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Umpiring: A family Affair for the Sloan Family
World Cup umpire Jeff Sloan and family bond while working behind the plate

Border Battle Returns to Oklahoma City
Meet the men who looks to defend their title of Border Battle Champion

Association Profile
Iowa ASA

Washington's Danielle Lawrie Wins USA Softball Collegiate Player of Year
Only second person in history to repeat as winner

How Great Britain Made it to Venezuela
Qualifying for the Worlds was only the beginning for the Great Britain Softball Team

Getting to Know the Futures Team
Meet the team who will represent the USA in 2010 and in the future

National Office Profiles
Stephanie Henry and Lori Coleman work day-to-day helping our ACE coaches

ASA Hall of Fame Receives a Facelift
Come through a photo journey of the new elements of the National Softball Hall of Fame

USA Softball Takes On the World
Venezuela, Japan, Canada and Colombia on list of destinations for the Women's National Team

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT!

Hopefully everyone’s seasons are under way and that it has been successful to this point. As we begin to prepare for tournament play, please make sure all of the paperwork is completed properly and submitted to the host on time as it will make for an easier experience for everyone. ASA has a great tournament program and it is because of you; our players, Commissioners and Junior Olympic Commissioners taking the time to manage it correctly. Also a reminder that if you are hosting a tournament and haven’t submitted your information to the national office for the web site this needs to be done ASAP, including the fact sheets.

I also want to say thank you to all of you for being patient with the new Register ASA process. Anytime a new process is brought in, it takes awhile to adjust and it won’t happen overnight. However, our national staff under the leadership of Craig Cress and his department has done an outstanding job with this and I hope you will join me in saying, “Thank you for a job well done!”

The committee assignments for the national council meeting will be mailed to each council member by July 15 and if we didn’t get you where you requested please contact me and I will see if it can be corrected. We try to balance the committees with the best representation by the position you hold with the council and believe me it is very challenging.

The tournaments reps and Umpire-In-Chief assignments have also been completed and I would like to thank Joey Rich who volunteered to do this project.

The equipment committee recently met for field tests and other safety related issues and I would also like to thank this committee for the efforts to keep this game as safe as possible. I am sure you will be seeing some code and playing rules changes submitted to address these issues.

In closing again, THANK YOU! for what you do each and every day to make this organization the best it can be.

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

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

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

**How to get started?** Contact your local ASA Commissioner or JO Commissioner for details on how to Individually Register. To find the contact information for your Commissioner, go to the ASA/USA Softball web site at www.ASASoftball.com.

**For answers to Frequently Asked Questions on Individual Registration,** please visit Bollinger’s ASA web site, www.BollingerASA.com and click on “Individual Registration.”

**Important Note:** In order to participate in ASA Junior Olympic/Youth Championship Play, all teams must be ASA Individually Registered or purchase through Bollinger the ASA Team Insurance Package Plan.
MEET THE BOLLINGER / ASA INSURANCE TEAM

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UMPIRING: A FAMILY AFFAIR FOR THE SLOAN FAMILY

By Holly Krivokapich
A typical family outing to a sporting event consists of a family pack of tickets, hotdogs and a visit to the gift shop. However for one ASA family, the athletes aren’t the focus of their attention as the officials are the ones that catch the Sloan family’s eyes. Elite ASA Umpire Jeff Sloan, wife Karen and their three children have all suited up to officiate and to this day remains one thing that bonds the family.

“Umpiring has definitely brought our family closer because pretty much all of our family vacations have been centered around the ball diamond. Looking in my baby book, the ball diamond is the first place I ever went when I was just five days old and ever since we pretty much live at the ball diamond. Katie and I both played softball growing up from age 9 to age 14 and Katie is still playing in college. Watching my dad put his heart and soul into umpiring definitely motivated me to umpire,” said Paula Sloan, daughter of Jeff Sloan, who recently umpired the 14U ASA National Tournament in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Jeff Sloan played men’s fast pitch out of high school and like most had the desire to stay in the game. Combined with a financial need of two kids at home, Sloan started umpiring in 1987 in Wisconsin. He went through the training which included five weeks in the classroom and the field. A training that Sloan, who turns 48 in October, still believes was one of his best to ever participate in. Sloan has emerged as one of the Nation’s Top umpires working men’s and women’s major’s, top college games and the NCAA Women’s College World Series. Next up for Sloan is the World’s top event, the ISF Women’s World Championships in Caracas, Venezuela.

Jeff wasn’t the only one in the family wearing an official uniform in 1987, as his wife Karen started officiating volleyball and basketball. Jeff joined his high-school sweetheart on the hardwood in 1995, when her officiating partners failed to show up for games. A scary thought for most couples, Jeff thought it was actually good for the marriage and what he considered a “date night.”

“I think it was very good for our marriage. It taught us we could disagree but we had to get over things. The game goes on. It was very positive for our marriage. Marriage is like officiating. It takes a lot of work and communication. In one game, there was an inbounds call and I had it somewhere else than she did. She yelled ‘Jeff, it’s right here’. A guy in the crowd said ‘Are you going to let her talk to you like that?’ I let him know it was my wife and we both started laughing. It was our time away. We could have dinner and watch games, what else do you need? Those were definitely exciting times.”

After years of basketball, Karen now strictly works Division I Volleyball. Whether it was in the genes or a product of their environment, the three Sloan kids also got into umpiring. His son Brian umpired for about six years, but realized it really wasn’t his thing. His two daughters though are still umpiring. His daughters Paula and Katie began umpiring in 2005 when they were 13 and 15, respectively. Jeff remembers many times sitting around the kitchen table talking about rules, situations, etc., all while building life-long memories.

“One time, my dad was going to teach Paula and I how to work the three-man umpire rotation. He volunteered his time and worked behind the plate. Paula and I each took our spots and switched about half way through the game,” said Katie. “All I can remember is Dad motions us to move position the entire game. He tried to be all nonchalant about it, but we couldn’t help but laugh as we shifted into the correct spot. To top it off, mom was there to take pictures. We had a good laugh.”

Katie, now a Senior at Wisconsin Lutheran College, still plays and umpires with hopes to move into collegiate umpiring after she is done playing. From her history, it would be very possible for her to achieve this after living a life around this activity.

