A note from Amateur Softball Association President Andy Dooley

As you begin to start play for the 2010 season, let me say “good luck” to each and every team, player, coach and parent. I wish each and every one of you well.

If you have already began league play, I hope the results were what you had planned for. If not, keep practicing and training each week. I am sure that you will achieve your goals through hardwork.

Please view your local association Web site for the most up to date information on your programs. If you don’t have the address, go to www.asasoftball.com. Click “About Us” and then “Contact Us” – there you will be able to find your local association’s contact and Web site information.

Please remember to use our ACE certification program, which offers the best information for our youth coaches.

Again, good luck and may you have the best season ever.

Talk to you in April.

Olympic Champion and Silver Medalist Jessica Mendoza, shown at a previous World Cup of Softball, is returning to the Women’s National Team after the birth of her first child in 2009.

WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAM NAMED
Schedule includes stops in Ohio, Oklahoma City

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America is pleased to announce the roster and schedule for the 2010 USA Softball Women’s National Team, which will kick off the season with exhibition games in Ohio, June 16-17. The team consists of 14 members from the 2009 USA Softball National Team who helped capture the Canada Cup and World Cup of Softball Gold Medals during 2009.

In addition to the 14 returnees, 2004 Olympic Champion and 2008 Olympic Silver Medalist Jessica Mendoza (Camarillo, Calif.) makes her return to USA Softball after taking a year off for the birth of her child. Eileen Canney (Paradise, Calif.) makes her first-ever appearance on a USA Softball roster while Tammy Williams (Roscoe, Mo.) is in her first year as a National Team member after representing the USA at the Pan American Qualifier last year.

The complete roster also includes: Monica Abbott (Salinas, Calif.); Chelsea Bramlett (Cordova, Tenn.); Ashley Charters (Beaver, Ore.); Kaitlin Cochran (Yorba Linda, Calif.); Andrea Duran (Selma, Calif.); Jennie Finch (La Mirada, Calif.); Vicky Galindo (Union City, Calif.); Alissa Haber (Newark, Calif.); Ashley Hansen (Chandler, Ariz.); Ashley Holcombe (Fayetteville, Ga.); Lauren Lappin (Anaheim, Calif.); Caitlin Lowe (Tustin, Calif.); Cat Osterman (Houston, Texas); and Natasha Watley (Irvine, Calif.).

The schedule of events starts with two exhibition games, June 16 at Thurman Munson Stadium

‘WNT’ CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
The Inside Pitch

Official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association
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Assistant Editors Julie Bartel and Holly Krivokapich

The Inside Pitch editor
Jamie Blanchard

Welcome to the March 2010 edition of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA). Thank you for reading.

A lot of great things are happening at the National Office in Oklahoma City over the next few months. It is my first full season with ASA so I am excited to be a part of it.

On Saturday, we opened the stadium for the season with The Preview college tournament. Before you know it, the World Cup of Softball will be here. I hope that many of you will be out here to take in the action from now through October.

Remember, Julie Bartel, Holly Krivokapich and I are always here to help. Please let us know what you need to spread ASA in your area. If you need promotional materials, contact us. If you need logos or photos, contact us. We have a lot of resources that we would love to share with the local ASAs.

And remember, if you would like to have a news item or photo included in The Inside Pitch, send it to me electronically during the first week of the month at jblanchard@softball.org. Any items, including photos, not submitted by the deadline may not be included. Please plan ahead to allow yourself enough time to submit items about your association.

If you have anything that you would like to submit anything for the electronic Balls and Strikes Magazine, Holly is in the final stages of putting together the March issue and will start looking toward the summer soon. Please send her an e-mail at hollyk@softball.org.

I’m off to Vancouver, Canada, to work with Team USA at the Paralympic Winter Games, but I will talk to you next month. Have a good one.

ASA promotional packets on sale for $7

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America advertising and promotional packets are still on sale for $7 each, which includes a DVD and the cost of shipping. Commissioners and Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioners can place orders for their association by e-mailing Jamie Blanchard, Coordinator of Marketing and Communications, at jblanchard@softball.org.

If ordering the packages to distribute at a specific event, please order at least two weeks before you need to receive them, if possible. Include the date of your event in the e-mail to ensure they are shipped in time.

