A note from Amateur Softball Association President Andy Dooley

Hopefully everyone’s seasons are under way and that it has been successful to this point. As we begin to prepare for tournament play, please make sure all of the paperwork is completed properly and submitted to the host on time as it will make for an easier experience for everyone.

ASA has a great tournament program and it is because of you; our players, Commissioners and Junior Olympic Commissioners taking the time to manage it correctly.

Also a reminder that if you are hosting a tournament and haven’t submitted your information to the national office for the website this needs to be done ASAP, including the fact sheets.

I also want to say thank you to all of you for being patient with the new Register ASA process. Anytime a new process is brought in, it takes awhile to adjust and it won’t happen overnight. However, our national staff under the leadership of Craig Cress and his department has done an outstanding job with this and I hope you will join me in saying, “Thank you for a job well done!”

The committee assignments for the national council meeting will be mailed to each council member by July 15 and if we didn’t get you where you requested please contact me and I will see if it can be corrected. We try to balance the committees with the best representation by the position you hold with the council and believe me it is very challenging.

The tournaments reps and Umpire-In-Chief assignments have also been completed and I would like to thank Joey Rich who volunteered to do this project.

The equipment committee recently met for field tests and other safety related issues and I would also like to thank this committee for the efforts to keep this game as safe as possible. I am sure you will be seeing some code and playing rules changes submitted to address these issues.

In closing again, thank you for what you do each and every day to make this organization the best it can be.
A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Jamie Blanchard

Welcome to the June 2010 edition of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America.

Can you believe the 2010 college softball season is already over? What an exciting time to be a fan of college ball, as the UCLA Bruins and Arizona Wildcats truly gave us a showdown to remember. With both teams well represented on the 2010 USA Softball Women’s Futures National Team, it is also a great time to be a fan of USA Softball.

The 2010 USA Softball Women’s National Team and the Futures team are opening their seasons with exhibitions in Canton and Ashland, Ohio. The teams face-off in their first doubleheader on June 16 (Canton) and then hold a second one on June 17 (Ashland). More information is on USASoftball.com.

If you’re not able to watch the women in Ohio, we would love to have you join us for the World Cup, which is the only chance to see international fast pitch and slow pitch this year in the U.S. Also, there will be an autograph signing each day of the World Cup, July 22-26, making it even better event.

For those of you who will not be able to join us here, we hope that you will support the World Cup by watching the action live on ESPN. Seven games, including three on Saturday, will be aired. The complete TV schedule is on the World Cup page of USASoftball.com.

Also, we plan to cover the event not only as we have in the past, with recaps on both of our websites, ASASoftball.com and USASoftball.com, but also throughout the day on our Facebook and Twitter pages. Make sure that you are a fan or follower if you want the inside scoop on the event including live photo and score updates.

Although we are embarking on a very busy time here in the National Office, with several members traveling for various championships and training camps, we are still here to help your association be the best it can be. Please feel free to reach out to us at anytime.

Talk to you next month.

Meet USA Softball athletes at World Cup

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America recently announced that five public autograph sessions will be held during the 2010 KFC World Cup of Softball, July 22-26, in Oklahoma City, Okla. All three USA Softball National Teams competing during the World Cup will participate in at least one signing during the event.

All session reserved ($75) and general admission ($40) tickets are on sale now at SoftballOutlet.com or by calling 800-654-8337. Ultimate Fan Zone passes are $275-$325.

The Women’s Futures National team will sign autographs on opening night following their 9 p.m. game with Japan. The Women’s National Team will also sign autographs July 25 following their 7 p.m. game with Japan. Both will also sign autographs July 26 after their final match ups, either the third place game at 4 p.m. or the Championship Game at 8 p.m.

The Men’s Slow Pitch National Team will hold an autograph signing following the 3 p.m. Border Battle on July 25.

Ultimate Fan Zone pass holders will also have the opportunity to meet both the Women’s National Team and the Women’s Futures National Team during a private meet and greet. The teams will eat dinner with the Ultimate Fans then sign autographs following their 7 p.m. game.

Autograph sessions are subject to cancelation.

Become an Ultimate Fan for the World Cup

Ultimate Fan Zone passes are still on sale for the 2010 World Cup of Softball, although a limited number remain. The premium pass with the Nike 2008 Olympic Team authentic jersey is $325 through SoftballOutlet.com while a regular pass with a replica jersey is $275.

Not only will Ultimate Fans watch the action from the best seats in the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium, both premium and regular pass holders will also meet the 2010 USA Softball Women’s National Team as well as members of the 2010 USA Softball Futures National Team. Both teams will be signing autographs at a special reception open only to Ultimate Fans on July 25.

