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Greetings from the President

Enough Said Wins Women’s Open For Second Consecutive Year
Nikki Hall Named MVP and Batting Champion.

Dan Smith/Menosee/ShirtsandLogos.com Beats Crowned Men’s A Champion
Champion beats Long Haul twice to win title

Hooters Championship Series presented by Worth
Three teams left Oklahoma City with a National Champion title to their name.

USA Softball Update
Catch up with your favorite red, white and blue team!

Association Profile
Florida ASA

Shreveport Welcomes ASA With a Little Southern Hospitality
2010 ASA National Council Meeting a success.

Meet the 2011 National Softball Hall of Fame Class
Ten members to be inducted at next year’s Induction in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

ASA 2011 Rule Changes

2010 ASA National Champions

2011 ASA National Championships

2010 ASA By the Numbers
A look into the success of the 2010 season.

Veterans Park and Athletic Complex Named Complex of the Year
Complex from College Station, Texas wins 5th annual honor.

Texas ASA Gives Back
Association gives back to communities at annual business meetings.

News and Notes
Check out what is going on with the ASA and USA Softball.

2011 Official Gear Catalog
A preview of some of your favorites and new product from officialgear.com

Second Glance
See if you can find the six differences in these photos.

Army Mom Battles Breast Cancer with Gold Moments in Armed Forces Sun
Mom of ASA Athlete the real hero of the team.

A Decade Later: Dot Richardson
Two-time Olympian Richardson and her story

National Office Profiles
Meet one of our newest employees and a face that may be familiar

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT!

AS WE WRAP UP the 2010 season and prepare for 2011 let me say THANKS to all of YOU who help make the Amateur Softball Association the best softball organization in the nation! Without your continued support and dedication, we would not be where we are today as the nation’s leader in softball.

We just wrapped up our 79th Annual Council Meeting in Shreveport, La. Its hard to believe we are coming up on 80 years of success. The longevity of the ASA would not be possible without each and every one of you. I know you all spend countless hours away from family, friends and other obligations and I hope during the Holidays, you get some of that time back.

The ASA Equipment Standards committee has made incredible progress in the slow pitch game and we are looking forward to the same results in the future for fast pitch. At ASA, we pride ourselves in being the industry leader in equipment safety and keeping the integrity of the game our utmost priority.

Teams have repeatedly communicated with us that we have the best championship play tournaments across the country so it is my promise to you that we will continue to work hard and maintain this status at all levels. I encourage all championship participants, coaches and administrators to work with your local association commissioners and give them feedback on how we can improve ASA each and every day.

In closing, as president, it is an honor and privilege to serve you and work with you on a daily basis. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous 2011.

Andy Dooley, President
Amateur Softball Association of America
ENOUGH SAID WENT UNDEFEATED with a 3-0 record to claim the ASA Women’s Open National Championship title defeating Derby Girls/Combat (3-2), 12-4, in the title game at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City on Oct. 3. Enough Said worked its way through the winner’s bracket with two wins against Derby Girls, the Championship victory, an 18-7 victory, and a 7-5 win over Armed Forces.

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

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

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

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

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

2010 Women’s Open All-American Team

IF Christian Camp, Armed Forces
IF Nikki Hall, Enough Said
IF Christian Dowling, Derby Girls
IF Stacie Symonds, Enough Said
OF Shannika Taylor, Armed Forces
OF Tracy Bougere, Enough Said
OF Aree Jenkins, Enough Said
OF Jessie Griffin, Enough Said
UT Jamie McCoy, LOA
UT Misty Smith, Derby Girls
UT Diana Williams, Enough Said
C Erin Brown, Derby Girls
P Deb Tix, Derby Girls
HR Champion Christian Dowling, Derby Girls (5 HR)
Batting Champion Nikki Hall, Enough Said (.818)
MVP Nikki Hall, Enough Said

Click here for action photos from the event!

Right: Florida ASA Commissioner Carlton Benton with women’s open MVP/batting champion Nikki Hall.
DAN SMITH/MENOSSE/SHIRTSANDLOGOS.COM BEATS LONG HAUL TWICE TO WIN MEN’S CLASS A SLOW PITCH NATIONAL TITLE

By Bill Plummer III

DAN SMITH/MENOSSE/SHIRTSANDLOGOS.COM may have opened National Championship play with a 41-40 disappointing loss, but it didn’t matter because they proceeded to win eight consecutive games in capturing its first ever ASA Men’s Class A Slow Pitch National title on Oct. 3. The 2010 Champions capped the impressive performance by winning three games on Sunday, including beating defending champion Long Haul Trucking twice, 36-21 and 37-24, at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City.

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

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

"Today was awesome. To win the three games that we won is phenomenal," said Wegman. "The whole team aspect after losing the first game, coming all the way through it, was great. We didn’t leave the park from 6:30 yesterday morning until 2 a.m. and we were back at it at 6 a.m. It was a team effort. We had a lot of fun doing it. It’s an awesome atmosphere. ASA does a great job running this tournament. With the facility, you can’t ask for anything more. The teams and the competitiveness of the teams make it an awesome experience."

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

If there were keys to Dan Smith winning, it was because they scored runs in bunches, thus not wasting their home runs, (limit of eight per game) and used the “big” inning to their advantage. In two of Sunday’s games, Dan Smith trailed early before using the “big” inning to seize the lead for good. Dan Smith held a one run lead, 9-8, after three innings before scoring seven runs in the fourth while Long Haul went scoreless in the bottom of the third and fourth innings before getting untracked offensively with 16 runs in the last three innings. Dan Smith, however, scored 21 runs in the last three innings including 11 in the sixth inning. Dan Smith had 41 hits, Long Haul 25 in the game.

2010 Men’s Class A All-American Team

IF – John Glidewell – Fencebrokers
IF- Brian Wegman – Dan Smith
IF- Tom Bowser – Fencebrokers
IF- Bryson Baker – Long Haul
OF – Jason Branch – Long Haul
OF – Rick Baker – Dan Smith
OF- Chad McLamb – Dan Smith
OF- Jeremy Isenhower – Long Haul
Utility – Brett Helmer – Dan Smith
Utility – Kyle Moyer – Long Haul
Utility – Dennis Rulli – Long Haul
C – Scott Brown – NW Combat
P- Geno Buck – Dan Smith
Home Run Champion – Brian Wegman, Dan Smith – 12 home runs
Batting Champion – John Glidewell, Fencebrokers (.867; 13-of-15; six home runs; 14 RBI)
MVP – Bryan Wegman, Dan Smith

Click here for action photos from the event!
OKLAHOMA CITY AGAIN PLAYED host to the Hooters Championships Series presented by Werth at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex, Oct. 1-3 where three teams were crowned National Champions. BSM Sports, West Coast Blaze and Team Dynasty/G4G all claimed hardware after a long road to get to OKC.

BSM SPORTS OF DEERFIELD BEACH, FLA. CLAIMS ASA MEN’S CLASS B TITLE

Eastern Champions BSM Sports of Deerfield, Fla., completed a three-game sweep of Sonny’s Softball (Casper, Wy.) on Oct. 2, claiming the Men’s Class B title with a decisive 21 to 11 run-rule victory. A best-of-five series, BSM was led by Most Valuable Player pitcher Jerry Molloy (Orlando, Fla.) who tossed all three victories for the National Champions. Shortstop Randy Vollmer (Port St. Lucie, Fla.) tallied a strong offensive performance for BSM batting .733 (11-for-15) with 10 RBI and 11 runs scored.

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

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

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

For Sonny’s, every player contributed a hit in the loss and Manny Liriano (Casper, Wy.) finished 3-for-3 with two RBI.

With the sweep, the East reclaimed the bragging rights in the Men’s Class B after Western Champs Tharaldson Enterprises (Fargo, ND) won the 2009 title.

WEST COAST BLAZE TAKES CLASS C TITLE IN DRAMATIC FASHION

The West Coast Blaze/Swegs/Sancho’s/Easton of Highland, Calif., will be traveling back west with some well-earned hardware after claiming the ASA Men’s Class C National title on Sunday, Oct. 3. With a bottom of the 8th walkoff sacrifice fly from tournament MVP Billy Zapata (Norwalk, Calif.), West Coast claimed the National title with a 12-11 over Pope/M&L/Commission/Shockers/KA (Chicago, Ill.).

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

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

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

West Coast finished the tournament with a 5-1 record and Jerry Boyd led all batters with a .786 average going 11-for-14. Carlos Alvarez led the statistic sheet in RBI for the champions with 11 total batting .682 (15-for-22).

Pope/M&L/Commission/Shockers/KA completed the weekend with a 4-3 overall record. Justin Wicinski led the squad for the tournament batting .667 (12-of-18) with 12 RBI and Mike Jacobson was on top of the RBI column for Pope with 16 overall.

