A note from Amateur Softball Association President Andy Dooley

Thank you to all the teams who participated in Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America tournaments over the Labor Day weekend. Congratulations to all those who won an ASA National Championship, it is an outstanding accomplishment, and good luck to those athletes and coaches advancing to Oklahoma City this coming weekend for the finale of our adult season.

Thank you to all of the hosts for the adult tournaments held over Labor Day. As president, it has been great to hear good things about the quality of our events, and the excellence is due to our outstanding tournament organizers and staff. Your hard work does not go unnoticed.

Thank you to the tournament umpires as well. Hopefully everyone making the trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C., for our 80th National Council Meeting has sent in registration forms to Debbie Ford at the National Office in Oklahoma City. If you have not done that, please make sure that you reach out to Debbie soon. Finalize your travel plans with Journey House too.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Myrtle Beach and finishing out my term as president of this great organization.

BRIGHT LIGHT

Yard Sharks win inaugural award from ASA, Musco Lighting

For their work in the Sacramento, Calif., community, California Yard Sharks of Carmichael, Calif., were selected as the first ever recipients of the Bright Light Award presented by ASA and Musco Lighting.

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced Sept. 15 that the Carmichael, Calif., Yard Sharks 18-Under A team coached by Joe Price is the recipient of the inaugural Bright Light Award presented by ASA and Musco Lighting. Created earlier this year, the award honors an ASA registered Junior Olympic (JO) team that has shown a commitment to its community through service and volunteerism.

“Musco Lighting is very proud to congratulate the first Bright Light Award winner, California Yard Sharks of Sacramento, Calif,” said Musco’s Michele Smith, a two-time Olympic Champion with USA Softball. “The Bright Light Award is given to the team that is most involved in their community, volunteers their efforts and time to give back while making a difference to others. These values of team work, community, volunteerism,
A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Jamie Blanchard

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

It is with great excitement that I write to you for the first time as the Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications for ASA/USA Softball. Earlier this month, I was promoted to the position, previously held Holly Krivokapich. Holly is hard to follow but I am looking forward to the opportunity to impact the organization in the positive ways that she has.

If you have any feedback on how to continue improving our department and organization, please let me know. Email (jblanchard@softball.org) is the best way to reach me. I am always interested in hearing from you, especially as I venture into some new responsibilities.

We are now looking for an ASA Communications Coordinator, to be based at the National Office, and Director of Marketing and Communications Julie Bartel is accepting applications through Sept. 30. Please find the job description on Page 22 of this newsletter, along with information on two currently open commissioner positions.

Many other exciting things are happening here in Oklahoma City, including the crowning of adult slow pitch National Champions this weekend. Good luck to all of the athletes competing in Worth Championship Series events, the Men’s A and Women’s Open. And while we are at it, good luck to the 2011 USA Softball Women’s National Team as they prepare for the XVI Pan American Games, Oct. 14-30 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Our fourth annual benefit auction for Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Central and Western Oklahoma ended this week with more than 20 autographed, one-of-a-kind memorabilia items going to softball fans across the country. Since 2008, ASA/USA Softball has donated $50,500 to the organization, and we are looking forward to making another donation on Oct. 15 at Oklahoma City’s Race for the Cure®.

From Oct. 26-30, Oklahoma City will welcome softball leaders from around the world for the International Softball Federation XXV Congress. The site of the 2013 Congress will be just one of a number of agenda items, as will the awarding of host cities for future ISF championships.

It is a busy time for the National Office. We cannot wait to share more with you in the future editions of The Inside Pitch newsletter as well as the 80th Annual Council Meeting in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Talk to you soon.

Athletes honored in Southern California

The Southern California Players Association gave away more than $39,000 in scholarships to local ASA players, both in recreation and travel ball, who are attending college this year. The scholarship luncheon was held at Marie Callendars Restaurant in Anaheim.

Above: Scholarship winners and presenters (front left to back right) Mackenna Neuroth, Kayna Lamb, Francine Lagunas, Kayla Hensel and Jordan Emanuele, Kelsey Bettis, Don Marsh, Rachel Trafford, Jordan Saucedo, Jim Lee, Macie Bayer. Not pictured is Justine Tjaden and the Jim Lee Family Scholarship Award winner Kasey Matlock.

Right: Don Marsh with Brenda Marsh Award winner Rachel Trafford.
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Giving back and making a difference are core fundamentals of the Musco Team and mission. This award therefore, is a perfect fit with our company and ideals. We are proud of the Yard Sharks and wish them all the best in their 2012 season."

The award as well as a Bright Light Award banner will be presented to the Yard Sharks on Nov. 6 during the opening session of the 80th National Council Meeting in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Additionally, as the recipient of the 2011 Bright Light Award, the Yard Sharks will receive a $2,000 credit to use toward tournament fees for any 2012 ASA sanctioned events in the United States and 20 Bright Light Award T-shirts for athletes, coaches and staff.