Fan zone questions can be directed to Jamie Blanchard at jblanchard@softball.org.

The Inside Pitch

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This summer, the Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program will send one lucky family on a vacation at the Walt Disney World® Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Responsible Sports, your resource for youth sports parenting and coaching tips, tools, and advice, could be your ticket to a vacation to remember for years to come. Enter today! Sweepstakes ends on July 31, 2010.

Our Grand Prize winner will receive a 4-day/3-night trip for four to the Walt Disney World® Resort!

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  - Epcot® Disney's Hollywood Studios™
  - Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park
- 250 Disney Dollars
- and much more!

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And, just for entering, you’ll be able to select a special offer from ASA Softball’s online store, SoftballOutlet.com: $10 off coupon with a minimum $30 purchase.

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USA Softball athletes featured on new KFC box

KFC, the title sponsor for the upcoming 2010 KFC World Cup of Softball presented by Six Flags, recently launched a softball themed Kids Meal box featuring USA Softball players Monica Abbott, Jennie Finch and Jessica Mendoza. The box is now available at participating KFC restaurants across the United States.

A part of the KFC Keep Fit Challenge initiative, the boxes feature advice on how to play smart and stay healthy from the Olympic medal winners, who will star in the World Cup, July 22-26. The boxes also feature softball themed games including a word search and a maze.

Visit www.kfc.com/storelocator/ to locate a neighborhood KFC restaurant.

If you purchase a Kids Meal this summer, take a picture of the softball themed box and upload it to the ASA/USA Softball Facebook page for a chance to win a USA Softball poster pack featuring Abbott, Finch and Mendoza autographed posters. One entry per person. One winner will be drawn at random by ASA/USA Softball in June and July.

All session reserved ($75) and general admission ($40) tickets for the World Cup, July 22-26, at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, Okla., can be purchased online at SoftballOutlet.com or by calling 800-654-8337.
the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International Championship, July
7-11, in Surrey, B.C. and exhibition games in Whitehorse, Yukon,
July 13-14. Futures players will also be included on the rosters
for the Japan Cup, August 3-9, in Sendai City, Japan. (Complete
rosters for the tournaments in Canada and Japan are now posted
at www.usasoftball.com.)

2010 USA Softball Women's Futures National Team
Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif./California junior)
Katelyn Boyd (Phoenix, Ariz./Arizona State sophomore)
Raven Chavanne (Thousand Oaks, Calif./Tennessee freshman)
Kenzie Fowler (Tucson, Ariz./Arizona freshman)
Jessica Iwata (Lihue, Hawaii/Hawaii freshman)
Molly Johnson (Tucson, Ariz./Kentucky senior)
Megan Langenfeld (Bakersfield, Calif./UCLA senior)
Brittany Lastrapes (Laguna Niguel, Calif./Arizona junior)
Jenae Leles (Fair Oaks, Calif./Arizona 2009*)
Blaire Luna (Austin, Texas/Texas freshman)
Meagan May (Spring, Texas/Texas A&M freshman)
Stacey Nelson (Los Alamitos, Calif./Florida 2009*)
Jamia Reid (Buena Park, Calif./California sophomore)
Lauren Schutzler (Monterey, Calif./Arizona junior)
Jordan Taylor (Valencia, Calif./Michigan junior)
Angela Tincher (Eagle Rock, Va./Virginia Tech 2008*)
Niki Williams (Mission Viejo, Calif./Washington sophomore)
Shawna Wright (Lancaster, Calif./Washington freshman)
* Last year of college eligibility
Kate Drohan (Evanston, Ill./head coach Northwestern) will serve
as Head Coach of the USA Futures National Team, marking her
first time as a coach in the USA Softball program. Mike Larabee
(Fayetteville, Ark./head coach Arkansas) and Jamie Pinkerton
(Broken Arrow, Okla./asst. coach Iowa State) will serve as assistants
for the Futures Team.

Famed slow pitch player passes away

Myron Reinhardt, 83, died May 13 at his home.
He was the first slow pitch player inducted
into the ASA National Softball Hall of Fame in
1973. He was named an All-American five
times and played in 11 of the first 13 slow
pitch nationals.
In 1963, he was named Most Valuable
Player of the national tourney, batting .533 and
hitting five homers.
He was a teacher at Dale Elementary School,
principal at Alexandria Elementary School,
deputy superintendent for Campbell County Schools,
World War II Army veteran, referee for state and college
basketball games including
Rupp Arena for the state basketball tournaments.
His wife, Audrey
Survivors include his daughter, Connie Hulsmeyer
of Hopkinsville; sons, Randy
and Gregory Reinhardt,
both of Alexandria; and six grandchildren.
Leave online condolences

The ASA Class B State Championship for Wisconsin will be held
in Eau Claire, July 9-11. To help advertise the Junior Olympic (JO)
tournament, a billboard was put up in the area. More information on
the tournament can be found at www.visiteauclaire.com.
For 11th time, UCLA leaves WCWS with a National Title

Andrea Harrison hit a grand slam, Megan Langenfeld homered for the third time in two games and UCLA put on a record-setting offensive show to beat Arizona 15-9 Tuesday night and win its 11th Women's College World Series title at the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Julie Burney and Samantha Camuso also homered for the Bruins (50-11) as a matchup of college softball's two most successful programs turned into a home run derby.