“My family has based our lives around softball since I can remember. Family vacations consisted of going to the ball fields. In one case, Mom took my sister, brother, and I on a three-day trip to Virginia to watch my dad umpire the Division II College World Series! It is awesome to see how my dad puts his heart and soul into his umpiring,” said Katie. “He’s always working to improve, and his work ethic is incredible. I’m glad I have a chance to stay in the sport other than playing. You see the game from a whole new perspective!”

Jeff has done more in umpiring than he imagined, crediting ASA and its umpire leadership for making him who he is. Although he has been approached by other organizations to umpire for them, Jeff says he will always wear blue with the ASA on his chest. Now with an enviable resume, Jeff’s next goal is to help others be the best umpire they can be.

“MY FAMILY HAS BASED OUR LIVES AROUND SOFTBALL SINCE I CAN REMEMBER.”

KATIE SLOAN

“If I had to give it all up tomorrow, I would be okay with that. I have been very fortunate to do the things I have done. I have gone to Greece, China and Venezuela. I have been to three of the Final Fours in volleyball. I have reached my goals and now I want to be mentor. If I could help others get to where I have been, I could walk away and not be disappointed. My shining moment came recently at an ASA Gold qualifier in Omaha, Neb. I was the UIC (Umpire-In-Chief) and had both of them (his daughters) working. The Iowa State assistant coach came up to me and asked who the umpire was. I proudly said my daughter and now at this point in my life, that’s what it is all about.”
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The Border Battle returns July 24 with the Men’s Slow Pitch National Teams from Canada and the United States returning to the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, Okla. Here is a look at who will be playing in the premier game of slow pitch softball this summer:

**Rick Baker**  
*West Harrison, Ind.*

Baker won the ASA Men’s Slow Pitch Class A National Championship in 2000 with K&G Sports. He was also the ASA “Major” Most Valuable Player and Outstanding Offensive Player in 2001. Baker and his wife Renee have two daughters, Gracie (7) and Laney (5). His favorite food is prime rib.

**Scott Brown**  
*Andover, Minn.*

Currently a national sales manager for Combat Sports, Brown served with the United States Marine Corps from 1993-97. Brown and his wife Erin have two sons, Zander (3) and Madden (10 months). His favorite quote is “Champions train, endure pain, and never complain.”

**Rusty Bumgardner**  
*Gastonia, N.C.*

Bumgardner, a letter winner in baseball and football at Wake Forest, says playing on Team USA is “the ultimate honor and privilege.” In 1992, he became the first American signee for the Florida Marlins expansion team. He and his wife Paige have a 4-year-old daughter Bryn and a son Brock (2). They have three labs: Diamond, Slugger and Mantle.

**Hank Garris**  
*Naples, Fla.*

“As a young athlete you dream of the opportunity of doing something like this,” Garris said of playing with Team USA. “I’m living the dream and looking forward to representing our great country and promoting the game of softball.” For four years, Garris was an umpire for Minor League Baseball in the Gulf Coast, South Atlantic and Appalachian Leagues. He is currently engaged to Gina Paulidis.

**JD Genter**  
*Chickamauga, Ga.*

Genter, who has two sons Micah and Reece, helped Long Haul Trucking to the 2009 ASA Men’s Class A Championship. “Only a select few are able to do this and to be chosen for a second time makes it even that much more special to me,” he said of playing for Team USA. “It is amazing to know that I am representing everyone in our country when I step on that field. The feeling is like no other.”

**Brett Helmer**  
*Circero, N.Y.*

Helmer is one of the legends of slow pitch. Not only is he a USSSA Hall of Famer, he is also a four-time batting champion and been selected as All-World 28 times. Helmer, who is the sports marketing manager for Combat Sports, and his wife Jennifer have a daughter and a son, Brett (5) and Madison (2). His favorite late night snack is peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

**Jeremy Isenhower**  
*Olathe, Kan.*

Isehbour was a two-time All-American and four-time All-Conference (Missouri Valley Conference) in baseball at Missouri State. He also played Minor League Baseball for the Philadelphia Phillies before taking on slow pitch, where he has won four World titles with Longhaul. He and his wife Becky have twin daughters Reese and Rileigh.

**Chaun Demars**  
*Becker, Minn.*

Demars joins the National Team after an impressive performance at last year’s Hooter Championship Series in Oklahoma City, where he was named MVP after helping Tharaldson Enterprises to the Men’s Class B title. He also played for Fence Broker/Gametime Supply in the Men’s A finals.


**Jason Kendrick**  
(Naples, Fla.)

Kendrick got his start in the 12-Under, 15U and 18U youth leagues while growing up. His accomplishments include: 2000 and 2001 ASA Super Major National Championships; 2009 ASA 35 and Over National Champion; and 2009 ASA 40 and Over National Champion. Kendrick and his wife Melissa, who he lists as his most admired person, have a 3-year-old son Kason.

**Jeff McGavin**  
(Macomb, Mich.)

“To represent my country means so much to me,” said McGavin, who is a high school English and social studies teacher. “I have played softball for 11 years and I want to represent the US on the softball field the right way. We have an opportunity to show the high quality of US softball and it’s our job to show that against Canada.” He and his wife Jodie welcomed their first child in May.

**Scott Kirby**  
(Miramar Beach, Fla.)

Kirby played six years in the Milwaukee Brewers system before taking on softball. “It’s the biggest moment of my baseball and softball career,” Kirby said about making the National Team. “I can’t wait to put on the jersey.” He and his wife Marysa have a 2-year-old son Vance. The family has two dogs: Meeshack and Penny.

**Ryan Robbins**  
(Columbus, Ind.)

“Robbins has played on 10 teams that have earned National Championships. Last year, he had a 44 at-bat hitting streak, going 25-for-25 one weekend and starting the next weekend 19-for-19. “I have never had a streak close to that,” he said. The person he admires most is his uncle Gary Hukill, who passed away last year.”

**Chris Larson**  
(Vancouver, Wash.)

In 2009, Larson helped Long Haul to the Men’s A National Championship, and also earned an All-American nod. It is the highest honor to be asked to represent your country,” Larson said. “I owe a lot to this game. I’m glad that I have a chance to give something back by playing for team USA.”