All 2010 registration materials mailed

All registration materials (forms, rulebooks, scorebooks, umpire tests, etc.) have been shipped. If you have problems, or need additional registration materials, please contact Debbie Ford (dford@softball.org).

All registration materials mailed

The heavy snowfall in the Washington DC area damaged some of the fields in the area. “We have seven fields like this in Prince George’s County, Maryland,” Maryland-DC Commissioner Jack Mowatt said in an e-mail.

Snow cripples Maryland fields
Nolan selected as new Indiana ASA Commissioner

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, the National Governing Body for the sport of softball in the United States, announced today that David Nolan has been selected to replace Wayne Myers as the Commissioner of Indiana ASA. Myers, a member of the National Softball Hall of Fame, died January 10 at the age of 84.

"I am proud to be a part of the Amateur Softball Association and am somewhat shocked, but excited, to be chosen as the Commissioner for Indiana ASA," said Nolan, who has been involved in ASA as both a player and a leader. Five other candidates were also interviewed for the position before Nolan was selected.

"All six of the applicants for the Indiana ASA Commissioner position were qualified to lead the association so it was a tough choice," ASA Director of Membership Services Craig Cress said. "We felt that Dave Nolan was the best person to continue the good work of longtime commissioner Wayne Myers while also improving the association for its members. Dave has several innovative ideas that we believe will be of great benefit to the association. We're excited to see what develops in Indiana under the new leadership."

Nolan's previous experience with the ASA includes serving Indiana ASA as a District Commissioner. He was also the Region 10 Vice President, President and Vice President of the Executive Board, At Large Player Representative to the National Council and Regional Player Representative for the Midwest Region (10) National Council.

"I want to maintain the great work that Wayne has been doing for years and years to establish Indiana ASA as one of the top associations. He left a legacy not only in the state but throughout the country," Nolan said. "I want to continue on in the same way that Wayne did but I also want to try to change the landscape a little. One of the big things for me is giving our association a better online presence with our Web site and things like Facebook and Twitter. I think that would really help the relationship we have with our members."

A 1978 accounting graduate from the Indiana University, Nolan is a certified public accountant and also currently serves as a Board of Director Member for Mid-Southern Savings Bank. He is widely involved in the Mitchell, Ind., community where he lives, serving as president of the Greater Mitchell Chamber of Commerce and an organizer for Mitchell’s Persimmon Festival. In 2008, he was named the Citizen of the Year for Mitchell.

USA Softball names 2009 Athletes of the Year

Jennie Finch (La Mirada, Calif.) and Matt Palazzo (Des Moines, Iowa) were named the USA Softball Female and Male Athlete of the year, respectively, for their accomplishments in 2009.

Finch, a pitcher at the University of Arizona, was both a starter and a reliever at the USA Softball Men’s National team to a fourth-place finish at the ISF Men’s World Championships in Saskatoon, Canada, with a 7-3 record. He led the team with a .444 average (12-for-27) and was the only player to record more than one home run with four homers. At the plate, he contributed 11 RBI, scoring nine runs. He was near perfect on defense, making only one error.

Offensively, Finch was in the Top five in all three events in batting average with a summer average of .447. Her best event was at the World Cup of Softball where Finch hit .500 with a home run and three runs scored. During the summer of 2009, she made an appearance in all 18 games with 17 starts with three home runs and 17 hits. As a pitcher, she was 5-0 with a 0.54 ERA and 43 strikeouts. Finch allowed only two earned runs in 26.0 innings pitched.

Palazzo helped lead the USA Softball Men’s National team to a fourth-place finish at the ISF Men’s World Championships in Saskatoon, Canada, with a 7-3 record. He led the team with a .444 average (12-for-27) and was the only player to record more than one home run with four homers. At the plate, he contributed 11 RBI, scoring nine runs. He was near perfect on defense, making only one error.

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The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced today a partnership with the Combat Sports Group for the 2010 ASA 2K Men’s Slow Pitch Series. The ASA 2K Series presented by Combat is in its third year of existence and consists of designated ASA tournaments that each award a $2,000 travel certificate to the first place team to travel to the ASA Men’s Class A National Championship. The first place team at each tournament will also receive a Combat prize pack that includes three bats, 15 batting shirts, shorts and hats.

