A note from Amateur Softball Association President Andy Dooley

My term as Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America president is quickly coming to an end. It was an honor to serve this organization for the last two years. Hopefully, I have made a positive and lasting impact on ASA/USA Softball. I know that I could not do it without the other great people involved in this organization.

Many local associations welcomed me to their meetings, tournaments and other events during the past two years. I cannot thank them enough for their kindness. I appreciate the opportunity to communicate with and learn from our members. It makes our organization stronger.

Thank you to the Board of Directors for their confidence throughout my term. And thank you to the board for being positive in their actions the last two years. Whether it be approving or recommending equipment standards, playing rules or tournament restructuring, our board has always tried to improve our organization.

Our National Office has also worked hard to make ASA/USA Softball better. The ACE (Achieve, Certify, Educate) Coaching Certification Program and RegisterASA are two things that help our organization. Our marketing and communications department has done a fine job bringing ASA/USA Softball into the new media arena. Over 65,000 people communicate with us on Facebook and 14,000 on Twitter.

I am excited about the accomplishments of our organization over the past two years. And I am looking forward to serving on the board as immediate past president for the next two years. I will continue to be active locally and nationally, assisting wherever the need arises.

No matter who is the president of our organization, I encourage each of you to do something good for ASA Softball every day. Let’s continue to move our organization forward.

Thank you to everyone who has allowed me to serve as president. It has been a great pleasure to work with all of you. I appreciate the opportunity.

See you in Myrtle Beach.

PAN AM GLORY
USA Softball program claims seventh straight title

GUADALAJARA, Mexico – With a Pan American Games roster full of 17 rookies, the USA Softball Women’s National team recorded the program’s eighth Pan American Games gold medal with an 11-1 run-rule victory over Canada. In four innings, the U.S. put up 11 hits and completed the tournament with a perfect 9-0 record. As a team, they hit an impressive .428 throughout the week outscoring opponents 78-8. The pitching staff held opponents to a .145 batted average and recorded five shutout victories.

“With this new team we had to go out and find the best people that we could find to make a team, not necessarily the best players,” said head coach Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla.) “I know that we have the best 17 that make up a great team. The aspect of change for this program in 2011 was to find the right mix and I feel like we did that pretty well. I congratulate each and every player for a job well done.”


“This is simply just a great feeling to win and represent the United States” said Stacey May-Johnson (Reno, Nev.) May-Johnson finished the tournament hitting .522 with a team leading 12 RBI. In the gold medal game, the third baseman was 2-for-3 with two RBI followed by Molly Johnson (Tucson, Ariz.) who was 2-for-2 with one RBI.

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A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Jamie Blanchard

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

The October issue marks my last as Inside Pitch editor, after two years overseeing the publication. Codi Martinez, who will become Codi Warren in less than a week, is taking over the editor role as I transition to the role of editor of Balls and Strikes Online Magazine, our quarterly publication.

Codi started at the National Office earlier this month as the new Coordinator of Marketing and Communications. Over the summer, she worked as an intern at the National Office and we’re very excited to now have her in a permanent position.

She will primarily oversee the ASA Softball website, administer the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum and serve as “Inside Pitch” newsletter editor in addition to assisting in marketing and communication initiatives.

To learn more about her and her duties, turn to page 21 of this issue.

If you would like to submit stories and photos for future Inside Pitch issues, please send them to Codi at cwarren@softball.org. Keep an eye open for her emails regarding submissions.

In just a few days, we are heading to Myrtle Beach, S.C., for the 80th Annual Council Meeting. In between meetings, I hope you find time to attend Saturday’s trade show, Monday’s ASA Awards Luncheon presented by Wilson Sporting Goods and Wednesday’s National Softball Hall of Fame Induction Banquet.

I also hope that you have time to stop by the ASA Office and touch base with me or our Director of Marketing and Communications Julie Bartel. We are very interested in hearing your opinions on our marketing and communications efforts, like this newsletter, and how we may be able to better help you in 2012.

Wishing you safe travels.

ISF brings XXV Congress to Oklahoma City Oct. 27-30

Four busy days of softball business concluded Oct. 30 at the International Softball Federation’s XXV Congress in Oklahoma City, marking the first time in ten years that the event has taken place in the United States. Delegates from exactly 70 countries were on-hand for meetings covering both on- and off-field activity.

