A note from Amateur Softball Association President Andy Dooley

Congratulations to all the teams that just completed play in our Hooters Championship Series (HCS) National Championship presented by Worth, the Men’s Class A and the Women’s Open. What a great tournament. To be able to see teams play at the national level is outstanding.

I hope all of the athletes are making plans to play ASA again next year and have set their goal on returning to Oklahoma City. It is truly a one of a kind tournament for the best of the best.

Our staff at the National Office did a tremendous job. All of the teams who competed were very pleased with their dedication. On behalf of the ASA Governing Council, I want to say “thanks” to the staff and especially the teams for participating.

The ASA National Council Meeting will be held in Shreveport, La., in just a few weeks. To all of the Council Members, I hope you have finalized your plans to attend, and are also bringing some of your local staff. The meeting is a great way to show them the operation of our organization at a national level.

Council Members, please also remember that when you receive your proposed playing rules and code changes, try and get as much input from the players and umpires in your area prior to the committee meetings. Their input is important to our organization.

I hope each and every one of you has had a great 2010 season and have already started planning for 2011. The teams are interested in your schedules now.

Please keep up the good work. I hope to see all of you in Shreveport.

PINK FOR A CAUSE
USA Softball donates $13k to Susan G. Komen of Central OK

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America/USA Softball donated $13,000 to Susan G. Komen for the Cure® of Central Oklahoma on October 9 following the Race for the Cure in Oklahoma City. The money, raised by an eBay auction of pink items used USA Softball players during July’s KFC World Cup of Softball presented by Six Flags, brings USA Softball’s three year donation total to $50,500. USA Softball donated $25,000 in 2008 and $12,500 in 2009.

“Breast cancer has affected everyone in the USA Softball family in some way, through a coworker, a family member or a friend, and it continues to touch us more and more every day,” ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda said. “While we wish breast cancer was not a part of our lives, USA Softball is proud to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research in hopes that someday there is a cure.”

Both the USA Softball National Team and the Futures Team donned pink.

“PINK OUT” CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Jamie Blanchard

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

With the crowning of Dan Smith/Menosse/SHIRTSandLOGOS.com as the Men’s Slow Pitch Class A National Champions, we put the 2010 ASA National Championship season in the books. Congratulations to all the teams who advanced to the national level this season and a special congratulations to those athletes who prevailed as National Champions.

Thank you to every one across the country who made the National Championships, and all the events leading up to nationals, possible. We at the National Office are grateful for our amazing local associations and support staffs. Thank you. Thank you!

Our attention is turning toward the 79th National Council Meeting at the Shreveport Convention Center in Shreveport-Bossier, La., November 6-12. It looks to be another great event for our association.

One of the highlights of the meeting for me is the Trade Show, scheduled for November 6. Please stop by the Convention Center to learn about the cities hoping to welcome ASA events in coming years. A number of fantastic organizations, like Safe Surfing and Batters Up USA, and companies will also be exhibiting this year. Do not miss your chance to learn about new opportunities for you and your association.

Our National Softball Hall of Fame will also induct 10 new members in Shreveport, five players and five non-players, all who have made tremendous contributions to ASA. If you are interested in attending the Hall of Fame Ceremony, please contact Debbie Ford at dford@softball.org. It will be an evening to remember.

For those of you who I did not meet last year in Reno, Nev., I look forward to the opportunity to meet you. For those of you who I have met, I look forward to seeing you in Shreveport once again.

Safe travels.
And thank you for all that you do for the ASA. We appreciate you.

So. Cal ASA honors 11 players

Eleven scholarships totaling $35,000.00 were awarded by the Southern California ASA Players Association on August 15 at the Marie Callender’s Restaurant in Anaheim, Hills, Calif., in August. Scholarships were awarded in two categories: Recreation League and Travel Ball.

Monies are raised through Worth Sports Sponsorship, private donations, tournaments and the Recreation Tournament book.

Lorrie Ivie, Director of the Players Association said every year she hopes to raise the amount that every player can get. The awards are given to players that don’t get full ride scholarships and the monies go directly to their choice of school to further their education.