"ASA is thrilled to be partnering with Combat Sports on the 2010 2K Series of tournaments," said ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. "The 2010 series line-up has seven participating tournaments and we challenge slow pitch teams to take advantage of this opportunity to compete to become the 2010 ASA Men's Class A National Champion." Teams will also be awarded points based on their finish in each ASA 2K event. The team with the most points at end of Series will also win a Combat prize if they attend the ASA Men’s A National Championship.

"Combat Sports is truly excited about the opportunity to partner with ASA in this series," said Combat Vice President Don Cooper. "We look forward to bringing our players and products to the ASA 2K events. We feel the 2K series will be a great place for us to launch our new Rusty Bumgardner and Scott Brown Derby 98 product line.

Visit www.asasoftball.com for more information.

Combat partners with ASA for 2K Series

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$79/night if you mention you are with the Metro Detroit ASA Umpire School
Room reservations must be made by March 9, 2010 to receive this rate

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 9, 2010 – Best Western Palace Inn
6:00 – 10:00 pm Check In/Hospitality

Saturday, April 10, 2010 – Oxford Middle School
8:00 – 9:00 am Check In and School Photo
9:00 – Noon Instructional Sessions
Noon -1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 - 4:00 pm Instructional Sessions
Best Western Palace Inn
6:00 – 7:00 pm Optional Buffet Dinner
8:00 – 11:00 pm Hospitality

Sunday, April 11, 2010 – Oxford Middle School,
8:00 am – Noon Instructional Sessions
Noon -1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 – 3:00 pm Instructional Sessions
3:00 – 3:30 pm Closing Ceremony

2010 - 2011 National Tournaments scheduled in Michigan:
• Northern Territory Girls 18-Under A Novi, MI August 2010
• Northern Territory Girls 14-Under B Novi, MI August 2011
• Northern Territory Girls 16-Under A Mt. Pleasant, MI August 2011

National tournament umpires must attend a National Umpire School.

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New Hudson, MI 48165 mdasabob@aol.com
Registration is now open for the spring 2010 Responsible Sports Community Grant period

The Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports Community Grants period is open! Help your softball team or league win $2,500 this spring!

As an added bonus, all ASA softball organizations that can get 100 certifications will earn a $200 shopping spree to softballoutlet.com!

To get started go to ResponsibleSports.com/Grant to search to see if your organization is registered.

All you have to do is take the Responsible Sports Parenting or Coaching coursework and pass the brief review quiz to earn your point. The organizations with the most points at the end of the grant period win! That’s it.

Get started at ResponsibleSports.com/Grant today!

ET Colvin reps ASA in the International Softball Fed

ASA member ET Colvin is currently serving as the North American Vice President of the International Softball Federation (ISF). Recently, he was appointed to the Coordination Committee for the Women’s World Championship in Caracas, Venezuela.

“Last week I was in Caracas to meet with the organizing committee for the world championships to check on their preparations for the event which will start on June 22. They are building two new stadiums for the event,” he said in an e-mail. “We will return to Caracas in early May to finalize plans for the championship.”

Other members of the committee are Beng Choo Low, Secretary General of the ISF, Laurie Gouthro, Director of Championships for the ISF and Julio Hellburg, Secretary General of COMPASA.

Colvin has also been appointed Chairman of the Equipment Standards Committee for the ISF.

ISF’s Executive Director Porter recognized by the ASA Council

May 18, 2010, has been officially declared by the ASA Council as Don E. Porter Day in recognition of his fifty years of affiliation with the Amateur Softball Association.

Don began his career with ASA as Southern California Commissioner in 1960. Three years later he was appointed as assistant to ASA Executive Secretary Gene Martin. He became the Executive Secretary upon the untimely death of Martin.

Don served the ASA for thirty-five years as its Executive Secretary and after the title was changed as its Executive Director.

Don was an organizer of the International Softball Federation (ISF) and has served as its first Secretary General and as its President since 1987.

He also turns 80 on May 18.
So just how bad is this childhood obesity epidemic, you ask? A shocking 30 percent of our nation’s children have reached that dangerous plateau. What does that mean, in frightful terms we all can understand? It means that for the first time in our great nation’s history, the current generation of youth could be sicker – and die younger – than their parents. What to do?