"We are honored to have a team of the Yard Shark’s caliber representing the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) in their community," said ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. "What impresses me most about the Yard Sharks is that their service was not limited to volunteering on one Saturday for one organization. They made consistent contributions throughout the year in so many different ways. The Yard Sharks are truly an outstanding group of young women on and off the field."

The Yard Sharks participated in many philanthropic events in 2011 including fundraising for Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Sacramento Valley. In January and February, the team worked with the Carmichael Softball League and the Ron Engle “K” Club Academy instructing young athletes and providing demonstrations on base running, catching, hitting, pitching and throwing. The Yard Sharks also facilitated an ice cream social for the Carmichael Softball League to help athletes, coaches and parents bond.

The Yard Sharks were also involved with Special Olympics Northern California in August, making the six consecutive year Yard Sharks assisted with local Special Olympics softball program. Among the duties that Yard Sharks performed at the tournament were announcing, field preparation and scorekeeping. Yard Sharks were also involved with both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies as well as skill assessments.

"When you do something good for others without a personal reward it teaches you to be less about self," the Yard Sharks wrote in their application essay. "This binds you and your teammates in a way that is different than anything else because when you see a teammate being selfless you respect them even more. This creates unity and a positive spirit with others and can only strengthen your bonds between teammates. Volunteering together teaches all of us humility, respect, teamwork, and builds friendships. It takes us out of our comfort level and makes us join together to help others."

**Five inducted into Iowa 16" Slow Pitch Hall of Fame**

Iowans Dean Splittgerber (Marshalltown), Mark Heithoff (Grimes), Randy Miller (Cedar Rapids), Tom Kennedy (Jefferson) and Rocky Woods (Cedar Rapids) were recently honored for their efforts in and contributions to the 16” slow pitch game. The five individuals were inducted into the Iowa ASA 16″ Slow Pitch Hall Of Fame during the brunch and on-field ceremony at the 2011 Men’s Major 16″ Slow Pitch State Tournament in Carroll, Iowa, on Aug. 6.
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Far from the stadium lights and the roar of the crowd come the moments when youth sports matters. These opportunities help form bonds that enrich the game and enhance the lives and life skills of young players. That’s why Liberty Mutual and our partners are proud to bring you the Responsible Sports™ program – offering educational resources, training tips and teaching tools for youth sports parents and coaches, plus coaching awards and valuable community grants.

Memorable youth sports moments are waiting for you. Visit ResponsibleSports.com/Softball today.
Tips, tricks from past grant winners

We get a lot of questions asking for tips on how to rally the community to help win a $2,500 grant. Questions about what past winners have done and what they’re doing with the money. So we created Extra Point, our exclusive Community Grant eNewsletter.

Extra Point will be sent two times per month throughout the three-month grant period. Each issue will feature:

• A Key Grant Promotional Theme with exclusive new downloads
• “Where Are They Now?” Past Winner Feature
• “What I Learned” Parent Perspective

Once the grant period ends and the winners are announced, you will be automatically unsubscribed from this list.

Sign up today! >>

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—Ron Radigonda, Executive Director of ASA

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Liberty Mutual renews with ASA Softball through 2014

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced today that the organization has renewed its partnership through 2014 with the Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program, which supports parents and volunteer youth sport coaches who enable children to succeed both on and off the field. Liberty Mutual Insurance first partnered with the association in 2008.

“Since 2008, Liberty Mutual has been one of the trusted partners of the Amateur Softball Association of America. We are thrilled to extend our relationship with the Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports brand into the future,” ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda said. “The direct benefits of this program for individuals, teams and leagues are tremendous, and the result for our organization has been an increase in fair play and sportsmanship across our 76 associations. Working with a company like Liberty Mutual, a company that has made integrity and respect a priority, really speaks to the values of ASA Softball.”

Central to the Responsible Sports program are Community Grants awarded to 20 youth sports organizations, leagues, teams and schools across the country each spring and fall. Liberty Mutual provides $2,500 grants to youth sports groups or $5,000 grants to school athletic programs that are most successful at generating community participation in the online Responsible Sports coaching or parenting courses on their behalf. Following a highly competitive spring 2011 race, two softball organizations, Rocklin Girls Fastpitch Softball League (Rocklin, Calif.) and Cherokee Pride Softball (Woodstock, Ga.), received grants.

The Responsible Sports partnership between Liberty Mutual and ASA has many other elements. ASA also supports Liberty Mutual’s “Top 10 Responsible Sports Moments” campaign. Everyday examples of sportsmanship and camaraderie on the field can be nominated at www.Facebook.com/ResponsibleSports/ through Nov. 30. A voting committee of Responsible Sports partners, including ASA, will select 10 “moments” that Liberty Mutual will celebrate by awarding $1,000 grants to each team represented.