**Brian Wegman**  
(Hamilton, Ohio)


**Johnny McCraw**  
(Lake Wylie, S.C.)

McCraw played a season for the Houston Astros Single-A team after a successful baseball career at Appalachian State University where he was three-time All-Southern Conference (1989-91). His softball accomplishments include 2007 ASA Co-Ed Major World Series Champion, 2004 ASA Major World Series Champion and 1999 ASA Super World Series Champion. He has two children, Addison and Aubrey.

**Steve Shortland**  
(San Antonio, Texas)

Shortland, who has 29 years of slow pitch experience, will return as the Head Coach of the Men’s Slow Pitch National Team. Assisting him are Pat Dalsanders (Spokane, Wash.) and Randy Raper (Hackleburg, Ala.), both who coached alongside Shortland at the inaugural Border Battle. Todd Joerling (New Melle, Mo.), a member of the 2009 team, will serve as the honorary captain this year.

*Rookie*

“The Border Battle is a tremendous opportunity to showcase our sport and I am truly honored to be part of it again,” Shortland said. “The 2009 USA team was perhaps the greatest collection of slow pitch talent ever assembled and we look forward to putting an even better product on the field in 2010. Based on last year’s event, we realize how talented Canada is and we can’t rely on reputation alone to win. This team will work hard to keep the Border Battle title here in the United States.”

**Click here to see who is representing Canada in the Border Battle.**
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IOWA ASA: ASSOCIATION PROFILE

Iowa ASA Commissioner Tom Topping has represented ASA in a leadership position since 1993; eight years as Assistant Chief Deputy Commissioner and as State Commissioner since 2001. However it was 1983 when Topping first got involved with ASA as an umpire of which his best memory of umpiring came when he made history umpiring the inaugural World Cup of Softball in 2005. Topping is married to Lisa and they have two sons. Although Iowa is one of the smallest states in population, they have emerged as a top Association. Topping shares reasons on why he feels his organization is so successful.

B&S: What sets Iowa ASA apart from other Associations?
TT: “I would say we still have a quite a few divisions of play and classes within those divisions that is a little unusual for a smaller state with just 3 million people. We host over 35 state tournaments in Men’s Class A, B, & C Fast Pitch, Men’s B, C, D and E, Slow Pitch, Women’s C & D Slow Pitch, Co-Ed Slow B and C Pitch, Men’s Major, Class A and B 14” Slow Pitch, Men’s Major, Class A and B 14” Slow Pitch, Men’s Masters Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch and Youth 8U Coach Pitch, 10U A,B,C, 12U A, B C, 14U A, B and 16U and 18U. Iowa is one if not the only state that has high school state sponsored softball during the summer, so our greatest participation is in the 10 and 12 year old divisions of play, as many of the others are playing high school ball. We also have a nice number of teams that travel and play in national tournaments, with over 75 teams participating in 2009.”

B&S: What is your biggest asset as an association?
TT: “With any non-profit it is of course the quality of people who make up our volunteer staff and relationships with our local parks and recreation departments. We are fortunate to have many good “softball minded” people that have played the game or are very good administrators and ambassadors of the game. We also have a very unique relationship with the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association in which we share office space, office staff and equipment and it has worked very well for over 40 years. We have an outstanding administrative assistant in Cathy Shuts, who does a super job keeping everyone organized. We used to have one Executive Director for both Associations, but now have separate Executive Directors for each (Iowa ASA and Iowa Park and Recreation Assoc.).”

B&S: I was on your website and saw that you host surveys. How do you use this to benefit your organization? Have you changed anything due to the surveys?
TT: “We try to do a few each year and survey our teams following each tournament for their input. Whether it is seeking input for rule changes or how we can do things better, surveys seem create a simple and fun avenue for players and coaches to let us know what they think (and see how others feel about the same subject). There have been several rule proposals we have written as requested by players and we always try to listen and change things where we are able.”

B&S: Any best practices you would like to share?
TT: We have quite a few things that we try to offer that I don’t know are all that unique, but these are a few of the things we do.
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WASHINGTON’S LAWRIE WINS USA SOFTBALL COLLEGIATE PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

For the second consecutive season, Danielle Lawrie of the University of Washington was named the USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year. The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America presented the senior pitcher/hitter from Langley, B.C., with the award at the Opening Ceremony of the NCAA Women’s College World Series in Oklahoma City, Okla.

“The USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award is a great honor for everyone playing for the University of Washington. I have a great team that I am happy to share this award with,” Lawrie said. “While it may have my name on it, I think this is something that we all won because everything we do, we do together. I could not do what I do without each of them. I hope this is the start of a great week for our team.”

She is only the second player to receive the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year honor multiple times, joining Texas pitcher Cat Osterman, who received the award in three times, including back-to-back in 2005 and 2006. Other past winners are UCLA’s Stacey Nuveman (2002), Florida State’s Jessica Van der Linden (2004), Tennessee’s Monica Abbott (2007) and Virginia Tech’s Angela Tincher (2008).

Lawrie, who led Washington to a National Championship last season, suffered an 0-2 record at the WCWS Thursday when the No. 3 seeded Huskies take on No. 6 Georgia. The two other finalists in consideration for the 2010 award were Pac-10 Player of the Year Megan Langenfeld (Bakersfield, Calif.) of No. 5 UCLA, which will open the WCWS against No. 4 Florida, and ACC Player of the Year Jen Yee (North Delta, B.C.) of Georgia Tech. Langenfeld and Yee, both seniors, were Top 3 Finalists for the first time in their careers.

“When I heard who else was nominated, I knew this was not a lock for Danielle,” said Washington Head Coach Heather Tarr. “When you hear Jen Yee reached base at least once in all 62 games, which is amazing, and you start to hear the stats of Megan Langenfeld, who has always been a tough conference opponent, you know there are no guarantees. The panel of voters could have selected any one of them to win tonight and it would be deserved. I think it is a great honor for Danielle and for our program to be recognized by such a respected group for the second year in a row. Her accomplishments this season really show the strength of the University of Washington.”

It was a storied season for the senior ace, who has threw four no-hitters including three perfect games, the latter of which is tied for a Pac-10 record. Heading into the WCWS, Lawrie amassed a 40-3 record with a 1.00 ERA, 478 strikeouts and just 41 walks in 288.1 innings, including wins over 2010 WCWS teams Arizona, Hawaii and UCLA. She finished the conference season 17-2 with a 1.01 ERA with 212 strikeouts and just 25 walks in 125.1 innings. Lawrie is 21-3 against ranked teams this year with 266 Ks in 162.1 innings.