**TEAM DYNASTY/G4G CLAIMS MEN’S CLASS D TITLE WITH “IF” NECESSARY WIN**

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

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

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

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

Team Dynasty defeated No. 3 Oregon Outlaws 18-16 to start the morning, sending the Outlaws packing for Keizer, Ore. The Outlaws had a big performance in the top of the seventh, scoring four off Adams RBI double, a Townsend sacrifice hit and an E. Nanez single but it was not enough to overcome the top seed.

Davis came up big for Team Dynasty, going 4-for-4 with four RBI and three runs scored. He had an RBI single in the first, a two run home run in the third and an RBI single in the sixth. Davis was aided by three players who had three RBI each: Holmes, 3-for-4 with two runs scored; Mike Blankeman, 3-for-4 with four runs scored; and Jim Stone, 3-for-4 with one run scored.
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Another season of softball awaits in 2011 with all five USA Softball National Teams getting in on the action. For the most up to date information on the Women’s National Team, Junior Women’s National Team, Men’s Fast Pitch National Team, Junior Men’s Fast Pitch National Team and Men’s Slow Pitch National Team, visit USA Softball’s official website www.usasoftball.com.

Four international tournaments slated for the WNT
Following the Women’s National Team Selection Camp June 13-17 at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif., the Women’s National Team will compete in seven events. Highlighting the schedule is the Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, October 17-23, where the U.S. will seek its eighth Pan American Championship. The team will also compete internationally July 9-17 at the Canada Cup in Surrey, British Columbia, July 21-25 at the World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City and July 28-31 at the Japan Cup in Sendai, City. There will also be three exhibition stops in the United States leading up to the international tournaments.

Junior Women gearing up for South Africa
In preparation for the 2011 International Softball Federation Junior Women’s World Championship, Dec. 6-17, in Cape Town, South Africa, the Junior Women’s National Team will participate in exhibition stops with the Women’s National Team. The Junior Women will also participate in training camps in October and November. In August, the Junior Women’s National Team qualified for Junior Worlds with a 9-0 performance at the III Pan American Championship (18-Under) in Bogota, Colombia.

USA Softball schedules three tour stops
The Junior Women’s National Team will join the Women’s National Team on the field at three exhibition stops in 2011. The exhibitions are June 24-25 in Plant City, Fla., June 29 in Salem, Va., and July 1 in Bowie, Md. Tickets for the Salem, Va., stop are currently on sale at http://www.salemsox.com while tickets for the Bowie, Md., will go on sale to the public in April. Ticket information for the Plant City games will be announced in 2011.

Men’s Fast Pitch National Team returns in 2011
After a hiatus in 2010, USA Softball plans to field a Men’s Fast Pitch National Team again in 2011. The team will begin preparations for the 2013 ISF XII Men’s World Championships in New Zealand by participating in exhibitions and training camps this summer. Team USA finished fourth at the 2009 Worlds.

USA Softball identifying junior men for National Team program
Following a successful development camp in August in Rolla, Mo., that included 39 athletes, the Men’s Fast Pitch National Team Selection Committee is beginning to identify age eligible athletes for the USA Softball Junior Men’s Fast Pitch National Team selection camps in June and July. The Junior Men’s National Team will play at the 2012 ISF IX Jr. Men’s World Championships in Parana, Argentina.

Border Battle on horizon for slow pitch athletes
Following the selection of the 2011 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team early next year, Team USA will take on Team Canada in the third edition of the Border Battle during the World Cup of Softball, July 21-25, in Oklahoma City. Team USA won the first Border Battle in 2009 but narrowly missed out on a second consecutive win this year.

Women’s coaching pool open to qualified applicants
The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America/USA Softball, the National Governing Body for Softball in the United States, announced Dec. 1 that it will begin accepting applications from fast pitch coaches for the next two years (2011-12) for the Women’s National Team program, which includes the Junior Women’s and Women’s National Teams. The deadline to apply is Jan. 5.
ASSOCIATION PROFILE:
FLORIDA ASA

Carlton Benton has served as Commissioner of Florida ASA since its inception in 2009. Benton had previously served as commissioner of the West Central Florida ASA since 1999. When the five Florida association merged in 2009, Benton was selected to serve as Florida ASA Commissioner merged. Benton first took a leadership role with the ASA when he became the sub-district commissioner of Florida ASA in 1975. From 1983-87, he served as the district III commissioner before moving on to work with Metro Tampa, where he assisted with tournaments from 1988-98. He was the director of eight ASA National championships for the City of Lakeland from 1998-2001. Benton sat down with Balls and Strikes Online to discuss how Florida ASA is doing.

B&S: What sets Florida ASA apart from other Associations?
CB: “Florida ASA is in the process of moving forward with the New Florida ASA Association. 2010 brought much excitement and many new opportunities as we completed out first year as one State Association. Reviving old friendships and working to build many new ones will keep us busy for years to come. We as a State are now working hard to develop new strategies to build Florida into one of the best association.”

B&S: What is your biggest strength and weakness as an organization?
CB: “Our strength is being an affiliate member of the National Governing Body for Softball. We are still diligently working to expand our organizations and work through our many parks and recreation departments. Covering two time zones and about 850 miles from one end to the other does present some challenges. We are looking forward to building a very outstanding program for the Florida Softball Community.”

B&S: How active is your association in social media? How do you use it to help you run your association?
CB: “Florida ASA does have a Face Book page where we are still working on getting our information out on a regular basis. I’ve just started a Florida ASA Twitter page and I’m still working out the kinks, but it is fun.”

B&S: What do you feel are the top five assets of your website?
CB: “We are in the middle of changing our website and are getting our tournaments registration online. I would say the top five assets are:
• Communication
• Registration Information
• Tournament Information
• Paying and receiving payment online for both Registration and Tournaments
• Contact information for all areas of the state is available”

B&S: I noticed on your website that you have a login section. Who gets a login and what kind of information do you provide?
CB: “It is important to get teams and individuals to log in so we can gather their information. Our goal is to develop an Online Newsletter (similar to Balls & Strikes) that will feature different programs and individuals that play ASA Softball. Plus we hope to use it to promote having the USA National and Junior National Teams here in Florida June 24-26.”

B&S: Florida ASA is hosting the USA Softball National Team in 2011 in an exhibition stop. This will be your second time hosting the National Team. I know it’s a lot of hard work to host the team. What drew you to do it again?
CB: “Hosting the USA National Team in 2008 prior to the Olympics was personally my most memorable experience in Softball. I had my 8 year old granddaughter, Harli Beerman, throw out the first pitch in her Jennie Finch uniform and Jennie got her glove and caught the ball and gave it to her. Having the entire team here in Florida was just a GREAT event and we had over 5,000 folks in the stadium that completely enjoyed seeing TEAM USA.”

B&S: Anything else you would like to add?
CB: “Florida has a great challenge and opportunity in probably the most competitive softball market in the country. There are two other softball organizations with their National offices here and another softball association that is very active. We look forward to putting a new face on the "NEW" Florida Amateur Softball Association. We have some great people that are working to make this happen.”
Although the Annual Council Meeting required hours of meetings, presentations and discussions, it was not all work as the Council members definitely Laissez les bons temps rouler in Shreveport, La., at the 79th Annual ASA Council Meeting, Nov. 6-13.

The week-long event kicked off with the annual trade show on Saturday. The trade show featured exhibits from cities bidding on the ASA National Championships, equipment manufacturers and softball suppliers with more than 1,000 council members, association delegates and visitors passing through.

“The best part of being at the convention is having the opportunity to meet with our customers. Sustaining relationships is very important to us and being able to see people and hear about what is happening in their local communities helps us to do that,” said Chris Gross who is with Musco Specialty Marketing Programs.

On Sunday, the Shreveport-Bossier City Convention and Visitors Bureau held a wonderful reception featuring music, entertainment and Cajun food provided by restaurants around town. Highlighting the event was Missouri ASA Commissioner Joey Rich singing on the stage that was once occupied by Elvis Presley.

“Ike Wheeler approached me Sunday afternoon and asked about the possibility of me singing. Let me think about it, on the same stage that Elvis Presley sang, uhm, gee, sure I would. It was surreal to be able to sing in front of the ASA Council and guests at such a prestigious location, and to sing two of Elvis’ signature songs with a quality band,” said Rich. “It’s something I will never forget, and thanks all those who made such nice comments throughout the week to follow. Thanks to Ike and the Shreveport folks that were responsible to put this great event on. It was an amazing display of hospitality.”