In addition, ASA features weekly Responsible Sports content on the www.asasoftball.com and www.usasoftball.com websites, including tips and tools that administrators, coaches and parents can use to create positive youth sports experiences in their communities. Much of the content features influential softball figures including retired USA Softball Women’s National Team Head Coach Mike Candrea, now the Director of Coaching Education, and former USA Softball athletes Jennie Finch and Jessica Mendoza.

Responsible Sports branding is also featured on ACE (Achieve, Certify, Educate) Coaching Certification Program materials including coursework and registration cards. Each ACE coach also receives the monthly e-newsletter “Candrea on Coaching”, which is produced by Candrea in cooperation with Responsible Sports. Additionally, Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports is the presenting sponsor of the USA Softball National Coaching School and the annual scorebook given to ASA registered teams.

“Community embodiment of sportsmanship and personal responsibility is essential to provide an enriching youth sports environment,” said Julie Brassard, Liberty Mutual director of sponsorships. “We value partners like ASA Softball that share a similar passion for championing the positive life lessons taught through youth sports.”

For more information, visit ResponsibleSports.com/Softball/.
New Hampshire team honors injured, fallen soldiers

The New England Hardliners Junior Olympic (JO) softball team, playing out of Amherst, N.H., recently started a program called the Michael Geary Project, honoring the family friend of one of the players. Geary was a young Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps who lost his life last year in Afghanistan. He was from Londonderry, N.H., and just a couple of years out of high school.

The Michael Geary Project will run throughout the summer softball season and at each tournament the team plays in they will honor a Wounded Warrior. If the honored soldier is not fallen, the Hardliners try to arrange for the soldier being honored to attend the game. The soldier’s friends and family are also invited.

During the games, the girls all wear yellow ribbons with both their own names and the soldier’s name. The ribbons are presented at the end of the game along with a personalized team picture. The team’s goal is to help the Wounded Warriors and their families feel remembered, honored and appreciated for their contributions and sacrifices.

Geary was honored on June 8 and saluted by veterans, fans and family, some of whom traveled many miles to recognize the former Lance Corporal. Riders from the traveling FRI (Fraternity, Respect and Integrity) Brothers came all the way from the west coast to participate. The riders are veterans of the Vietnam War and Desert Storm Operation. One of the riders, Mike Hodge, is a registered ASA umpire and NFHS umpire and double amputee. Hodge, along with New Hampshire ASA UIC Glenn Colburn and NH ASA umpires John Stoodley and Bob Thomas, graciously volunteered to umpire the game against the Hudson Heat. N.H. ASA Commissioner Bob Hopley was also in attendance at the game.

Geary’s mother, Nancy, was at the game along with a Wounded Warrior from Twin Mountains Nate Smith. Nate, who served in the National Guard in 2004, was shot in the leg while serving in Iraq.

“Michael would have been very happy about these efforts”, she also stated that the support her family has been given following Michael’s death has been amazing and she wished to thank the Hardliners for including her in their initiative. One of Michael’s best friends, Staff Sgt. Jose Vera was also in attendance and was part of the color guard during the National Anthem.

Hardliners coach, Eric Mensh, said he was proud of the young ladies for making the Michael Geary project a success, and for joining together to show American soldiers that this nation’s young people and ASA really do care about their efforts.

Cincy Static 98 wins historic 12U ASA Girls’ A Eastern National title

The coveted ASA Fast Pitch Girls’ A 12-Under Eastern National Championship trophy came home to Cincinnati, Ohio, for the first time in 2011 and was made possible by the 12-Under Cincy Static 98 select girls fast pitch softball team. The team has players from Ohio (two each from Liberty Township, Loveland and Cincinnati, and one from Sharonville, Ross and Kettering), Kentucky (Hebron and Ft. Thomas), and Modoc, Ind., and is coached by Les Rogers, Rick Manning, Ken Wilp, and Krista Veerkamp.

Playing teams from all over the Eastern USA, the Static was control of the tournament from start to finish as they earned the No. 1 seed leading into Championship Play. The Static finished with a tournament record of 10-1, playing an impressive 11 games in all, four more than any other opponent as they battled four long days. Their only loss to the Carolina Attitude out of North Carolina was avenged in double elimination play by winning back-to-back games delivering Cincinnati's one and only first place championship ever in the ASA Girls’ Class A 12U Eastern Nationals.

The Static have been on a roll coming out of the Cincy Metro to claim the “Best in Cincinnati” title with a tournament record of 4-0! The team practices in the Sharonville area and at Miami University-Hamilton. Their season ended with a record of 52-19-1 (.722%) while playing in 13 total tournaments.

Learn more at www.cincystatic.org.
Women’s National Team headed to Houston

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced Aug. 11 that the 2011 USA Softball Women’s National Team will face the Texas A&M and University of Houston softball teams on Sunday, Oct. 9 and Tuesday, Oct. 11, respectively, in exhibition games at the Cougar Softball Field on the University of Houston campus. These three exhibition games along with training in Houston will help prepare the USA Softball Women’s National Team for the XVI Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, Oct. 17-23.