The adjournment of the meeting at the Oklahoma City Marriott was preceded by the awarding of the next ISF Congress (2013). In electronic balloting, Cartagena, Colombia, won a close vote over Prague, Czech Republic.

The day began with a presentation by International World Games Association President Ron Froelich, who talked about the multi-sport event that softball (women’s fast pitch) was a part of in 2009 (Taiwan) and will again be on the programme of in two years (Cali, Colombia). Mr. Froelich is also a member of the International Olympic Committee’s Programme Commission and made remarks during a forum yesterday on softball’s Olympic reinstatement efforts, as one of the eight sports on the shortlist announced this past July by the IOC for the 2013 vote on the 2020 Games Programme.

Following Mr. Froelich’s presentation, the delegates heard from representatives of Special Olympics, with whom the ISF signed a partnership agreement in June. ISF President Don Porter and ISF 1st Vice President Dale McMann then awarded the ISF Medal of Honor – the highest recognition given by the world governing body – to Special Olympics, who was represented by Samantha Powell, a Special Olympics softball athlete from Oklahoma City, in accepting the honor.

The Congress also gave their support to the continuation of talks with the International Baseball Federation to explore the possibility of a joint Olympic reinstatement bid.

In addition to the next Congress, other host cities chosen for future ISF events were Haarlem, Netherlands (2014 Women’s World Championship), Whitehorse, Yukon (Canada) (2014 Jr. Men’s World Championship), and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (Canada) (2015 Men’s World Championship).

South Africa, the host of next month’s ISF IX Jr. Women’s World Championship (19-and-under, fast pitch), also gave a presentation today, updating the delegates on the progress of the 16-nation tournament that gets underway in 36 days.
Being a family member of Team USA has its benefits.

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Lefty Keilani Ricketts (San Jose, Calif.) earned her fourth win of the tournament entering in relief in the gold medal game. She tallied a team-leading 22 strikeouts in 16.1 innings pitched over the week with a .43 ERA.

“It was great to come out and win all of our games here,” said Ricketts. “Our defense and offense was working hard every single game and it is a pitchers dream to have that behind you. This gold medal is what we have worked really hard for at the Pan Ams. It is great that all of our hard work all summer has paid off here in Mexico.”

Canada put a runner in scoring position right away in the top of the first inning when Melanie Matthews reached on a walk issued by starting pitcher Jordan Taylor (Valencia, Calif.). A stolen base advanced Matthews before Jen Yee also earned a base on balls. But Taylor shut down the momentum with a strikeout and groundout to head to the dugout.

With two outs in the first, Lauren Gibson (Pasadena, Md.) completely sent a rocket to dead centerfield in the bottom of the first for the 1-0 lead. The home run was the seventh for Team USA in the Pan Ams and a first for Gibson.

Canada came right back at the U.S. in the top of the second inning tying the game 1-1 when Victoria Hayward drove an RBI base hit through the left side scoring Heather Ebert who earlier reached on a walk. With two Canadian runners on and one out, the U.S. called for relief and Ricketts entered the circle.

A heads up play by shortstop M. Johnson who threw the ball to catcher Ashley Holcombe (Buford, Ga.) at home plate recorded out No. 2 before Stacy May-Johnson (Reno, Nev.) snagged a ground out to halt the Canadian threat.

Kaitlin Cochran (Yorba Linda, Calif.) was hit by a pitch to start the second inning and moved 60 feet with a stolen base, her second of the week. Jenae Leles (Sacramento, Calif.) then moved her to third with a ground out and Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif.) drove in the go-head run with an RBI triple for the 2-1 advantage. M. Johnson then roped her first of two hits in the game moving Arioto to home and the solid 3-1 lead.

With bases loaded in the bottom of the third thanks to a Moultrie bunt single, R. Taylor reaching on a Canadian throwing error and an intentional walk to Gibson, May-Johnson made Canada pay connecting on a two RBI line drive single through the left side for the 5-1 difference. The runs kept coming as Leles drove in her eighth hit of the Pan Ams for two RBI and a 7-1 comfortable lead.

The U.S. wasn’t satisfied again in the fourth as they added four more runs for the eventual 11-1 walk-off run rule victory. Pinch runner Taylor Hoagland (Flower Mound, Texas) scored on a throwing error by the Canadian catcher, pinch hitter Christi Orgeron (New Orleans, La.) doubled for an RBI and also scored on a fielder’s choice. Kelly Grieve (Ashville, N.C.) was responsible for the final RBI of the game that sealed the gold medal as she hit the ball hard to left field scoring Gibson for the win.