Studies have shown that children who are active in sports do better in school than those who do not participate in athletics. And we all know that the keys to our future as we move deeper into the 21st century are good health and a quality education.

That’s where Batters Up USA comes in. By introducing boys and girls who otherwise would not have a chance to experience the wonderful team sports of softball and baseball, Batters Up USA contributes free equipment to help start up fun, non-competitive ball programs at parks & rec facilities, community centers, and after-school programs around the country.

In 2009, Batters Up USA oversaw the creation of 44 programs serving more than 10,000 kids in 20 states by contributing equipment – bats, balls, gloves, helmets, and catcher’s gear – through grant funding. The evolving program has become so efficient that it only costs about $270 per 100 children to supply the essential bats, balls, and bases.

The greatest opportunities for future expansion are at parks & rec centers, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and YMCAs, and that’s where the Amateur Softball Association comes in. Through a grant from the Amon G. Carter Foundation, Batters Up USA wants to add 10 new programs for boys and/or girls ages 6-13 through its long-standing partnership with ASA.

“ASA has given us so much support in the past, and we want to return the favor,” said Jess Heald, Batters Up USA executive director. “Because of our buying power with our industry members, this grant could provide equipment for 10 ASA-sponsored programs.”

To get the process started, go to www.battersupusa.org and simply click on the Equipment Grants link. Please consider joining forces with this grass-roots program to get kids off the couch and onto the ball fields of America.
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ASA’s Official Team Insurance Plan for the 47th year!

Bollinger provides Team Insurance Plans for ASA’s JO and Adult Teams. These coverages stand ready to defend and protect you in the event of injuries or lawsuits arising out of your softball activities.

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- Various deductible options offer you additional savings.
- **The ASA Team Liability Insurance Plan** provides your team with $5,000,000 in protection for bodily injury or property damage claims arising out of your team’s games, practices or fundraising activities.

Note: Many ASA Associations are requiring Individual Registration for their Junior Olympic teams. One benefit of Individual Registration is that Liability and Accident Insurance are automatically provided as part of the ASA membership fee. If your local ASA Commissioner is using Individual Registration, you do not need to purchase the ASA Team Insurance Plan. Contact your ASA Commissioner or Bollinger for more information.

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**Leading the way with ASA Individual Registration: Best Practices for Teams and Leagues**

- **Why Individual Registration?** As the National Governing Body for Softball, ASA/USA Softball is committed to the goal of providing accident and liability insurance to all participants in the Junior Olympic (youth) program. This is especially important as more and more American families do not have their own medical insurance. To ensure that our JO players receive the insurance protection they need, ASA/USA Softball has been converting to Individual Registration (as opposed to team registration) for the JO Program. Individual Registration is also available to Adult leagues in certain areas.

- **How is the insurance plan for Individual Registration different from Team Insurance?** There is no difference in the limits of coverage under the Individual Registration or Team Insurance plans. The program is still administered by Bollinger and underwritten by Markel Insurance Company.

- **How to get started?** Contact your local ASA Commissioner or JO Commissioner for details on how to Individually Register. To find the contact information for your Commissioner, go to the ASA/USA Softball web site at [www.ASAsoftball.com](http://www.ASAsoftball.com).

- **For answers to Frequently Asked Questions on Individual Registration, please visit Bollinger’s ASA web site, [www.BollingerASA.com](http://www.BollingerASA.com) and click on “Individual Registration.”**

**Important Note:** In order to participate in ASA Junior Olympic/Youth Championship Play, all teams must be ASA Individually Registered or purchase through Bollinger the ASA Team Insurance Package Plan.
Oregon welcomes Flick, Boyles for state umpire clinic

Oregon ASA Umpire program hosted their state clinic and invited Jerry Fick, Region 9 Umpire-in-Chief, Malcolm Boyles, Western Territory Deputy Supervisor and Wild Bill Silves, Region 15 Umpire-in-Chief to both train the district umpire staff and umpires.

The primarily principle behind the “Training the Trainers Seminar” was for the Oregon District UIC’s to be consistent and successful in their approach when training, observing and evaluating so their umpires can be successful during championship play. Joining Oregon in the training were the Washington State’s District UIC’s and their deputies. Both Oregon and Washington dedicated the “Training the Trainers Seminar” in honor of our Veterans.