Hosted by the Houston ASA, USA Softball will take on Texas A&M on Oct. 9 at noon CT in a doubleheader match up. On Oct. 11, USA Softball will play Houston at 7 p.m. CT. Both college teams were ranked in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 during the 2011 season.

Tickets, which are $10 for each day, are now on sale. Tickets cannot be purchased online but are available at Absolute All Sports (18741 Stuebner Airline Drive in Spring, Texas 77379) or by calling 281-655-7303. The ticket office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Tickets can also be purchased by sending requests to Houston ASA (14210 Prospect Point Drive in Cypress, Texas, 77429). Tickets purchased through Houston ASA can be purchased by check only. Tickets can be placed at will call or will be shipped for a $5.65 fee for priority mail delivery.

USA Softball is coming off a Gold Medal finish at the World Cup of Softball VI and is seeking its eighth Pan American Title, seventh consecutive title.

“Our pre-Pan Am Games preparation is vital to our continuing ‘get better’ philosophy right now. Without the support of the Houston Amateur Softball Association, the University of Houston and Texas A&M University, this would not be possible,” said USA Softball Head Coach Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla.). “The people behind the scenes deserve all the credit in making this happen for us. Even though we experienced a little success this summer, we still have a lot of work to do in becoming a solid unit and by competing against great teams like Texas A&M and Houston, it will be a great step in that direction.”

USA Softball’s Ken Eriksen joins PCA board

USA Softball Women’s National Team Head Coach Ken Eriksen has accepted a National Advisory Board position with the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA), the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced today. Eriksen (Tampa, Fla.), currently the head coach at University of South Florida, joins retired USA Softball athlete Dot Richardson, a two-time Olympic Champion, as the only softball related representatives on the board.

“It is such an honor to be asked to be involved with such a prestigious group,” Eriksen said. “I have been fortunate to have been around great coaches in the bat and ball game. From Robin Roberts, Jeff Davis, Ralph Raymond, Mike Candrea, and Jay Miller, I would say I have taken a little bit from each one to help me teach the athletes I work with. I have also been fortunate enough to have been involved with great elite athletes who all have a great outlook on life and sport.”

Started in 1998 by Jim Thompson, PCA is a nonprofit organization founded at Stanford University with the mission to transform youth sports so sports can transform youth. PCA was created to transform the culture of youth sports to give all young athletes the opportunity for a positive, character-building experience. Through partnership with more than 1,700 youth sports organizations, leagues, schools and cities nationwide, PCA has conducted 10,000-plus workshops for youth sports coaches, parents, organizational leaders and athletes.

Los Angeles Lakers Head Coach Phil Jackson serves as the PCA National Spokesperson. The PCA National Advisory Board includes leaders such as NBA and NCAA Champion Coach Larry Brown, former senator Bill Bradley, NFL Hall of Fame Member Ronnie Lott, Olympic Gold Medalist swimmer Summer Sanders, Olympic Gold Medal gymnasts Bart Conner and Nadia Comaneci, University of North Carolina Men's Basketball Retired Head Coach Dean Smith, Cy Young Award winner Barry Zito, and Former NFL Head Coach Herm Edwards.

‘Like’ ASA Softball on Facebook

For exclusive ASA and USA Softball news and photos, “like” the ASA Softball Facebook page at Facebook.com/asausasoftball.
Being a family member of Team USA has its benefits. Take advantage of partnership travel discounts.

Flying America’s Team for 30 Years.

United has flown Team USA for over 30 years, and we strive to be the airline of choice for Olympic family members as well. That’s why we offer discounted fares for USOC/NGB associated events. Visit united.com/USOC to book your flight, or to learn more.
Serrato wins Sonnentag Family Scholarship

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States, and the Sonnentag Family are proud to announce Nicolas Serrato (Corona, Calif.) as the inaugural recipient of the Sonnentag Family/USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team Scholarship. A $500 scholarship developed to promote educational opportunities for members of the Junior Men’s National Team as well as encourage good citizenship and volunteerism, 2011 marks the inaugural year of the award.

“We are honored to award Nick in the first year of the scholarship,” said Rebecca Sonnentag, Marketing Manager of County Materials Corporation. “He models a strong work ethic and family values and recognizes the importance of higher education. He gives back to the community and all of these qualities make him very deserving of the scholarship in our eyes.”

Serrato, who has recently started coursework at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, earned a baseball and academic scholarship in addition to the Sonnentag award. The utility player began participation with the USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team program in 2011 when he was invited to a training camp in June and participated in a series of exhibitions against Argentina this summer. Serrato hopes to represent the Red, White and Blue at the International Softball Federation (ISF) IX Junior Men’s World Championships in Parana, Argentina, next year.