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uniforms, apparel and equipment in two “Pink Out” games during the 2010 World Cup in Oklahoma City to honor breast cancer survivors and create awareness for breast cancer research. In September, more than 60 items went up for bid on eBay, including not only the game worn uniform of more than three dozen USA Softball players, but also specialty items created specifically for players’ use during the pink game. The specialty items included Monica Abbott (Salinas, Calif.) and Cat Osterman (Houston, Texas) cleats, Natasha Watley (Irvine, Calif.) batting gloves and four items signed by Jennie Finch (La Mirada, Calif.), who made her last appearance in a USA uniform at the World Cup. All items were autographed by the players.

“The pink game is near and dear to my heart because my mom is a breast cancer survivor and my aunt was recently diagnosed with cancer as well,” said two-time National Team member Kaitlin Cochran (Yorba Linda, Calif.). “To be able to play in the pink for them was such an honor. We all know so many people that are affected by this cancer so I feel so blessed that we were able to represent the pink for the Race for the Cure, the Susan G. Komen Foundation and everyone. I’m very, very blessed and I’m glad we were able to raise some money for them.”

At the World Cup, all members of the USA Softball teams and fans were invited to sign a pink banner that read: “For those who have fought and lost / For those who have fought and won. For those who are still fighting / And those whose fight is still to come.” The banner, along with other memorabilia from the 2010 pink games, will be on display at the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum, 2801 N.E. 50th Street in Oklahoma City, later this year along with items from the 2008 and 2009 games.

For photos of the “Pink Out” games, visit www.facebook.com/asausasoftball.

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**ASA announces National Umpire Schools for 2010-11**

Fourteen National Umpire Schools will be held throughout the United States from December 2010 through June 2011, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced today. The schools will be held in 13 states: Alabama, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Texas. Oklahoma will also host the 22nd Biennial National Umpire-In-Chief (UIC) Clinic in February.

**Click here for a list of schools.**

Each ASA National Umpire School is run by a team of National Umpire staff members, who serve as the clinicians. With a ratio of at least one clinician per 25–30 students, each participant will receive hands-on personal instruction on both fast pitch and slow pitch umpiring, except at the fast pitch and slow pitch advanced camps.

To register for an upcoming National Umpire School, please contact the school coordinator at the e-mail address listed at http://asasoftball.com/umpires/umpire_schools.asp. Not all National Umpire Schools have opened registration.

Oklahoma City, Okla., will host the Biennial National UIC Clinic February 3-5, 2011. Additional details on the National UIC Clinic, which will feature a guest speaker as well as breakout sessions, will be posted at http://asasoftball.com/umpires/uic_clinic.asp.

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**Florida hosting first ever ASA Fall National Championship**

Panama City Beach is the place to be in October as Florida ASA will be hosting the first ever Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Fall National Championship October 16-17, 2010, at the Frank Brown Complex. Teams in six divisions will be competing on six fields for over $36,000 in prizes.

To register for the tournament, go to the Florida ASA website (www.playasa.org) and fill out the online form. Entry fees range from $275-$500.

The classifications contested: Men’s Class A/B Division (six home runs then one up); Men’s Class C (four home runs then an out); Men’s Class D (two home runs then an out); Men’s Class E/Rec (zero home runs then a half inning ending out); Women’s and Co-Ed Class D.
On October 5, the Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association (ASA) welcomed six new members to the Hall of Fame: Tom Fitzsimmons, Bob Green, Carol Hutchins, Mike McDowell, Evelyn Micol and Dennis Troshak. Meet the Class of 2010:

**TOM FITZSIMMONS,**
**UMPIRE**

Tom Fitzsimmons began his career as an umpire 35 years ago when he first registered with ASA in 1975. His commitment to the game of softball and his dedication to the avocation of umpiring has been an asset to the development of the program in Metro Detroit.