Stacie Chambers went deep twice and Lini Koria hit a solo shot for Arizona (52-14) as the teams combined to set a World Series record with seven long balls in the game. Ten of the 29 previous World Series didn't have that many home runs during the entire event.

But in this new offensive era, the championship trophy is headed back to a familiar place. It’s the first title for UCLA since the program won back-to-back trophies in 2003-04, and the first won by fourth-year coach Kelly Inouye-Perez.

UCLA won Game 1 with a walk-off homer in the eighth inning from Langenfeld.

Danielle Lawrie wins second Player of the Year award

For the second consecutive season, Danielle Lawrie of the University of Washington has been named the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year. The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America presented the senior pitcher/hitter from Langley, B.C., with the award at the Opening Ceremony of the NCAA Women's College World Series.

“The USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award is a great honor for everyone playing for the University of Washington,” Lawrie said. “I have a great team that I am happy to share this award with. While it may have my name on it, I think this is something that we all won because everything we do, we do together. I could not do what I do without each of them. I hope this is the start of a great week for our team.”

She is the only second player to receive the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year honor multiple times, joining Texas pitcher Cat Osterman, who received the award in three times, including back-to-back in 2005 and 2006. Other past winners are UCLA's Stacey Nuveman (2002), Florida State’s Jessica Van der Linden (2004), Tennessee's Monica Abbott (2007) and Virginia Tech's Angela Tincher (2008).

The two other finalists in consideration for the 2010 award were Pac-10 Player of the Year Megan Langenfeld (Bakersfield, Calif.) and ACC Player of the Year Jen Yee (North Delta, B.C.) of Georgia Tech. Langenfeld and Yee, both seniors, were Top 3 Finalists for the first time in their careers.

“When I heard who else was nominated, I knew this was not a lock for Danielle,” said Washington Head Coach Heather Tarr. “When you hear Jen Yee reached base at least once in all 62 games, which is amazing, and you start to hear the stats of Megan Langenfeld, who has always been a tough conference opponent, you know there are no guarantees. The panel of voters could have selected any one of them to win tonight and it would be deserved. I think it is a great honor for Danielle and for our program to be recognized by such a respected group for the second year in a row. Her accomplishments this season really show the strength of the University of Washington.”

The senior ace has thrown four no-hitters including three perfect games, the latter of which is tied for a Pac-10 record. Heading into the WCWS, Lawrie has amassed a 40-3 record with a 1.00 ERA, 478 strikeouts and just 41 walks in 288.1 innings, including wins over 2010 WCWS teams Arizona, Hawaii and UCLA. She finished the conference season 17-2 with a 1.01 ERA with 212 strikeouts and just 25 walks in 125.1 innings. Lawrie is 21-3 against ranked teams this year with 266 Ks in 162.1 innings.

She has a nation-best 24 shutouts to break her own single-season school record. Twice this season she had streaks of 25-straight scoreless innings. Lawrie's 40 wins are second on the single-season charts while her 478 strikeouts are second, behind her own record. The senior ranks in the top five nationally in strikeouts, ERA, wins, walks per seven innings and strikeouts per seven innings.

While known for her work in the circle, Lawrie has been equally impressive at the plate, leading the Huskies in home runs (15), RBI (57) and slugging percentage (.616), all of which are career highs. Lawrie had a pair of multi-home run games in preseason play, including one in which she had a career-high six RBI with a two-run home run and grand slam. She hit her first career walk-off home run in UW's 2-1 win over Stanford the same weekend the Huskies clinched their third Pac-10 title and first since 2000. She had a five RBI game against nationally ranked Arizona State this year.

Among Lawrie's other accolades for the season, she was named the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week three times, becoming the first player ever to receive the award more than twice in a single season, and was twice named the NFCA National Player of the Week. Lawrie was named Pac-10 Pitcher of the Week eight times. She was named First Team All-Pacific Region and First Team All-Pac-10 along with earning the Pac-10 Pitcher of the Year award for the second straight season.
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