“This is a tremendous honor,” said Sonnentag. “I am appreciative and grateful to be the first recipient of the Sonnentag Family Scholarship. In addition, I want to thank the Sonnentag Family for their generous support to the USA Softball Junior Men’s Fast Pitch Softball Team that will represent the United States in Argentina in 2012.”

A civil engineering major, Serrato attended Corona High School in Corona, Calif., earning a cumulative grade point average of 3.3. He also was a three-year letter winner in baseball and during his senior year of high school was involved in Link Crew, which is a leadership class that helps incoming freshman feel comfortable in the transition from junior high to high school. In his Link Crew class, he received an award for total support which is given to the student who has been most involved and who has done outstanding work in helping freshman with finding their classes, showing them campus, and helping them meet new friends. Serrato is also involved in the Relay for Life Cancer Walk for the City of Corona and is the son of Steve and Sharon Serrato.

“Nick is a good young player and an even better person,” said USA Softball Junior Men’s Team Head Coach Tim Lyon. “He goes out of his way to help his teammates and is a great choice for the Sonnentag Family Scholarship.”

Up next for the Junior Men’s National Team program will be the selection of the 2012 roster. The date is TBA.

Umpire Ron Galemore passes away

It is with a deep sadness that we must inform you of the passing of one of our “Brothers-in-Blue”. On September 5th at 6:04 in the morning Ron Galemore died of a massive heart attack.

Many of you knew Ron as the umpire that always had a comment and a suggestion as he watched you work. Ron was quick with a joke or story but was always attempting to help us to improve our skills and take pride in our officiating. Ron touched many, many lives in both the local and national scene. Countless umpires can attribute some of their success to the tutoring of “Ronnie” Galemore.

Ron was inducted into the Metropolitan Washington Slow Pitch Hall of Fame in 1988. Ron was a member of the Greater Washington Softball Umpires Association since 1979 amassing a total of 7,327 games worked for his career. Many of those games came from his two great loves in the game of softball, the Special Olympic Program and the International Association of Firefighters Muscular Dystrophy Association National Charity Tournament. Ron had never missed an MDA Tournament since its’ inception, and this coming weekend would have marked his 38th.

Ron served as the DC Metro UIC until the Metro was dissolved in 2006. Much more could be written about Ron but perhaps his accomplishments can best be summed up in the biography written for his induction into the ASA National Hall of Fame.

When the ASA had its Super Slow Pitch division of men’s slow pitch, Ron Galemore more than not was one of the umpires penciled in to work the championship. Galemore was good at putting out fires, on and off the softball field. A retired firefighter, Galemore used his calm, level-headed approach in fighting any “heated” discussions between players and managers. And at the Super level it wasn’t uncommon for some players or managers to lose their cool. During his umpiring career, from 1979 to 2003, Galemore worked five Super National Championships and one Major Slow Pitch Championship, establishing himself as one of the premier slow pitch umpires within the ASA. But besides working the national championships, Ron also did the Hooters ASA Championship Series in Oklahoma City twice (2001-2002) and two Inter-Service Championships. In 1999, Ron received the ASA Award of Excellence for the Central Atlantic Region and he also is a member of the National Indicator Fraternity and the ASA Elite Program. Galemore is the 35th umpire elected to the ASA Hall of Fame. He was inducted on November 12, 2008 before a crowd of 510 people at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City.
Texas A&M junior catcher Meagan May has been added to the 2011 USA Softball Women's National Team roster and will compete at October’s Pan American Games, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced. May (Spring, Texas) replaces Florida junior catcher Brittany Schutte (Fountain Valley, Calif.), who withdrew from the team in August for personal reasons.

“We are excited to have Meagan join the Women’s National Team for the Pan American Games,” Head Coach Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla.) said. “Having Meagan in the program in the past will help her quick transition into a productive player for us.”

Following an outstanding freshman season that saw her named to the 2010 All-Big 12 first team and 2010 Louisville Slugger/NFCA Div. I All-America second team, May was selected for the 2010 USA Softball Women's Futures National Team but did not compete due to injury. She attended the 2011 USA Softball Women’s National Team Selection Camp at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif., in June.

“It feels amazing to be given a second chance with this program,” May said. “I am honored to be able to represent my country in an international event, especially one of this magnitude. I look forward to being able to play with the top athletes in the country for women’s softball and I am excited for the competition that we will be facing. It will be an experience that I never forget.”

May will make her debut with the Women's National Team on Oct. 9 in Houston when Team USA takes on her collegiate team, Texas A&M, in an exhibition doubleheader. On Oct. 11, the Women’s National Team will take on the University of Houston in another exhibition game. Both matchups are at the Cougar Softball Field on the Houston campus.

Following the exhibition action, May and the Women's National Team will head to Guadalajara, Mexico, for the XVI Pan American Games, Oct. 17-23. USA Softball is seeking a seventh consecutive and eighth overall Pan American Games Gold Medal. The tournament closes out the 2011 season for the program.