**BOB GREEN,**
**SLOW PITCH PLAYER**

Bob Green was one of the most outstanding second basemen in the Detroit area for many years. Green played eight years with the nationally known Snyder’s Softball Club in the late 1960’s and 70’s and served as the team’s captain during that time. He combined with current MDASA Hall of Famer Milo Karhu for one of the best double play combinations in the area.

Green also played on some of the top teams in metro Detroit including Rinaldo’s, Miller of Redford, Gatsby’s, Nothdurft Tool, National Trails, Liberty Construction, and Northwest Pipe just to name a few. He now plays infield for the three-time Huntsmen World Senior Olympic 60 & Over major division championship team Bench Pub.

**CAROL HUTCHINS,**
**MERITORIOUS SERVICE**

Wolverine head coach Carol Hutchins recently completed her 26th season as head softball coach at the University of Michigan, where she has molded the Wolverines into one of the elite programs in college softball.

“Hutch” has been a part of the Michigan softball program since 1983 when she joined the staff as an assistant coach. She moved into the head coach position in 1985 and, in each of her 26 head coaching seasons, has continued Michigan’s tradition of softball success. Michigan has never suffered a losing season in all of Hutch’s years with the program.

Hutchins has led the Wolverines to the Women’s College World Series in nine of the last 16 seasons, and, in 2005, the Maize and Blue became the first program east of the Mississippi River to claim the NCAA national championship when it defeated UCLA.

**MIKE MCDOWELL,**
**SLOW PITCH PLAYER**

McDowell began his illustrious softball career in the 1970’s playing on some of the top softball teams in the Detroit area. As an outstanding shortstop for most of his career, he has played the game of softball for more than 38 years including stints in the Law Enforcement Police softball program and most notably the championship Nothdurft softball teams.

McDowell was a member of the Nothdurft teams that captured four national titles where he was selected to four All-American teams as a first basemen. He also was selected as the tournament Most Valuable Player honor in 1992 when Nothdurft won the 35 & over Masters tournament in Troy. McDowell batted an impressive .694 during his infamous years with Nothdurft. He was also voted as the top Law Enforcement softball player of the first 25 years of police softball. Mike was inducted into the Police softball Hall of Fame in 2007.

**EVELYN MICOL,**
**MERITORIOUS SERVICE**

Micol has done it all for softball – been a promoter of the game, played fast pitch softball, and continues to serve on local boards.

Micol began her career in 1951 playing fast pitch softball for East Side Sports and Farmington Hills. She became involved with the Mic-Mac Club of Detroit coaching and managing youth groups, eventually becoming the Director of Girls Sports. Micol worked with the MDASA board back in the late 60’s to develop the youth program. She worked closely with Hall of Famer Dick Collard to promote the youth program in Waterford and eventually grew the MDASA program.

**DENNIS TROSHAK,**
**MERITORIOUS SERVICE**

Dennis Troshak has been involved with softball for more than 30 years in many capacities – an umpire, player, softball administrator and board member for Metro Detroit ASA. He served as Metro Detroit’s President in 1994.

Troshak has been an ASA registered umpire since 1980 and has umpired in three ASA national tournaments. He was also selected to the ASA National Indicator Fraternity in 2002. Troshak has also played in three Class A national slow pitch tournaments.
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— Ron Radigonda, Executive Director of ASA

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Hooters Champs crowned in OKC

The National Championship games of the Hooters Championship Series (HCS) presented by Worth capped off an exciting weekend of the best-of-the-best slow pitch at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City. Titles were decided October 1-3 in Men’s Class B, C and D.

**BSM Sports of Deerfield Beach, Fla., claims Class B title**

Eastern Champions BSM Sports of Deerfield Beach, Fla., completed a three-game sweep of Sonny’s Softball (Casper, Wy.) Saturday, claiming the Men’s Class B title with a decisive 21 to 11 run-rule victory. A best-of-five series, BSM was led by Most Valuable Player pitcher Jerry Molloy who tossed all three victories for the National Champions. Shortstop Randy Vollmer tallied a strong weekend offensive performance for BSM batting .733 (11-for-15) with 10 RBI and 11 runs scored.

