASA National Championships this month.

Best of luck to all of the teams competing in National Championship play this weekend, including the ASA Girls 18-Under GOLD National Championship in San Diego. While the GOLD is a wonderful time of the year, our thoughts are with the family, friends and teammates of San Diego Renegade athlete Briana “Bree” Williams and her mother Donna Williams, who passed away on July 18. Our hearts and prayers go out to everyone affected by the tragedy.
Welcome to the July 2011 edition of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the World Cup of Softball VI and Border Battle III in Oklahoma City, especially the incredibly inspiring Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team. And thank you to the millions who watched the action from home.

During ESPN's coverage of the World Cup of Softball, you may have heard that the 2011 USA Softball Women's National Team, a team comprised of three veterans and 16 rookies, adopted the eagle as their mascot. With a 6-4 victory over Japan in the Championship Game, there is no question that the Eagles have landed.

Congratulations to the Women's National Team on their victory. And congratulations to our 2011 USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team for winning the Border Battle III. It is a great time to be a fan of USA Softball.

Is there a greater time to be involved with ASA? Within the next few weeks, the majority of our 100 National Champions will be crowned. Best of luck to the athletes and coaches taking the field and "thank you" to everyone involved with making the tournaments happen.

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball welcomed the Wounded Warrior All-Amputee men's slow pitch team to the World Cup of Softball VI and Border Battle III at ASA Hall of Fame Complex. The team is an all male slow pitch softball comprised of young Veterans and active duty soldiers who have suffered an injury resulting in amputation while serving in the military/ war and protecting the United States.

"This is a great honor to have the Wounded Warrior softball team come to Oklahoma City and be a part of our event. They contacted us months ago in hopes of becoming partners with ASA/USA Softball and we knew immediately this was something we wanted to be a part of," said Holly Krivokapich, ASA/USA Softball Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications. "These men are heroes and to see them continue to play softball despite being amputees is going to be inspiring for us all."

The Wounded Warriors participated in an inner-squad scrimmage on Thursday with the 2011 USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team. The Wounded Warriors were introduced on Friday, military appreciation night, with the USA Softball Women's National Team.

“We have completed our rehabilitation and now we are ready to show the world how active, athletic and competitive we are in the sport of softball. Our goal is to play charity/celebrity softball games around the country to display awareness of our injury/amputation, rehabilitation and the highly skilled physical activities we can now perform,” team representative David Van Sleet said before coming to Oklahoma City. “The team is extremely excited and looking forward to playing at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex and supporting both our USA Men’s and Women’s national softball teams.”

For more information, visit WoundedWarriorAmputeeSoftballTeam.org.

The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team played with members of the 2011 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team on July 21 in Oklahoma City.
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. Visit united.com/USOC to book your flight, or to learn more.
‘WORLD CUP OF SOFTBALL’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Canada tops Australia for third place in OKC

Team USA added its third run in the as Cochran reached on a two-out triple to right field and came in to score on a Arioto single down the right field line.

Japan got on the board in the top of the fifth as Yu Yamamoto walked, stole second and advanced to third on an error before coming home on a groundout by Rie Nagayoshi.

Team USA answered in the bottom half with another run when Michelle Moultrie (Jacksonville, Fla.) reached on an infield single and stole second before pinch hitter Megan Langenfeld (Bakersfield, Calif.) came through with an RBI single to left field to put the Americans up 4-1.

Japan trimmed that lead in half in the sixth as Eri Yamada reached on a dropped fly ball in the score tonight. You've got to keep a clutch hit that was basically the difference of their Sunday loss to the Aussies, which cost Team USA a run in the bottom of the third run, giving the Brits an early 3-1 lead.

The seventh edition of the World Cup of Softball is tentatively set to return to the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City from June 27-July 2, 2012. An official announcement will be made in December.

CANADA (4-2) 4, AUSTRALIA (3-3) 1

Canada finished third at the World Cup of Softball with a 4-1 win over Australia. With the victory, the Canadians avenged their Sunday loss to the Aussies, which cost the team their first-ever appearance in the Championship Game.

Australia struck first in the third-place game, scoring a run in the top of the third inning when Stacey McManus singled to shortstop to bring in Clare Warwick. Warwick reached base on a single up the middle then advanced to second courtesy of a Stacey Porter single to third base.