Canada recorded just three hits in the contest and finished the tournament at 7-3 overall earning the silver medal. Cuba also shared the podium with the bronze medal after falling to Canada 4-0 in the morning.

The U.S. will break for the holidays and return in January 2012 for a selection camp for the 2012 World Championship team.

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**Pan American Games shirts for sale at SoftballOutlet.com**

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America unveiled a limited edition T-shirt celebrating the 2011 USA Softball Women’s National Team gold medal victory at the Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. For sale now at SoftballOutlet.com for $18 and available at the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum gift shop in Oklahoma City, the shirt features the names and hometowns of all 17 Pan American Games Champions and four coaches.

With a Pan American Games roster full of 17 rookies, the USA Softball Women’s National Team recorded the program’s eighth Pan American Games gold medal Sunday with an 11-1 run-rule victory over Canada. In four innings, Team USA put up 11 hits and completed the tournament with a perfect 9-0 record. As a team, they hit an impressive .428 throughout the week outsoring opponents 78-8. The pitching staff held opponents to a .145 batting average and recorded five shutout victories.

“With this new team we had to go out and find the best people that we could find to make a team, not necessarily the best players,” said Ken Eriksen, who is in his first year as head coach of the USA Softball Women’s National Team. “I know that we have the best 17 that make up a great team. The aspect of change for this program in 2011 was to find the right mix and I feel like we did that pretty well. I congratulate each and every player for a job well done.”


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ASA/USA Softball donates $6,400 to Komen

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America/USA Softball donated $6,400 to Susan G. Komen for the Cure® of Central and Western Oklahoma on Oct. 15 following the Race for the Cure in Oklahoma City. The money, raised by an eBay auction of pink items used by athletes throughout the years, is part of the long history of raising funds for breast cancer research.

Our donation Saturday is just one of many our local associations make to this cause throughout the year. The USA Softball Women’s National Team donned pink uniforms in a “Pink Out” games during the World Cup in Oklahoma City to honor breast cancer survivors and create awareness for breast cancer research. In September, more than 20 items went up for bid on eBay, including not only the game worn jerseys of the 19 National Team athletes, but also a team signed bat, helmet, photo and poster.

“Considering we have an entirely new team with all but three of us making our first National Team this year, we are all really pleased by the outcome of the auction,” said Molly Johnson (Tucson, Ariz.). “Any donation really helps the cause and we’re proud to help make a $6,400 donation possible with the auction of our jerseys. So many people are affected by this disease and assisting the Susan G. Komen with this donation is the very least that we can do.”

Pink items worn and used by USA athletes throughout the past four years are permanently on display at the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum in Oklahoma City.

2011 USA Softball Men’s Fast Pitch National Team named

Seventeen athletes have been named to the 2011 USA Softball Men’s Fast Pitch National Team, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced today. The athletes, selected for the team by the Men’s Fast Pitch National Team Selection Committee based on previous ASA and USA Softball play, represent 12 states and the Six Nation Indian Reservation.


The members of the 2011 USA Softball Men’s Fast Pitch National Team: Kevin Castillo (Sapulpa, Okla.); Tommy Crouch (DeKalb, Ill.); Roman Foore (Rosemont, Minn.); Jaime Garcia, Jr. (Kansas City, Kan.); Josh Johnson (Bay Minette, Ala.); Mike Joseph (Six Nation Indian Reservation, Ontario, Canada); Sean Kelly (Marshall, Mich.); Trevor Kelly (Marshall, Mich.); *Adam LaLonde (Ashland, Ky.); *Tyrion McKinney (Louisville, Ky.); *Blake Miller (Eugene, Ore.); *Matt Palazzo (Pleasant Hill, Iowa); *Travis Price (Corona, Calif.); Robert Rosthenhausler (Tucson, Ariz.); *Marcus Tan (Union City, Calif.); *Chase Turner (San Jose, Calif.); and Zach Warne (Sioux Falls, S.D.).

Seven members (*) have previous USA Softball Men’s Fast Pitch National Team experience. McKinney was also a member of the 1997 Junior Men’s Fast Pitch National Team while Castillo and Warne were on the 2005 Junior Men’s roster.

“Although we have selected a young team to represent us at the qualifier, we as a committee believe it was a necessity to grow our program and our overall depth,” said Head Coach Peter Turner (Stockton, Calif./Head Coach San Jose State University). “I believe we have the talent to compete at the highest level and my staff and I look forward to guiding this team to the top of the podium.”