She had a nation-best 24 shutouts to break her own single-season school record. Twice this season she had streaks of 25-straight scoreless innings. Lawrie’s 40 wins are second on the single-season charts while her 478 strikeouts are second, behind her own record. The senior ranks in the top five nationally in strikeouts, ERA, wins, walks per seven innings and strikeouts per seven innings.

Facing elimination against Oklahoma in the Super Regionals, she helped the Huskies reach Oklahoma City with back-to-back shutouts. She struck out 10 in a two-hit, 3-0 victory in the first game and then followed that with 17 strikeouts (in just seven innings) in the nightcap as the Huskies punched their ticket to the WCWS with a 4-0 win. Her season high for strikeouts is 18, which came in a 10-inning three-hit shutout of California, a team which advanced to the Super Regional Championships this season. She is just one of just four pitchers to ever go over 1,800 career Ks.

In her career, she ranks fourth in NCAA history in shutouts with 1,843 and now owns the conference record in the same category. She has broken UW’s career wins record this year to give her seven of the 10 career pitching records.

While known for her work in the circle, Lawrie was equally impressive at the plate, leading the Huskies in home runs (15), RBI (57) and slugging percentage (.616), all of which are career highs. Lawrie had a pair of multi-home run games in pre-season play, including one in which she had a career-high six RBI with a two-run home run and grand slam. She hit her first career walk-off home run in UW’s 2-1 win over Stanford the same weekend the Huskies clinched their third Pac-10 title and first since 2000. She had a five RBI game against nationally ranked Arizona State this year.

Among Lawrie’s other accolades for the season, she was named the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week three times, becoming the first player ever to receive the award more than twice in a single season, and was twice named the NFCA National Player of the Week. Lawrie was named Pac-10 Pitcher of the Week eight times. She was named First Team All-Pacific Region and First Team All-Pac-10 along with earning the Pac-10 Pitcher of the Year award for the second straight season.

For more information on the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award, including a complete list of the Top 10 and Top 25 Finalists, visit the “College Corner” of www.usasoftball.com. To win the award, athletes did not have to be on the Top 50 Watch List but did have to be named on the narrowed down lists of finalists released throughout the season.
HOW GREAT BRITAIN MADE IT TO VENEZUELA

Great Britain qualified for the 12th ISF Women’s World Championships by finishing second at the 2009 European Championships in Spain — the team’s highest-ever placing in European competition. But then the GB team, which receives no funding whatever from the British government or its sporting agencies, faced the daunting task of raising the money to compete — a task made even harder when the tournament was moved from Oklahoma City to Venezuela. While there is still some money left to raise, GB Softball General Manager Bob Froner explains how the team has managed to find most of what it needs with a couple of months to spare.

Qualifying for the World Championships by right for the first time in British Softball history — priceless!

It was a euphoric time for the GB Women’s Fastpitch Team in Valencia last summer when we finished second behind the Netherlands in the European Championships and came fairly close to winning. Our goal going into the tournament was to finish in the top three and qualify for the 2010 World Championships, and it feels great when those kinds of goals are achieved. On the first night back in Britain, the party went on till dawn.

FACING REALITY

But then the cold reality set in. This is a team that hasn’t received a penny of funding from the British government since 2007, because we’re no longer on the Olympic program. All our players and staff members had to put in close to $800 to compete so successfully for our country in Valencia last summer — an amount that was just about manageable, although some players struggled.

But preparing properly for the World Championships (we had originally planned to go to the Canada Cup beforehand), and then competing in them, was going to cost far more than getting to Spain — far more than our players and their families could support.

We had earned the right to play in the World Championships, and everyone wanted to go. But if we couldn’t find or raise the money, how could we manage it? Finding sponsorship is tough for softball as a minority women’s sport in Britain at the best of times. But with the credit crunch biting deep, this certainly wasn’t anything like the best of times.

Then things got worse. The International Softball Federation, because of the clash of dates, decided in December 2009 to move the tournament from Oklahoma City to Caracas, Venezuela. Not only was it going to be more expensive for us to get to Venezuela than to North America, but now the Canada Cup was out of the picture as an ideal warm-up competition and we would have to find another way to prepare.

With a January 2010 deadline looming for us to tell the ISF whether we would be in Venezuela, we were between a rock and a hard place.

GETTING HELP

Then we got some help — from the ASA and from members of the softball community around the world.

We discovered that British Airways runs a contest called “Great Britons”, designed to support young sportspersons and artists by giving them free flights to help with their projects or careers. We entered the contest as a team, hoping to win up to 16 flights to the World Championships, and we were shortlisted along with seven other entries. Winners are determined by public votes on the “Great Britons” website, and we asked all our contacts in softball for help. And we weren’t disappointed!

The ASA ran a story at the top of its website urging people to vote for us. The

WINNING THE BRITISH AIRWAYS CONTEST GOT US STARTED, BUT WE STILL NEEDED TO FIND ANOTHER $50,000 OR MORE
European Softball Federation newsletter did the same. Jessica Mendoza, who ran a clinic for our young players in London in the autumn of 2008, mobilised all her friends and supporters, as did Bobby Simpson at Higher Ground Softball in Georgia. The Dutch National Team and other European teams voted and we got votes from Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. And the result was that we had more firepower than the other contestants, led the voting from start to finish and won the 16 free flights – not to Venezuela, because British Airways doesn’t fly there, but to Florida where we’ll hold a pre-World Championship training camp in June.

THE MAGIC SPONSOR

Winning the British Airways contest got us started, but we still needed to find another $50,000 or more if our players and staff members were to avoid paying a crippling amount of personal money.

THE HOME STRETCH

Thanks to NP Aerospace and British Airways, we now know that we can have our camp in Florida (where members of the ex-pat British community around Orlando will help to house and feed us) and then go on to Venezuela without having to ask our players to contribute more than they can afford.

And we might not have to ask them for anything in the end, because we continue to get other offers of help. American Airlines, who will fly us from Florida to Venezuela, have reduced the total fare by $2000 to help us out. A German company in Caracas with a British CEO has offered to help us with expenses once we get there and provide a minibus so we sightsee in safety, as long as we agree to play against their (all-male) company softball team! Individuals in the UK have given us small donations, and of course relatives and friends are helping out too.