With Chelsea Forkin reaching on a fielder’s choice, Warwick advanced to third.

Canada struck in the bottom half when Jenn Yee reached on a fielding error by first baseman Jodie Bowering scoring Melanie Matthews. Matthews reached on a fielder’s choice then advanced to second on Victoria Hayward's sacrifice bunt.

In the fourth, Canada broke the 1-1 open with two runs. The first batter to face Justine Smethurst, who came into pitch for Australian starter Kaia Parnaby, Danielle Lopez singled up the middle to score Jenny Gilbert. Hannah Schwarz followed with a bunt that scored Joey Lye, who reached base on a bunt.

The Canadians added to their 3-1 lead with another in the sixth. With Lopez on third, Hayward singled through the right side to advance her home. Lopez and Hayward both finished the game going 3-for-1 with one run scored and an RBI.

Jennifer Caira earned the win for Canada, her third of the tournament. She pitched a complete game, allowing eight hits and two walks while striking out two.

GREAT BRITAIN (2-4) 6, CZECH REPUBLIC (0-6) 1

Great Britain improved one spot in 2011 to fifth-place after finishing in sixth at the 2006 World Cup of Softball with an 0-6 record, as they defeated the Czech Republic 6-1. Czech scored a run in the top of the first off a sacrifice fly and would record three runs on the game while Great Britain recorded 10 hits.

A sac fly by Eva Rendlova scored Czech's sole run of the game, plating Tereza Jakesova who walked to be the first base runner of the game. She stole second and reached third on a singled by Lenka Jaklova.

Great Britain scored three in the first which saw starting pitcher Vendula Draha work 0.1 innings and record the loss. Kristi Yoshizawa led off the inning with a single bunt and was followed by Laura Thompson who walked. A double by Stacie Townsend scored Yoshizawa. After an intentional walk was issued to Jessica Legendre, Leah English singled for another Great Britain run bringing about a pitching change for the Czech Republic. Kristyna Kalinova came in to pitch the remainder of the game. A walk issued to Naomi Jones was good for the third run, giving the Brits an early 3-1 lead.

Two more runs were put up in the second off an error by Czech Republic shortstop Erika Poyerova when she dropped a ball and Townsend and Thompson scored. The Brits put up the final run of the game in the bottom of the fourth off a Legendre single that scored Townsend.
American men top Canadians in Border Battle III

The tables were turned this year and the USA Softball Men’s National Slow Pitch Team took advantage to register a 25-3 win in four innings over Canada in Border Battle III at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City. The game was aired live on ESPN.

In last year’s Border Battle, Canada jumped out to a 11-0 lead in the first inning and the USA, while determined, never recovered, losing 30-29. Canada even held off a seventh inning rally by the USA.

On Saturday, after Canada was retired in order in the top of the first, the USA exploded for 10 runs on 11 hits. Five of the hits were home runs and USA Head Coach Steve Shortland was hoping to not use that many homers early. With a homer limit of 10, Shortland obviously wanted to keep the homers for later in the game if they were needed and with multiple runners on base. Three of the five USA homers were solo shots (Greg Connell (Moultrie, Ga.), Rusty Bumgardner (Gastonia, N.C.) and Bryson Baker (Magalia, Calif.) with winning pitcher Andy Purcell (Naples, Fla.) hitting a three-run shot and Brett Helmer (Cicero, N.Y.) a two-run blast.

“It was fortunate they started slow against,” said Shortland. “We didn’t want to use a lot of homers early but it worked out for us.”

Junior men split doubleheader with Sparks

Athletes attending the USA Softball Junior Men’s Development Camp at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif., split a Tuesday doubleheader with an Australian club team. In Game 1, the Red, White and Blue topped Australia Sparks 17-2 in five innings but then lost 5-1 in Game 2.

In Game 1, Dylan Elmer (Manchesney Park, Ill.) was the top performer, hitting a grand slam home run and driving in a fifth RBI with a sacrifice fly. Gunnar Bouvy (Reese, Mich.), Brandon Gilman (Lake Crystal, Minn.) and Jake Rutt (Ephrata, PA) had two hits each in the 12 hit attack. Three Australian pitchers also issued eight walks.

Austin Tuttle (Payson, Utah) and Michael Lewis (Amboy, Minn.) combined on a four hitter in Game 1. Tuttle pitched the first three innings, allowing three hits and one run. Lewis relieved the last two innings, yielding one hit and one run while striking out four.