Jessica Damico has been added to the roster of the 2011 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced today. A freshman utility player at Florida, Damico (Gray Summit, Mo.) replaces Tennessee sophomore Madison Shipman (Valencia, Calif.), who is recovering from surgery.

“I am looking forward to representing my country at the International Softball Federation (ISF) Junior Women’s World Championships in South Africa,” Damico said. “Being selected for the USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team is a great opportunity, and I can’t wait to give it everything I’ve got.”

Damico is the 2010 Gatorade Missouri Softball Player of the Year. A standout at Pacific High School in Pacific, Mo., she had a batting average of .539 during her junior year, a season in which she collected 40 RBI. She also hit a state-record 15 home runs. As a senior, she tallied only six homers but amassed a .605 season average with 42 RBI. Damico drew 15 walks and never struck out. She was named the 2010-11 Four Rivers Conference Player of the Year and is a first-team Class 4 All-State selection.

In ASA play, she competed with the St. Louis Chaos coached by Bob Furrer.

“We are very excited to have Jess as a part of the 2011 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team,” Head Coach Karen Johns (Whippany, N.J.) said. “Losing Madison Shipman was a big blow to our team and having a quality athlete like Jess step in, well, we are very fortunate. She will definitely be an asset to this team as they compete in Cape Town this December.”

The Junior Women's National Team recently completed an exhibition series that brought them to Tampa, Fla., Salem, Va., and Bowie, Md. The team competes next Dec. 6-17 at the International Softball Federation (ISF) IX Junior Women's World Championship (19-and-under) in Cape Town, South Africa. The United States is the defending champion.

Junior Women’s Worlds will mark Damico’s first appearance with USA Softball. She attended the 2010-11 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team Selection Camp, held in June 2010 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif.
USA Softball roster, schedule released for Pan Am Games

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced Sept. 28 the 17 Women's National Team athletes and four coaches who will comprise the USA Softball delegation for the XVI Pan American Games. The multi-sport event is Oct. 14-30 in Guadalajara, Mexico, with softball competition scheduled for Oct. 17-23.

"The Pan Am Games have a rich history of great softball," Head Coach Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla./Head Coach at the University of South Florida) said. "To represent your country, listen to the National Anthem on foreign soil and compete for a Gold Medal are all very uplifting opportunities. We plan on doing all three with great integrity. We will train for five days, get back to the basics of USA Softball and then play hard."

USA Softball enters the Pan American Games following a Gold Medal finish at World Cup of Softball VI in Oklahoma City, marking the fifth straight World Cup title for the Americans. Team USA has won seven Pan American Championships (1979, 1987, 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007) including the last six. The program has a record of 78-3 since softball debuted in the 1979 Pan American Games.

The team will travel to Guadalajara on Oct. 13. On Oct. 17, the United States opens play against Venezuela at 6:30 p.m. CT. The team has doubleheaders the next two days, facing the Dominican Republic (11 a.m.) and Mexico (9 p.m.) Oct. 18 and Cuba (1:30 p.m.) and Puerto Rico (4 p.m.) on Oct. 19. On Oct. 20 at 2 p.m., Team USA faces Canada, the 2011 World Cup of Softball Bronze Medalists. The team finishes pool play against Argentina on Oct. 21 at 4:30 p.m. The playoffs are Oct. 22 with the medal round scheduled for Oct. 23. Schedule is subject to change.

Athletes who will compete in the Red, White in Blue in Guadalajara: Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif./California senior); Whitney Canion (Aledo, Texas/Baylor junior); Kaitlein Cochran (Yorba Linda Calif./Arizona State 2009); Lauren Gibson (Pasadena, Md./Tennessee junior); Kelly Grieve (Asheville, N.C./Tennessee 2011); Taylor Hoagland (Flower Mound, Texas/Texas junior); Ashley Holcombe (Fayetteville, Ga./Alabama 2009); Molly Johnson (Tucson, Ariz./Kentucky 2010); Stacy May-Johnson (Reno, Nev./Iowa 2006); Jenae Leles (Sacramento, Calif./Arizona 2009); Meagan May (Spring, Texas/Texas A&M junior); Michelle Moultrie (Jacksonville, Fla./Florida senior); Christi Orgeron (New Orleans, La./ULL junior); Keilani Ricketts (San Jose, Calif./Oklahoma junior); Jordan Taylor (Valencia, Calif./Michigan 2011); Rhea Taylor (Buford, Ga./Missouri 2011); and Chelsea Thomas (Pleasantville, Iowa/Missouri junior). All 17 athletes are making their Pan American Games debut.

Eriksen is in his first year at the head of the USA Softball Women's National Team. He will be joined at the Pan American Games by Mike Larabee (Fayetteville, Ark./Head Coach at the University of Arkansas), Taiaira Flowers (Tucson, Ariz./Head Coach at Cal State Northridge), and Mike White (Eugene, Ore./Head Coach at the University of Oregon).