The Great Britain National Team program will continue to be excluded from British government funding for the foreseeable future, and the advances we have made over the past 10 years – from the depths of the European B Pool to a ninth place seeding at the World Championships – are going to be hard to sustain.

But it will be a thrill to be in Caracas, and our growing number of young players in the UK will have a strong legacy to inherit as they move up through our junior programs and on to the senior team in years to come.
On May 12, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball announced the roster for the USA Softball Women’s Futures National Team which will compete at the KFC World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City as well as in exhibition games against the USA Women’s National Team in Ohio. Get to know the 18 athletes who will represent the USA this season and in future years.

**#43 Valerie Arioto**  
*Pitcher/1B*  
“When I was younger, I played softball, basketball, soccer, volleyball and water-skied. When it came time to choose which sport I wanted to continue playing, I chose softball because it was the most fun, family oriented and relaxing.”

**#10 Jessica Iwata**  
*Infield*  
“It means a lot to me to be able to accomplish my dreams, while being able to represent the United States as well as Kauai. The feeling of competitiveness and having nothing else matter once you step onto that field is one of the reasons I love softball.”

**#41 Katelyn Boyd**  
*Infield*  
“For me, representing the United States in softball is such an indescribable feeling. It is kind of surreal to think that I have been given an opportunity like this to represent my country playing the sport I love the most. I feel extremely blessed and grateful for the position that I have been put in and I hope to live it to the best of my ability and just soak in this once in a lifetime experience!”

**#40 Molly Johnson**  
*Infield*  
“I started out playing baseball and my cousin was part of an organization in Tucson (Ariz.) that was looking for players for their 12U softball team and everyone wanted me to try-out and I made it. The competitive nature of the sport as well as the ability to transition from offense to defense in a short period of time is what I enjoy the most.”

**#88 Raven Chavanne**  
*Outfield/3B*  
“I enjoy the difficulty of softball. I’ve played four different sports at a high level, and softball is by far the hardest, which makes it my favorite.”

**#13 Megan Langenfeld**  
*Pitcher/Infield*  
“It is a tremendous honor to play for the United States. You no longer represent yourself or your college team; you represent the country and all the girls that dream to play in the red, white and blue.”

**#24 Kenzie Fowler**  
*Pitcher*  
“My family is my biggest supporter. At Arizona, I wear the number 19 to represent the number of people that will always be there to support me.”

**#35 Brittany Lastrapes**  
*Outfield*  
“I know that there is no way that you can be perfect in this game, but I enjoy the challenge of trying to conquer a game that has never been conquered.”
#31 Jenae Leles
Infield

“There are so many aspects of the game I love. I love the game itself. I love intensity. I strive to win! I can’t get enough of the competition. I have been so fortunate to have made life-long friends for life. From my young ASA days, through college and now the USA Team— the memories will last me a lifetime.”

#38 Blaire Luna
Pitcher

“My dad got me into playing softball. I grew up watching my brothers play baseball so I wanted in on the action and got into t-ball when I was six.”

#34 Meagan May
Catcher/1B

“By far, the greatest supporter of my career had been my mother. She has played the game for several years. She has been there for every game and every practice for as long as I can remember. She has worked countless hours with me, paid for my equipment and lessons and always supported me in everything I do.”

#42 Stacey Nelson
Pitcher

“What I enjoy most about softball is being part of a team. I’ve always accredited this to the fact that I’m an only child and my teammates have been the closest things to siblings that I’ve had, besides my late Golden Retriever, Spudsmackenzie. But, even more than that, it is the commitment and loyalty to the team which gives me my motivation. When times get rough, my only focus is: Find a way to win, it’s about the team – this mantra keeps me focused, energized to succeed, and it’s what makes me love softball at the end of the day.”

#25 Jamia Reid
Outfield

“My Worth Firecracker’s coach, Tony Rico, said that one day I would have USA across my chest. I would like to thank him and let him know that I love and appreciate him for believing in me.”

#4 Lauren Schutzler
Outfield

“My dad was a softball coach for the junior college in our area. My older sister Lindsay started playing when we were younger and I wanted to be like her so I played too! My sister has been my greatest role model in softball. Growing up I always looked up to the way she played the game and watching her college career was huge motivation to work hard and be successful.”

#7 Jordan Taylor
Pitcher

“I played t-ball and rec-ball when I was younger. I didn’t start pitching until I was 12, when I played on my dad’s team. I demanded for my parents to let me pitch because I was bored in the outfield. They were very tentative because of the pressure, however they let me pitch only if I put in the extra practice every day. I was awful until around age 14, when I finally found the strike zone.”

#30 Angela Tincher
Pitcher

“It’s a dream and something I’ve wanted to do since I first started playing. I remember watching the Olympics on TV and seeing what an honor it was to be selected and represent your country at any international event. I still think it is surreal to be part of such a group.”

#14 Niki Williams
Infield

“Being able to represent the US in softball is an absolute honor! Being part of a team that was hand selected to compete with USA across our chest is a once in a lifetime experience that will not only allow me to grow as a softball player, but as a person. This experience is meaningful to me because I will be representing the US and all the young girls out there that have a passion for the sport.”

#15 Shawna Wright
Catcher/Infield

“My favorite part of playing softball is throwing people out.”

Learn more about these 18 players by visiting www.usasoftball.com
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What do you on a daily basis?

I worked in the Communications and Marketing department for my first nine years with the Amateur Softball Association’s (ASA) National Office. This past year, I moved over to the Membership department to help with the ACE coaching program. I help coaches as well as our local association commissioners with any ACE questions they have.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of the job, besides the people I work with, is that I learn something new every day.

What has been your favorite experience with the ASA?

I have made some great friendships not only with the people in the office but members across the country. I like the events that bring everyone together.

Were you involved with softball before joining the National Office staff?

Not really. I played a season when I was younger but I don’t think that really counts. In high school, I was a cheerleader.

What do you like to do when you’re not working?

I love spending time at home with my boyfriend Brent and our dog Ranger. I also like to hang out with friends. It’s summertime so I’ll be going to the lake and hanging out by the pool a lot too.

What do you on a daily basis?

I do support for a variety of the ASA’s national programs and initiatives: RegisterASA.com, offline registrations, ACE and background checks.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I love helping people all over the country from Alaska, to Hawaii, to New York, to Florida and everywhere in between.

What has been your favorite experience with the ASA?