The staff of 48 listen intently about a consistent approach to evaluating, the cause and effect issues that impact umpire’s performance regarding: leadership/game management; consistent strike zone; movement; coverage/communication/secondary adjustments; appearance/mobility and punctuality/cooperation.

The seminar also covered the ten most often missed mechanics that occur during championship play. For a copy of training guide for Training the Trainers contact either Fick or Boyles.

“It was a beautiful day in the Great Northwest (Oregon),” stated John Garrett, Oregon’s Umpire-in-Chief. It permitted our 92 umpires to go outside and get a lot work done. The umpires participated in both slow and fast pitch plate and base mechanics, learning to adjust to the new 10 foot pitch height and participated in 2 and 3 umpire system drills. Silves said “we had a party”. Oregon also presented the 2009 Umpire of the Year award to Scott Kelly of St Helens, Ore. Kelly was recognized for going the extra mile on and off the field and will join others in Oregon’s Hall of Honor.

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WNT / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in Canton, Ohio and June 17 at Brookside Park in Ashland, Ohio. The two exhibition games will feature a matchup of the USA Softball Women’s National Team and the USA Futures Team (roster to be announced at a later date). Go to www. ohioasasoftware.org for more information on the exhibition games.

Less than a year after winning the Pan American Qualifier in Maracay, Venezuela, USA Softball will head back to Venezuela to defend their World Championship at the ISF World Championships in Caracas, Venezuela. The World Championship is June 21-July 3 with USA looking for their ninth Gold Medal.

Canada will next play host to the USA at the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International Championship, July 7-11, in Surrey, B.C. and exhibition games in Whitehorse, Yukon, July 13-14.

The USA will bring it home for its fans, July 22-26, with the World Cup of Softball 5. The World Cup is one of the premier events in International Softball and will bring together 2008 Olympic Gold Medalist Japan, Canada, USA Futures and three-time Olympic Gold Medalists USA. A complete schedule of events can be found at www.usasoftball.com.

The final event on the schedule will be the Japan Cup, August 3-9, in Sendai City, Japan. The USA will look to defend their title after defeating Japan 2-0 in last year’s Japan Cup Championship Game.

District Umpires-In-Chief from Oregon and Washington gathered at the Oregon state umpire clinic hosted by the Oregon ASA Umpire program.

Team starts play June 16, continues through Aug. 9
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Memorable youth sports moments are waiting for you. Visit ResponsibleSports.com/Softball today.
Missouri ASA enshrines four individuals and Mid State Oil Men’s Slow Pitch team

The 24th Annual Missouri ASA Awards Banquet was held on Saturday, Feb. 20 with two from the ASA National Office, John Miller, Assistant Director of Membership Services - Teams and Championships, and Julie Bartel, Director of Marketing and Communication, in attendance. State Commissioner Joey Rich presided over the festivities, emceed by Deputy State Commissioner Ken Kwantes. The Banquet was held at Seven Springs Winery in Linn Creek, Mo.

Inducted into the Hall of Blue were umpires Bob Garner, Cape Girardeau and Jack Walker, Albany. A total of 36 umpires have been inducted into the Missouri ASA Hall of Blue. Entering the state Hall of Fame were Mark Nelson, Springfield, and Ray Reinagel, Kelso, both for meritorious service, although Reinagel also had an outstanding playing career.

Also enshrined was the Mid State Oil Men’s Slow Pitch team from the 1970’s, only the second team to be inducted into the Missouri Hall.

Service awards and three student scholarships were also presented at the banquet, and five Missouri teams were put into the Missouri ASA Hall of Champions for winning a national championship in 2009. Katelynn Tolle, Bailey Wingard and Morgan Wood received the scholarships.

Festivities included a silent auction to benefit the student scholarship program.

The banquet was held in conjunction with the 26th annual Missouri ASA State Convention, held at the Lakewood Resort in Osage Beach.

Indiana ASA’s Ashbrook passes away at age 79

Harold N. “Hardy” Ashbrook, 79, Peru, died at 4:10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 15, 2010, at Millers Merry Manor, Peru.