The USA dropped a 5 -1 decision in the second game as Sparks pitcher Joel Goodall allowed just three hits, while striking out 17 and walking two. Justin Wurtz (New Haven, Minn.) doubled home Danial Centeno (Salem, Utah) to plate the only USA run.

Jeff Seguin (Wylie, S.C.) had two hits each in the first two innings and didn’t score until the third inning. By then, Canada trailed 15-0 before scoring all its runs in the third. The USA, however, answered with 10 runs on 10 hits in the bottom of the inning.

Team Canada hit only one homer while the USA smashed nine. Team Canada collected only four hits while the USA registered 28 in an impressive performance.

Besides having trouble on offense, Canada struggled on defense, making four errors to one for the USA. The USA’s Dennis Rulli (Moorpark, Calif.) played both ends of the game well, going two-for-three with four RBI andstarring on defense at third with five of the team’s 10 assists.

All of the USA starters had at least two hits with Brian Wegman (Hamilton, Ohio), Baker, Bumgardner, Johnny McCraw (Wylie, S.C.) and Brian Rainwater (Kathleen, Ga.) having three hits apiece. Bumgardner had five RBI, with Purcell and Rulli having four each. Purcell delivered 54 pitches to 15 batters in the game which took one hour as the USA now leads the series, 2-1.

Besides starting fast this year, the USA “didn’t have a letdown” this year, according to USA Assistant Coach Raper. “Our defense was unbelievable and we came in this game with a chip on our shoulder. No way was it going to happen again (The USA losing).”

Canada coach Jeff Seguin watched as his team never got going against the USA. "We knew it would take an incredibleeffort to beat them,” said Seguin.”We have had better days. We are hoping to get another shot at them next year.”

In nine games the USA scored 256 runs and allowed only 94. The win Saturday was the ninth in a row for the USA, which had six run rule victories this year, but the one Saturday meant the most.

The 2011 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team defeated Canada 25-3 to win Border Battle III in Oklahoma City. The game was televised live on ESPN.
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• Empower your child to speak: there are several advantages to having your children, rather than you, speak directly to the coach. Many coaches are more open to suggestions from players than from parents. The biggest plus is that this can be an empowering experience for children, even if they don’t get the change they want.
• When you need to intervene: Sometimes it calls for parent comment, sometimes it best left to talk to your athlete and restrain from approaching the coach over every action you see or hear.

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When the summer sun is blazing during your games and tournaments — are your players safe? Everyone has worked hard to make sure the field, bases, and equipment are all up to standard. You’ve taught your players the fundamentals of handling the ball, but what about handling the sun? While sunburns are an immediate issue, long-term—unprotected exposure to the sun can mean an increased chance of skin cancer and premature skin aging.

Making it easier to figure out the sun-protection maze, the FDA recently announced new rules to the labeling and testing of over-the-counter or non-prescription sunscreen products. They based the changes on modern standards for safety and effectiveness and will be enforced by summer 2012.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation is the primary cause of sunburns (B=Burn). Ultraviolet A (UVA) radiation contributes to skin cancer and early skin aging (A=Aging). In the past, FDA rules have focused on sunburn protection and the SPF (sun protection factor) value only considered protection from UVB radiation. There was no standard for UVA protection. With the new rule, sunscreens that pass the broad-spectrum testing show they provide proportional protection against both types of radiation.

USING SUNSCREENS

For your ball player, you’ll want to use a broad-spectrum SPF 15 or higher, labeled water resistant, and apply 15-30 minutes prior to going outside. A 15 SPF value begins to protect from sunburns, the long-term risk of skin cancer, and premature skin aging. Sweaty players will need sunscreen reapplied often – see the directions on the label. In general, follow these sun-protection guidelines:

• Reapply sunscreen every 2 hours using an amount about the size of a golf ball
• Limit time in the sun, especially between 10 am and 2 pm
• Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants and broad-brimmed hats
• Cover everything – don’t forget temples, ears, back of the neck, and the top of your feet
• UVA and UVB radiation is not stopped by cloud cover, so even on cloudy days, use sunscreens

HOW MUCH PROTECTION?