Turner has been leading the program since 2002, when Team USA Won the gold medal at the Pan American Men’s Softball Championship in Guatemala. Joining Turner on the coaching staff are assistant coaches Thad Brown (Modesto, Calif./Volunteer Assistant Coach San Jose State University) and Avon Meacham (Upper Marlboro, Md.). The three coaches also comprised the staff for the 2009 Worlds, where Team USA finished one game short of the medals.
New Mexico ASA raises awareness for breast cancer

The New Mexico Amateur Softball Association (ASA) held the “Don’t Let Cancer Steal Second Base” tournament earlier this month with 30 teams from Arizona, New Mexico and Texas participating.

Teams came out in a variety of pink outfits that featured pink bows, ribbons, socks and spirit sleeves, along with some athletes in pink uniforms. The 10, 12 and 14-Under girls played from 8 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday to get their games in. All three divisions went to an “if” game.

The winners of the 10U title were the Suncats of Arizona while Silver City Crush of New Mexico picked up the victory in the 12U and Texas Rattlers were 14U Champions. In each of the Championship Games, the eventual tournament winners were upset, forcing another game. The 10U Texas Extreme, 12U New Mexico Fire and 14U Stacked Deck were runners-up. “They were very good games with great competition,” said New Mexico ASA Commissioner Alice Cox.

“Sandra Grace”, a little pink fire engine, was also at the tournament. For a $5 donation, people could ride on her. Wally Monsiviez, who is a firefighter, brings “Sandra Grace” around the state to help bring awareness to breast cancer and raise funds for cancer research. Monsiviez is an ASA coach and also coached at the tournament.

Stacked Deck, the runners-up in the 14-Under division of the “Don’t Let Cancer Steal Second Base” tournament, pose for a team picture on “Sandra Grace”, a pink fire engine.

Metro Detroit ASA umpire knows the score in Wyandotte, Mich.

Wyandotte, Mich., is a suburb of Detroit and a community within the boundaries of Metro Detroit ASA. The recreation department in this city conducts a softball program at Memorial Park, which is a lighted field with a scoreboard. Unfortunately the 20-year-old scoreboard was not being used in recent years because it was rundown and needed parts. The city was looking for a sponsor to pay for one half of the cost of a new scoreboard. Steve Semetko, a long time city resident and ASA umpire, accepted the challenge.

Steve is an administrator in a local office of the Michigan Department of Human Services. He has played and umpired on that field since he was a kid. He figured it was time to give something back so he donated $2,500 to underwrite the cost of a new scoreboard. The city picked up the remainder of the cost and the scoreboard was installed this past June.

Steve says “A lot of people appreciate my generosity and the new scoreboard is a beautiful addition to the field. It is really nice.” The Superintendent of Recreation for Wyandotte, stated that the city appreciates Steve’s donation and noted that the scoreboard is not only used for ASA play but is also available for youth leagues and high school games.

Steve is a lifelong resident of Wyandotte who has been involved in athletics for fifty years and umpired for more than thirty years. He umpires at Memorial Park every week throughout the softball season. He is paid $20 per game to call balls and strikes and jokes that he will be umpiring a long time to pay for his expensive donation. Steve will be recognized for his dedication to the MDASA umpire program at the annual MDASA Umpire Awards Breakfast in March 2012. A longtime friend said “Steve must feel proud every time he looks up at the scoreboard”. Metro Detroit ASA is proud of Steve Semetko.

Steve Semetko, an umpire for Metro Detroit ASA, recently donated $2,500 to help Wyandotte, Mich., purchase a scoreboard.
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The James I. Moyer Sports Complex in Salem, Va., has been selected as the 2011 Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America Complex of the Year presented by Stabilizer Solutions, Inc., the ASA announced Oct. 6. In addition to receiving the award at ASA’s 80th National Council Meeting next month in Myrtle Beach, S.C., the Moyer Complex (1000 Union Street) will also receive approximately $2,000 in field maintenance products from Stabilizer Solutions.

“We are extremely honored and humbled to receive this national award from the ASA. It is truly a reflection of not only our dedicated staff at the Moyer Complex, but also the relationship we have cultivated over the years with the folks at ASA,” said John Shaner, Salem Parks and Recreation Director. “We both try to go out of our way to put the players and the game of softball first, and this type of recognition shows that our hard work pays off. The City of Salem is very appreciative of his honor.”


