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Letter from the President
E.T. Colvin addresses the current season

Faces on the Field
Meet the athletes who play ASA

News and Notes
Headlines from the national, international softball world

Play for a Cure Oregon
Oregon ASA helps the fight against cancer

Pink Auction
Bid on items worn by USA Softball players to raise money for cancer research

Brightlight Award winners
California Yard Sharks claim second consecutive award

Membership Spotlight: Cassidy Sidhu
Cassidy Sidhu fought back from cancer treatment to return to the game she loves

ASA Gold National
Arizona Desert Thunder win their states first ever ASA Gold National title

Local Association Profile: Minnesota ASA
Minnesota ASA Commissioner Dan Pfeffer discusses what his association has been up to this summer

100,000 Facebook Fans
ASA/USA Softball surpasses the 100K ‘Likes’ mark on Facebook

Economic Impact of ASA/USA National Championships
Host cities are very pleased with ASA/USA National Championship turnouts

ASA Annual Meeting Preview
The ASA invades Dallas this November

Ashland hosts 2012 Team USA Selection Camps
Ashland, Ohio hosted selection camps for two USA National Teams in 2012

ASA JO National Champions
Teams from across the US compete in National Championship play

Complex of the Year winner
Botetourt Complex wins Complex of the Year for 2012

Offseason Training Tips from Team USA
Members of USA Softball National Teams share tips on staying in softball shape

Rolla, Missouri is “All-In” for ASA Softball
City of Rolla receives Missouri ASA Sponsor of the Year award

From the Vault
Unique items in National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum archive

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Design
Old Hat Creative
www.oldhatcreative.com

The Official Publication of
The Amateur Softball Association / USA Softball

Visit us on the Internet: www.asasoftball.com & www.usasoftball.com
PowerChalk.com is the approved, licensed video analysis site of the Amateur Softball Association. This partnership between the ASA and PowerChalk.com allows coaches, players and parents to analyze and collaborate about pitching, hitting and positioning. Start by registering a free account at www.PowerChalk.com/ASA

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Register an account today and begin to add voice and markup while you control the video in slow motion or freeze frame.
I would first like to congratulate all of the Junior Olympic (JO) teams that competed in an ASA National Championship this summer. It takes a great deal of practice and determination to make it to an ASA National Championship and you should all be commended for your accomplishments. For those teams who took home titles I want to offer a special congratulations. As you advance in your softball careers don’t take for granted what you, your teammates and coaches accomplished in the 2012 season.

As we move into that latter part of September we are now in the heart of championship play for our adult programs. A number of teams were crowned champions over Labor Day weekend with more to come during the ASA Slow Pitch Championship Series, presented by Worth at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City, September 28-30. Live stats and streaming will be available throughout that event so be sure to check www.ASASoftball.com for all of the latest information.

We at the ASA are constantly striving to be the best organization that we can possibly be. In less than two months, local ASA association affiliates from across the United States will converge in Dallas, Texas for the 81st Annual National Council Meeting. During this time we will look into rule and code proposals, award host locations for future ASA National Championship events and honor six new individuals as they are inducted in to the National Softball Hall of Fame. It’s a very exciting time for the Amateur Softball Association.

The roster for our USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team was recently announced and in a month the team will be traveling to Parana, Argentina to compete in the 2012 International Softball Federation (ISF) Junior Men’s World Championship. You can follow their progress throughout that event at www.USASoftball.com.

The 2012 season for the USA Softball Women’s National Team recently came to a close with a heart-breaking 2-1 loss to Japan in the Championship Game of the ISF Women’s World Championship in Whitehorse, Yukon in July. While the team came up just short of their ultimate goal for the season, what these women were able to accomplish, going 23-2, was very special considering their limited amount of time together as a team. Be sure to check out the “Pink Auction” that’s currently taking place on eBay. Game-worn jerseys and helmets that were autographed by members of the USA Softball Women’s National Team are being sold to the highest bidders in an effort to raise money for Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

ASA continues to offer the best of the best and it’s because of hard work and dedication from our players, coaches, staff and volunteers. On behalf of everyone at the ASA thank you for all that you do for this association!

E.T. Colvin, President
Amateur Softball Association of America
Every year, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America has 365,000 Junior Olympic (JO) athletes playing on more than 78,000 teams while over 1 million adults play on nearly 106,000 teams across the United States. Meet Cassandra, Raymond, Halie, Sydney, Melody, and Cayla, six of the athletes who play ASA fast pitch and slow pitch.

**CASSANDRA GRIGLOCK, 16**
Cicero, N.Y.
Syracuse Sting FP
Girls’ 16-Under Fast Pitch
Pitcher

**SOFTBALL GOALS** I would love to play college ball for North Texas University

**PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT** I am a great pitcher, but I didn’t become great without hard work. I’m very proud of all of my hard work and dedication that I’ve put in.

**ROLE MODELS** My pitching coach Ed Mahar.

**RAYMOND PERALTA, 32**
Montebello, Calif.
Sliders & Riders
Adult Co-Ed Slow Pitch
Short Stop

**HER START** In November of 2006, a friend asked me to play on his team and I have been playing softball since.

**PROUDEST MOMENT** When I hit two home runs and a double in one inning.

**TOUGHEST OBSTACLE** I got injured while playing in 2008 and needed 16 stitches on the inside of my mouth, below my lower lip, and 10 on the outside. I was really nervous on returning because I nearly broke my jaw. When I did return I started playing short stop and had to overcome that anxiety.

**HAILIE M. ROBERSON, 15**
Sarasota, Fla.
Sarasota Heat Dover
Girls’ 18-Under Gold Fast Pitch
Short Stop and Outfield

**HER START** After trying dance, gymnastics, and swimming, I signed up to play recreation softball. I’ve been playing ever since! Great sport, great game.

**PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT** Besides hitting my first grand slam last year at a showcase tournament, I would have to say earning the Rookie of the Year Award as a starting freshman on my high school team, Sarasota High Lady Sailors.

**PROUDEST MOMENT** Making the game ending, diving catch in left field to earn our team a berth to the 2012 ASA 18 & under GOLD national championship in Oklahoma!

**SYDNEY RAE RUSIN, 12**
Portland, Ore.
Rip City Fastpitch-Crushers ’99
Girls’ 12-Under Class B Fast Pitch
Pitcher, Outfield, Second Base

**SOFTBALL GOALS** I would like to play in the Olympics and represent TEAM USA.

**HER START** I started playing t-ball with a local league at 4½ years old.
Her Start

I started playing softball when I moved to Las Vegas at the age of five. I wanted to play soccer but my mom could only find a softball league. I didn't really like it until I was asked to pitch in my fourth season at the age of nine. That's when I fell in love with the game, I love shut out innings. I also love playing short stop when I'm not pitching. People always tell me they love watching me play. I've missed many friends and family parties and school events in order to be at a game. I just love playing softball.

Softball Goals

My goal is to continue to grow as a player and become the best player I can be while keeping my grades up because I would like to play softball for the University of San Diego.

Role Models

Danielle Lawrie

Cayla Strickland, 13

Naples, Fla.
Naples Girls Fastpitch
Girls’ 14-Under Class A Fast Pitch
Pitcher

Proudest Moment

I got to throw out the first pitch at a Florida Gulf Coast Univ. game last year

Proudest Accomplishment

In my 10-under all-star game I was one hit away from hitting for the cycle. I hit a homerun, a double, and a triple, I missed it by a single.