On Monday afternoon over 100 individuals/associations were honored at the Wilson Sports Goods Awards luncheon. In the service award category, 64 members were given the awards for their five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 55 years of service to the organization. Another 22 were given benchmark awards for increases in the registering of adult and youth teams and umpires. The Triple Play award, for increasing adult teams, Junior Olympic teams and umpires, was awarded to Commissioner Rod Hill of Alaska ASA, the only association to reach the mark in all three categories in 2010. The most total registrations award went to Glenn Morrison on behalf of Texas ASA. The most JO registrations award went to Phil Gutierrez on behalf of the Southern California ASA. The most umpires registered went to Andy Loechner Jr. on behalf of the Pennsylvania ASA. All three associations received the same awards in 2009. For a complete list of honors, click here.

Capping off the Council Meeting was the annual Hall of Fame Induction where 10 individuals were honored with induction into the National Softball Hall of Fame. The 2010 class includes five players, one commissioner, two umpires and two for meritorious service. The five players are Carl Solarek, Fast Pitch Player; Suzy Brazney, Fast Pitch Player; Jody Hennigar, Fast Pitch Player; Norbert Warken (old-timer), Fast Pitch Player; and Mike Shenk, Slow Pitch Player. To get more info on the 2010 Hall of Fame class and to find out who will be inducted in 2011, click here.
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"NO STING, NO VIBRATION, NO MATTER WHERE YOU HIT."

"THIS IS ONE CRAZY SOUNDING BAT!"
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.

Liberty Mutual
Official Sponsor of

Responsible Sports eNewsletter.
Sign up today at ResponsibleSports.com/Softball

Responsibility. What’s your policy?
The Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program is designed to provide helpful advice and useful resources for youth softball coaches and parents that can be applied universally among youth athletes to help our children succeed both on and off the field.

Parents
As the parent of a youth softball player, you want the best for you child, on and off the field. The Responsible Sport Parenting guide provides helpful advice and useful resources that can help you fill the key roles of a Responsible Sport Parent.

Coaches
As a youth softball coach, you naturally want to prepare your team to win as many games as possible, and as a Responsible Coach, you want to prepare your players to win off the field, too. The Responsible Sport Coaching Guide can help you achieve both goals. Get started today!

Earn a $2,500 grant for your softball team
Each fall and spring you can earn one of the twenty $2,500 grants to be awarded for demonstrating responsibility in youth sports. Join the Community Grant Hall of Fame along with the other softball winning organizations and see how they won to improve your team’s chances at winning!

Responsible Sports Season Evaluation Tool
The new Responsible Sports Season Evaluation Tool, an easy to use online survey, allows you to share your valuable input on your child’s youth softball experience in an anonymous and confidential way to improve your league! Tell your administrator to sign up today! If you’re a softball coach, register your team to get started!

Nominate your Coach for their hard work
Nominate your coach for their dedication to youth softball. Nominate a coach you know for the Double-Goal Coach® Awards, presented by Liberty Mutual, and give them the recognition they deserve.

Video & Podcast Library
In the media library, watch Coach Candrea, Jessica Mendoza or a youth softball team in action demonstrating Responsible Sports principles and listen to the new podcasts series of sport celebrities.

For more information, visit ResponsibleSports.com/Softball and the join the movement today!
Nominees Announced

2011 National Softball Hall of Fame

Lori Harrigan
Fast Pitch Player
Las Vegas, Nev.

Lori is a member of an elite group of four women who hold three Olympic Gold Medals in the sport of softball. The pitcher not only competed in three Olympic Games, but also in three World Championships and three Pan American Championships, all gold medal performances. Harrigan was also a three-time ASA Women’s Major All-American, spending two years with the California Commination and one with the California Players. With the Commination, she was crowned National Champion in 1999 and runner-up in 1995. She joined the USA Softball National Team program in 1992 and retired following the 2004 Olympic Games. In the 2000 Olympic Games, she set a record becoming the first individual pitcher to throw an Olympic no-hitter after blanking Canada in the tournament opener. She finished those Games with a 2-0 record, allowing just one hit and one walk in 12.1 innings.

Julie Johnson
Umpire
Alexandria, Indiana

Julie became an ASA registered umpire in 1976 and has emerged as one of the top umpires and clinicians for ASA. Johnson worked nine National Championships, from 1982-1998, including six Women’s Majors. Johnson earned her ISF certification through the International Softball Federation of Umpires in 1986 and would go on to work several Major Fast Pitch events including an ISF World Championship, Pan American Games and most notably the 1996 Olympic Games in Columbus, Georgia. In 2006, she was appointed to the ASA National Umpire Staff as the ASA Deputy Supervisor of Umpires. Johnson not only worked on the field of play, but off the field she served as Umpire-In-Chief for three ASA National Championships and four International events including two World Cup of Softball events and the ISF Men’s World Championship. As one of the top clinicians in the U.S., Johnson has worked over 10 clinics including National Umpires Schools and Fast Pitch Camps. In 2007 she was appointed to the position of North American UIC for the ISF. In 2005, Johnson was inducted into the Indiana ASA Hall of Fame as an Umpire.

Brian Martie
Fast Pitch Player
Bloomington, Indiana

Brian played men’s fast pitch for almost 20 years for several notable teams including Coffeen, Taylor Springs, Bob’s IGA, Bloomington Hearts, Decatur Pride, and ending his career with the Farm Tavern who he competed with for seven seasons. The infielder was a five-time MVP of the Illinois ASA Major State Tournament and six times was selected to the All-Tournament team. He appeared in 15 consecutive ASA National Championships and boasts six All-American titles. On the International scene, Martie competed on two Pan American Games teams, which both won silver, as well as the 1996 ISF World Championships.

Rod Peterson
Manager
Madison, Wisconsin

Rod retired in 2009 after managing the esteemed Farm Tavern team for more than four decades. He began playing in 1955 when he saw a man pass through the hotel lobby carrying cleats. He asked him where he was going and the stranger said a softball game. Peterson tagged along and the rest they say is history. He played and managed the Farm Tavern, a pub that he still owns today, His Farm Tavern teams, whom he began to manage in 1960, won three ASA National Championships and six runner-up finishes. They accomplished the same feat in ISC play. He quit playing in 1986 but continued to manage the team until 2009. Farm Tavern won approximately 15 State Championships under his management.

Lewis Secory Sr.
Sponsor
Port Huron, Michigan

Lewis established the Secory Flyers Softball Club in 1982 when his son approached him about sponsoring a team. The only criteria he asked was that the team represent him, his company and Port Huron, Michigan with class. The year 2010 marked his 29th consecutive season of sponsoring the Secory Flyers Modified Softball Team. In his 29 years of sponsoring, the Flyers have participated in 21 National Championships with two wins. The Flyers won ten MASA State Modified Championships and 16 Port Huron League Championships. During his time on the National Tournament scene, the Flyers placed in the top 10 on nine occasions. Secory is the founder and annual sponsor of the National Bluewater Invitation Softball Tournament in Port Huron. Besides his modified team, Secory has sponsored many other teams including volleyball, hockey and bowling. In 2001, Secory was inducted into the Michigan ASA Hall of Fame in the sponsor category.
At the conclusion of the 2010 National Softball Hall of Fame Induction, 10 individuals’ names were announced with the honor of 2011 Hall of Fame inductee bestowed on them. These 10 individuals who have greatly contributed to the sport of softball will be inducted in Myrtle Beach, S.C. during the ASA National Council Meeting. Meet your 2011 Softball Hall of Famers!

Gary Tharaldson
Sponsor
Fargo, North Dakota

Gary has dedicated much of his life to supporting ASA Softball as a sponsor for not just one or two divisions but across the whole spectrum of ASA Softball. He was a sponsor for 38 years of the Men’s A, B and C Slow Pitch Divisions and supported five different levels of senior ball for a total of 24 years. Tharaldson sponsored women’s teams for 15 years as well as both Boys and Girls Junior Olympic Teams. His sponsored teams have participated in over 30 National Tournaments. Outside of his teams, Tharaldson gave back by providing North Dakota state tournament trophies and banners for all divisions for 12 years. He also sponsored the North Dakota Hall of Fame Banquet for 10 years. Tharaldson has been a key component in keeping the upper division of the McQuade Charity Tournament going. Tharaldson was also a player during his time as sponsor winning two National Championships and over 1,000 games as a pitcher. He had a best year record of 58-2 and a career batting average of over .600.

Tim Wahl
Fast Pitch Player
Grayland, Washington

Tim was introduced to fast pitch softball by a high school friend who was in need of a catcher. With just two years of experience under his belt, in 1986 he was asked to try out for Pay ’N Pak of Seattle and was shortly thereafter catching 85 mph fastballs. He spent the next 17 years of his life devoted to fast pitch softball. Along with Pay ’N Pak, he competed with Seafirst, Perin Corp., NHCO, The Farm Tavern, Tampa Bay Smokers, Decatur Pride, and Victoria Traveller’s Inn. To play during the winter months and perfect his game, he played in New Zealand. He played on three USA Softball National Teams in ISF World Championships play and won eight ASA All-American titles. He was also named to two ISF All-World Teams. He retired in 2002 and continues to work on his family farm growing cranberries.