Prior to leaving for the Pan American Games, the team will play two exhibition games at the University of Houston in Houston. USA Softball has a doubleheader with Texas A&M on Oct. 9 at noon CT. On Oct. 11, Team USA faces Houston at 7 p.m. Tickets, which are $10 for each day, are available now at Absolute All Sports in Spring, Texas, or by calling 281-655-7303. In the final ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll of the 2011 season, Texas A&M finished No. 13 and Houston was No. 18.

"I am thrilled to head to Houston soon to meet up with all of the members of USA softball for team practice, exhibition games, and processing," said May-Johnson. "We will need to regain our cohesiveness in a short amount of time if we want to beat the stiff competition we will face in Mexico because after only four days in Houston we will fly to Guadalajara and begin competition. We have our sights set on the Gold Medal and we will not be satisfied with anything less. USA softball has a rich tradition of winning Gold Medals and we are eager to continue that tradition at the Pan American Games this year."

‘Rules and Clarifications’ tackles catches and equipment

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

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

DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION AT USASOFTBALL.COM
Questions? Please call (916) 962-1631 for information.
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.

Win a trip to London for the 2012 Olympic Games

Go for the gold with the Hilton HHonorsTM Come Dream With Us Sweepstakes and this time next year, you and a guest could be watching Team USA compete in the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Even better, you can receive an extra entry for every night you stay at any one of the more than 3,700 hotels in the Hilton Worldwide portfolio through October 31, 2011.* Now, every night you stay you could bring you one step closer to your dream of seeing the London Olympic Games.

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*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Sweepstakes begins at 12:01 a.m. EDT on 7/25/2011 and ends at 11:59 p.m. EDT on 10/31/2011. Open to legal residents of the 50 United States and District of Columbia, who are at least 18 and Hilton HHonors TM members at time of entry. Entrants must first register at www.Hhonors.com/Dream. For entry without a qualifying stay, send a 3”x5” card with proper postage (one per envelope) to Enter Hhonors Come Dream With Us Sweepstakes c/o The Marketing Arm, 1999 Bryan Street Suite 1800, Dallas, TX 75201 or an email (one per entry) to HhonorsComeDreamWithUs@themarketingarm.com stating first and last name, mailing address, phone number and Hhonors TM account number. Entry in any form must be received by October 31, 2011. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. See official rules and prize details at www.Hhonors.com/Dream. Sponsor: Hilton Worldwide L.L.C. 7930 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, VA 22102.
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”

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Sacramento, CA 95831
(916) 715.6287 - sportafence.com
Register for the ASA Trade Show

Registration is now open for the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Trade Show, which will again be held in conjunction with the ASA Council Meeting, scheduled for Nov. 5-11 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Registration closes on October 1.

This year, the Trade Show is on Saturday, November 5 from 5-8 p.m., with all three hours open to ASA Council Members and other meeting attendees, at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort’s Palisades room. Only 80 spots are available. The cost per-space is $500 for non-commercial and $650 for commercial preferred. Each booth space measures 10 feet by 10 feet, is carpeted and includes one (1) six-foot table, two (2) chairs, one (1) wastebasket, one (1) identification sign and side and back wall drapes.

For registration forms, please email Jamie Blanchard at jblanchard@softball.org.

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Background

The Missouri Amateur Softball Association (ASA) is a massive non-profit that oversees over 2,000 individual teams, 300+ umpires and thousands of players across The Show Me State. Missouri ASA offers teams for both young and old, male and female and for first timers and experienced players, as well. Summers are busy with games, statistics and logistics and the fall off-season is shrinking every year as parents, players and officials look to get next year’s information earlier and earlier.

Challenge

When you have thousands of eager softball players and hundreds of dedicated volunteers looking to you for information, clear, concise communication is going to be your top priority. Previous to discovering Clubspaces, Missouri ASA was using Microsoft Frontpage to build and maintain the official association website, which doubled as the primary communication tool.

Missouri state commissioner Joey Rich:

“The biggest thing that we use Clubspaces for is the association website itself. Microsoft Frontpage was okay, but it wasn’t a tenth as easy as Clubspaces. I can update my website from anywhere in the world, all I need is a computer. Before, I had to be on my computer with my software and it was nowhere near as easy to manipulate as Clubspaces.”

Solution

Missouri ASA made the move to Clubspaces two years ago and the transition was smooth.

“We did the initial testing with Clubspaces and we got a lot of extra attention from your staff in terms of how we were going to set the whole site up. I gave them an idea of what I’d like the site to look like and they came up with several possibilities for me to choose from. I was able to pick the general format and the colors, so that helped get it started.”