Role Models

Jackie Traina and Team USA

Melody Croce Sapien, 13

Las Vegas, Nev.
Padres
Girls’ 14-Under Class A Fast Pitch
Pitcher and Short stop

Her Start

I started playing softball when I moved to Las Vegas at the age of five. I wanted to play soccer but my mom could only find a softball league. I didn’t really like it until I was asked to pitch in my fourth season at the age of nine. That’s when I fell in love with the game, I love shut out innings. I also love
Every day, millions of lives are shaped with a softball and a little open space.

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Far from the stadium lights and the roar of the crowd come the moments when youth sports matters. These opportunities help form bonds that enrich the game and enhance the lives and life skills of young players. That’s why Liberty Mutual Insurance 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.

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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.

**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 fifteen $2,500 grants to be awarded for demonstrating responsibility in youth sports. Visit the Community Grant Hall of Fame to see past winning softball organizations. You can see how they won and get tips to improve your team's chances of winning!

**Responsible Sports Season Evaluation Tool**
The 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 Insurance, 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 with sport celebrities.

For more information, visit [ResponsibleSports.com/Softball](ResponsibleSports.com/Softball) and the join the movement today!
USA WATER POLO SUPPORTS USA SOFTBALL WHILE IN LONDON

While in London for the Olympic Games, the USA Women’s Water Polo team put on USA Softball batting jersey’s and posed “softball style” in the Athlete Village to show their support for softball and express their concern for our sport’s exclusion from the Olympics. Although softball is not being included in the 2012 Summer Games, it has definitely not been forgotten by many. The impact our teams have had over the years has certainly left a legacy and impression on athletes all over the world. The Women’s Water Polo Team went on to win their first ever Olympics Gold Medal.

JUDO OLYMPIAN AND USA SOFTBALL FAN KAYLA HARRISON WINS GOLD IN LONDON

Earlier this year USA Judo Olympians Kayla Harrison and Travis Stevens attended the World Cup of Softball presented by Lumber Liquidators to watch the USA Softball Women’s National Team take on Australia. Following the game the Olympians spent some time on the field taking photos and getting autographs from the USA Softball Team.

Just a month later Harrison went on to capture the first ever Olympic Gold Medal for the United States in the sport of Judo. Stevens came up just short of medaling when he lost in the bronze medal match.
Flowers named head coach for the 2013 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team

Former USA Softball Women’s National Team player and assistant coach Tairia Flowers (Tucson, Ariz./ head coach at Cal State Northridge) has been selected as the head coach for the USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team that will compete in Brampton, Ontario, Canada July 1-7, 2013 for the ISF (International Softball Federation) Junior Women’s World Championship (19-Under).

“I’m very excited to stay in the USA program,” said Flowers. “I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to play on the Junior Women’s National Team. The coaches and those involved in the program have had a huge impact on my life and I hope to share the knowledge that I’ve learned with the new USA softball generation.

Flowers, who was an outstanding collegiate player during her years at UCLA and an Olympic gold and silver medal winner for Team USA, recently finished her second season as an assistant coach with the USA Softball Women’s National Team. Flowers was a member of coaching staffs that lead Team USA to the 2011 Pan American Games gold medal in Guadalajara, Mexico and a silver medal at the 2012 ISF Women’s World Championship this past July in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

As a player on the USA Women’s National Team, Flowers helped the United States to a perfect record and the gold medal in the Athens Olympics in 2004, and to a silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. She also won gold medals at the 2002 and 2006 ISF Women’s World Championships, the 2003 and 2007 Pan-American Games, and the 2001 U.S. Cup.

2012 ASA CHAMPIONSHIPS SERIES KICKS OFF SEPTEMBER 28

Following an action-packed Labor Day weekend, eight teams have earned their way to Oklahoma City to compete for the title of “National Champion”. Two ASA Slow Pitch Championship Series, presented by Worth, National Champions will be crowned while teams will also compete for the Men’s Class A and Women’s Open Slow Pitch titles September 28-30 at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex.

The teams qualified and will be competing for the National Championship Series in Oklahoma City are:

(Men’s Class C Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Champions)

Friendly Transmission/Sal Sutherlin, Va. Eastern
Heartland Investors Bismarck, N.D. Northern
KY Steel/TKO Cadiz, Ky. Southern
Classic Glass/Easton/DSS Sacramento, Calif. Western

(Men’s Class D Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Champions)

Torco Supply Danielsville, Pa. Eastern
Tabu Cedar Rapids, Iowa Northern
Titans Murfreesboro, Tenn. Southern
Galindo Orange County, Calif., Western

For more information, please visit ASASoftball.com.
ASA/USA SOFTBALL RAISES $3,000 FOR BEAT AUTISM

ASA and USA Softball donated $3,000 to the Beat Autism Foundation after raising funds with a silent auction during the World Cup VII in Oklahoma City this June. Based out of Louisville, Ky., the Beat Autism Foundation has had an on-going relationship with ASA/USA Softball since 2008 distributing beaded bracelets to NCAA Women’s College World Series teams, international teams, and fans across the country to create awareness.

ASA/USA Softball conducted a three-day silent auction during this summer’s World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City that included autographed items of current and former USA Softball players.

“On behalf of Beading to Beat Autism, we would like to thank ASA/USA Softball for their unprecedented and continued support in the battle to make a difference in the lives of children and families impacted by autism,” said David Riggle, President of the Beat Autism Foundation. “If wearing the ‘Team USA awareness bracelets’ during games were not enough, ASA/USA Softball went above and beyond with the surprise of a silent auction at the 2012 World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City. Once again, they have proven why they are the world-leaders in the softball community. Thanks again Team USA players past and present for your love and support of the two things dearest to Michala’s heart- finding the cure for autism and this wonderful game we call fast pitch.”

USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL COACHING SCHOOLS PRESENTED BY LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE

There are two more opportunities for coaches to attend the USA Softball National Coaching schools where they will receive instruction from current and former USA Softball Women’s National Team coaches Mike Candrea, Ken Eriksen and Mike White.

November 30 – December 2, 2012, Cypress, California

Hosted by the Southern California chapter of the ASA, the Cypress, Calif. school is open to the first 275 registering participants. Registration is $225 per-coach but those who have their applications postmarked by Nov. 1 will receive an early bird rate of $200. Coaches who register before Oct. 15 will also receive a commemorative polo shirt.

January 4-6, 2013, Houston, Texas

Hosted by the Houston and Texas chapters of the ASA, the Houston, Texas school is open to the first 250 registering participants. Registration is $200 per-coach but those who have their applications postmarked by Nov. 1 will receive an early bird rate of $175. Coaches who register before Dec. 1 will also receive a commemorative polo shirt.

For more news and notes visit ASASoftball.com and USASoftball.com
A TRAILBLAZER STILL ON FIRE.

As one of the most dominating women to ever play the game, fastpitch ace Cat Osterman shines as the sport’s brightest star. And while her powerful left arm continues to fan out batters and rack up records, it’s her right arm that’s now getting much of the attention. Sporting the custom designed Wilson® A2000® ZCAT, she’s created a hot new glove that fits both her hand and her style – perfectly.

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S
ince 2008, the City of Salem, Oregon has been raising money and awareness for Play for a Cure Oregon®. Now in its eleventh year, Play for a Cure Oregon® is an annual non-professional adult softball tournament held at the Wallace Marine Park Sports Complex in Salem, Oregon. This year, recreational teams pledged their support to this great cause by playing games on August 17-19, 2012.

Salem has a long history of supporting this effort. In 2008, the City hosted the ASA Girls’ 14B Fast Pitch Western National tournament where they held a skills contest event. The girls were able to donate money by participating in the Home Run Contest with the rest of the skills events free to participants. The girls and the home run contest raised $200 for Play for a Cure Oregon®. At the ASA Girls’ 10B Fast Pitch Western National in 2009, the players who participated in all of the skills contest events raised $1,900. The amount was increased to $2,400, when Burlingame, California team manager, Donna Carlson bought the pink tournament staff shirt right off of Maggie Combs’s back for $500. Maggie is a City of Salem Recreation Specialist. A drawing was also held for a signed USA team photo from Ashley Charters, which raised $400. That portion of the proceeds was immediately donated to a little girl from one of the participating 10B teams that was undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.