Al White
Modified Player
Canton, Michigan

Al began his career as a modified fast pitch player in 1966 and retired from the sport in 1997. He briefly emerged from retirement in 2001 to pitch his team to a ninth-place National Tournament finish. White played for 31 years, pitching for two ASA National Championship teams and earning five first-team All-America honors and the 1985 MVP Title. With all the accolades, his greatest thrill was playing with his son for Little Caesars. They qualified for ASA Nationals every year and were the perfect battery as his son was the catcher. He is currently the Head Coach for the women’s softball team at Madonna University, continuing his commitment to the sport. White is also a Metro Detroit ASA Hall of Fame Inductee.

Max Wilkes
Meritorious Service
Phenix City, Alabama

Max has been a long time supporter of ASA dating back to 1959 where he played and managed several softball teams in the southeast. Wilkes helped organized and serves as President of the Phenix City Umpire Association from 1968 to present. Wilkes served as Alabama ASA District 5 Umpire-In-Chief for over 30 years and currently still holds that position. He is a four-time President of Alabama ASA and three-time Alabama Umpire-In-Chief. From 1993-2006, he served as UIC for over 75 ASA National Championships. During his 25-years on the National Umpire Staff, he was responsible for the coordination of 350 National Championship Tournaments from the Southern Region. He received one of the highest honors when he served on the Atlanta Olympic Games staff for the first-ever Olympic Games. He also served ASA on several committees including the Umpires, Master/Seniors and Junior Olympics and Playing Rules-Special Programs.

Jim Wolford
Umpire
DeWitt, Michigan

Before Jim began umpiring ASA Softball in 1974, he played competitive softball in southwest Michigan. Wolford umpired his first state tournament just two years after he umpired his first two games. In his 26 years of service, Wolford umpired in five ASA National Championships culminating with the Men’s Super Slow Pitch in 1990. Wolford umpired in over 20 state Championships and served as Umpire-In-Chief for over 30 MASA State Championships. Also in 1990, he became the Michigan ASA State UIC, a position he held for ten years. As he turned more to promoting other umpires instead of his own career, Wolford played a key role in many Michigan umpire clinics during his time. Wolford became International Softball Federation certified in 1983. He was an inaugural member of the National Indicator Fraternity in 1986 and was inducted in the Michigan ASA Hall of Fame in 1993.
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](http://www.ASASoftball.com).

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

*Important Note: In order to participate in ASA Junior Olympic/Youth Championship Play, all teams must be ASA Individually Registered or purchase through Bollinger the ASA Team Insurance Package Plan.*
ASA’s Official Team Insurance Plan
for the 48th year!

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

ASA TEAM ACCIDENT & LIABILITY COVERAGES

- ASA Team Accident Insurance provides a $250,000 Excess Medical Expense benefit for injuries to your players.
- Various deductible options offer you additional savings.
- The ASA Team Liability Insurance Plan provides your team with $5,000,000 in protection for bodily injury or property damage claims arising out of your team’s games, practices or fundraising activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011 ASA Junior Olympic Team Insurance Plans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Package Plan (Includes Accident and Liability Insurance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accident Deductible</td>
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<td>$250</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011 ASA Adult Team Insurance Plans</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Package Plan (Includes Accident and Liability Insurance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accident Deductible</td>
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<td>$500</td>
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<td>$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liability Only</td>
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*To qualify for discounted League Rates, ALL TEAMS in your league must purchase the insurance plan (minimum of four teams) and apply on one enrollment form.

Note: Many ASA Associations are requiring Individual Registration for their Junior Olympic teams. One benefit of Individual Registration is that Liability and Accident Insurance are automatically provided as part of the ASA membership fee. If your local ASA Commissioner is using Individual Registration, you do not need to purchase the ASA Team Insurance Plan. Contact your ASA Commissioner or Bollinger for more information.
2011 ASA Softball Playing Rule Changes with Comments

Rule 2 Section 1 Table: The base distance for Men’s Class A and Class B Slow Pitch classification shall be 70 Feet.

Comment: Allows for more defensive plays in our upper classifications of Men’s Slow Pitch.

Rule 2 Section 3H: The double base shall be used at first base in all divisions of play. The base is 15 X 30 inches and both sides of the double base, white and contrasting color, shall be of equal thickness. (5” max).

Comment: This clarifies that both sides of the double base must be equal in height.

Rule 3 Section 1D: The safety grip can be made of cork, tape or other synthetic material and must be permanently attached and cover the handle region of the bat. No bare metal may be exposed in the area covered by safety grip. It shall not be less than 10 inches and not more than 15 inches. Any attachment such as a molded finger grip, flare cone, or choke up device must be attached to the grip with safety tape. Resin, pine tar, or spray substances are permissible on the safety grip only.

Comment: Better defines the safety grip of a legal bat.

Rule 3 Section 1H: An ASA official bat’s characteristics shall remain fixed at the time of manufacture and may not be altered in any way other than specifically provided for in (Rule 3 Section 1) or as specifically approved by the ASA. Approved bats shall be considered altered if they are rolled, shaved, repainted, weighted or modified to change their characteristics from that produced by the manufacturer. Identifying the bat by means of laser marking, engraving, or painting the name or number of the player will not make the bat an altered bat.

Comment: This better defines an altered bat and allows for engraving to be part of the identification process.

Rule 3 Section 3A: The ball must have an ASA approved Certification Mark and not appear on the ASA Non Approved Ball List.

Comment: There will be balls with certification marks that will be added to a non approved ball list. This clarifies that the balls on this list will no longer be approved.

Rule 3 Section 3E [3]: A yellow cover red stitch 12” ball with as follows:

Size: at least 11.875 in.; Weight: at least 6.250 oz.; COR: .520 max; Compression: 300.0 lbs max and Dynamic Stiffness: 5500.0 lbs max.

Comments: Allows for an additional 12” ball for the Slow Pitch Classification of play that is less temperature sensitive, reduces batted ball speed, and increases player reaction time.
Rule 3 Section 6: Exception: Men’s Class E/Rec: The only uniform requirement is matching shirts with numbers.

Comment: Allows the uniform code for E/Rec Classification to be less stringent.

Rule 4 Section 1C [3]: If discovered using the wrong number of females or males in the outfield or infield and brought to the umpire’s attention by the offended team:

a) After a pitch legal or illegal or play made,

   EFFECT: All action stands.

b) Before the next pitch legal or illegal or play made,

c) Before the defense has left the field,

d) Before the umpires have left the field of play,

   EFFECT: b, c and d

   1) If the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely, and all other runners have advanced at least one base. All action of the batted ball stands.

   2) If all runners, including the batter runner, do not advance at least one base. The manager has the option of taking the result of the play, or awards the batter first base and advances all runners, if forced.

Comment: This adds a penalty for the defensive team not playing the right number of males and or females in the outfield and infield.

Rule 6 Section 3K [2] (Modified Pitch) The pivot foot must drag and not lose contact with the ground.

Comment: This matches the foot requirements for 10 man with 9 man in the rule book.

Rule 7 Section 3B: (Adult Slow Pitch Only except Seniors) The batter shall assume a one ball, one strike count upon entering the batter's box.

Comment: This removes the Master’s Slow Pitch Classification from the exception and they will now start with a one and one count.

Rule 10 Section 5D: The approved navy ball bag(s) with ASA letters to be worn with the Navy or Fechheimer gray slacks; or the gray ball bag(s) with the ASA letters may be worn with the Fechheimer gray slacks.

Comment: Clarifies the uniform rule to allow the gray ball bag with the ASA letters to be worn.

Rule 10 Section 5H: The plate umpire must wear a black or silver mask, with black or tan padding and a black throat protector.