He was born Sept. 22, 1930, in Peru, the son of Louis and Marjorie (Clay) Ashbrook. He married Mary Jane Earhart on July 26, 1952, and she survives.

He graduated from Peru High School in 1948. He served four years in the U.S. Army, during the Korean Conflict. He was a retired service man for NIPSCO.

He was a life member of Peru Maennerchor, the American Legion, Moose Lodge and VFW Post. Hardy refereed high school and college basketball games and umpired softball games. He was the Miami County softball commissioner, assistant state commissioner for fast pitch softball and a member of the Indiana Softball Hall of Fame.

Survivors include a son, Andrew D. (Carla) Ashbrook, Peru; daughters Cindy Kinzie, Denver, and Toni (David) Weideman, Kokomo; grandchildren Dawn (Scott) Kutza, Bloomington, Cori (Michael) Knight, Macy, Jaclyn (Lee) France, Denver, Alison Ashbrook, Nashville, Tenn., and Emily Ashbrook, Peru; great-grandchildren Madison, Makinzie and Calie France, Alexandra Kutza and Owen Knight; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son-in-law, Dick Kinzie.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Flowers-Leedy Funeral Home, 105 W. Third St., Peru, with Rev. John Hoffman officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery, Mexico, with a military committal service provided by the Miami County Military Rites unit. Visitation is from 2 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to Miami County Helping Hands or the Oakdale Baptist Church.

You can send sympathy cards to Mary Jane Ashbrook and family at, 7 Riggle Road, Peru, IN 46970.
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Find out why the move is to Hilltopper Infields.
The Michigan Amateur Softball Association inducted new members into its Hall of Fame in a ceremony at The H Hotel in Midland, Mich. on Jan. 16. Receiving enshrinement were: Jamie Evans of Holt, umpire; Tiffany’s Food & Spirits of Frankenmuth, sponsor; Tom Hutfilz of Ada, Umpire; Dick Krueger of Frankenmuth, meritorious service; Chuck Modd, Jr., of Muskegon, player; and Billy Norton of Sault Ste. Marie, umpire.

Evans began his umpire career more than 25 years ago. He was instrumental in the development of the Umpires Association of Delta Township whose main goal is recruiting and developing umpires throughout District 11. Evans continues to go the extra mile to help his fellow umpires learn the skills necessary to become an MASA umpire.

Hutfilz began his umpiring days after he graduated from high school. He began by umpiring baseball and slow pitch softball. In 1982, he first learned of the Amateur Softball Association and joined the organization as a registered umpire in 1983. He began his fast pitch umpiring in Lowell and Ada. Hutfilz’s umpiring career continued through 2000, when he retired from actively umpiring.

Krueger has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Frankenmuth Softball Association from 1994 to the present. He began his playing career in 1955 for Donville Food Market in Tuscola. Throughout the years, he has continued to play for several teams in the Thumb area. In 1985, while playing for Cooney Engineering, he decided that in addition to playing, he would manage the team. In 1989, Tiffany’s Food & Spirits became the new sponsor and Krueger continues playing as well as managing the team today.

Modd’s résumé spans 30 years. His teams have garnered many local titles as well as 13 MASA state championships. He has also played in three ASA National Tournaments. In addition, he was named to three All-National teams.

Norton has umpired in over thirty MASA state championships in his 24-year career. He began as a slow pitch umpire in the Sault Ste. Marie area and in 1989 began to umpire fast pitch games. Through his efforts, Norton has attained the highest standard in ASA umpire evaluation; he has reach “Elite” umpire status. He is also a member of the National Indicator Fraternity and in the ASA Medals Program.

Michigan ASA honors Class of 2010

The Michigan Amateur Softball Association inducted new members into its Hall of Fame in a ceremony at The H Hotel in Midland, Mich. on Jan. 16. Receiving enshrinement were: Jamie Evans of Holt, umpire; Tiffany’s Food & Spirits of Frankenmuth, sponsor; Tom Hutfilz of Ada, Umpire; Dick Krueger of Frankenmuth, meritorious service; Chuck Modd, Jr., of Muskegon, player; and Billy Norton of Sault Ste. Marie, umpire. Evans began his umpire career more than 25 years ago. He was instrumental in the development of the Umpires Association of Delta Township whose main goal is recruiting and developing umpires throughout District 11. Evans continues to go the extra mile to help his fellow umpires learn the skills necessary to become an MASA umpire.