“It feels great to be the MVP of this tournament but I couldn't do it without all of the guys behind me. I wouldn't be possible without them. I'm very proud of our team for the great effort that we all put into becoming National Champions,” Molloy said. “I think this is the best softball tournament in the country. I will 100-percent be back here going for another National Championship next year. I wouldn't miss it.”

With a 2-0 series lead after Friday’s play, BSM opened the Championship Game with a combined 18 runs in the first two innings and never looked back. Sonny’s tried to chip away at the BSM lead but failed as the defense of the eventual champions prevailed for the title.

BSM’s Chad Durick and Steve Allen each tallied two home runs apiece and five RBI while extra hitter Randy Burnett led the way with a 4-for-4 performance. Four BSM players saw double-digit RBI totals for the weekend with Brian Millstead leading the group with 12.

**West Coast Blaze takes Class C title in dramatic fashion**

The West Coast Blaze/Swegs/Sancho’s/Easton of Highland, Calif. Will be traveling back west with some well-earned hardware after claiming the ASA Men’s Class C National title on Sunday morning. With a bottom of the 8th walk off sacrifice fly out from tournament MVP Billy Zapata (Norwalk, Calif.), West Coast claimed the title with a 12-11 over Pope/M&L/Commission/Shockers/KA (Chicago, Ill.).

“The win was a great victory for us,” said Tommy Garcia, head coach of the West Coast Blaze. “We played hard together as a team all year long. We always had guys missing but our subs really picked us up. We always came through as a team, whether we won or loss, we always celebrated together and enjoyed each others company. Playing in this tournament has meant everything for us and for me. It has been our goal for ten years and I can’t really explain what it truly means; this is the ultimate for us.”

West Coast jumped ahead early with a 10-1 lead after two innings but a seven-run fourth inning for loser’s bracket representative Pope/M&L kept the hope alive to force the if-game. Heading into the seventh West Coast just needed three outs to seal the victory but Pope’s Steven Briggs notched in a single and Matthew Rear connected on a very timely home run to lock the game at 11-11.

West Coast put two runners on in the bottom of the seventh, but a Pope double play forced the game into extra innings. Pope/M&L looked to stay alive but the defense of West Blaze prevailed bringing the 11-all score to the bottom of the 8th. Back-to-back singles from Carlos and Ronnie Vasquez kick started the winning effort before the eventual sacrifice fly out to centerfield from Zapata crowned the champions.

**Team Dynasty/G4G claims Class D with “if” necessary win**

When No. 1 Team Dynasty/G4G came to the ASA Hall of Fame Complex on Sunday, the team was only one loss away from elimination in the Men’s Class D tournament. The team ended the day with the National Championship after three wins, bringing the title home to Marietta, Ga.

No. 2 Vintrans/HIG, the team that automatically qualified to the Championship Game by going undefeated Saturday, proved no match for Team Dynasty. They lost 17-13 in the first matchup Sunday, forcing the “if necessary” Championship Game. With Craig Davis contributing three RBI and both Jeremy Holmes and Jason Mercer notching two, Team Dynasty easily rolled to a 13-3 victory, securing the National Championship.

“We’ve had an unbelievable, special year this year,” said Greg Millsaps, one of Team Dynasty’s coaches. “We’ve won three World Titles this year now, this is our third, and undoubtedly this is the best of all. The ASA is the granddaddy of all the associations. This is definitely the one we were striving to win from the beginning of this year. We finished third in the [2009 qualifier] and didn’t get to come here. Our goal this year was to come here to Oklahoma. We appreciate everything that the ASA has done.”

JR Vanderiest led Team Dynasty in the tournament, nabbing the MVP honors. He went 14-for-19 (.737) with five triples and a double for a slugging percentage of 1.316. Vanderiest also had nine RBI and 11 runs scored.