In June 2011, the Moyer Complex hosted training camps for the USA Softball Women’s National Team and the Junior Women’s National Team as they prepared for international play. Most recently, the Moyer Complex hosted the 2011 ASA Fast Pitch Girls’ Class A 10-Under, 12U and 16U Eastern National Championships and the ASA Slow Pitch Men’s Class D Eastern National Championship. The 2012 ASA Girls’ Class A 14U and 18U Fast Pitch Eastern National Championships, ASA Men’s Class C Fast Pitch East National Championship and the ASA Men’s Eastern Class C Slow Pitch National Championship are slated to be held in Salem, Va.

“When our events are hosted at the City of Salem Parks and Recreation Department’s James I. Moyer Sports Complex, we know that they will be conducted by a professional staff in a state of the art facility appropriate for our athletes, our coaches, our umpires and all of their supporters,” said ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “The James I. Moyer Sports Complex is extremely worthy of the ASA Complex of the Year designation. Congratulations to everyone involved with making the Moyer Complex one of the best destinations for our organization.”

In addition to hosting both ASA and USA Softball events, the Moyer Complex is home to the Salem High School Girls Fast Pitch Softball Team and the Roanoke College Softball Team and hosts a variety of other youth, high school, college and adult action. The NCAA Women’s Fast Pitch Softball National Championships for Division II and Division III and Old Dominion Athletic Conference tournaments have also been hosted at the facility.

“Usually sports fields are asked to meet the needs of one or two levels of play,” said Jon Hubbs, President of Stabilizer Solutions, Inc. “We are proud to recognize the James I. Moyer Sports Complex for taking on the challenge of satisfying all levels of play from youth to collegiate softball, a rare feat.”

The Moyer Complex boasts four fields, which are built around the three story Moyer Tower. The ground level of the Tower houses a permanent concession stand. Among the features of the second floor are the tournament headquarters and meeting space, both of which have phone and wireless Internet hook ups. The third floor of Tower houses the site supervisor’s office, public address (PA) announcers, official scorekeepers and clock operators. Audio units are located on Level 3, which enables playing the National Anthem or music on all four fields or on an individual field. There is also a master PA system which enables an override of all other PA systems.

The fields have a 50/30 lighting system, which is equal to the lighting for Triple A baseball stadiums. Each field is equipped with electronic scoreboards as well as permanent spectator seating with the option for additional portable grandstands. All fields are located near permanent men’s and women’s restrooms. For the convenience of athletes, coaches and umpires, all dugouts also have restrooms and water fountains. Dugouts are also equipped with intercom systems to the third floor of the Moyer Tower.

In addition to hosting softball, the facility also hosts baseball and soccer games throughout the year. The Moyer Complex has a large playground area with playground equipment, a basketball half-court, horseshoe pits, a volleyball court and a sheltered area with picnic tables and grills. A circular paved pathway outside of permanent fence that borders Moyer Complex and the Roanoke River can also be used for walking, jogging, and exercise trail for all ages.
Annihilation/PRI/Easton claims 2011 ASA Men’s Class A title

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America Slow Pitch Championship season came to a close Oct. 2 at ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City as three National Champions were crowned in the Men’s Class A, C and D divisions.

Annihilation/PRI/Easton (Lawrenceburg, Ind.) posted a large 25-5 run-rule victory over R&M/Troupe/Easton (Burlington, Iowa) and will have its place in the ASA record books as the 2011 National Championship team in Men’s Class A. Both Men’s Class C and D National titles will head to the west after West Coast Nitro/DeMarini (Highland, Calif.) claimed the title game in Class C and Softball Junkies/DeMarini (Citrus Heights, Calif.) earned the championship in Class D.

MEN’S CLASS A

Annihilation/PRI/Easton lived up to its nickname in sweeping through a 14-team field to capture the 2011 ASA Men’s Class A Slow Pitch National Championship Sunday at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium with a 25-5 run-rule win over R&M/Troupe/Easton.

R&M, which had come-from-behind to eliminate 2011 runner-up Long Haul earlier in the third place game, fell behind 10-1 after one inning against Annihilation and never recovered, scoring two runs each in the second and fourth innings and not scoring in the fourth inning. R&M collected only nine hits in the four-inning game and finished the double elimination tournament with a 3-2 record.