Outside of my position, my favorite ASA experience was attending the World Cup of Softball. I was able to see the USA vs. Japan game last summer. During work, I would say the most enjoyable experiences are the many training sessions we’ve had over the last few months.

Were you involved with softball before joining the National Office staff?

I started playing slow pitch in Norman at the age of 13 and was a second baseman until I turned 29 when I finally gave it up.

What do you like to do when you’re not working?

One of my favorite hobbies is bowling. I also like to play on the computer and play with my grandchildren.
ASA HALL OF FAME

The Amateur Softball Association takes great pride in not only being a leader and innovator in the sport of softball but also keeping all the history of this great sport we love. The ASA Hall of Fame, which honors over 300 contributors to the sport of softball, and Museum, which takes you through the growth of the sports, recently received a face lift with new paint, carpet and displays. Take a photo journey through our Hall of Fame and when you’re done, come visit us in person!
Hall of Famer and Olympian Michele Smith visits the ASA Hall of Fame and Museum.
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USA SOFTBALL TAKES ON THE WORLD

By Jamie M. Blanchard

When the women of the USA Softball take the field this June in Caracas, Venezuela, for the International Softball Federation’s (ISF) XII Women’s World Championship, the first competition of the 2010 season, they are looking to continue the legacy.

“The moment it will probably all hit me will be when I put on my USA uniform for the first time,” USA Softball rookie Eileen Canney said. “I remember watching the team when I was younger and hoping that one day I would be given this amazing opportunity. It is such a great honor to be on the field with so many great players and represent our country.”

The USA Softball Women’s National Team, the most decorated team in the history of the international game, has participated in 11 previous Worlds, winning eight Gold Medals, including the last six consecutive titles, and two Silver Medals. The last time the Americans were not crowned World Champions was in 1982, when the team finished fourth.

“Playing USA Softball is an honor,” said Jennie Finch, 2004 Olympic Champion and 2008 Olympic Silver Medalist. “Wearing USA across your chest pushes you to be the best you can be. You want to play well for not only for yourself and your country but your teammates and all the players that have come before you. It’s really special to be a part of this team. I feel so blessed to have the opportunity.”

In World Championship play, Team USA has amassed a lifetime record of 106-10 (.914), the best in the history of the tournament. The American offense has outscored its opponents collectively 650-45. Out of the 106 wins, 88 have been by shutout, including the 3-0 Championship Game against Japan in 2006. How will the Americans shine in 2010?

The team starts the competition on June 24 at 1 p.m. against China. Team USA also plays against New Zealand June 25, Botswana on June 26, Australia on June 27, Dominican Republic on June 28 and Czech Republic on June 29. Playoffs are June 30 and July 1 with medal games on July 2.

At the 2009 World Cup of Softball, the USA defeated 2008 Olympic Bronze Medalist Australia twice, including 3-1 in the Championship Game. The Americans and Aussies also clashed last year at the Canada Cup with USA winning 7-0 and 2-0.

Of the other competitors Team USA will face during pool play in Caracas, none have posed much of a treat in recent seasons. Team USA defeated the Dominican Republic 15-0 in four innings at the 2009 Pan American Qualifier.

But in the other pool are both Japan, the 2008 Olympic Champions, and Canada, the only team to defeat the USA last season. The Canadians topped the USA, 3-1, in pool play at the Pan Am Qualifier but could not claim the tournament. Team USA won the Championship Game 3-1.

Canada and Japan finished third and fourth at the World Cup. No matter what happens in Caracas, the USA National Team will end the season in front of a home crowd at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City. Joining them for fifth World Cup of Softball, July 22-26, are teams from Canada and Japan as well as the 2010 USA Softball Women’s Futures National Team.

“The World Cup of Softball gets more exciting each and every year and 2010 is no exception,” said two-time Olympic Medalist Jessica Mendoza, who makes her return to the National Team after giving birth to her son Caleb in August. “Where else can you see the best softball in the World and see the U.S. face off on home soil? Only at the World Cup in Oklahoma City. The fans have always been outstanding and we hope to put on quite a show come July.”

Tickets for the event are on sale now at SoftballOutlet.com. For those unable to join the action in Oklahoma City, ESPN and ESPN 2 will air all of the USA Women’s National Team games live as well as the men’s slow pitch Border Battle between Canada and the USA. Click here for a TV schedule.

Members of the Women’s National Team will also compete at the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International Championship, July 7-11, in Surrey, B.C. and exhibition games in Whitehorse, Yukon, July 13-14. National Team players will also be included on the rosters for the Japan Cup, August 3-9, in Sendai City, Japan. Futures players will fill out remaining roster spots.
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Umpires Announced For World Championships

Two American umpires will represent the USA at the ISF XII Women’s World Championship in Caracas, Venezuela, June 23-July 2. Christ Drum (San Diego, Calif.) and Jeff Sloan (Omaha, Neb.) will make their first appearances in 2010 at the World Championships. For a complete list of umpires that will work the World Championships, click here.

2010 ASA Hotel Partners

The ASA is pleased to partner with 15 Oklahoma City hotels to ensure that all ASA visitors have a pleasurable stay when visiting the ASA Hall of Fame Complex. Partner hotels provide special rates to those taking a softball trip to Oklahoma City. The hotels are affordable options located near the ASA Hall of Fame Complex and the National Softball Hall of Fame and are members of the Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau. When calling any of these properties, ask for the ASA Rate. Click here for a complete list of hotels!

FREE No Obligation Quote from Liberty Mutual Plus $5 Coupon

From June 1st – August 6th when you get a free no obligation quote from Liberty Mutual Insurance, you can get a $5 coupon to use at SoftballOutlet.com! Use the coupon to buy USA Softball apparel, collectables, videos and more! To learn more and get your coupon, get a free no obligation quote.

Construction Update

Although severe weather conditions including multiple snowstorms has pushed back the opening date until later this summer, construction continues on the new structure at the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America’s Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City, Okla. The new facility will enhance the existing structures already at the Complex by providing a meeting space with restroom access as well as public restrooms. Future plans for renovations include restrooms at field level beside dugouts on the Stadium Field. Plans also include curb and gutter system on fields 3 and 4 around the outfield fence.

Calling all Shoppers!