Team Dynasty defeated No. 3 Oregon Outlaws 18-16 to start the morning, sending the Outlaws packing for Keizer, Ore. The Outlaws had a big performance in the top of the seventh, scoring four off an Adams RBI double, a Townsend sacrifice hit and an F. Nanez single but it was not enough to overcome the top seed.
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All-Army women
go 8-0 at Armed
Forces Softball
Championships

The undefeated All-Army women
group won eight games and put six
players on the all-tournament team
at the 2010 Armed Forces Softball
Championships Sept. 19-23.

Sgt. Windy Klein of Fort Hood,
Texas, pitched and batted a
tournament-high .545 to lead All-
Army (8-0) against All-Air Force (3-5)
and All-Navy (1-7). She was joined
on the all-tournament squad by
teammates Spc. Ashley Caswell of
Fort Bragg, N.C.; Staff Sgt. Shaqina
Smith of Camp Casey, Korea; Sgt.
April McGarity of Fort Sam Houston,
Texas; Spc. Jenna Martin of Fort
Hood, Texas; and Capt. Lindsey
Gerheim of Fort Campbell, Ky.

The young All-Army women’s
team, with an average age of 24,
won with solid defense and timely
hitting. They opened Sunday with
a 5-0 victory over Air Force and a
14-0 shutout of Navy, followed by
a 3-1 win over Air Force and a 6-1
conquest of Navy on Monday. They
only allowed two runs in their first
four games – in slow-pitch softball.

“Our shortstop, Jenna Martin, was
just huge going in the hole and
making double plays, backhanding
balls, and throwing runners out
by two and three steps,” All-Army
women’s manager Sgt. 1st Class
Rob Bailey III said. “And our pitcher,
Windy Klein, listens real well and
makes adjustments. We just play
good defense and put enough runs
across.”

By noon Tuesday, All-Army had
secured the gold medal with a 7-3
victory over three-time defending
champion All-Air Force. Klein shook
off a bruised ankle, earned her
fifth victory on the mound, and
delivered two run-scoring hits.

The score was tied 3-3 in the
sixth when Smith and pinch-hitters
Nichole Flory of Fort Jackson, S.C.,
and Tammy White-McKnight of Fort
Meade, Md., delivered consecutive
hits.

Caswell, 20, a converted shortstop
who has played only eight months
of slow-pitch softball, anchored the
All-Army infield at first base.

“Her glove is lights out,” Bailey
said, “and she soaks everything up
like a sponge. She listens and takes
everything in, and keeps getting
better and better.”

Caswell did not realize she had
helped secure the gold medal until
coaches let her know.

“No we have another goal: to go
8-0,” she said. “I think we’ll hit better
now that the pressure is off. It feels
pretty good, I guess, to win the
gold. Everybody gets to celebrate.”

McGarity, 29, a diet tech at
Brooke Army Medical Center in San
Antonio, patrolled left field.

“Our defense is very tight,” she
said. “Even if there’s a dropped
ball or an overthrow, we back
each other up and we keep each
other up. We’re just taking care of
business.”

Bailey, the Army’s 2005 Coach of
the Year stationed at Fort Leonard
Wood, Mo., was assisted by Sgt. 1st
Class Eric Jackson of Fort Meade.

“You look at our lineup, and 10 of
the 15 have been deployed,” Bailey
said. “They know what it takes.

They’re resilient.”

White-McKnight, 40, who
reported directly to generals during
two deployments in Korea, spent a
decade trying to get to the All-Army
softball tryout camp.

“My job came first,” she explained.
“T’ve had some jobs where I was in
key leadership positions, and I get
paid to be a master sergeant, not to
be a softball player.”

White-McKnight tipped her cap
to CW3 Roberta Cortez for signing
off her All-Army packet before
leaving Fort Meade for Fort Hood.

“To actually get to camp was a
great experience,” McKnight said.
“Once I got there and saw how
young the girls were, the pressure
was on to compete at their level.”

White-McKnight, who teammates
called ‘Grandma’ or ‘Momma,’ was
the first rookie to be named co-
captain of the All-Army women’s
squad. She played in five games
and had the second-highest batting
average (.500) on the team.