Comments: This allows for a silver colored mask to be worn by the plate umpire.
ALL NEW
FIELDER'S MASK

Ultra Lightweight

Ultimate Visibility

Ultimate Protection

The most comfortable fielder's mask on the field featuring foam padding and a form fitting padded chin cup. Fully adjustable harness. Four team colors.

schuttsports.com
# 2011 ASA National Championships

## Adult Fast Pitch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament Name</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Stop Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA/ASA Girls' Class A 10-Under</td>
<td>8/1/2011</td>
<td>8/7/2011</td>
<td>Midland, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA/ASA Girls' Class A 18-Under</td>
<td>8/1/2011</td>
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## Territory Tournaments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
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<td>Salem</td>
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<td>Sterling</td>
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<td>York</td>
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<td>Ft. Collins</td>
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<td>College Station</td>
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<td>Clinton</td>
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<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>Ft. Worth, TX</td>
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<td>Tuleo, MO</td>
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<td>Bowling Green, KY</td>
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<td>Fort Smith, AR</td>
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## Adult Slow Pitch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament Name</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Stop Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75 West</td>
<td>9/9/2011</td>
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## Senior Slow Pitch

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA/ASA Girls' Class A Gold 18-Under</td>
<td>7/24/2011</td>
<td>7/30/2011</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA/ASA Girls' Class A 10-Under</td>
<td>7/31/2011</td>
<td>8/7/2011</td>
<td>Johnson City, TN</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA/ASA Girls' Class A 12-Under</td>
<td>7/31/2011</td>
<td>8/7/2011</td>
<td>Montgomery, AL</td>
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## Junior Fast Pitch

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA/ASA Girls' Class A 10-Under</td>
<td>8/1/2011</td>
<td>8/7/2011</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA/ASA Girls' Class A 12-Under</td>
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<td>8/7/2011</td>
<td>Johnson City, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA/ASA Girls' Class A 12-Under</td>
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<td>8/7/2011</td>
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## Junior Olympic Slow Pitch

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys' 10-Under</td>
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<td>8/7/2011</td>
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<td>Boys' 12-Under</td>
<td>8/5/2011</td>
<td>8/7/2011</td>
<td>North Market, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys' 14-Under</td>
<td>8/5/2011</td>
<td>8/7/2011</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys' 16-Under</td>
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<td>8/7/2011</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys' 18-Under</td>
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<td>8/7/2011</td>
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## Modified Pitch

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<th>Tournament Name</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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## National Invitational Tournaments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament Name</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Stop Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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### 2010 ASA CHAMPIONSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athletes playing in National Championships</td>
<td>33,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teams played in National Championships</td>
<td>2,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umpires at National Championships</td>
<td>2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teams in the Girls’ 18-U GOLD &amp; ASA/USA National Championships</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teams at the ASA/USA Girls’ 16-U Fast Pitch Championships - College Station/Bryan, TX</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teams in the Girls’ Class A Fast Pitch Territories</td>
<td>574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teams in Adult Slow Pitch Championships</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teams in the Girls’ Class B Fast Pitch Territories</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teams in Adult Fast Pitch Championships</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Champions</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities hosted National Championships</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers courtesy of the ASA Softball National Office*
VETERANS PARK and Athletic Complex in College Station, Texas, has been selected as the 2010 Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America Complex of the Year presented by Stabilizer Solutions, Inc., the ASA announced on Oct. 19. In addition to receiving the award at the ASA's 79th National Council Meeting in Shreveport, La., Veterans Park (3101 Harvey Road) received approximately $2,000 in field maintenance products from Stabilizer Solutions.

“Congratulations to Veterans Park. Award winning fields like Veterans Park, help raise awareness of the importance of playing field conditions, not only for safety, but for economic purposes as well,” said Jon Hubbs, President of Stabilizer Solutions, Inc.

“Teams want to play on great fields and Stabilizer Solutions is proud to help recognize those great fields for the fifth consecutive year.”


“We are thrilled to be awarding Veterans Park our Complex of the Year Award,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “The City of College Station Parks and Recreation Department have been a great supporter of ASA Softball and we are proud to be honoring them with the 2010 award.”

Veterans Park hosts numerous ASA events throughout the year, including the 2010 ASA/USA Girls’ Class A 16-Under Fast Pitch National Championship, totaling almost 2,000 hours of softball hosted on five fields. Veterans Park will also serve as the host for the ASA Girls’ A 10-Under Fast Pitch Southern National Championship and ASA Coed Class D Southern Slow Pitch National Championship in August 2011.

“We are extremely honored and very proud that our facility was selected for the 2010 ASA Complex of the Year presented by Stabilizer Solutions, Inc.,” said Colin Killian, Communications and Marketing Specialist for the City of College Station. “I think behind every great facility there is an army of great people and we certainly have that with the City of College Station and our Parks and Recreation department. They worked really hard in putting the ASA/USA 16-Under National Championship this summer and I think they drew rave reviews from everyone who participated and the spectators as well. It was a great event from start to finish which is a tribute to our park and rec department and especially Geri Marsh who was the tournament director.”

Veterans Park is 28 acres of a 150 acre facility that also includes a 12 acre Veterans Memorial dedicated to all veterans of the Brazos Valley who have served the United States in wars and a 9/11 memorial. Completion of Phase I of the park, which included the first two softball fields as well as six soccer fields and other amenities like parking, was dedicated in May 2003. In April 2007, an additional three softball fields and three soccer fields were opened with Phase II, which also included a 500 capacity American pavilion and American History Mile Trail. Phase III will include an additional four softball fields, making Veterans Park a nine field complex in the future.

“We are very proud of all our facilities in College Station,” said Killian. “Veterans Park is special in our view and this affirms our feelings. We thank the ASA and Stabilizer Solutions very much for this tremendous honor.”
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3Low introductory rate does not apply to Cash Advances and is valid for the first six billing cycles. Details will be provided to Cardmembers. 4Some limitations may apply. Details will be provided to Cardmembers.

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EACH YEAR during the Texas ASA Association annual business meeting the organization takes it upon themselves to conduct a fundraiser to give back to the local community. Dating back to the past 10 meetings, the group has donated everything from cash to can food to make sure they leave an impact on the city they are visiting.

Working with the administration of local Food Banks, they pass around a “collection plate” at the beginning of the meeting and continue until their final session on Sunday morning. If they don’t get enough the first time around, then they pass it again.

“Giving back to communities is what we do,” said former Texas ASA Commissioner Glenn Morrison. “We are so fortunate to be able to play the game of softball all over the State of Texas. This is just one of our ways of giving back. We have always chosen the Food Banks as we know these dollars go directly to the people who need it the most.”

With the funds coming directly from the Texas ASA Members, the group was able to donate $1,707 to the Galveston Area Food Bank after the October 8-10, 2010 meeting.

“While I don’t have the exact total over all the years, I know that we have never been under $1,000 in each of the cities we visit. This has become something very special to Texas ASA and we look forward to continuing in future years.”

This type of giving has always been a part of the ASA make up from the National and local levels. For more ideas on how to give back or fundraisers for your local ASA Association contact Julie Bartel at jbartel@softball.org at the ASA National Office.
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The New Mizuno Frenzy™ 3.0 Fastpitch Bat, uniquely made with Black Onyx Carbon™ for extreme pop and ultimate durability. With an air molded inner wall of carbon for remarkable consistency, the Frenzy™ 3.0 will deliver hit after hit and boost your game to new levels.

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All-session tickets will be released at a later date!

Oklahoma City is not the only place you can see the ladies of the diamond as they will make exhibition appearances in Plant City, Fla., Salem, Va., and Bowie, Md. Ticket and schedule information will be posted on www.usasoftball.com as soon as it is available.

European Softball Friends

Have you ever wondered what your softball counterpart half way across the World was doing? Is there an umpire, league administrator or player in Europe doing something that you could utilize on your behalf? Well keep in the loop by visiting our European friends at www.europeansoftball.org. For the most recent newsletter click here where among other issues you can see how Softball Europe is growing their slow pitch program.

New Commissioners Announced

The ASA recently announced the four new commissioners have been selected to lead their local associations. These include JoAnn McGuire of Enid, Okla. (Oklahoma ASA), Michael Rabin of Woodinville, Wash. (Seattle-Tacoma ASA), Rodney Cobb of San Marcos, Texas (Texas ASA) and Steve Rollins of Layton, Utah (Utah ASA). For more information on this new leadership be sure to log onto www.asasoftball.com.

USA Softball donates to Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation

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

2011 UIC Clinic and Schools

The 2011 Biennial Umpire-In-Chief Clinic will be held in Oklahoma City from February 3-6, 2011. The clinic will include breakout sessions, guest speakers and a banquet to honor those who receive the Award of Excellence. The cost will be the same as the 2009 Clinic, $175 per person. The registration fee includes, among many other items, the new Mechanics DVD, Volume II. Highlighting the speakers will be Mike Perriera, former Vice President of Officiating for the NFL, and other top leaders of the ASA Umpire Staff. For more information on the clinic and a registration form, please click here.

Purchase tickets NOW to see YOUR USA Softball Team

Ultimate Fan Zone tickets for the 2011 World Cup of Softball, to be held July 21-25 in Oklahoma City, are now on sale. Through Dec. 16, each ticket purchased will be accompanied by a special gift pack that includes an authentic Nike USA batting jersey in red or blue ($65 value), a Nike visor ($15 value) and a certificate announcing the purchase of an Ultimate Fan Zone ticket. The $275 ticket includes premium seating for all five days of the World Cup, with Ultimate Fans placed in the first three rows of sections 7-13 of the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium, as well a parking pass and a piece of USA Softball apparel, which has included a replica USA jersey in previous years, and a private meal with the 2011 USA Softball Women’s National Team. **BUY TODAY!**
ASA and Clubspaces
Building on the success of previous years, the ASA and Active Network, with its Clubspaces product, have decided to extend their relationship into the 2012 season. Active’s Clubspaces provides ASA leagues with a free website, integrated online registration, and league management tools that include schedule creation and score/stat tracking. Plus, ASA and Active are currently collaborating to ensure that roster and player data will pass seamlessly from Clubspaces to ASA’s membership database. Visit http://sports.clubspaces.com/asa/ to sign up today.