“I have played an ASA National every year since 1987 and I know I am old (smile),” said Brett Helmer, tournament MVP. “But to me I am always going to come out here and support and do this and we worked really hard to put a good team together. We got some great sponsorship and obviously the guys played great too. We played consistent and you have to be consistent to win championships. I could not be happier for the guys, everyone played well.”

After the 10-run first, Annihilation exploded for 15 runs on 18 hits in the second inning to put the game in the record book despite going scoreless in the third and fourth innings. Annihilation finished unbeaten in five games, scoring 142 runs to 59 for the opposition. It had 32 hits in the championship game with Greg Connell leading the offense with four hits in five trips and six RBI.

Geno Buck pitched all of the wins for Annihilation and marked the second year in a row he was a member of the ASA Class A National Championship team. In 2010, he hurled Dan Smith to the Class A National title. That team also included Brett Helmer, Brian Wegman and John Gallegos, who also were members of Annihilation.

Helmer and teammate Travis Clark captured two of the tourney’s top awards. MVP Helmer finished hitting .826 (19-for-23) with five home runs and 17 RBI. Clark was the tournament batting champion with a .864 average recording 19 hits, 15 runs scored and seven doubles.

“This is pretty important to me to be National Champions,” said Clark. “Last year I was here and my team got double-dipped and it was not as nice. This year Jerry brought us out here and it was nice and it is just a great feeling to win.”

Click here for information on the Men’s Class A All-American Team.

MEN’S CLASS C

West Coast Nitro/DeMarini claimed the Men’s Class C National Championship on Sunday morning with a 15-7 victory over Hustlers (Cadiz, Ky.). A back and forth game with three lead changes through the fourth inning, West Coast had just a narrow 7-6 lead heading into the fifth inning.

But their bats came alive posting five runs in the top of the sixth to pad the advantage to 12-6. David Rosales highlighted the inning with a triple while finishing the game going 3-for-4 with three RBI.

The Hustlers failed to muster a run in the sixth while West Coast knocked in three more runs in the top of the seventh. Hustlers tried to mount a comeback recording one run in the bottom of the seventh, but the defense of West Coast prevailed to earn them the title of “best of the best” in Men’s Class C.

The tournament’s Most Valuable Player was second baseman Raymond Alvarez who completed the tournament going 15-for-22 (.682) with one home run and two RBI.

“Our team is young with no experience in the beginning, but we fought through the whole year,” said Alvarez. “We battled through everything and we are a family. We just came together at the right time to win the championship and this is the best team I have played on so far.”

MEN’S CLASS D

The Softball Junkies/DeMarini (Citrus Heights, Calif.) will be traveling home with the 2011 Men’s Class D championship hardware after recording a 15-7 title game victory on Sunday morning against Boar’s Butt (Hackleburg, Ala.). Led by the offensive effort and pitching of tournament Most Valuable Player John Wheeler, the Junkies took command early with a 9-0 lead and never looked back.

“It is awesome to be champions,” said Wheeler. “We have a great team and it has been a long year. We just played good as a team and being MVP just shows what kind of team we have. This is probably the best team I have ever been on and I love my guys.”

The Junkies scored three runs in each of the first four innings for a solid 12-0 lead going into the fifth. It looked like a run-rule victory was coming, but Boar’s Butt rallied for seven runs in the bottom of the fifth making the game a little more interesting. Boar’s Butt posted its two allowed home runs that inning coming from Daniel Boyd and Doug Taylor.

But the pitching of Wheeler and the defense behind him held strong in the final outs taking home the 15-7 victory. Wheeler finished the tournament hitting .345 with 10 RBI and two home runs.

For complete results, stats, videos and photos from the Championships, visit www.asasoftball.com/tournaments/SlowPitchChampionshipSeries.asp.
Enough Said repeats as Women’s Open Champions

The 2011 ASA Women’s Open Slow Pitch National championship trophy landed in familiar hands on Saturday evening at ASA Hall of Fame Complex. Enough Said (Tallahassee, Fla.) defeated Armed Forces 16-2 in the “if necessary” game to capture back-to-back Women’s Open titles. Ending the day with a 3-1 record and outscoring its opponents 44-17, Enough Said was led by tournament All American, batting champion (.867) and Most Valuable Player Aree Jenkins. The outfielder went 13-for-15 with 10 runs scored, one home run and five RBI.