“Now, when I hang my cleats
up, I don’t have to go ‘would’ve,
could’ve, should’ve,’” said White-
McKnight, an assistant coach for
the women’s post-level team at Fort
Meade. “I don’t have to look back
and say ‘what if?’ It’s been a great
experience to compete with these
youngsters and realize that I’ve still
got something to contribute.”

Two more All-Army players –
Pfc. Trina McGee of Camp Henry,
Korea, and Sgt. Shannika Taylor of
Camp Stanley, Korea – joined the
Armed Forces All-Tournament Team
members on the U.S. All-Armed
Forces Team, which competed Sept.
30-Oct. 4 at the 2010 Women’s
Open National Championships in
Oklahoma City. Armed Forces went
1-2 at the event.
ASA, Clubspaces extend relationship through 2012

Building on the success of previous years, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and Active Network, with its Clubspaces product, have decided to extend their relationship into the 2012 season. Active’s Clubspaces provides ASA leagues with a free website, integrated online registration, and league management tools that include schedule creation and score/stat tracking. Plus, ASA and Active are currently collaborating to ensure that roster and player data will pass seamlessly from Clubspaces to ASA’s membership database.

Visit http://sports.clubspaces.com/asa/ to sign up today.

Organizers use Clubspaces to connect with players, parents and communities, while easily managing the day-to-day details of each association, league or team. The software is sophisticated and robust, but so simple that any new volunteer can pick up the system in a few hours. With the help of Active’s software and online communities, ASA can streamline operations and drive participation.

“ASA is thrilled to offer Clubspaces to all of our members,” said Ron Radigonda, Executive Director of ASA. “We truly believe that leagues that use Clubspaces will find it dramatically easier to manage their league, saving time and resources. Clubspaces is ideal for all ASA leagues.”

“We are proud to be partnered with the ASA organization,” Duncan Jackson, vice president of strategic partnerships at Active Network said. “With Clubspaces, associations and leagues can build a website to recruit members; register players and create teams; publish schedules; record stats; and share photos all within one co-branded platform. Clubspaces can have a website up and running in a few minutes and it’s free.”

With a shared message of wellness and the benefits of physical activity, ASA and Active Network are committed to finding solutions to help grow participation and improve the overall experience of the players.

Enough Said

Enough Said went undefeated with a 3-0 record to claim the ASA Women’s Open National Championship title defeating Derby Girls/Combat (3-2), 12-4, in the title game. Enough Said worked its way through the winner’s bracket with two wins against Derby Girls, the Championship victory and 18-7 victory, and a 7-5 win over Armed Forces.

Click here for the list of All-Americans and individuals honored for their tournament play.

Enough Said earned its spot in the Championship Game after defeating Armed Forces 7-5. Armed Forces and Derby Girls/Combat then met up to avoid elimination and earn a spot in the title game.

Derby Girls staved off elimination defeating the Armed Forces 18-15. The Derby Girls took an early 11-2 lead in the first and would hold the lead the entire game. The Armed Forces wouldn’t go down without a fight scoring four runs in the top of the seventh to threaten but the Derby Girls held their lead for the win. Misty Smith of the Derby Girls was 2-for-3 with four RBI to lead the team. With a victory, the Derby Girls moved on to face Enough Said for the Championship game.

Enough Said and Derby Girls both put a run up in the first with Enough Said scoring three more in the third to take the lead of which they would never give up. It looked like the Derby Girls would cut the lead in the sixth when they loaded up the bases. However a fly out left runners stranded.

Enough Said scored three unanswered runs in the top of the seventh to take away a 12-4 victory and National Championship performance for the second consecutive year. Nikki Hall, who was later named the Batting Champion, was ecstatic about the weekend and very thankful to her teammate, coach and the ASA. Hall finished the tournament 9-for-11 with six runs scored and five RBI, hitting .818.

“The chemistry of our team is the key to our success,” Hall said. “We’ve never let each other down and we always pick each other up. That’s the key to our success. I am just so surprised by my success this weekend. I have been in slump the past three tournaments and what better time to perform than the ASA nationals. Everything worked out so well and I am just so appreciative. I cannot even express how great it is. I want ot give out hugs to the organization, my coaches and teammates. Mostly my teammates who I owe it all to. They have picked me up my entire season and I have to thank them for everything. It was a great and one-of-a-kind experience. I can’t thank everyone enough.”