USA Softball Walks the Red Carpet
The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America/USA Softball, the National Governing Body for the sport of softball in the United States, and its athletes are featured in the James L. Brooks film “How Do You Know”, which opens nationwide Friday. In the movie, Oscar winning actress Reese Witherspoon plays Lisa Jorgenson, a fictional USA Softball athlete who is cut from the 2011 Women’s National Team, despite a decorated career with the program. To celebrate the sport’s prominence in the movie, nine USA Softball Olympic medalists, walked the red carpet Monday at the “How Do You Know” Los Angeles Premiere at Regency Village Theatre in Westwood, Calif. Olympic Champions Crystl Bustos, Amanda Freed, Lovie Jung and Olympic Silver Medalist Andrea Duran, who attended the premier, all made cameo appearances in the movie in addition assisting with Witherspoon’s four month crash course on softball for the movie. Also invited to the premiere for their role in Witherspoon’s training were three-time Olympic Champion and Olympic Silver Medalist Laura Berg as well as Olympic Champions and Silver Medalists Jennie Finch, Tairia Flowers, Jessica Mendoza and Natasha Watley. Check out your local theatre for this wonderful romantic comedy and some softball action.

Special Olympics
The 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games showcased nearly 250 Special Olympics athletes and unified partners competing in softball, representing 18 teams from 17 North America Programs, in Lincoln, Nebraska, July 18-23. The week kicked off with Amanda Freed, 2004 Women’s Olympic Softball Team Gold Medalist, together with former Major Leager Frank Kolarek, leading a softball clinic on July 20. Competition began in round-robin/pool play, culminating with the medal ceremony on Friday morning. Competition for the twelve traditional teams and six Unified teams—comprised of athletes both with and without intellectually disabilities—was held at the Fleming Fields softball complex.

The ASA had an integral role throughout the Games. Andy Dooley, ASA President, served as the Technical Delegate while Renee Williams, JO Commissioner for Nebraska ASA, was the Sports Commissioner. Tim Watts from ASA-Nebraska District 9A officiated several games alongside ASA umpires from across the United States while Ron Radigonda and Craig Cress from the ASA National Office were fans in the stands. In addition to the competition, Dooley, Brady Lum, President and COO of Special Olympics and Shawn Baile, Moose International Director of Membership, participated in an official proclamation signing between Special Olympics North America and the ASA as part of promoting the upcoming inaugural, SONA National Softball Invitational Championship being held August 26-28, 2011, in Elgin, Illinois. Thanks to all the members of ASA who helped make this a success.

For additional information about Special Olympics in your state, please go to www.specialolympics.org.
Optional Alterations / Hemming

We can professionally hem your pants for an additional $8.00. Please state inseam length when ordering. We will not be responsible for your measurement errors. Hemmed pants not returnable.

Note: Please allow an additional 2 days shipping time for alterations.

**UMPIRE BASE PANTS**

Fechheimer® polyester knit pants with metal zipper closure. Pant features snug fit, rubberized waistband–2 zones of stretch, two western-cut pockets, creases set and pressed.

- **#PB** Gray Men’s Base pants - Waist size: 28-54
  - Size: S-M, L-XL
  - Size: XXL
  - Size: XXXL
  - Size: XXXXL
  - Size: XXXXXL

- **#PGW** Gray Women’s Base pants - Size: 8-20
  - Size: S-M, L-XL
  - Size: XXL
  - Size: XXXL
  - Size: XXXXL
  - Size: XXXXXL

- **#PB** Navy Men’s Base pants - Waist size: 28-54
  - Size: S-M, L-XL
  - Size: XXL
  - Size: XXXL
  - Size: XXXXL
  - Size: XXXXXL

- **#PBW** Navy Women’s Base pants - Size: 8-20
  - Size: S-M, L-XL
  - Size: XXL
  - Size: XXXL
  - Size: XXXXL
  - Size: XXXXXL

**UMPIRE PLATE PANTS**

Same as Umpire Base Pants (description above) with fuller cut to accommodate shin guards.

- **#PPG** Gray Men’s Plate pants - Waist size: 28-54
  - Size: S-M, L-XL
  - Size: XXL
  - Size: XXXL
  - Size: XXXXL
  - Size: XXXXXL

- **#PPBW** Gray Women’s Plate pants - Size: 8-20
  - Size: S-M, L-XL
  - Size: XXL
  - Size: XXXL
  - Size: XXXXL
  - Size: XXXXXL

**UMP POLO W/ASA LETTERS**

- **#135** ASA® approved Pro-Style Polo Shirt with ASA® embroidered on chest.
  - Size: S-M, L-XL
  - Size: XXL
  - Size: XXXL
  - Size: XXXXL
  - Size: XXXXXL

**UMP T-SHIRT**

- **#1006** White Hanes Beefy-T, with ASA Umpire screened on left chest. 100% cotton, preshrunk.
  - Size: S-M, L-XL, XXL, XXXL
  - Size: XXXXL

**UNDER ARMOUR HEATGEAR T-SHIRT**

Lightweight micro-pique fabric with a generous, loose fit, this tee is an essential for umpires. Anti-pick and anti-pill ensures your tee will standup to the rigors of the game. Odor control keeps it odor-free.

- **#150** Navy
  - Size: S-XXL
  - Size: XXXL

**UMPIRE MOCK TURTLENECK**

- **#1007** White long sleeve mock turtleneck with navy ASA® on collar. 100% extra heavyweight cotton, double needle stitching on neck and bottom hem, ribbed cuffs.
  - Size: S-M, L-XL
  - Size: XXL

- **#1008** Same as above in Navy.
CAPSUDDY
#CAPSUDDY The plastic Ball-Cap Buddy is easy to use for washing Ball-Caps in the washing machine or the top rack of the dishwasher. Use for standard, duck-billed hats and visor.

FITTED PRO MESH CAP WITH EMBROIDERED ASA® LETTERS
#402PM Field, 3-inch 8-stitch bill, fitted navy Pro-Mesh cap.
#402BM Combo, 2½-inch 6-stitch bill, fitted navy Pro-Mesh cap.
#402PM Plate, 2-inch 4-stitch bill, fitted navy Pro-Mesh cap.
(*see available sizes in fitted cap chart.)

FITTED WOOL CAP WITH EMBROIDERED ASA® LETTERS
#402FL Field, 3-inch 8-stitch bill, fitted navy wool cap.
#402BL Combo, 2½-inch 6-stitch bill, fitted navy wool cap.
#402FL Plate, 2-inch 4-stitch bill, fitted navy wool cap.
(*see available sizes in fitted cap chart.)

ADJUSTABLE UMP CAP WITH EMBROIDERED ASA® LETTERS
#402FSL Field, 3-inch 8-stitch bill, navy mesh cap. Adjusts to S-M (6 ¼ to 7 ½).
#402FLL Field, 3-inch 8-stitch bill, navy mesh cap. Adjusts to L-XL (7 ¼ to 7 ¾).
#403CK Combo, 2½-inch 6-stitch bill, ProMesh FlexFit cap. Flex sizes S-XL Sm 6 ¾ to 6 7/8, Med 7 to 7 ¼, Lrg 7 ½ to 7 ¾, XL 7 ¾ to 8.
#402FWL Field, 3-inch 8-stitch bill, navy wool cap. Adjusts to L-XL (7 ¼ to 7 ¾).
#402BLL Combo, 2½-inch 6-stitch bill, navy wool cap. Adjusts to L-XL (7 ¼ to 7 ¾).
#402PPLL Plate, 2-inch 4-stitch bill, navy wool cap. Adjusts to L-XL (7 ¼ to 7 ¾).