“We really had a great time at the tournament this weekend,” said Jenkins. “The fact that we were able to have fun and come back and play even stronger tonight says a lot about us. It showed what we stand for and what this team is all about. We stick together. We are a family and to come out on top was the best way to end the season.”

The All Armed Forces team forced the “if” game on Saturday evening with a 7-6 victory in the championship game over Enough Said. Armed Forces led 5-1 in the third, but Enough Said pieced together a five-run push in the fifth to take the lead 6-5. However, Armed Forces stayed strong pushing two more runs across in the sixth for the eventual victory.

In the “if” game Enough Said opened the game with a 7-0 lead through two innings and never looked back. A five-run fourth inning highlighted by a Sirene Johnson home run pretty much sealed what would be the 16-2 run-rule victory.

The All Armed Forces Women’s team started strong early Saturday morning putting up 22 runs to Quiet Storm’s (Killeen, Texas) 9 in the first game of the day. The Red, White and Blue then matched up with Derby Girls Combat (Seattle, Wash.) who earned a first round bye after finishing runner-up in the 2010 championship. A tight contest that was knotted up at four-all in the third inning, Armed Forces added three runs in the top of the fifth for the eventual 7-4 victory. Armed Forces Shaquina Smith led all hitters in the game going a perfect 3-for-3 with three RBI.

On the bottom half of the six-team bracket, Ian’s Pride (Calhoun, Ga.) notched a morning victory with an 8-3 win over Hit List Softball (Moore, Okla.). Defending 2010 champion Enough Said (Tallahassee, Fla.), who earned a bye in the first round, then demonstrated its strength with a decisive 11-5 triumph over Ian’s Pride.

Enough Said then continued to go on a tear in the winner’s bracket final with an 11-3 win over Armed Forces. Jenkins assisted in the win tallying 4-for-4 outing with three runs scored and two RBI. From the loser’s bracket Derby Girls Combat rallied back with a 15-2 afternoon win over Hit List before another double digit 13-2 win over Quiet Storm (Killeen, Texas) placed them back in contention for the title.

A rematch from earlier in the day, Derby Girls and Armed Forces squared off in the third place game and battled back and forth. With three lead changes, Armed Forces advanced to the championship game with a bottom of the seventh 7-6 victory after a Trina McGee line drive base hit to right field plated the winning run. Derby Girls Combat finished third in the tournament with a 2-2 record followed by Quiet Storm at fourth, Ian’s Pride in fifth and Hit List in sixth.

Click here for the All-Americans.

John Garcia passes away


In 1965 a graduate of Gilroy High School then attended Gavilan College, UC Riverside and Long Beach State. After completing his education, he began a 33-year career with the City of Gilroy Recreation Department, retiring in 2010. Also spent nearly 40 years coaching football at the college, junior college, semi-pro (Barnstormers) and high school levels. As part of his duties as a recreation supervisor, was a member of SANCRA for 30 years, including one term as president, representing Santa Clara County at the National Convention.

A founding member of Gilroy Sportsman’s Chef. A past-president and executive director of the Gilroy Gang Task Force. A lifetime member of Gilroy Luncheon Optimist, including several years as president.

Preceded in death by his parents Gregorio (Carmen) and Maria Garcia, sisters Petra Galtman, Oralia Azcona, Martha Martinez, Jane Lopez, Annie Samano, Dolores Castro, brother Trini Garcia and Baby John Garcia.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Gilroy Community Youth Center program with the City of Gilroy.
The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced Sept. 26 that the USA Softball Animated Playbook is now for sale at SoftballOutlet.com for $34.95. Featuring the instruction of two-time U.S. Olympic Team Head Coach Mike Candrea, the current ASA Director of Coaching Education, the new DVD shows coaches how to educate players on common game-related scenarios. Players can also learn directly from the DVD.

“Kids today are visual learners and without a doubt, the USA Softball Animated Playbook will be a great resource to teach young players the responsibilities involved in playing defense,” Candrea said. “Defense is a big factor in winning and hopefully everyone can enjoy learning defensive play on their own computer. The Animated Playbook will be a resource for every player learning the game of softball.”

Plays covered by the USA Softball Animated Playbook include a single hit to left, center or right field with no runners on base or a runner at third base, a ball to the fence that is a sure double or possible triple when first base is occupied or unoccupied and bunt defense with a runner on first or second or runners on first and second. Animated USA Softball characters demonstrate each scenario with Candrea explaining the proper positioning and movement.