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THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY OF SOFTBALL
Dan Smith wins Men’s Class A title

Dan Smith/Menosse/SHIRTSandLOGOS.com may have entered the weekend with a first game 41-40 disappointing loss, but it didn’t matter because they proceeded to win eight consecutive games in capturing its first ASA Men’s Class A Slow Pitch National title on Sunday afternoon. The 2010 Champions capped the impressive performance by winning three games on Sunday, including beating defending champion Long Haul Trucking twice, 36-21 and 37-24 at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City.

Click here for a list of All-Americans and individuals honored for their tournament play.

How impressive was Dan Smith’s performance? Very impressive because in nine games they scored 339 runs and allowed 217 and smashed 65 homers with Brian Wegman, Dan Smith/Menosse/shirts&logos.com middle infielder, leading the way with 12 dingers and 47 RBI. Wegman was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player and sparkled on defense as well on offense (.804). Dan Smith compiled a team batting average of .705 while their opponents batted .601. Wegman was also the tournament home run champion with 12 total.

“Today was awesome. To win the three games that we won is phenomenal,” said Wegman. “The whole team aspect after losing the first game, coming all the way through, it was great. We didn’t leave the park from 6:30 yesterday morning until 2 a.m. and we were back at it at 6 a.m. It was a team effort. We had a lot of fun doing it.”

“It’s an awesome atmosphere,” Wegman said. “ASA does a great job running this tournament. With the facility, you can’t ask for anything more. The teams, and the competitiveness as far as the teams go, makes it an awesome experience.”

While Dan Smith had to battle its way through the loser’s bracket, including winning five games on Saturday, Long Haul won its first four games in the winners’ bracket before dropping consecutive games on Sunday. Besides hoping to repeat, Long Haul was seeking its fourth ASA Men’s Class A National title overall with previous titles in 2005 and 2007 plus a second in 2006 and a fourth in 2008. Since 2005, Long Haul has fashioned a 25-7 record in the ASA Men’s Class A Slow Pitch National Championship.

If there were keys to Dan Smith winning, it was because they scored runs in bunches, thus not wasting their home runs, (limit of eight per game) and used the “big” inning to their advantage. In two of Sunday’s games, Dan Smith trailed early before using the “big” inning to seize the lead for good.

In the “if necessary” game on Sunday, Dan Smith held a one run lead, 9-8, after three innings before scoring seven runs in the fourth while Long Haul went scoreless in the bottom of the third and fourth innings before getting untracked offensively with 16 runs in the last three innings. Dan Smith, however, scored 21 runs in the last three innings including 11 in the sixth inning. Dan Smith had 41 hits, Long Haul 25 in the “if necessary” game.

In the first championship game, Dan Smith again used the third inning to take command of the game in handing Long Haul its first loss and force the if necessary game to determine the 2010 champion.

Trailing 15-7 after Long Haul (4-1) opened the game with a 11 run first inning, Dan Smith (7-1) exploded for 14 runs on 13 hits in the bottom of the third to take a 21-14 lead and was never threatened the remainder of the game. That was because Long Haul never scored more than four runs per inning the remainder of the game and although it reached the eight homer limit half of them came in the first inning.

Dan Smith, meanwhile, conserved its homers and reached the eight home run limit in the sixth inning when the game was stopped on the run rule, 36-21. Only two of its eight homers were solo shots.

Dan Smith collected 39 hits, Long Haul 25. Pitcher Geno Buck had three of Dan Smith eight homers and drove in nine runs in collecting four hits in five at-bats. Jeremy Isenhower had seven RBI for Long Haul with three hits in four at-bats.