FITTED UMP CAP (NO LETTERS)
#402FP Field, 3-inch 8-stitch bill, fitted navy wool cap.
#402BP Combo, 2½-inch 6-stitch bill, fitted navy wool cap.
#402PP Plate, 2-inch 4-stitch bill, fitted navy wool cap.
(*see available sizes in fitted cap chart.)
**SOCKS (SINGLE PAIR PACKS)**

- #CA100 Navy crew sock, 80% Orlon/20% Nylon, reinforced heel and toe. Shoe size 9-12  
  **$4.00**
- #CA202 Anklelet Socks w/navy ASA® logo, 80% Orlon/20% Nylon. Shoe size 9-12  
  **$5.00**

**SOCKS (PACKS OF THREE PAIR)**

- #CA300 3pk White crew sock with ASA/logo. Dri-comfort® polyester with Dri Stitch (dries 4x faster than cotton), 360 degree mesh allows airflow and moisture evaporation. FreshTech® odor protection technology neutralizes odor. Shoe size 9-12  
  **$14.00**
- #CA399 3pk Navy crew socks, same as above. Shoe size 9-12  
  **$14.00**
- #CA400 3pk Ankle Socks with ASA/logo. Dri-comfort® polyester with Dri Stitch (dries 4x faster than cotton), 360 degree mesh allows airflow and moisture evaporation. FreshTech® odor protection technology neutralizes odor. Shoe size 4-10  
  **$13.00**
- #CA402 Same as above. Shoe size 9-12  
  **$13.00**

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- #1012 ABZORB heal and forefoot, leather upper, protective steel toe, protective lace shin flap.  
  Size 8-11 in half sizes and 12, 13, 14  
  **$109.00**

**3N2 REACTION BASE SHOE.**

- #1014 Wear resistant, easily polished 100% leather construction. Compression molded EVA midsole. Weight 12.8 oz. Color black.  
  Size 6-12 in half sizes and 13, 14, 15.  
  **$59.00**

**3N2 REACTION PRO-PLATE**

- #1015 Wear resistant, highly polished 100% genuine leather construction. Rugged carbon-fiber plate backed by an impact-absorbing cushion. Designed to reduce knee and joint stress associated with game-after-game action. Weight 15.7 oz. Black.  
  Size 6-12 in half sizes and 13, 14, 15.  
  **$89.00**

**SHOE BAG**

- #750 Tote and store shoes or other items in this nylon, draw-string shoe bag. Color - Navy  
  **$8.00**

**BELTS**

- #LU Black Leather belt. 1 ½” with silver buckle. (Closeout sizes limited check online before you order)  
  Size: 28-54  
  **$13.00**
- #UB Black Leather belt 1 ¼” with silver buckle  
  Size: 28-58  
  **$15.00**
- #RFB Rubberized, adjustable flex belt. Worn inside pant to hold in shirt tail. Fits sizes up to 45”  
  **$15.00**

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#5014 Soccer style leg guards. Light weight designed to be worn under

#5012S Diamond double-knee leg guards. Full calf and ankle wings,

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#4902 Diamond Quick-Dry replacement pad set

#4901 50/50 pad set leather/black

#5003 Black mask replacement strap set.

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#5001 Black impact resistant plastic throat guard extension.

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#5006V Light-weight extended frame mask with vinyl pad set. 1 lb. 14 oz.

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#5023 Pro-Plus Super-Light Mask - Features Dri-Gear moisture

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MASKS
Men's 23-under Fast Pitch National Champions.

Click here for all of the National Championship photos submitted to the National Office!
Army Mom battles breast cancer with golden moments in Armed Forces sun

By Tim Hipps, FMWRC Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA, Fla. – Debra Rogers discovered a golden remedy for battling breast cancer during a trip to sunny Florida to watch her son make his All-Army softball debut.

“My doctor told me that I shouldn’t come, but I told him that I needed to go,” said Debra Rogers, who underwent a double mastectomy on April 30 and began chemotherapy treatments in June.

“We talked about it, and he then agreed with me, knowing that I was going anyway,” she added with a laugh. “And he said that maybe Dann would be the best medicine.”

Her son, 31-year-old Staff Sgt. Dann Rogers of Camp Walker, Korea, played second base for the All-Army team at the 2010 Armed Forces Softball Championships Sept. 19-23.

Debra served as the unofficial “Team Mom” for both the All-Army men’s and women’s squads throughout the tourney played against members of the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

“It’s like little kids playing on the softball field, and you blink, and they’re grown men,” she said. “You know what I mean? They enjoy the game, they play very well, and to come together for a couple of weeks as a group to play like this, it’s just outstanding.

“But that’s what I thought: a group of little boys, and I blink my eyes, and they’re men.”

It was 40 degrees when Debra left home in Marinette, Wis., on Saturday. Despite temperatures in the 90s at Naval Air Station Pensacola, she attended all 17 of the All-Army men’s and women’s games.

“Physically, yes, at times the pain from the chemotherapy goes into your joints. The headaches are severe, and there’s cramping,” she said. “The sun actually did feel good, but right before I got overheated, I would go sit in the shade. And the people were very, very kind.”

All-Army women’s coach Sgt. 1st Class Rob Bailey was kind enough to hang his gold medal around the neck of Debra Rogers.

“When I see someone who is a gold-medal fan and most definitely a gold-medal mother, I want you to have this on behalf of Danny and the team and All-Army,” Bailey said as he presented his medal to Debra.

With eyes welling with tears, the All-Army players then lined up for hugs with their newfound mom.

“I’m so proud of each and every one of you,” she told the group. “You’ve made a memory for me that on the worst day I’m going to have, I’m going to pull it out. Thank you.”

Debra proudly displayed the gold medal to fellow passengers on her flight to Atlanta the next day. She was even more proud of the way her son played.

Rogers, who batted .556 and had 13 RBIs, earned both All-Tournament and All-Armed Forces honors as one of nine Armed Forces rookies on the All-Army men’s squad.

“I know he is a good player because he plays from the heart,” Debra said. “He has soul for this game, and he enjoys himself. I’m proud of him no matter what, but it is an honor for him to have come and played well and he is still going on.”

Rogers, who has deployed five times to Iraq and Afghanistan, competed with the U.S. All-Armed Forces Team at the 2010 Men’s A National Championship in Oklahoma City where he hit .600.
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Boombah full dye jerseys are the ultimate choice for the team that wants style and color flexibility at a great price. We have stock or custom options available to suit your team's unique sense of style. Our jerseys are lightweight and breathable with quality construction from seam to seam. At Boombah we exceed your expectations in color, quality and price that cannot be matched anywhere else. Additionally, we are committed to do whatever we can to ensure your experience at Boombah is a great one.

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FOR DOT RICHARDSON, life has always been about living the dream... literally.

After watching American pole vaulter Bob Seagren’s gold medal-winning performance at the Mexico City 1968 Olympic Games, seven-year-old Richardson had a dream that changed the rest of her life.

“I was standing on a podium and having an Olympic gold medal put around my neck,” Richardson said.

That dream seemed unrealistic. Richardson was a softball player, and softball was not an Olympic sport. At least not yet. But she had played for Team USA since she was 17, in everything from World Championships to Pan American Games, and was ready to move on.

She earned her BS in Kinesiology and Pre-Med from the University of California Los Angeles and was in the middle of her Orthopaedic Residency Program at University of Southern California when she found out that softball was added to the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games.

Richardson would be 34 during the Atlanta Games, but that did not matter to her. She secretly tried out for the team and made it in 1995. USC granted her a leave of absence to pursue the Olympic dream. Then her dreams really started.

“One was that I saw myself hit a home run,” Richardson said. “I thought that was a home run in the first game and I thought that was the first pitch in the history of the Olympics. The next thing is I saw myself hit a home run in the gold-medal game and then the third was I saw all of us standing up there with Olympic gold medals around our necks.”

Her first at bat came in the first game of the tournament, against Puerto Rico, and it was a ball. Richardson was in shock. But she soon found out she had dreamed about her fourth at bat, when she would hit the ball over centerfield fence.

“It was the first home run in Olympic history for softball, and my arms went up in the air,” Richardson said. “I wish that everyone could feel what I was feeling at that moment at least once in their lifetime.”

She hit another home run in Team USA’s next game, against the Netherlands. True to her dream, her next home run would come in the gold-medal game against China. She went three for three in dreams when she and her teammates won the game, 3-1, and became the first softball gold-medalists in Olympic history.

Two days after the gold medal was placed around her neck, Richardson returned to her residency program and switched her focus back to orthopedics, while finding time for interviews, appearances and motivational speaking on the side.

Richardson had never actually retired from softball, so her plan became making the U.S. team for the Superball Classic in ’97. The only problem was she did not make the team, nor did she make it the following year. So in ’98 she played six games with the California Commotion, her women’s major fast-pitch team, and was invited to try out for the Olympic team for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

“I thought, ‘Am I just pushing it too much?’” Richardson said. “But I tried out because I wanted to go out on my own terms.”

This time, she made the team. And although she turned 39 in Sydney, her teammates, and 1996 and 2000 head coach Ralph Raymond wanted her on the team, regardless of age.

“She was a truly great competitor and played the game the way it should be played,” Raymond said. “She was like a catalyst. I batted her first and she did a lot of things to get us going. She was an excellent fielder, had great range, a strong flowing arm.”

She was known for being a short-stop, but when she made the team again Raymond had her play second base – a position she had not played in 20 years.