The SPF value is a measurement of a sunscreen’s effectiveness. As the SPF value increases — protection increases, and to a certain extent, efficiency increases. A SPF 15 provides about 93% protection from the sun’s ray, SPF 30 is 97%, and SPF 40 provides 97.5% protection. The FDA is considering capping the SPF values at 50 since higher values have not been shown to provide any better protection from the sun’s rays.

HOW LONG?

It’s a misconception that SPF values relate to amount of time you’ll be protected. For example, most people believe if you get sunburn in 10 minutes without any protection and use a SPF 15 sunscreen, you’ll get 150 minutes of protection from sunburn. That’s wrong. SPF is a measurement of how much solar energy it takes to burn unprotected skin compared to how much energy it takes to burn protected skin. The more accurate example is if you’re outside at 1 pm, the solar energy you receive in 15 minutes is equivalent to an hour at 9 am. Your player needs more protection in the midday sun than early morning.

WHAT OTHER CHANGES?

There will be no more waterproof, sweatproof, or sunblock wording allowed on labels since all sunscreens eventually wash off. Sunscreens lose effectiveness when exposed to water or sweat so labeling will include instructions on how often the water-resistant sunscreens will need to be reapplied.

Check www.FDA.gov for more information on the rule changes. Taking care of your skin this summer will take sunscreen smarts and common sense.
The Women's Sports Foundation announced today that the USA Softball Women's National Team is among the recipients of the organization's Travel & Training Fund award. In partnership with The Gatorade Company, the 12 athletes and two teams selected for the grant each received financial support ranging from $2,500 to $5,000 to help cover expenses related to equipment, training and travel for the athletes and staff.

"It has been a great week USA Softball. On Monday, the 2011 USA Softball Women's National Team won a fifth consecutive World Cup of Softball and today, the program receives the Women's Sports Foundation Travel & Training Fund grant," said Ron Radigonda, Amateur Softball Association of America/USA Softball executive director. "As our athletes look toward winning a seventh consecutive Pan American Games title in October and an eighth consecutive International Softball Federation (ISF) Women's World Championship next July, we know this grant will help them reach their full potential. We appreciate the Women's Sports Foundation's continued support of our program."

The USA Softball Women's National Team has won five of six World Cups of Softball and 18 Gold Medals throughout their performance history at the Olympic Games, World Championships and Pan American Games. The USA Softball Women's National Team has also made its mark as one of the winningest teams in history with a record of 36-5 in four Olympic Games; 116-10 at 12 World Championships; and 76-3 at eight Pan American Games.

Since 1984, the fund has awarded more than 1,200 grants and $1.4 million to women athletes in a diverse array of sports. Former USA Softball Women's National Team member Jessica Mendoza previously received an individual grant.

"The Women's Sports Foundation understands the amount of dedication, commitment and focus that it takes for athletes to accomplish their goals, and we are thrilled to be able to provide support for the many deserving female athletes," said Laila Ali, President of the Women's Sports Foundation. "Many of our Travel & Training Fund grant recipients are hopefuls in upcoming Olympic, Paralympic and non-Olympic sports and we are pleased to be one of the few charitable organizations to offer grants to aspiring women athletes with elite potential."
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The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America 18-Under GOLD National Championship bracket play began Wednesday as the field of 64 teams started their quest for a National title. With teams represented from 25 states, the field completed two days of pool play games on Monday and Tuesday at both Sportsplex championship locations in Santee and Poway, Calif.

Pointstreak Sports Technologies Inc. is the official provider of real-time scoring, official statistics and tournament administration services to the GOLD, which runs through July 30. The most up to date tournament scores are posted on the ASA GOLD tournament website. “We are thrilled to be working with Pointstreak this year at the 18-Under GOLD in San Diego,” said Julie Bartel, ASA/USA Softball Director of Marketing and Communications. “We feel the products and tools they offer will enhance this championship and provide information and statistics for all fans and participants. The ASA is committed to making their championship experiences the best in the country and we look forward to this new endeavour.”

Pointstreak Stats’ Fast Pitch platform will streamline the process of capturing and delivering game statistics for the ASA Girls’ 18-Under GOLD National Championship. All game events, including scores, standings and statistical information will be captured directly at the diamond and seamlessly delivered to the ASA GOLD tournament website in real-time for the benefit of players, fans and media partners. Anyone will be able to follow along with games pitch-by-pitch via the web or mobile device on Pointstreak’s “Game Live” feature, a real-time flash application that streams play-by-play softball results over a 3-D graphical image of a Fast Pitch diamond.