In the absence of a national tournament in Salem in 2009, Maggie and Billy Powers, City of Salem Recreation Coordinator found another way to raise money for Play for a Cure Oregon®. They created a two tournament series in 2010, to match what Salem had donated the year before. The goal was to double the donation from 2009 tournament. Tournaments were hosted on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day weekends. Play for Mother’s Day-Play for a Cure Oregon® Fundraiser tournament had 20 10U and 12U teams at the Play for Mother’s Day-Play for a Cure Oregon® Fundraiser raised $2,102. Reach for the Stars-Play for a Cure Oregon® Fundraiser tournament had 48, 12B, 14B, and, for the first time 16B teams. They raised $6,232. The Stars ‘n’ Stripes Forever-Play for a Cure Oregon® Fundraiser tournament had a combined 29 12A, 14A, and 16A teams. They raised $2,958. During the ASA Girls’ 12B Fast Pitch Western Nationals they hosted skills contest events, and continued selling tickets for the drawing items to keep raising more money. They were also surprised with a basket put together by the Burlingame Flames and University of California softball team. A Silent Auction was held with a California Pink game jersey personalized for the winner. With these added items, the ASA Girls’ 12B Fast Pitch Western Nationals helped bring in $3,348 bringing the grand total raised to $14,640.

In 2011, the City added another tournament to the series for 12A and 14A teams around the July 4th holiday, called Stars ’n’ Stripes Forever-Play for a Cure Oregon® Fundraiser for 20 teams. The fund raising goal was increased to $8,000. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans for Play for Mother’s Day-Play for a Cure Oregon® Fundraiser and it was canceled due to rain. The other tournaments that year raised $5,616.

As 2012 rolled around, the City once again set a fundraising goal of $8,000. The 20 10U and 12U teams at the Play for Mother’s Day-Play for a Cure Oregon® Fundraiser raised $2,102. Reach for the Stars-Play for a Cure Oregon® Fundraiser tournament had 48, 12B, 14B, and, for the first time 16B teams. They raised $6,232. The Stars ‘n’ Stripes Forever-Play for a Cure Oregon® Fundraiser tournament had a combined 29 12A, 14A, and 16A teams. They raised $2,958. During the ASA Girls’ 12B Fast Pitch Western Nationals they hosted skills contest events, and continued selling tickets for the drawing items to keep raising more money. They were also surprised with a basket put together by the Burlingame Flames and University of California softball team. A Silent Auction was held with a California Pink game jersey personalized for the winner. With these added items, the ASA Girls’ 12B Fast Pitch Western Nationals helped bring in $3,348 bringing the grand total raised to $14,640.

The City of Salem, Oregon works hard each year to take the extra step to help Play for a Cure Oregon® and show their support. For more information about Play for a Cure Oregon® and the three-tournament series visit, WWW.SOFTBALLCITYUSA.COM.
For the fifth consecutive year, ASA/USA Softball is raising money for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Central and Western Oklahoma affiliate through it’s “Pink Out” eBay auctions. In July during the World Cup of Softball, the USA Softball Women’s National Team donned pink uniforms and helmets in a “Pink Out” game versus the Netherlands to honor breast cancer survivors and create awareness for breast cancer research. Those items were signed and will now be auctioned to the highest bidders on eBay. Fans have the opportunity to bid on these items from Sept. 16 at noon CT until Sept. 26 at noon CT.

In 2011 the auction raised $6,400 for the Susan G. Komen foundation bringing USA Softball’s four-year donation total to $56,900. USA Softball donated $25,000 to the foundation in 2008, $12,500 in 2009 and $13,000 in 2010.

Visit [HTTP://MYWORLD.EBAY.COM/SOFTBALLOUTLET](http://MYWORLD.EBAY.COM/SOFTBALLOUTLET) to bid on USA Softball items including jerseys, helmets and posters autographed by the entire 2012 USA Softball Women’s National Team that won the World Cup of Softball. Only items listed by Softball Outlet are a part of the benefit auction for Susan G. Komen for the Cure® of Central and Western Oklahoma.

**NOTE: DUE TO NCAA AMATEURISM AND ELIGIBILITY RULES, UNIFORMS OF PLAYERS WHO ARE STILL PARTICIPATING IN COLLEGIATE SOFTBALL WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE 2012 AUCTION.**
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CALIFORNIA YARD SHARKS CLAIM SECOND CONSECUTIVE BRIGHT LIGHT AWARD PRESENTED BY MUSCO

The Yard Sharks 18-Under A team of Carmichael, Calif., coached by Joe Price is the recipient of its second consecutive Bright Light Award presented by ASA and Musco Lighting. Created in 2011, the award honors an ASA registered Junior Olympic (JO) team that has shown a commitment to its community through service and volunteerism.

“It’s really great to have teams like the Yard Sharks who are so involved in their communities in our association,” said ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “Winning this award for the second consecutive year, the Yard Sharks have shown that they are truly committed to their volunteer efforts. This is an organization that actively seeks opportunities to give back throughout their summer season. They are an outstanding group of young athletes and are very deserving of this honor.”

The award as well as a Bright Light Award banner will be presented to the Yard Sharks on Nov. 11 during the opening session of the 81st ASA National Council Meeting in Dallas, Texas. Additionally, as the recipient of the 2012 Bright Light Award, the Yard Sharks will receive a $2,000 credit to use toward tournament fees for any 2013 ASA sanctioned events in the United States and 20 Bright Light Award T-shirts for athletes, coaches and staff.

The Yard Sharks participated in many philanthropic events in 2012 including raising over $2,000 for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® in May. In January and February, the team worked with the Carmichael Softball League instructing young athletes and providing demonstrations on hitting, fielding, pitching and base running. The Yard Sharks also facilitated an ice cream social for the Carmichael Softball League to help athletes, coaches and parents bond.

In August the Yard Sharks were assisted with Special Olympics Northern California softball tournament, marking the seventh consecutive year the team has assisted with their local Special Olympics softball program. Among the duties that Yard Sharks performed at the tournament were field preparation, assisting as bat girls and scorekeeping. The Yard Sharks were also involved with the awards ceremony as well as skill assessments for the event.

Applications for the 2013 Bright Light Award presented by ASA and Musco Lighting will be accepted starting next spring. Additional information will be available at HTTP://WWW.ASASOFTBALL.COM.
fundraising.com/asa
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Call 1.866.830.5014

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1.866.830.5014
MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Cassidy Sidhu Fights Her Way Back to the Diamond

In 2007 Cassidy Sidhu, a fourth grader at the time, fell from a play structure at school. While scans showed no injuries from the fall, doctors noticed an incidental lesion. They felt it was probably something that she was born with and that it would be best to just keep an eye out for any changes. Following the discovery of the lesion, Cassidy had follow-up scans every three months or so for a year. Each report showed no changes so the scans were reduced to every six months.

In November of 2009, Cassidy began experiencing headaches which became more and more severe. A follow-up scan indicated that the lesion had begun to grow. Cassidy endured surgeries to remove portions of the lesion and then began chemotherapy and radiation treatments in January of 2010.

A softball player since kindergarten, Cassidy was forced to give up the sport she loved when surgeries and treatments began. For two years in fact, Cassidy was in and out of treatment facilities and at times away from her classmates as she was too ill from the treatments to attend school. While the treatments were preventing the tumor from growing, it unfortunately wasn’t shrinking.