“We moved her over so that she would be able to handle it,” Raymond said. “You get a little older and you kind of lose a step or two, so we felt that would help her and give her ample
Richardson did a good job transitioning into the new position, but the team as a whole struggled to find the success it had in Atlanta. "I had a home run the first game my fourth at bat, just like in ’96 and so I had visions that it was going to be the same, living the dream," Richardson said. "But in reality, Sydney was more like living the nightmare."

Team USA won its first two games against Canada and Cuba, but the victories accompanied three losses against Japan, China and Australia. One more loss and that would be the end of Richardson’s Olympic career.

"It was probably the best way for me to go out, because you really had to use all your experience, all of your leadership skills, you had to use psychology," Richardson said. "It was amazing what all of us really had to do and for me I just felt like we really have to turn this around.

"Often times I think we get so caught up in the hype. The ’96 Olympics, we didn’t know what it’d be like. But now the 2000 players were like, ‘Wait a minute – sponsorship, TV exposure, commercials…’ And we forgot to do the most important thing, which is to utilize our gift in playing the sport."

The team rallied back and defeated New Zealand, Italy, China and Australia to make it to the gold-medal game against Japan.

Japan’s Reika Utsugi hit a home run off pitcher Lisa Fernandez in the fourth inning, but Stacey Nuveman singled in the fifth to score Michele Smith and tie the game. In the eighth, Laura Berg hit one over the left-fielder’s head and drove Jennifer McFalls home to score the game-winning run and defend Team USA’s title as Olympic champions.

"2000 to me represents perseverance. Life’s not easy and it’s not meant to be easy. It’s a challenge and sport teaches us that.”
Welcome to ASA and gHP Sport

A MESSAGE FROM ASA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ron Radigonda
“To be able to continue to play and compete in the game we love, it’s important that we maintain our health and look for ways to improve our performance.
That’s why I’m proud to announce ASA’s new relationship with SomaLife to bring you their flagship product, “gHP Sport”.
I encourage you to review this website www.gHPSport-Softball.com to learn more about this remarkable athletic performance enhancement supplement and how it can help both your game and your life.
Stars of our sport, like Johnny, Christian and Rusty have embraced gHP Sport and are experiencing its powerful benefits… and now YOU can too!
I’m also pleased to inform you that ASA has secured preferred pricing for your risk free, guaranteed purchase and that a portion of the proceeds go to benefiting future ASA initiatives.”

ENDORSEMENTS

gHP Sport Helps You Reach Your Peak And Has The Endorsements To Prove It!

Johnny McCraw
- National Promotions Manager, Combat Sports
- 17-Time All-World Selection

“After going thru five shoulder surgeries throughout my baseball and softball career I needed to find a product that could help me have more energy, increase muscle strength and stamina, and most of all speed up my recovery time. That’s when I met the guys from gHP Sport at the 2010 USA vs Canada Border Battle. I immediately started taking this product and the results were amazing. Before taking gHP Sport I would have a hard time playing two days in a row without sitting out a game. Now I can play every game of every weekend and I truly believe is due to me taking this product. I would recommend gHP Sport to any athlete who is trying to maximize his or her potential!”

Christian Dowling
- 2008 & 2009 ASA Women’s World Champion
- 25x All World Tournament Team selection

“With a grueling travel and promotions schedule encompassing 18 states, and 35 consecutive weeks, my body takes a toll. I have always looked for natural supplements that help me stay sharp and on top of my game. With the help of gHP Sport I am now sleeping more soundly on the road, have more energy to get through the day, quicker recovery time, increased stamina in the gym and on the field. If you are looking for an all-natural competitive edge, gHP Sport is definitely the way to go!”

Rusty Bungarder
- 2010 & 2009 Member of Team USA National Team that competed in the Border Battle (USA vs. Canada)
- 2010 A Worlds Offensive MVP

“After meeting the guys from gHP Sport at the USA/Canada Border Battle this year and hearing their story, I immediately started taking this product. Soon after I noticed an improvement in sleep, an increase in energy and stamina, and better results from the gym. After an old injury caused me to have a freak accident, which caused paralyzation from my neck down for days and major neck surgery, I continued taking this product, and after only 4 weeks I met with my surgeons who said I was way ahead of schedule and also released me to start back in the gym. I TRULY BELIEVE that this was due to taking gHP Sport!”

The only patented and NSF “Certified for Sport” athletic performance enhancement product of its kind

- Increased Energy!
- Increased Stamina!
- Improved Sleep!
- Increased Muscle Mass!
- Decreased Body Fat!
- Decreased Recovery Time!

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

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For more information and to place your ASA Preferred Price Order go to:
www.gHPSport-Softball.com

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**Julie Bartel**  
**Director of Marketing and Communications**  
Started in January 2008  
(Also worked with ASA/USA Softball from 2003-05)

**What do you do on a daily basis?**
I oversee the marketing and communications efforts for the ASA and USA Softball National Office. Every day is something different but primarily the job entails managing existing partnerships, trying to create new ones, and communicating ASA/USA news and initiatives to the public, our membership and 76 associations.

**What is your favorite part of your job?**
The favorite part of my job is the people I work with and the variety of phone calls and emails each and every day.

**What has been your favorite experience with the ASA so far?**
Attending the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece and Beijing, China, respectively, were my favorite experiences so far. To watch the best softball athletes in the world compete at the highest level is something I will never forget.

**Were you involved with softball before joining the National Office?**
I played coach pitch when I was a little girl and also attempted some slow pitch in college with intramurals. However, it is better that my skills are used behind a computer with softball and not actually on the field.

**What do you like to do when you’re not working?**
I enjoy spending time with my husband Jon and daughter Olivia and extended family. I also enjoy working out, shopping and watching collegiate and professional athletics.

**Is there anything else you would like to tell the readers of Balls and Strikes?**
I am proud to work at the ASA National Office and want to thank all who take an active role in ASA Softball. Whether you are a parent, coach, administrator, or athlete, it takes all of us together to keep ASA strong and healthy for the future.

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**Steven Embree**  
**Register ASA/Events Coordinator**  
Started in March 2010

**What do you do on a daily basis?**
I work with the local associations from across the United States in registering their players, coaches, teams, and umpires. I also prepare for and run events held at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex.

**What is your favorite part of your job?**
Working with our members from across the country as well as helping run the great events that we have here at the Hall of Fame Complex.

**What has been your favorite experience with the ASA so far?**
I really enjoyed working the Women’s College World Series and the World Cup of Softball. It’s awesome to see the excitement that surrounds those tournaments from the fans.

**Were you involved with softball before joining the National Office?**
I played recreationally on some adult slow-pitch teams and church league teams. My event management experience came from running junior golf events prior to working with the ASA.

**What do you like to do when you’re not working?**
Most of my time outside of work is spent in the classroom or the library as I’m finishing up my Master’s degree in Athletics Administration at the University of Oklahoma. Apart from that I love attending sporting events (Go Sooners!), playing golf and going to dinner with my wife.
So just how bad is this childhood obesity epidemic, you ask? A shocking 30 percent of our nation’s children have reached that dangerous plateau. What does that mean, in frightful terms we all can understand?

It means that for the first time in our great nation’s history, the current generation of youth could be sicker – and die younger – than their parents. What to do?

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

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

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

And this year? Well, 2010 will be a record year for Batters Up USA! We now have 41 new programs that have resulted in our adding 8,600 more kids and 10 new states – a sizeable uptick for a movement that had totaled 10,400 kids in 43 programs across 20 states in its first four years.

And recently retired Olympic gold medal-winning pitcher Jennie Finch is even on board! Finch paid a promotional visit this September to one of our oldest Batters Up USA programs in Lancaster, PA, appearing at a Lancaster Barnstormers minor league game to raffle off a jersey and pitching rubber. The proceeds benefited about 100 participants in the BUUSA Lancaster program this fall.

Batters Up USA also recently joined up with Major League Baseball in contributing an assortment of equipment in support of programs in a dozen different cities as part of the rapidly growing MLB “Jr. RBI” program for children ages 6-12. In addition to 50 aluminum ball bats, Batters Up USA donated 50 Tee Ball sets, 20 batting helmets, and 36 dozen softballs – all told, about $3,600 in wholesale value.

The greatest opportunities for future expansion of this program are at parks & rec centers, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and YMCAs – and that’s where ASA comes in. Through a grant from the Amon G. Carter Foundation, Batters Up USA added 10 new programs through its long-standing partnership with ASA.

Now, we want to do it again. “ASA has given us so much support in the past, and we want to return the favor,” said Jess Heald, Batters Up USA executive director.

To get the process started, go to www.BattersUpUSA.org and simply click on the Equipment Grants link. Please consider joining forces with this grass-roots program to get kids off the couch and onto the ball fields of America. Thank you!!

FOR MORE INFO: Visit www.BattersUpUSA.org or contact Jess Heald, BUUSA executive director, at (575) 758-8125 or via e-mail at playballusa@msn.com.
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