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Under the Tiffany’s Food & Spirits banner, the men’s fast pitch team has had 11 league titles, two state championships, 44 first or second place finishes, eight national tournament appearances, a world fast pitch appearance and a NAFA title.

Russ and Tracey Baker are the owners of Tiffany’s Food and Spirits. Through their generosity, they have helped the team with funds for league fees, tournament entry fees, equipment, and uniforms. They have been instrumental in helping the fast pitch team secure funds for the numerous tournaments. In addition to the men’s fast pitch team, they also backed a men’s slow pitch team for 11 years in the Frankenmuth Parks & Recreation League.

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Class of 2009 joins the Tennessee ASA Hall of Fame

The Tennessee Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame Banquet was held at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Hendersonville, Tennessee on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009. Approximately 80 people braved the cold temperatures to see the Class of 2009 inducted. The evening began with Guest Speaker Dave LeMarbre. Dave is the Deputy State Commissioner and also serves as the Parks & Recreation Director for the City of Hendersonville. The topic was volunteerism and the important role that volunteers play in recreation and softball.

**Bob McDaniel, player:**
During McDaniel’s 25 years of softball, McDaniel had 529 wins, 92 no-hitters, and averaged 15 strike-outs per game. Bob once pitched 49 straight innings while not allowing a run. He played in fifteen State, sixteen Regional, and two National tournaments. McDaniel was named Outstanding Athlete in 1967 and was inducted into the Chattanooga Hall of Fame in 1989.

**John “Bud” Sloan, player:**
John “Bud” Sloan’s career as a fast-pitch player started in 1953 and spanned 26 years. During this time, he participated in a total of fifteen ASA State tournaments, seventeen Regional tournaments, and two National Championship tournaments. John was inducted into the Chattanooga Hall of Fame in 1987.

**Jenni Harp Oliver, player:**
Oliver played slow-pitch softball on the Major level for 32 years. She played catcher and first base and participated in 13 Major National Championships and batted .435 in 78 games, driving in 65 runs. She was a member of three national championship teams, three runner-up, and three top five finishes. In her first national (1988), she went 20 for 30 and drove in 14 runs. She played her last national in 1994 and had two hits in the championship game as her UPI team shutout the Armed Forces, 8-0. Oliver is a member of the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame, the Velocity Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2008 she was inducted in the ASA National Softball Hall of Fame.

**Wilburn “Snooks” Nerren, Meritorious Service:**
Affectionately known as “Snooks”, Nerren was a familiar face not only in Chattanooga but, in all of ASA. Snooks attended many ASA Council Meetings and assisted Chattanooga in presenting their bids for National tournaments. Nerren worked for the City of Chattanooga overseeing the softball program for over 40 years. He played AA fast-pitch softball in Chattanooga and served as the Director of the Chattanooga Metro Umpires Association.

**Harry and Doris Heatherly, meritorious service:**
They are the first husband and wife to be inducted into the Tennessee ASA Hall of Fame. Harry started coaching their two daughters and became involved with ASA in 1968 when they traveled to an ASA Council Meeting to bid on a Women’s National Tournament. Harry served as the District Commissioner for Chattanooga and during his tenure; he and Doris attended many National Council Meetings and submitted bids on behalf of Chattanooga for fourteen National Championships. Doris served as Secretary for the Tennessee Junior Olympic program for many years and assisted John Straussberger and Wade Goodner when needed. Reflecting on their time with ASA, Doris stated “ASA has always been the greatest family sport and it was wonderful to see the families at the ballpark”.

**Joe Bridges, meritorious service:**
Bridges was appointed District 3 Junior Olympic Commissioner in 1983. Bridges was also an active umpire from 1964 to 1998. During this time, he umpired in 13 ASA National Championships and served as the State Umpire-In-Chief. As the State UIC, Bridges traveled frequently across the State assisting with umpire recruitment, development, and training of the umpires. In 1986, Bridges received his membership to the ASA National Indicator Fraternity. In 1994 Joe received the Region 4 ASA Umpire Award of Excellence. He also has served as Tennessee ASA Junior Olympic President for 5 years. In 1999 he received Lifetime Membership to ASA.