Following an MRI in October of 2011 Cassidy and her family received the news that they had been waiting on for over a year and a half. The tumor appeared to possibly be shrinking. Three months later another MRI showed that the tumor was in fact smaller than it had been in October.

In the Spring of 2012, Cassidy was well enough to return to the sport that she loves. The slugger played in the Folsom Softball Club’s Spring season. As the season came to a close, Folsom Softball Club President Tracey Levea came up with the idea to honor an individual athlete for their efforts away from the field. During the season’s closing ceremonies the following passage was read prior to the award presentation:

“Each season we see great softball players on the field, but what you may not know is the amazing things they do off the field. In an effort to recognize the great work our girls are doing in the community, we have started a new tradition by honoring one girl with the Inspirational Softball Player of the Year award.”

“Many of you may know this year’s winner’s story, but for those that don’t, it is truly inspiring. In 2009, one of our players was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor, which rocked not only her family and friends, but our entire softball family. We have a great softball community in Folsom and we rallied around her and her family. With her facing many invasive surgeries, aggressive radiation treatments, and debilitating chemotherapy, her days of playing softball with her friends were put on hold. After her courageous 3-year battle, and the support and prayers of her family and friends, she put on her glove, and stepped back on the field this Spring. She is a great athlete, but it’s her courage and strength off the field that continue to inspire everyone around her. She is a true hero. Ladies and gentlemen, not only is this player receiving the first annual award, but it is being named in her honor. I am humbled to present the CASSIDY SIDHU INSPIRATIONAL SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD to Cassidy Sidhu.”

Do you have original softball themed artwork, essays or poems that you would like considered for publication in a future magazine issue? Email it to promotions@softball.org with your name, age and location.
On July 28, AZ Desert Thunder coaches Kelly and Lance Fowler of Tucson, Arizona accomplished a task that many had tried but failed to do: bring an ASA 18-Under GOLD National Championship back to the state of Arizona. After five days of intense and heartfelt performances, the AZ Desert Thunder headed into Championship Saturday a mere two games away from claiming their organization’s first-ever GOLD National Championship. After securing a spot in the National Championship game, the Texas Impact handed the AZ Desert Thunder their first loss of the tournament, forcing an “if-necessary” game to determine the new National Champion. The AZ Desert Thunder quickly rebounded and defeated the Texas Impact 2-0, earning the state of Arizona its first GOLD National Championship.

Balls and Strikes Online Magazine recently caught up with Kelly and Lance Fowler to see what life has been like since winning the 2012 ASA 18-Under GOLD National Championship.

Kelly Fowler, head coach, accepts the Championship trophy after the AZ Desert Thunder captured the 2012 ASA 18-Under GOLD National Championship.

B&S: First of all, congratulations on your big win! What a huge accomplishment for you and your team! It’s been over a month since your organization claimed the title, has the excitement worn off yet or is it still there?

Kelly: The excitement is absolutely still there! It seems like just yesterday that the team was sweating it out in Oklahoma City. It’s kind of funny, because this year our team had several graduating seniors, most of which have arrived at college by now, and we are still receiving emails and text messages from them about the run at GOLD Nationals.

B&S: This year marked the first time that a team from Arizona won the 18-Under GOLD National Championship Game. Did your team feel any pressure heading into those final games knowing that they could potentially claim the state of Arizona its first GOLD National Championship?

Lance: The players played very loose and confident the entire week. Perhaps there was added pressure, but they certainly did not show it. Looking back it’s pretty funny because the parents were much more nervous than the players. As coaches, we just tried to stay out of the way and make sure we didn’t mess up the line-up card. We honestly never thought about being the first AZ team to win an ASA GOLD National Championship. There have been so many great teams from AZ that had come close.

B&S: What has winning the title meant to your organization?

Kelly: As an organization, the AZ Desert Thunder has brought several outstanding teams to the past six ASA GOLD Nationals but we had never finished higher than 9th place. You have to play so well and beat several outstanding teams to finish in the top ten. Winning the entire tournament was unbelievable, and we are very proud to represent Arizona.

B&S: What has your team been up to since winning the National Championship? Did you guys celebrate once you got back home?

Lance: We celebrated at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium Field until the security guards finally came and ushered us outside. After that, we just continued the celebration under the 25 foot GOLD Bracket at the entrance. By that time, the lights were off and we thought everyone had left. As we were gathering up the last few items, we noticed the Tournament Director Rich Cress was sitting in the last car in the parking lot. He was so respectful of our precious moment, as he allowed us to hug and cry with the girls and their families. It was such a classy act on his part and something that we spoke about the next week at our celebration back in Tucson. All girls will be given ASA National Championship rings for their achievement.

B&S: After the game, we noticed that Lance had to shave off his beard. Was it his or the girls’ idea to shave it off?

Kelly Fowler, head coach, accepts the Championship trophy after the AZ Desert Thunder captured the 2012 ASA 18-Under GOLD National Championship.
**Lance:** The players had been on me all year about it and kept asking what it would take to get me to shave my mustache. I’ve had it for over 25 years and told the girls that they would have to win the ASA GOLD National Championship before the mustache would come off. So after each win during the week, a few more players would show their razors that they started carrying in their ball bags. Then they started bringing some shaving cream. Needless to say they were quite prepared for the “worst shave” of the year. After several poor attempts, I was a sport and finally took the shaving duties over and shaved, however, I pulled Coach Darren Bryan into the shaving as well. He ended up with a cool looking “fu man chu” shave as well, but it was all in good fun.

**B&S: Next year, the GOLD National Championship moves to Clearwater, Florida. Per the ASA Code, your squad has an automatic berth as the returning GOLD National Champion. Will your team be making an appearance to defend their title?**

**Kelly:** We would love AZ Desert Thunder to take another team back to ASA GOLD Nationals in Florida. As an organization, AZ Desert Thunder has many great young players coming up with several talented athletes. As for our coaching staffs and the Desert Thunder organization, there are several transitions underway. I will step down as the head coach next year, but I will continue to stay engaged with the team as President of the AZ Desert Thunder organization. Assistant Coaches Lance Fowler, Darren Bryan and Gary Henry will also not coach in a full-time capacity.

All of our coaches have been coaching for over 12 years. As all club coaches know, the rewards are great, but the time commitment and expense to compete at this level is extremely demanding. Both Lance and I look forward to watching our two daughters play collegiately. Kenzie is a senior at the University of Arizona and Mattie is a sophomore at the University of Nebraska.

**Click here for a box score from the Championship Game.**

“What a great accomplishment for our girls,” said AZ Desert Thunder Assistant Coach Lance Fowler. “After that first game, we had to wipe our slate clean and just start over. They’re a tough team and that first game we didn’t execute. We had a lot of opportunities we didn’t capitalize on and we had too many errors. That second game though, our intensity really picked up. This means a lot to our organization, especially since we are the first Arizona team to capture the title. I’m so proud of our girls, they deserve it.”

Scoreless through the first two innings, the visiting AZ Desert Thunder jumped on top 2-0 in the top of the third. Morgan McKeevers reached on an error, followed by an Erin Satterfield fielder’s choice. With two runners on, Darcy Taylor produced a two-run double, giving the Thunder its first two runs in nine innings of play.

“We came into this game and just erased the previous loss from our minds,” said Taylor. “I’ve been popping up all week, and when I stepped into the box I just wanted to get on base and do something for my team.”