Developed by ASA/USA Softball and Immersion Media, the Animated Playbook will play in a DVD player or the CD/DVD drive of any computer.

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During the height of the softball season, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America's National Umpire Staff produces a monthly "Plays and Clarifications" notification for ASASoftball.com. The notification answers some of the most commonly asked questions. Here is a sample from the July 2011 edition:

Rule 1 Catch / No Catch
Play: B1 hits a line drive, knocking the glove off F5's hand. The glove falls to the ground with the ball remaining in the glove. Is this a catch?
Ruling: No catch. (Rule 1, Catch A1: To establish a valid catch the fielder shall hold the ball long enough to prove control of it and or the release is voluntary.
Rule 1, No Catch B3: It is not a catch when the fielder catches a batted or thrown ball with anything other than the hand(s) or glove / mitt in its proper place.
The act of knocking the glove off the hand with the ball still in it shows no control is established before the glove comes off and makes this a no catch situation. With the glove lying on the ground even though the ball remains in the glove is an example of detached equipment. In this case, like the helmet or bat lying on the ground, the glove is now part of the ground and a valid catch cannot be completed.

Rule 3 Equipment
Play: What type of helmet, if any, would a bat girl in JO Fast Pitch have to wear?
Ruling: The bat girl must wear a double ear flap NOCSAE approved batting helmet. (Rule 3, Section 5E: All adult Fast Pitch, Modified Pitch, and JO Olympic offensive players, including the on-deck batter and Junior Olympic players acting as coaches in the coaching box must properly wear double ear flap NOCSAE approved batting helmets.)
Even though this rule does not specifically cover bat girls, it is implied that all JO participants including bat girls have to wear a double ear flap NOCSAE approved batting helmet.

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—Ron Radigonda, Executive Director of ASA

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Product Description

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

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Product Features

- Heavy-duty portable chainlink fence panels: 6ft H x 10ft L / Weight: 175 lbs. (also available in 5’H x 10’L)
- Constructed of durable galvanized steel with 8-gauge coated chainlink fence material.
- Connectors secure panels together to form one continuous fence.
- Legs collapse for easy storage.

References

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

"Fencing Without Boundaries"
Codi Martinez joins National Office staff

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America is pleased to announce that Codi Martinez of Meeker, Okla., has joined the ASA National Office staff as the Coordinator of Marketing and Communications, effective Oct. 17. She will primarily oversee the ASA Softball website, administer the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum and serve as “Inside Pitch” newsletter editor in addition to assisting in marketing and communication initiatives.

Martinez has previous experience with the organization when she served as an intern for the ASA National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum/Marketing and Communications department. Over the course of the summer, she worked primarily with the Museum’s collections and exhibits and she also assisted the Communications department. In addition to her work at ASA, Martinez has also completed internships at the Jim Thorpe Museum where she assisted in archival management. She also has interned at the Laboratory of History Museum at the University of Central Oklahoma, where she helped with researching the University’s history for educational programs.

“I am so excited to join the amazing staff at ASA,” Martinez said. “Growing up as a softball player I have come to have a true love of the game. It was always such an honor to play at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium, especially since so many legendary athletes have played there. So many great memories have been created within the sport of softball, and I look forward to honoring the history of the game and contributing to its future. I am very honored that I now have the opportunity to combine two passions of mine: museums and softball.”

Martinez graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in May of 2011 with a degree in History/Museum Studies. She is furthering her education at UCO by attending graduate school, beginning in the Fall of 2011.

She will wed Bret Warren on Nov. 5. Martinez, soon to be Warren, can be reached at (405) 425-3431 or cwarren@softball.org.

International Softball Federation visits ASA Hall of Fame Complex

On October 29, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America/USA Softball hosted delegates from the International Softball Federation XXV Congress at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City. For more pictures from the Congress, visit www.facebook.com/asausasoftball/.
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.

- **What are the benefits to everyone from Individual Registration?**
  - **Players:** All players are insured with a $5,000,000 limit of liability and $250,000 of Excess Accident Medical Insurance. The insurance coverage follows the player when they play on any ASA team.
  - **Teams/Leagues:** The team/league is insured as an entity if all team members Individually Register. If all teams in a league Individually Register, then liability coverage is extended to league officials.
  - **ASA:** Individual Registration helps the ASA achieve its goal to provide insurance to every player.

- **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.

- **For answers to Frequently Asked Questions on Individual Registration,** please visit Bollinger’s ASA web site, 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.*