In the loser’s bracket final, the third inning proved to be the difference in the game. Dan Smith trailed 15-8 entering the bottom half of the frame. When the inning was completed, Dan Smith had turned a seven run deficit into a 14-run advantage, 29-15, scoring 21 times on 18 hits. Dan Smith added 11 runs in the bottom of the fourth to expand its lead to 40-21 before ending the game on the run rule after FBI/Gametime Supply (3-2) scored twice in the top of the fifth. It was Dan Smith’s sixth consecutive win in the loser’s bracket and second run rule win.

In the loser’s bracket game, Dan Smith collected 35 hits to 21 for FBI. Brett Helmer (4-for-5) drove in eight runs, Rick Baker and Jeff McGavin tallied five each to lead Dan Smith. McGavin, Baker and pitcher Geno Buck hit two homers apiece. Centerfielder Tim Howard led FBI, driving in three runs in a four-for-four performance.

For photos and videos from the Men’s Class A National Championship, visit www.facebook.com/asausasoftball.
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ASA seeking four commissioners

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA), a volunteer driven, not-for-profit organization, is seeking applicants for the position of Commissioner for the Oklahoma ASA, Seattle-Tacoma ASA, Texas ASA and Utah ASA associations.

The ASA Commissioner should be an individual who is interested in serving as the principal liaison between the local association and the ASA National Office. Those interested in the complete duties of an ASA Commissioner may review them on the ASA website at ASASoftball.com under the About ASA section and ASA Code Article 305.

A panel will interview and make their recommendation of an interim commissioner to the ASA Board of Directors for confirmation. If a qualified candidate is not appointed by the next ASA Council Meeting, the Board of Directors will make a recommendation to the entire Council regarding whether or not the association is to be merged with another.

The ASA was founded in 1933 and has evolved into the strongest softball organization in the country. The growth and development of the association led the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) to name the ASA as the National Governing Body of Softball, pursuant to the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

Individuals interested in serving as the ASA Commissioner for the Oklahoma ASA association should forward a resume to:

Amateur Softball Association
c/o Craig Cress,
Director of Membership Services
2801 NE 50th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
E-mail: ccress@softball.org
Fax: 405-424-3855
Résumé’s must be received at the National Office by October 19 for the Oklahoma and Seattle-Tacoma positions, October 20 for the Texas position and October 26 for the Utah position.

Any questions regarding the commissioner positions should be directed to Craig Cress, Director of Membership Services for the Amateur Softball Association.

NFCA honors 16-under OC Batbusters coaches

Head coaches Jesse Martinson and Doug Myers and assistant coaches John Petrie, Steve Amaya, Steve Harrington and Ed Kelly of the Orange County Batbusters 16U (Calif.) have been named as the 2010 National Fastpitch Coaches Association Travel Ball National Coaching Staff of the Year, the Association announced on Thursday.

Martinson and Myers piloted the Batbusters to one of the most successful seasons not only in club history, but nationally as well. After finishing in fourth place at the ASA California State tournament to begin the year, the team went undefeated in bracket play at three high-profile national tournaments. The Batbusters claimed titles at the Colorado Fireworks tournament, the ASA / USA Girls’ Class A 16-Under Fast Pitch National Championship and the first-ever ESPN Rise National Softball Championship.

“This has been one of the most ‘complete’ teams we have ever coached,” said Martinson. “Good pitching, excellent speed and solid defense made this a fun team to watch.”

Many of the players on this year’s Batbuster squad have already committed to college programs throughout the nation.

The Batbusters were selected by a vote of NFCA member travel ball coaches across the country from a list of 16 finalists. The list of finalists was compiled from nominations that were submitted by member coaches to the NFCA.

USA Softball Coaching School scheduled for November

The Maryland-DC Amateur Softball Association is hosting a USA Softball Coaching School in Kent Island, Md., Nov. 19-21. The school features an award winning staff including USA Softball Assistant Coach Ken Eriksen. Clinics will also be held during that time, including a catching clinic with Olympic Silver Medalist Lauren Lappin. Click here for a flyer with morece information.

Additional USA Softball Coaching Schools, including the National Coaching School presented by Liberty Mutual, and clinics will be announced at a later date.