In the circle, Kaitlin Wilson earned the win after pitching all seven innings and only giving up one run on four hits. The pitching of Wilson stifled the TX Impact batters until the sixth inning, when with two outs they rallied for one run. Reagan Boenker, who reached on a single, scored the lone run for TX Impact courtesy an Allie Piro fielder’s choice with bases loaded. Losing pitcher Katie Marks, who pitched her fifth game of the day, recorded the loss as AZ Desert Thunder connected on five hits on their road to the National Championship Title.

For more information on this year’s 18-Under GOLD National Championship, including a complete order of finish and bracket, please visit GOLD.ASASOFBALL.COM.
Minnesota ASA Commissioner and ASA Slow Pitch Committee member Dan Pfeffer sat down with us to discuss the strengths and weaknesses that he sees with his association and share some tips on ways to better communicate with players, coaches and umpires in your association.

Thanks for taking the time to chat with us Dan. First, tell us a little bit about yourself and how you became involved with the Minnesota Amateur Softball Association (ASA).

I’ve been involved with ASA in some way, shape, or form since 1988. I’ve played since 1988, umpired a little bit and donated umpiring fees to my hometown league, been the league director of that league, been on the Minnesota ASA Board of Directors for four years, and now the Commissioner. I was also very fortunate to run the World Softball League for two seasons. That experience probably has helped me the most since taking over in February.

What has been the greatest accomplishment for you in your short time as Minnesota ASA Commissioner?

We are going to get close to doubling our Junior Olympic (JO) registrations from last year. I think we may have registered every single JO league in the state this year. We have a great team of people in place on the youth side and are going to do great things with our JO program!

You recently launched a new website for Minnesota ASA and your association is very active in the social media world. What advantages have you seen from being such a tech savvy association?

Because I am new I felt like it was important for Minnesota ASA to be highly visible. I try to hit 3-10 tournaments a weekend (I’m really sick of eating hot dogs). There is a really cool app for the IPhone called “Pages” that allows you to take pictures, make a comment, and directly post them to your Facebook page. Plus there are ways to leverage API’s to post one comment to many online resources. OK way too technical I know, just ask us about this and we can help all of you out.

What do you feel are the strengths and weaknesses of Minnesota ASA?

We are highly accessible. You pick how you want to communicate with us, what is easiest for you, and we will adapt. We get back to 99% of the questions we get within an hour. If we don’t have an answer we let them know that we don’t have an answer and will email when we do.
We need to be more organized next year. We now have Labor Day to April to put together a plan and carry it out. We promise to get a whole lot better at every aspect of the ASA operation.

**What are some of your association’s goals for the next year?**

To register more adult teams, figure out a way to pay ASA national entry fees for our teams, build more corporate partnerships throughout the community, expose more JO teams to our National Tournaments win more bids to host ASA JO Nationals, be a better partner with local ASA associations in our region and on our boundary, and do far more softball outreach to youth and adult teams and to our communities.

We have a lot of passion and a lot of great people on staff and in our key alliances. I’ve found in a few short months that ASA is an asset that most teams want a piece of. We need to continue to allow more to get a piece of the asset through program delivery.

**What is your favorite memory from being involved in ASA/USA Softball?**

I’ve had so many great memories, mainly from playing ball. I really liked showing up on Saturday mornings for batting practice and just chatting with my friends about anything. It’s all about relationships for me. There are so many great people in our sport that have funny stories.

I guess if I had to single out one thing it would have been our ASA C State Tournament this year. A few teams (and not necessarily the ones that won) told us that we are making the game more fun and keeping things fair for the balance of the teams and to keep up the good work. I’m not real big on getting credit for anything, but it is nice to know that we are making the sport better.

**Is there anything else that you would like to add?**

Minnesota ASA is looking forward to learning a lot at the ASA National Council this Fall. We have a lot of passion for our sport and are excited to be a part of a greater team. If there is anything that any of you need from Minnesota ASA just email and we’ll do our best to help out.

You are also a member of the ASA Slow Pitch Committee who recently met in Oklahoma City. What were some of the topics discussed in those meetings as you look towards the future of ASA Slow Pitch?

We had a long talk about the future of slow pitch at ASA, with emphasis on our National Tournaments. It’s important to us to put on the biggest and best National Tournament since they represent our biggest exposure throughout the season. I, being a big computer nerd, pleaded for a national softball portal to help manage the business of the game. All of the paperwork is overwhelming so there has to be a way for us to manage our franchises and national events through a single unified website.
Manage your league more efficiently online. It’s easy!

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Clubspaces is the official online league management system of ASA for a reason. It’s built to automate manual processes and integrate all operations—from registration to fundraising to volunteer recruitment—within one solution. You’ll free up hours and hours of time each season! That translates into a huge savings of cost and sanity, letting you focus on the game instead of on the administration.

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ASA has strengthened our partnership with Clubspaces this year by integrating Clubspaces with Register ASA. Over the years, we have seen our leagues continue to save time and money by taking advantage of all the league management tools Clubspaces has to offer. Clubspaces is ideal for all ASA leagues.

—Ron Radigonda, Executive Director of ASA
ASA/USA SOFTBALL CELEBRATES 100,000 ‘LIKES’ ON FACEBOOK

One of the top ranking sports in the U.S. Olympic Movement when it comes to online reach, the ASA/USA Softball facebook page hit the 100,000 landmark on August 13 when Debbie Manning Collins of Mandeville, La., “liked” the page. To celebrate the milestone, ASA offered a two-day discount to customers at it’s online store www.SoftballOutlet.com.

As the 100,000th fan, Collins also won an ASA/USA Softball gift pack that included autographed items from current and former members of the USA Softball Women’s National Team. Also, for being one of the first individuals to send an email to promotions@softball.org once we hit 100,000 “likes”, 10 other individuals received receiving gift packs that include various ASA/USA Softball items including an autographed poster of the 2012 USA Softball team.

With special offers including discounted tickets to the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum as well as previous World Cups of Softball, exclusive photos, videos and news updates, facebook is a great way to stay connected with ASA/USA Softball. Become a fan at WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ASAUSA_SOFTBALL.

ASA/USA Softball also has more than 26,400 followers on Twitter. To connect with ASA/USA Softball on Twitter, go to WWW.TWITTER.COM/ASAUSA_SOFTBALL.

Ryan Graber was one of the luck winners of the 10 ASA/USA Softball gift packs. He snapped this photo when he’s prize came in the mail.

The 10 ASA/USA Softball gift packs ready to be shipped to our lucky winners.
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Register today to host a Local Competition – [www.mlb.com/phr](http://www.mlb.com/phr)

### TIMELINE/LEVELS OF COMPETITION

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### STEPS TO HOSTING A PHR LOCAL COMPETITION

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With the start of another school year comes the close of one more successful summer in the world of ASA Softball. In late July and early August, dozens of teams all over the country reached the culmination of their summer season by winning an ASA National Championship. Many more fell just short only fueling that fire to get back and win it all next year.

Nowhere was that corresponding joy and sorrow more apparent than in the "Big Six" ASA/USA JO National Championships. The 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U Class A Nationals as well as the GOLD National Tournament are the pinnacle of ASA Championship play and the level of competition at these events is unparalleled. Teams travel across the country to earn a coveted berth into these events because they know it’s where they will play the best of the best. In 2012 there were 513 teams that participated in an ASA/USA JO National Championship tournament.

With expectations like these, it takes a lot of hard work and determination to host one of these National Championship tournaments and come this November at the ASA Annual Council Meeting in Dallas, city representatives from all across the US will be lined up eagerly awaiting their opportunity to tell why their cities should be selected to host a future "Big Six" tournament.

“We have hosted five National Championships...,” said Joe Taylor with the Quad Cities CVB, “...and we want number six in 2014.”