It wasn’t long before Missouri ASA began using Clubspaces for more than just website building. In the two years since their site went live, it has begun using Clubspaces dynamic online player registration, payment processing, state tournament scheduling, team creation and more. It is looking at adding umpire registration and management in 2011. Missouri ASA also links to the Clubspaces-driven national ASA website that offers additional resources for softball enthusiasts from coast to coast.

Clubspaces also helped to alleviate some of the communication and logistical issues Missouri ASA was having, as well. It utilizes a combination of social media, timed email blasts and frequent website updates to keep players, coaches and volunteers in the loop.

“You have to keep that information pipeline stocked up, you’ve got to have new information on your site or people will stop coming to it.”

Clubspaces is the Official Online League Management System of ASA
Missouri ASA also uses its Clubspaces website to grant limited access to high-level volunteers so they can efficiently distribute forms, instructions and waivers.

“All district officers in our nine districts have access to a special page of forms that is used just by them and volunteers. There is a link on the main website that says “districts only” and “commissioners only” and they can go on there to save time. That page is the first place they look if they have a question and it is password protected so only they can get on there.”

**Result**

The goal of Clubspaces is to save coaches, volunteers and even league commissioners time and effort.

“I would say Clubspaces saves me a good six hours a month, and that’s probably conservative. Over the course of a year, I would say that Clubspaces saves me anywhere between 75 to 100 work hours. Saving this kind of time per year is a big deal. “

Missouri ASA is a vibrant, healthy organization that has more demands put on it every year and Clubspaces is helping to meet that challenge.

**Clubspaces is the Official Online League Management System of ASA**
Commissioners sought for Indiana, San Antonio

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, a volunteer driven, not-for-profit organization is seeking applicants for the position of Commissioner for the Indiana ASA and San Antonio 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. Individuals interested in the complete duties of an ASA Commissioner may review them on the ASA website at www.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.

Any questions regarding this position should be directed to Craig Cress, Director of Membership Services for the ASA.

Those interested in serving as the ASA Commissioner for the Indiana ASA association or the San Antonio 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 Oct. 7.

National Office looking for Communications Coord.

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States, is seeking applicants for the position of ASA Communications Coordinator. Applications for the ASA Communications Coordinator position will be accepted through Sept. 30.

Interested applicants should send a resume, a cover letter explaining why they wish to fill the position and three (3) writing samples. Applicants will be screened and a select number will be invited to interview in Oklahoma City in October. The successful candidate will be brought on board as soon as possible. The Communications Coordinator is based out of the National Office in Oklahoma City.

Applications should be mailed or emailed to the following address:
ASA National Office c/o Julie Bartel, ASA Communications Coordinator Position 2801 NE 50th Street Oklahoma City, OK 73111 jbartel@softball.org

Duties and Responsibilities
• Maintain, update, design, and be lead editor for ASASoftball.com and the ASA Softball portal.
• Input ASA Softball National Tournaments and qualifier information into master database; including fact sheets, contact information, tournament results, awards, FAQs, etc.
• Assist in writing press releases and covering ASA Softball and local association activity; including but not limited to researching story ideas for Balls and Strikes Magazine, designing flyers and posters for advertising, assisting sponsors, photography, video and applying social media integration.
• Editor of the monthly Inside Pitch e-newsletter to ASA Softball administrators.
• Assist in further development of ASA Hotel Partners programs in Oklahoma City.
• Assist in development of ASA promotions and events and distribute materials.
• Assist in staffing and management of ASA youth and adult tournaments in Oklahoma City at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium complex for scoring and media coverage.
• Assist in development and design of the National Softball Hall of Fame Museum renovations and daily housekeeping of displays and seasonal updates of displays and kiosks.
• Manage local association Hall of Fame names in database.
• Assist in ASA Annual Meeting planning including service awards luncheon, Hall of Fame Induction, trade show, etc.
• Assist in marketing and communication duties within the USA Softball brand as assigned.
• Perform other related communication and marketing duties as assigned and ability to travel and work weekends.

Required or Desired Skills:
• Computer skills and knowledge required (including Adobe Dreamweaver, InDesign and Photoshop, Microsoft Office and basic HTML)
• College degree desired
• 1-3 years of marketing and communications experience
• Knowledge/experience of ASA Softball
• Ability to be self-starter as well as work in team environment to assist the Marketing and Communications Department and all departments in providing quality customer service.

Salary range for ASA Communications Coordinator is $32,000-$38,000.

The statements herein are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of personnel so classified.
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Shotgun start at 11:30 a.m.
Dinner and auction at 5:30 p.m.

Each group will be paired with a Major League Baseball (MLB) Alumni player for the golf tournament, which is a benefit for ASA Special Programs, MLB Alumni and Special Olympics National Games. Non-golfers are welcome to join for the dinner and auction, which includes items signed by the MLB alumni players as well as current and former USA Softball athletes.

Registration is due to Andy Dooley by October 16, 2011

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DOES GOLFER NEED TRANSPORTATION? □ YES □ NO

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