“Our partnership with the ASA will allow us an opportunity to further coalesce with the Fast Pitch community to provide rich and relevant content for players, fans, scouts and media partners,” said Paul Pettipiece, Vice President of Baseball Operations of Pointstreak Sports Technologies Inc. “The ASA 18-Under GOLD National Championship is amongst the top tier of fast pitch competition in North America and we look forward to having the ability to provide real-time, interactive scores and official statistics to their stakeholders via the web and mobile applications.”

In addition to following GOLD games with live real time scoring, fans can also watch the action live from select fields. Go to the GOLD website for more information.

Pointstreak providing live real time scoring for GOLD

In February, 2010-11 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team members Cheyenne Cordes, an outfielder from Fairfield, Calif., and Chelsea Goodacre, a catcher from Temecula, Calif., started blogging biweekly for USASoftball.com. They will be blogging through the International Softball Federation (ISF) IX Jr. Women’s World Championship (19-and-under), December 6-17, 2011, in Cape Town, South Africa, giving aspiring National Team members and fans alike a glimpse into the life of an elite ball player.

Click here to read the Junior Women’s National Team blog.

Recently, three-time USA Softball Women’s National Team member Ashley Holcombe Bell and Megan Langenfeld, now in her first season with the team, also blogged about the 2011 USA Softball Women’s National Team Selection Camp, this June in Chula Vista, Calif.

For the Women’s National Team program blog, click here.
ASA
Men’s B Slow-Pitch
National Championship

Compete September 2-4 for the ASA Men’s B Slow-Pitch National Championship. The top two teams will receive reasonable transportation costs not to exceed the cost of fifteen airline ticket colors and eight hotel rooms paid for by ASA to compete in the Men’s A Slow Pitch National Championship on September 29 - October 2 in Oklahoma City. This transportation can only be used by the players on the national championship final roster plus one manager and one coach - not to exceed 15 total persons.

For more information contact
Steven Embree - 405-425-3446 - seembre@softball.org

September 2-4, 2011
Oklahoma City

Entry Fee: $350
Deadline: August 28, 2011
Only on a softball diamond at the height of summer in our nation’s capital can Republican and Democratic women legislators unite together to battle a common opponent: the Washington Press Corps “Bad News Babes.” On June 23 in the third annual Congressional Women’s Softball game, members from not only both sides of the aisle but from both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate came together to play against the Capitol Hill Press Corps. Their effort raised nearly $70,000 to benefit the Young Survival Coalition, a group that assists young women who face breast cancer.

Among the many nationally known media celebrities and political figures in attendance, Maryland-DC ASA Commissioner Jack Mowatt “pitched” in his support by providing the winning team and MVP trophies, yellow game softballs and pink softballs to autograph. Prior to the game, the Congressional Women’s team autographed a pink ball for Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.), a past participant of the charity game who is currently recovering from gunshot wounds sustained last January during an assassination attempt in Tucson. Play-by-play announcers, NBC’s Andrea Mitchell and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) called for a moment of silence in support of Giffords prior to the ceremonial first pitch. As Mitchell’s husband, former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan watched the pregame ceremonies, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, a longtime New York Yankees fan, threw out the first pitch as the crowd of about 850 spectators cheered on her high arc underhanded delivery.

As the softball game unfolded, it took on its own star quality. With no score, two on base, and batting in the heart of the order, Rep. Laura Richardson (D-Calif.) initially put the lawmakers on the scoreboard with a three-run home run in the first inning. The Congressional Women held a 4-2 lead late in the game, but the press team rallied to eventually tie the score 4-4 in the top of the 6th inning.

The nail biter went into the bottom of the 7th inning when both teams’ eventual MVP winners made outstanding plays for their respective teams. Press team MVP, CNN’s Erika Dimmler, sprinted back for an incredible run-saving outfield somersault catch to record the second out of the last inning. The press team intentionally walked Richardson to face previously hitless Congressional Women’s game MVP and current Democratic National Committee Chair, Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-Fla.). Wasserman-Schultz, whose jersey simply displayed “DWS” on her back, stepped to the plate and quickly stroked a sharply hit game-winning single up the middle, driving in Sanchez, who after colliding with the catcher and overrunning home plate, dove back on the plate to win the game 5-4. While it was the first win in three appearances for the Congressional Women’s team, this year is only the second game against the press corps.