The ASA/USA Nationals offer an opportunity to show off their host cities to the thousands of athletes, coaches and fans that will travel to compete and cheer on their teams. According to Lynn Hunt, Vice President of Sales with the Quad Cities CVB, they hosted some 83 teams in this year’s 12-and-under ASA/USA National Championship which they equated to just under 5,000 out-of-town visitors for their city. Once they figured hotel rooms, shopping, dining and money spent on entertainment away from the fields, Lynn estimated the total economic impact that the Quad Cities region saw from this event to be in the neighborhood of $3,735,000.

Eric Marvin, Director of Sports Development with the Hoosiers Sports Corporation in Bloomington, Indiana, said the ASA/USA 10-and-under National that his city hosted this year had a similar economic impact in his community.

“We tracked just under 1,300 hotel rooms as a result of the event,” said Marvin. “The tournament has a tremendous impact on our local community and was an absolute blast to host. We hope that we get the opportunity to host many more ASA National Championships in the future.”

2013 ASA/USA JO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
July 28 – August 4 10-Under Bowling Green, Ky.
July 28 – August 4 12-Under Chattanooga, Tenn.
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   www.BollingerASA.com
ASA HEADS SOUTH TO DALLAS FOR 81ST ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America will descend on Dallas, Texas November 10-17 as the ASA will host its 81st Annual Council Meeting at the Hilton Anatole. During the week long event, administrators, players and tournament hosts from around the country participate in a series of meetings to evaluate the needs of the association along with proposed rule and code changes for all divisions of ASA softball. In addition to the business side of the organization, the ASA also presents several awards during the Annual Council Meetings, including the James I. Moyer Sports Complex of the Year, the Bright Light Award presented by ASA and Musco Lighting, Years of Service and the James Farrell Certificates and Awards of Excellence for excellence in conducting ASA National Championships.

While the majority of the council meeting will consist of breakout sessions for the different committees and regions, several special events will be held throughout the week. On Friday, the “Swing for a Cause” golf series kicks off the Annual Meeting at The Gold Club of Dallas. All participants and non-golfers are also welcome to attend the dinner and auction, which will include items signed by current and former USA Softball athletes. All funds collected will benefit the Special Olympics National Games and ASA Special Programs. (link with PDF) Registration is due to Andy Dooley by October 21, 2012. For more information, please call Andy Dooley at (540) 587-6844.

More than 80 exhibitors from throughout the United States are expected to attend the annual ASA Trade Show, which will be held Saturday evening in the Trinity Ballroom. The show will feature exhibits from cities bidding on the ASA National Championships, equipment manufacturers, softball suppliers and the ASA National Office staff with more than 1,000 council members, association delegates and visitors passing through.

The Wilson Sporting Goods Tournament Awards Luncheon will be held on Monday while the 5th annual “Fun Walk”, organized by Joey Rich, will be on Tuesday morning. Also on Tuesday at the general council session the 280 plus ASA council members will decide which cities will host the 2014 ASA National Championships. The decision of the host cities is one of the most anticipated decisions made by the council as each ASA National Championship has the potential to have thousands of dollars in economic impact.

On Wednesday, November 14 the 32nd Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet will be held in the Coronado Ballroom. Members of the 2012 ASA Hall of Fame class include: Chris Armijo (Grand Rapids, Mich), Jerry King (Maysville, Ky.), Denny Bruckert (Gillespie, Ill.), Leon Grunault (Warren, Mich.), Larry Mays (Canyon Lake, Calif.) and Ike Wheeler (Bossier City, La.). In addition to honoring the Class of 2012, the Hall of Fame Class of 2013 will be announced. The deadline to submit nominations for the 2013 Hall of Fame class was September 1. On Thursday, the final general council session will take place as all code and rule changes will be announced.

For further information on the 2012 ASA Annual Council Meeting, please visit ASASOFTBALL.COM. Photos and live updates from Dallas will be posted on the ASA and USA Softball FACEBOOK and TWITTER pages.
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PR*BAR IS THE OFFICIAL PERFORMANCE NUTRITION BAR OF THE U.S. OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TEAMS.
The 2012 year was a successful one for National Umpire Schools and Camps. We started with schools in December of 2011 and ended with the last school in September of 2012. All the schools were a success for both the umpires that attended as well as the Local Associations that held them. We also had two successful National Advanced Camps this year, one Slow Pitch in Lincoln Neb. and one Fast Pitch held in Waxahachie, Texas.

This year we redesigned the Slow Pitch Camp to better fit the needs of the Slow Pitch Umpire by condensing the agenda to a day and half and a weekend tournament for the umpires to be filmed and evaluated. This meant a full day and night of drills and lectures, and an exam on rules. The reaction to the new agenda and timing was very well accepted and should be a good foundation for future Slow Pitch Camps.

Something unique was added to the Fast Pitch Camp this year. Along with an exam on rules most every night, the last night before the tournament the students were given a subject and asked to come up with plays as well as give the correct ruling and support their ruling with a rule from the rule book. This proved to be very informative on how umpires should apply rule knowledge and find support for their rulings. The result of the exercise was both educational and entertaining. During the session the group was also required to diagram the play on a white board. The following are examples of plays from that session.

**COURTESY RUNNER**

**PLAY** Team Breeze has 11 players. In the top of the fifth inning the pitcher who is also the DP is replaced with an unreported courtesy runner, number 20. Number 20 is the only substitute listed on the lineup card. In the same inning the courtesy runner, number 20, is on 3B when the catcher safely reaches 1B but is injured on the play. Since the courtesy runner is the only substitute listed on the lineup card, number 20 is now substituted for the catcher. A pitch is thrown and the defensive team protests that the courtesy runner is an
unreported courtesy runner and wants them disqualified.

**RULING:** Since number 20 was not reported as a courtesy runner and is still in the game, number 20 is ruled to be an illegal player, disqualified and cannot be used as a substitute.

**RULE 8, SECTION 10G EFFECT AND RULE 4, SECTION 6 E & F EFFECT**

**INTERFERENCE**

**PLAY:** With one out and R1 on 2B, B3 singles to F8. F8 throws the ball home to try and retire R1 at the plate. While R1 is attempting to score, the on deck batter clears the bat from in front of the plate and accidently trips F2 who is now unable to make a play on R1.

**RULING:** Interference by the on-deck batter, R1 is called out and B3 is awarded 1B.

**RULE 7, SECTION 1D EFFECT 1 AND RULE 8, SECTION 6C**

**LOOK BACK RULE**

**PLAY:** With two outs and R1 on 3B, B4 receives ball four from F1. F2 returns the ball to F1 in the circle. B4 runs past 1B, turns towards right field, takes two steps back towards 1B and then continues to 2B.

**RULING:** The umpire calls “dead ball” and R2, formally the batter-runner, is now out.

**RULE 8, SECTION 7T[3D] AND RULE SUPPLEMENT 34**

**DP / FLEX**

**PLAY:** The coach of Team A hands the line-up card to the plate umpire after reviewing it for accuracy. Team A is playing with a DP in the 5th position and a Flex listed in the 10th position who is pitching. In the 9th inning F5, who bats in the 4th position, is injured and cannot continue to play. The coach has the DP replacing F5 on defense and says their team will take the out when F5 comes to bat. The defense protests that this cannot be done.

**RULING:** Legal, the DP can play defense for any player in the field

**RULE 4, SECTION 1D[2A] AND RULE 4 SECTION 3E**

**OBSTRUCTION**

**PLAY:** With no outs and R1 on 1B, B2 hits a looping fly ball to shallow right field. F3 bumps B2 just past 1B. R1 thinking that the ball was going to be caught, retreats to 1B and is passed by B2. F9 picks up the ball and throws it to F3 who tags R1 before getting back to 1B.