For all you softball shoppers out there, the gift shop at the ASA Hall of Fame Museum has new items! Get your World Cup T-shirts in advance of the KFC World Cup of Softball, July 22-26. We have three different styles! Also just in Hot Flips, the perfect flip flop for the softball fan. Now available in both youth and adult sizes. We also have NEW USA Softball Sweatshirts. It’s never too early to get some great gear for the colder months. Check all these out and much more at www.softballoutlet.com.

USA Softball Alum Special Olympics 2010 USA National Games

World Champion Amanda Freed will be hosting a clinic, speaking in a sports forum and signing autographs at the 2010 Special Olympics National Games in Lincoln, Neb. This will be the largest event ever held in the state of Nebraska, and one of the biggest sporting events of its kind in the United States. The Games will take place July 18-23, 2010 with competitions and events taking place throughout Lincoln.

Special Olympic offers both children and adults with Intellectual Disabilities the opportunity to compete in Olympic-style sporting events. Athletes competing in the 2010 USA National Games will partake in softball, aquatics, basketball, bocce, bowling, flag football, golf, gymnastics, power lifting, soccer, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. These competitions give
the athletes continued opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and build self-confidence.

The USA National Games are held every four years and will bring 3,000 athletes, 1,000 coaches, 800 officials, and over 15,000 family members and fans to the great state of Nebraska. The Games will have a $40 million economic impact, including an expected $5 million in state tax revenue.

To learn more or to get involved, please go to [www.2010specialolympics.org](http://www.2010specialolympics.org).

USA Softball Women’s Junior Team Selected

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America recently announced the 17 athletes who were selected for the 2010 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team, which will compete later this year at the III Pan American Softball Championship (18-and-under), August 6-15, in Bogota, Colombia. The event serves as a qualifier for the International Softball Federation (ISF) IX Jr. Women’s World Championship (19-and-under), December 6-17, 2011, in Cape Town, South Africa.

Karen Johns (Starkville, Miss./asst. coach Mississippi State) will lead the Junior Women’s Team in Colombia as Head Coach. Suzy Brazney (Huntington Beach, Calif./head coach Golden West College), Stacy Iveson (Prescott, Ariz./head coach Yavapai College) and Pat Murphy (Northport, Ala./head coach Alabama) will join Johns on staff.

Go to [www.usasoftball.com](http://www.usasoftball.com) to see who will be representing the United States in Colombia.

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A MESSAGE FROM
RON RADIGONDA

As the National Governing Body of Softball, we pride ourselves on providing Softball to everyone from our youth in coach pitch, to our seniors and all those in between. Therefore, to be able to continue to play and compete in the game we love, it's important that we maintain our health and also beneficial that we look for ways to improve our performance.

That's why I'm proud to announce ASA's new relationship with SomaLife International to bring you SomaLife's flagship product, gHP Sport.

gHP Sport is a specific combination, or "stack", of pure free-form crystalline amino acids that assist your body in cell regeneration and repair...safely and naturally. It is an athletic performance enhancement supplement that not only holds International Patents, it's also the ONLY product of its kind that has received the prestigious NSF "Certified for Sport" designation.

As such, gHP Sport has become a staple in Major League Baseball locker rooms, and has been embraced by a variety of notable athletes. 2009 U.S. Senior Open Champion, Fred Funk gives credit to gHP Sport for his success on the golf links.

"gHP Sport has helped me maintain the youthful energy and stamina levels that I need to complete my workouts and play golf on both tours", said Funk.

"Rapid recovery time is so important to maintain the level of physical performance needed for so many days of competition without rest. gHP Sport has significantly reduced that recovery time."

ASA friend, and five-time MLB All-Star, Steve Rogers, has used gHP Sport for over two years, calling it a product he has “put his trust in and won’t go a day without”.

As for you as an ASA member, I’m happy to announce this special relationship, and pleased to inform you that ASA has secured a significant courtesy discount for your risk free, guaranteed purchase and a portion of the proceeds to benefit future ASA initiatives.

Please go to: www.gHPSport-Softball.com to learn more about gHP Sport, how it can benefit you, and how to order with confidence using your ASA discount code.

Sincerely,

Ron Radigonda
Steve Rogers
Montreal Expos, Pitcher
All-Star 5x, ’74, ’78, ’79, ’82, ’83

“I have used gHP Sport now for almost two years, and during that time I’ve experienced less hip and joint pain, greater endurance and significantly shorter recovery times in my workout and running programs. This is a product I’ve put my trust in and won’t go a day without!”

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For more info. and to order with your discount code (SOFTBALL) go to: www.gHPSport-Softball.com

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Take advantage of the special $0 initiation fee offer by clicking here.

Membership dues range between $24.99-$64.99 per month, depending on club location and type. Offer not valid at Colorado Super Sport clubs or in Maryland, New Jersey, New York and other select locations or at Ultra Sport Clubs.
Asked by Matt on Facebook
**What events are the USA Softball teams playing in this summer?**

It is an action packed summer for the four 2010 USA Softball National Teams. To keep up with the events around the world, head to www.usasoftball.com.

The Women’s National Team just wrapped up four exhibition games in Ohio versus the Futures Team and will now head to the International Softball Federation XII Women’s World Championships, June 23-July 2, in Caracas, Venezuela, and the 2010 KFC World Cup of Softball, July 22-26, in Oklahoma City. After competing against the National Team, the Futures team will finish up play at the World Cup. The Women’s Futures National Team will also play in Ohio and at the World Cup. Members of both teams will comprise Team USA for the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International Championship, July 7-11, in Surrey, B.C., exhibition games in Whitehorse, Yukon, July 13-14 and the Japan Cup, Sendai City, Japan, August 3-9.

The Junior Women’s National Team will compete at the III Pan American Softball Championship (18-and-under) in Bogota, Colombia, August 6-15. The event serves as a qualifier to the 2012 ISF IX Jr. Women’s World Championship (19-and-under).

The Men’s Slow Pitch National Team will hold an exhibition July 15 in Cincinnati, Ohio, before competing at the Border Battle, July 26, at the World Cup in Oklahoma City. The slow pitch team is the only men’s team fielded for 2010.