Commissioner James Ellis said “Considering this is only our fourth Hall of Fame Banquet, I am very excited about what the future holds for this program. We have a great group of dedicated people serving on our committee and the banquet continues to get better each year.”

He added “It’s very important that we recognize those who played a part in the history of the Tennessee ASA program.”

The event was co-sponsored by the Scenic City 16’s organization.
Seven new ball players, umpires and administrators were inducted into the Greater San Joaquin Hall of Fame on Saturday, Feb. 13 at the Grape Festival Grounds in Lodi, Calif. Approximately 200 people attended the event which also recognized Past National Champions, 2009 National Champions, Wall of Honor, National Tournament Umpires and the Volunteer of the Year.

ASA Commissioner Matt Pfeifer served as the Master of Ceremonies for this event. “It gives me great pleasure to see the past inductees and all the older ball players get together once a year and relive their softball days”, said Matt. “Although the chance to induct new deserving people into the Hall of Fame is special, the social aspect is what really gives me joy.”

This year’s program recognized the 25 ASA National Champions since 1979 until present. One such team, the San Joaquin Sharks Men’s B National Champions in 2000, were highlighted with a video presentation.

Air Tronics, a Men’s Masters Fast Pitch Team were presented with National Championship plaques for winning the Men’s 45 & Over and the Men’s 50 & Over Fast Pitch National Tournament in 2009. This gives this team a total of 11 National Championships going back to 1992.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Bart Magellan for his tireless efforts with the Junior Olympic program. Bart does all the registrations, bracketing for tournaments and web sites for the youth in our association.

The Big Valley Seniors were added to the Wall of Honor which recognizes people, organizations, sponsors and teams who do not fall under a category of the Hall of Fame. This was the first addition to the Wall of Honor for many years.

Twenty-eight umpires were recognized for being selected for a National Championships in 2009.

After these awards, the Hall of Fame Ceremony began.

Keith Frey is a Fast Pitch Pitcher who has been with several championships over the years. He has won National Championships with the Sharks and the Men’s Masters teams. Keith was a tournament MVP 4 times and All American 3 times, and has competed in 19 National Tournaments.

Carl Wagner has played softball since 1958 and has played and managed many teams to major national championships. When Carl turned 50, he began his Senior Softball Career. Carl has 12 Major Tournament rings. Carl has been a board member for several boards including ASA and has won many awards for his service and dedication to the game.

Ray Christman has been in softball for over 40 years. Ray had a long playing career where he played on many Men's A, B, and C Teams. Ray then became the softball director for the City of Stockton where he remains after 24 years of service. Rays dedication to the game is unparalleled.

Jim Winchester began umpiring in 1970 until he retired last year. Jim served as Lodi Umpire in Chief, the High School Umpire in Chief, and finally as the Greater San Joaquin Umpire in Chief. Jim’s accomplishments include 5 National Tournaments, Dozens of umpire coordinator assignments, and UIC of a National Tournament. Jims would say he greatest accomplishment is the people he has trained over the years.

Chuck Hamilton is known as one of the best hitters to ever play the game. Chuck played on four different Open Division teams and has won 11 National Championships. Chuck played in the US Olympic Sports Festival 5 times gaining one gold and two silver medals. Chuck has been named All American 12-15 times throughout his career.

Dick Brown has been involved in youth softball for approximately 30 years. Dick developed a youth tournament program for girls who could not compete or afford a to play on a travel team. Thus he eventually developed the youth “B” program. He also served as the Junior Olympic “B” Commissioner in Greater San Joaquin since 19966 until he retired in 2007.

Todd Garcia has been an outstanding representative for the Greater San Joaquin area as a softball player. Todd has over 23 years in the game winning at all levels. Todd has played on many major and open division teams, as well as the USA National Team. Todd was an 8 time All American, has seven National Championships, and a Pan Am Games. Todd was and still is a prolific and feared hitter and an outstanding catcher.

The Greater San Joaquin Softball Association is looking for nominations for its 2011 class. Nominations are due December 1st, 2010, and nomination forms can be obtained as well as pictures from this year’s ceremony by going to our web site at www.gsjsa.net.