**RULING:** Even though B2 was obstructed between 1B and 2B before passing R1, this is an illegal act and B2 should be called out with the ball remaining live. R1 would be called out if tagged by F3 prior to reaching any base.

**RULE 8, SECTION 5B[1C], RULE 8, SECTION 7D EFFECT AND RULE 8, SECTION 7B**

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Advantages

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- Fast, on-the-fly, distance adjustment
- Quick, easy transfer from field to field
- Security for fields and events
- High durability
- High impact design
- Stores easily

Product Features

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

References

ASA Official Portable Fence; NCAA Women’s Fastpitch “World Series” Division I, II & III Championships Series; City of Woodland, City of Santa Maria, Salem VA, etc.
Ashland, Ohio is a relatively small community with a population just over 20,000. The rural city, located some 70 miles southwest of Cleveland, probably wouldn’t be the first place that comes to mind when discussing where tryouts for USA Softball World Championship teams would be held, but in 2012 Ashland was the spot.

Typically the USA Softball National Team selection camps are held at the Olympic Training facility in Chula Vista, Calif. However, with this being an Olympic year, that facility was busier than usual. In need of an alternate location to hold tryouts for the team that would represent the USA in the 2012 International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championship, Ohio ASA Commissioner Warren Jones and his hometown stepped up to the plate.

“It was a wonderful opportunity for the City of Ashland,” said Jones. “Hosting the USA National Team selection camps gave the members of this community a chance to see, in person, some of the greatest softball in the world.”

In early June, thirty-three of the most talented female fast pitch players from around the country converged in the Ohio community. Twelve of the athletes had already been named to the 17-player roster which left 21 girls to compete for five spots. Many of the players had just returned from competing on ESPN in the NCAA Women’s College World Series earlier in the week. Now they found themselves in Ashland, Ohio fighting to be a member of the same team they grew up watching in the Olympic Games.

After three days of evaluation at Ashland’s Brookside Park, the final Women’s National Team roster was announced. Athletes who were not selected to the Women’s National Team made up the Women’s Elite Team. Both teams then traveled to West Virginia for an exhibition doubleheader before returning to Ashland for a thrilling showdown that concluded the training week.

Ashland residents were treated to a pitching duel that went six and a half scoreless innings. In the bottom of the seventh, Samantha Fischer (Simi Valley, Calif.), one of the five players who had
just been selected to complete the National Team’s roster, blasted a two-out, walk-off home run for the win.

“The USA Softball selection camp and exhibition game in Ashland was my first experience with the National Team and it was an incredible experience,” said Fischer. “Warren and the rest of the Ashland residents who hosted us and provided meals for the team could not have been more gracious. They really went all out for Team USA.”

With the ASA Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship coming to town a month later, it was then decided that Ashland would be the perfect location to select the Men’s Fast Pitch Team that would represented the USA at the ISF XIII Men’s World Championship in March of 2013 in New Zealand.

Following the 16-team tournament that saw the New York Gremlins crowned ASA National Champions, 29 players were selected to stick around and vie for one of the 17 roster spots on the USA Softball Men’s National Team. For the next three days, July 30 – August 1, Ashland, Ohio was again the backdrop for a successful Team USA selection camp.

Click here to see the roster for the 2013 USA Men’s Fast Pitch National Team
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A lot of blood, sweat and tears emerged the week of July 29 – August 5 as almost 50 Junior Olympic (JO) teams were crowned National Champions. Marking the completion of JO play, thousands of athletes, coaches and umpires from across the U.S. traveled to National Championships, looking to either defend or take home the title of ASA National Champion.

A total of 1,588 JO teams participated in JO National Championship play with the highest attended tournament being the ASA/USA Softball Girls’ Class A 16-Under Fast Pitch in Montgomery, Ala., with 151 teams. The Tulsa Elite (Owasso, Okla.) took home the title after finishing the tournament with a perfect 8-0 record. During the opening ceremony, teams marched across the Cramton Bowl and were treated to a guest appearance by Amanda Chidester and Chelsea Thomas, members of the USA Softball Women’s National Team.

At the ASA/USA Softball Girls’ Class A 10-Under Fast Pitch in Bloomington, Ind., the Firecrackers 01 of Cerritos, Calif. won the 47-team bracket with a 6-0 record. Moline, Ill. hosted the ASA/USA Softball Girls’ Class A 12-Under Fast Pitch Championship with 83 teams competing for the title. The San Diego Power Surge 99 took home the crown with a 7-0 record.

The ASA/USA Softball Girls’ Class A 14-Under Fast Pitch tournament was held in Sioux Falls, S.D. where 114 teams competed to earn their right to be called an “ASA National Champion”. The Tennessee Fury of Chattanooga, Tenn. took home the top prize after a perfect 8-0 week.

The ASA/USA Softball Girls’ Class A 18-Under Fast Pitch tournament took place in Johnson City, Tenn. where 95 teams took to the field. The Central Florida Sting – Black of Orlando, Fla. finished the week with an 8-0 record and a National Championship under their belt.

“There are five major ASA tournaments, and this is one of the five,” said Karen Hubbs, Director of Sports Development for the Johnson City Chamber. “There
Tulsa Elite following their ASA 16-Under National Championship win in Montgomery, Alabama.

were 20-30 cities competing to host this, so for us to get it, it’s huge.”

The Girls’ GOLD 18-Under Fast Pitch National Championship took place July 22-28 at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City, Okla. The AZ Desert Thunder took home the state of Arizona’s first-ever GOLD National Championship after going 6-1 over the weeklong, 73-team event. CLICK HERE FOR A RECAP OF THE GOLD ON PAGE 20.

To see a complete list of winners and results from all ASA JO National Championships, please visit ASASOFTBALL.COM.
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— Mike Candrea, two-time U.S. Olympic Team Head Coach

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### 2012 USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Addison Beutler</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
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<td>West Valley, UT</td>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>Salem, UT</td>
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<td>Outfield/Catcher</td>
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<td>L/R</td>
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<td>R/R</td>
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**November 1-10, 2012 – ISF IX Junior Men’s World Championship – Parana, Argentina**
The Botetourt Sports Complex in Botetourt County, Va., has been selected as the 2012 Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America Complex of the Year presented by Stabilizer Solutions, Inc. In addition to receiving the award at ASA’s 81st National Council Meeting in Dallas, Texas, the Botetourt Sports Complex (160 Preston Parkway) will also receive approximately $2,000 in field maintenance products from Stabilizer Solutions.

“Being named ‘Complex of the Year’ by the world leader in softball is an unbelievable honor,” said Jim Farmer, Manager of the Botetourt Sports Complex. “Our staff takes tremendous pride in making sure the facility is in top condition for our guests every single week. We count it a privilege to partner with ASA to provide first class tournaments. Thank you for this recognition.”


Last month, the Botetourt Sports Complex hosted the 2012 ASA Fast Pitch Girls’ Class A 14-Under and 18-Under Eastern National Championships. Eastern National Championships and the ASA Men’s Class D Slow Pitch East National Championship are slated to be held in Salem, Va.

Later this year, the Botetourt Complex will host two ASA Junior Olympic (JO) College Showcases. In addition to hosting ASA Softball events, the Botetourt Complex hosts a variety of other youth, high school, college and adult action. This past year, the complex was the site of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Women’s Softball Championship and the Three Rivers District High School Softball Tournament.

The Botetourt Sports Complex features four championship level fields, which are built around a three-story central tower. The bottom floor houses concessions and restrooms, and the second story features a hospitality and umpire changing room with a TV. The PA and scorekeeping stations are located on the top floor of the tower, with each field having on-field communication capabilities with the third floor. Each field has its own individual PA capabilities, CD players and two bullpen warm-up areas. Other features of the complex include: high-speed, wireless internet, six vendor areas with electric subpanels, dugouts with restrooms and water fountains and a playground with a gazebo seating area. The fields are equipped with a 50/30 lighting system, electronic scoreboards and permanent spectator seating with the option for additional portable grandstands.