Asked by Laurie via e-mail
**How does someone get an invitation to try out for the USA Softball Junior Women’s Team?**

The 2011 Junior Women’s Selection Camp was recently held at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif. The 41 participants were selected by the USA Softball Women’s National Team Selection Committee from the USA Softball Junior National Team player pool. The player pool is made up of athletes that have been identified by WNTSC as an elite softball player in the appropriate age group. Athletes that are identified come from observations at the ASA Junior National Tournaments, recommendations from college coaches, high school coaches and ASA Junior Olympic (JO) Coaches. For more information, contact Director of National Teams Ronnie Isham at risham@softball.org.

Asked by SaraBowen on Twitter
**Who are the USA Futures playing at the World Cup?**

The roster for the 2010 USA Softball Women’s Futures National Team was announced in May and all are expected to compete at the World Cup. For more information on the team, please visit www.usasoftball.com/folders.asp?uid=5583.

Asked by various
**How was the Futures Team decided?**

Players for all of the teams in the Women’s National Program are selected by USA Softball Women’s National Team Selection Committee from the USA Softball Player Pool. The pool includes past National Team players, current National Team players, past selection camp invitees and new or additional players from the college ranks identified by the WNTSC. For the Futures Team, there was no Selection Camp, as with the WNT, so the WNTC evaluated their performances in recent play. For more information, contact Director of National Teams Ronnie Isham at risham@softball.org.

Asked by Dominic on Facebook
**Is the World Cup on TV this year?**

Yes, at least one of the World Cup games a day will be aired live on ESPN or ESPN 2 from July 22-26. On July 24, three games will be aired including the men’s slow pitch Border Battle between Canada and the USA. Check www.usasoftball.com for the most up to date World Cup schedule.

Asked by Sara on Facebook
**Will there be a pink game at the World Cup this year? And will the pink jerseys worn by the team be auctioned off on eBay again?**

The pink game, which is a benefit for the Central Oklahoma affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, is currently scheduled for July 24. The dates for the eBay auction of the game-worn pink items will be announced on www.usasoftball.com.

Memorabilia from the 2009 game, including pink game-worn jerseys that were autographed, helped raise $12,500. In 2008, the Team USA auctioned their jerseys and equipment as well for a $25,000 donation bringing the two-year total donated to $37,500.

Asked by Michele on Facebook
**Why was the GOLD tournament moved out of Oklahoma City?**

At the 2009 ASA Governing Council Meeting in Reno, Nev., the Council approved Article 602 H 09, which states: “The Junior Olympic Girls 18 and Under Gold Fast Pitch will be rotated to Oklahoma City every third year and in the off years will be placed in other parts of the country by the Executive Director.” While the 2010 event is in Marietta, Ga., it will make a return to Oklahoma City in 2012. To keep up with the GOLD, visit http://gold.asa softball.com.

Asked by torimichelle16 on Twitter
**Can 18-Under GOLD players wear metal cleats?**

Also at the 2009 Governing Council Meeting, the Council voted to approve this rule, Rule 3 Section 6 G, for the 2010 season: “Metal cleats will now be allowed in 16-U and 18-U All Divisions of play in Junior Olympic Fast Pitch.” For more information on rules, refer to the 2010 Official Rules of Softball.
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Ron Radigonda, Executive Director of ASA

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DIABETES AND SOFTBALL: HEROES IN THE MAKING

One of the greatest perks of working at the ASA National Office is hearing the inspiring stories from our players, coaches, umpires and fans. We received an email from softball mom Lisa A. Combs-Creech who wrote to us about her hero, her six-year old daughter Meaghan. Meaghan is living with Type 1 Diabetes and Celiac Disease but continues to play the sport she loves, Softball.

I’d like for you to meet my hero. My daughter Meaghan. She is 6 years old and for the last 3 years she has been living with Type 1 Diabetes and Celiac Disease. Type 1 Diabetes is insulin dependent diabetes whereby your pancreas cannot or does not produce enough insulin for your body. Celiac Disease is a disease where your digestive system cannot tolerate any wheat, rye or gluten. We lived in a house where toxic mold was found to be present, but before we could move, it affected Meaghan. She had already developed the Celiac Disease which killed her pancreas off causing the diabetes. She is happy, active little girl living with an insulin pump and now a softball player.

Meaghan has grown up with softball with her big sister, Ally. Ally has been a devoted player of softball for her third year now, so naturally Meaghan has learned a few things along the way and wanted to play this year. They both play rec ball and travel ball for the Edgewood Blaze. Ally is the easy one because she can ride to games and practices or be left at practice if we as parents have to take another child to another practice or hitting lessons et al. We are always on the road with five children. But that is not so easy for Meaghan. She is not cognizant of her lows and one of us has to always be with her to check her glucose and manage it. That may mean being to practice a little late or like this weekend we had to make the decision that she stay with us at Ally’s travel game and not go to practice because no one or vehicle was available to take her and help her manage. If she is low, she takes a time out to refuel and get her glucose up. That means sitting on the sidelines while everyone else is playing ball. Hard to watch when you are devoted player and are a child. It means explaining to the other children because they are curious why you have an insulin pump attached to you all the time.

You are always a little different and just want to be like everyone else. Little items that some people take for granted and you have no choice over. Sacrifices that are made for the love of the game.

It saddens me because she makes sacrifices because of her diabetes and yet she is so brave. As long as she gets to hit, she is happy. When asked what position she wants to play, she says I don’t care as long as I get to hit. As she gets older she’ll be able to manage herself and things will be different. She’ll be able to ride with friends or be dropped off at practice, but at this young age it is more difficult. She’ll be more cognizant of her diabetes and whether she is high or low so she can catch it and manage it better. She’ll still make sacrifices, but they will be different ones as she ages. So my article goes out to not only my daughter, but all those young children with Type 1 Diabetes and their parents that make sacrifices like us everyday. But also it goes out to all those coaches like ours who is understanding and helps us by being there for Meaghan and our family and letting her have the chance to play softball. Despite education, many would have turned her away. So thank you

MY ARTICLE GOES OUT TO NOT ONLY MY DAUGHTER, BUT ALL THOSE YOUNG CHILDREN WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES AND THEIR PARENTS THAT MAKE SACRIFICES LIKE US EVERYDAY.

To learn more about Type 1 Diabetes, insulin pump therapy, new research ongoing in the disease, visit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, http://www.jdrf.org/

For information on Celiac Disease, click here http://digestive.niddk.nih.gov/ddiseases/pubs/celiac/
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Vicky Galindo with fans at the 2009 Pan American qualifier in Venezuela
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