Last year, CNN’s Senior Congressional Correspondent Dana Bash and Co-Captain Wasserman-Schultz conceived the idea of matching the annual game between teams of Members and Press. But this year Bash could only watch her “baby” as an honorary coach since she was expecting her own child. Originally at the inaugural game in 2009, the Congressional Members played against a team consisting of professional women who joined forces from the Democratic National Committee and Republican National Committee staff ranks. In three years, the game raised nearly $150,000 to assist young women overcome cancer.
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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
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.

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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
ASA Official Portable Fence; NCAA Women’s Fastpitch “World Series” Division I, II & III Championships Series; City of Woodland, City of Santa Maria, Salem VA, etc.

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World Championship MVP passes away

Charles Richard Jr. of North Aurora, Ill., went to his eternal rest July 10, surrounded by his loving family. He was 74. He is the beloved husband of Florence Lanclos Richard, loving father of David (Beth), Denise (Terry) Junk, John (Chris), Renee (Mike) Kluber, Tom (Wendy), Tim. He is Grandfather of 21 and Great Grandfather of 1. He was preceded in death by his parents Charles and Hermine of Arnaudville, Louisiana and by his sister Verna (Hilman) Boudreaux of Opelousas, La.

He was a member of the World Champion Sealmaster Fast Pitch Softball Team and was named Most Valuable Player of the 1966 International Softball Federation (ISF) Men’s Fast Pitch World Championships in Mexico City. Richard went 5-0 with a 0.00 ERA and 61 strikeouts, while Harvey Sterkel went 3-0 with 19 strikeouts.

The Sealmasters made its second consecutive appearance as the United States representative in the ISF Men’s World Championship in 1968 in Oklahoma City, and it captured a second consecutive Gold Medal with a 10-1 record. The U.S. pitchers were again overpowering, with one perfect game, two no-hitters and two one-hit performances from the staff. Richard’s perfect game, which came against the Philippines, was the first perfect game to be recorded during an ISF Men’s World Championship competition.

He was later inducted into the Illinois Fastpitch Softball Hall of Fame.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Rosary High School or Marmion Academy.

To sign Richard’s online guestbook, visit www.dieterlememorialhome.com.

Nominations for the National Softball Hall of Fame Class of 2012 must be submitted to the National Office by September 1, 2011. Only by Amateur Softball Association (ASA) commissioners, past presidents and commissioner emeritus can nominate and each can make up to two a year.

Nominees can be elected in the player and non-player categories. Players nominated must be retired at least three years from active play at the national championship level and have been named to at least three ASA All-American teams, including two first-team selections.

All players who competed at the national championship play in fast pitch, slow pitch and modified pitch can be nominated for the Hall of Fame.

Players can be submitted only three times. This can either be consecutively or at different years.

No more than five players can be elected to the Hall of Fame in one class. One player, however, can be elected in the old-timer category if there is a nominee who gets the required number of votes.

To have a nominee considered for the next year’s class, a nomination form must be completed and submitted to the National Office along with a scrapbook and other supporting documents highlighting the nominee’s career by September 1. All nominations will be considered at the ASA Annual Meeting by the Hall of Fame Committee.

For more on nominations, visit www.asasoftball.com/hall_of_fame/.

Additional questions can be directed to Holly Krivokapich at (405) 425-3431.

Register for the Trade Show by Oct. 1

Registration is now open for the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Trade Show, which will again be held in conjunction with the ASA Council Meeting, scheduled for Nov. 5-11 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. This year, the Trade Show is on Saturday, November 5 from 5-8 p.m., with all three hours open to ASA Council Members and other meeting attendees, at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort’s Palisades room.

The cost per-space is $500 for non-commercial and $650 for commercial preferred. For registration forms, please email Jamie Blanchard at jblanchard@softball.org.
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INSTRUCTORS INCLUDE
Mike Candrea
USA Softball Director of Coaching Education and University of Arizona Head Coach

Ken Eriksen
USA Softball Women’s National Team Head Coach and University of South Florida Head Coach

Mike White
USA Softball Women’s National Team Assistant Coach and University of Oregon Head Coach

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Questions? Please call (916) 962-1631 for information.