In addition to hosting softball, the facility also hosts baseball games throughout the year. The Botetourt Complex also features a half-mile circular paved pathway which encircles the complex perimeter with unobstructed views of the playing fields. The complex is facilitated by one full-time maintenance supervisor, three part-time maintenance workers and three seasonal helpers. For more information on the Botetourt Complex visit CO.BOTETOURT.VA.US.
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September 30 - Pearland, TX: Pearland HS
October 6 - Salt Lake, UT: Salt Lake Community College
October 7 - Georgetown, TX: East View HS
October 14 - St. Louis, MO: U. Missouri - St. Louis
October 14 - Oklahoma City, OK: ASA Hall of Fame Stadium
October 21 - Waterford Township, MI: Oakland Yard

October 21 - Raleigh, NC: Peace College
October 28 - Albuquerque, NM: La Cueva HS
October 28 - Shreveport, LA: Centenary College
November 4 - Fresno, CA: Clovis North HS
November 4 - Bowling Green, KY: Michael O. Buchanan
November 11 - Washington, PA: C-Side Sports Academy
November 18 - Orange, CA: Santiago Canyon College
November 18 - Douglasville, GA: South Paulding HS
December 2 - Ventura, CA: Ventura College

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Repetition is key! Take as many swings/ground balls/whatever as you can in the off season. This is also the time to tweak whatever wasn’t working for you in your previous season. Get a good look and feel for what you think isn’t working right and do the proper things to fix it (take lessons, look at film, etc.)

Don’t forget your workouts! If you’re in college you have to make sure to stick with your weight workouts. If you’re not yet doing those types of workouts just make sure you’re in good enough shape to handle practicing and playing every weekend!

SAMANTHA FISCHER
USA Softball Women’s National Team Infielder

During the off season I strive to accomplish three goals. My first goal being increased strength. I do this by working out in the gym three times a week and running up hills on my workout days.

My second goal is hitting. On the days I do not work out I first do tee work, then hit in the batting cage. While in the cage I emphasize bunting and situational hitting.

The third and final goal of mine is staying flexible. Whenever I have a chance to stretch I take it. The most important times however, are before and after weight training.

NICOLAS SERRATO
USA Softball Jr. Men’s National Team Infielder

As a pitcher I make sure to keep up my running. I do a lot of long sprints or 2-3 mile runs. I haven’t been lifting as much as I did in college. Instead, I’ve been doing the Insanity workouts. I love them! They’re super intense but short workouts so they’re perfect for after a pitching workout. Since I’ve had history of arm issues, I try to take longer breaks with pitching to take stress off. I usually just do spins and occasional light workouts throughout the off season.

JORDAN TAYLOR
USA Softball Women’s National Team Pitcher
I am always trying to improve my flexibility especially in my wrist. Pitching is all about using the small muscles in your body and by working your small muscles, it will get you that extra 2-3 mph that your trying to get.

**tip #2.** A huge part of my training is doing my drills. They help me with my mechanics and help me in all areas of pitching, but the biggest help drills do is when you are throwing bad and just dont feel right. You can always go back to your drills and it will get you back to normal form.

**tip #3.** I always try to throw 3-4 times a week. This past offseason I threw to the softball team at my college which was a huge help in keeping my arm in shape and letting me work on things because I am throwing at 50% most of the time. This has helped me the greatest out of anything I have done and I plan on continuing it for years to come.

**ZACH LACH**  
USA Softball Jr. Men’s National Team Pitcher

While training in the off season I think it’s important to keep up your fitness and continue eating right--the more you can make it a habit to eat right the easier it is to ‘get ready’ for each season.

- Do some light lifting three times a week and conditioning at least twice a week (for the Fall) then increasing the intensity about 2-3 months before season starts.
- Increase your protein intake (lots of lean meats, milk, egg whites, etc.)
- Throwing/Hitting (especially live BP & tee work)/Fielding at least 2-3 times a week

**KAITLIN COCHRAN**  
USA Softball Women’s National Team Outfielder

Things that I do in the offseason are things that I want to improve on for the next season. On of offensive side it’s things like bunting, slap hitting and hitting for power. I’m a catcher so on the defensive side I work on my foot work, blocking balls, catching live pitching, framework and stretching.

**DYLAN ELMER**  
USA Softball Jr. Men’s National Team Catcher
ROLLA, MISSOURI: “ALL-IN” FOR ASA SOFTBALL

by State Commissioner Joey Rich

The city of Rolla, Missouri, located on Interstate 44 in central Missouri, has been an ASA city for more than three decades and for its efforts has been named the Missouri ASA Sponsor of the Year for 2013. All of the city’s leagues are registered strictly with ASA, including the Missouri Science & Technology University leagues. All youth coaches must be background checked and youth teams must be individually registered with the ASA in order to play on the local fields.

About 55 teams play in Rolla’s adult slow pitch summer leagues and nearly as many in fall leagues. An always-full girl’s fast pitch league is held during the summer months.

Although additional fields are available in the city, The Ber Juan Complex is the main site for tournaments and league play within Rolla. The complex consists of four fields, including one reconfigured baseball field.

Ken Kwantes, who retired in 2011 after 36 years at the helm of the Parks and Recreation Department, serves as the Missouri ASA Deputy State Commissioner and as the ASA Southern District’s Commissioner. Since his retirement, Kristy Rich has taken over the reins of the ASA program, as Parks and Recreation and Centre Director Scott Caron is brought up to speed. Rich will be promoted to District Commissioner in 2013. She has served as Junior Olympic State Commissioner since 2006 and was recently named the At-Large Player Representative for Missouri. Kristy is known throughout the state and region for her customer service and hard work for softball.

On example of the many community involvements and softball endeavors in Rolla is the Larry Wilson Memorial Softball Tournament, held in late April. The tournament was started in 2011 after the death of the well-known and highly respected player and manager. In 2012, 23 teams participated and raised over $4,000 which will go towards college expenses for the children of Mr. Wilson.

Among all of it’s event’s in 2012, the city of Rolla hosted more than 100 teams and 2,000 players, spectators and umpires. For several events, the finals were web-casted.

- Larry Wilson 2nd Annual Slow Pitch Fundraiser
- Girls 16 A ASA/USA National Qualifier
- Missouri Series Men’s Slow Pitch Qualifier
- Girls 18A and 18 Gold Regional Championship
- Women’s Slow Pitch Superball Missouri State Championship
- Co-ed Classes C & D Missouri State Championship
- Boys 18 & Under Fast Pitch National Championship
- Men’s 23 & Under Fast Pitch National Championship
- Co-ed Classes C & D Slow Pitch National Championships
- Women’s Slow Pitch C & D National Championships

The City of Rolla will be presented with the Missouri ASA Sponsor of the Year award at the MASA 28th Annual Awards Banquet on February 16 at Seven Springs Winery in Linn, Missouri.
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Think you know softball? Submit your answers to these five questions to promotions@softball.org with the subject “Balls and Strikes Trivia” and you could win a Softball Prize Pack from ASA/USA Softball.

1. Which complex won the 2012 Complex of the Year award?

2. Name five current members of the Junior Men’s National Softball team.

3. Who won the 2012 ASA/USA Gold National Championship?

4. What sport’s female Olympic team wore USA Softball jerseys while in London at the 2012 Olympics?

5. How much money was raised for Beading for Autism during the 2012 World Cup of Softball?
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