Balls and Strikes

From GOLDen Champs to Freshman Stars

The journey from winning ASA GOLD to competing at the college level

March 2014

Official Publication of ASA/USA Softball

www.asasoftball.com
WANT TO REACH THE NEXT LEVEL?

HITTING
• Increase Ball Exit Speed off the bat to turn singles into extra base hits

PITCHING
• Increase strikeout rates by dialing in fastballs and off-speed pitches

RUNNING
• Measure and Improve speed out of the box and around the bases

MEASURE >> TRAIN >> IMPROVE

SPECIAL ASA PRICE
$179.99
PocketRadar.com/ASA
888.381.2672

CLICK HERE TO SEE IT IN ACTION

PITCHING • HITTING • RUNNING
EVERYTHING SOFTBALL

GET 5% BACK ON BATS, GLOVES, CLEATS & MORE WHEN YOU JOIN THE LEAGUE BY SPORTS AUTHORITY

GET 5% BACK on all in-store merchandise when you earn 100 Points or more during a quarterly period. Sign up in store or online at sportsauthority.com/theleague
THE LINEUP

5 Letter from the President
9 Faces on the Field - Meet the athletes who play ASA
13 News and Notes
17 Social Media – You tweeted it!
18 2014 Longhaul Bombers Tour
21 ASA/USA Softball Athlete Grid
22 The Power of a Bat, Ball and Glove
24 College Corner
26 ESPN 2014 College Softball Schedule
28 Twitter Q&A with ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress
29 From GOLD to Freshman Standouts
33 Florida Elite Challenge
34 Legacy Club at the Mary Nutter Classic
37 A Special Umpire
39 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team
40 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch Futures Team
42 Easton Corner
46 USA Softball Women’s National Team Selection Camp Invitees
47 2014 USA Softball Women’s National Team schedule
49 2013 USA Softball Athletes of the Year
54 From the Vault
55 Balls and Strikes Trivia
MY ACTIVE IS...

Find your ACTIVE at ACTIVE.com

WHAT'S YOUR ACTIVE?
As we rapidly move into the Spring Season of our sport, ASA/USA Softball continues our quest of providing the very best softball experience possible for all participants of our great game. In pursuit of this mission, the National Office and each of our 76 local associations have already held numerous events in which much training was accomplished and a great deal of information was disseminated. If you have missed the training seminars and information meetings, it is not too late to catch up. For example, many association commissioners have meetings or clinics still scheduled and umpire clinics, schools and camps are scheduled through June. Contact your local association Commissioner, Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioner, Player Representative or Umpire-in-Chief to receive what you’ve missed.

Despite dreadful weather that delayed or cancelled many flights from different parts of our country, the biennial JO Workshop recently held in Oklahoma City was a huge success in attendance, participation and training. One of the many topics of discussion at the workshop was player’s concussions, a topic of great concern to many persons in sports today. All 50 states have implemented laws requiring the training and certification of coaches and sports officials in detecting possible concussions. Presently not all of the 50 state laws affect ASA/USA Softball. The National Office Staff, acting proactively, implemented new features on RegisterASA.com that allows us to view the most recent state laws and to track those persons who have been issued Concussion Certificates after completing the prescribed training. Congratulations, and thank you, to the JO Committee Focus Group and National Staff for planning and conducting an outstanding JO Workshop.

With respect to the Umpire Program, most local associations are still actively training umpires through the spring. Moreover, two National Umpire Schools remain on the schedule, one in late April and one in early May, as well as the Slow Pitch Camp on June 5-8 (Clackamas, OR) and the Fast Pitch Camp on June 17-22 (Bloomington, IN). Congratulations are in order
for David Hardage (Southern California ASA), Larry Tait (Michigan ASA) and Casey Waite (Idaho ASA) on their selection to umpire at the ISF Junior Men’s World Championship in Whitehorse, Canada. I know they will make us proud as they represent ASA/USA Softball and the United States at this very prestigious World Championship.

Additionally, the National Office IT Department has released through the Apple Store and Google Play Store the new Rulebook Apps that have been discussed the past few months. Two editions of the App are available for purchase, the Umpire eRulebook and the Participant eRulebook. The cost of each App is $15.00. The subscription-based Umpire Mobile Search service which was released last year remains available and now includes the 2014 playing-rule changes. The annual subscription fee for the search service remains $4.95.

A few more bits of information before closing. The National Adult Slow Pitch Player Classification Board has been receiving and ruling on player appeals for the 2014 season since December 15, 2013. The Committee is active year-round and thus far this year the approval rate has been 65 percent. Council Members, the Committee assignments for 2014 have been completed and are available online in the ASA Portal. Should you have any questions, comments or further requests please contact Chris Sebren at the National Office, or me. Work is ongoing on the 2014 ASA Rep assignments. It is not yet too late to express your interest in serving as an ASA Rep by contacting Chris Sebren or me. We hope to publish the ASA Rep assignments around the first week in April.

Finally, with renovations underway at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium, this year’s World Cup of Softball will be played at Bill Barber Park in Irvine, California, July 9-12. Tickets are now on sale for all seven days of WC9. Please visit www.USASoftball.com or www.socalasa.org to order your tickets and for more information.

Have a great 2014 Season!

Phil Gutierrez, President
Amateur Softball Association of America
The Lead Off:

Renovations are underway at the ASA Hall of Fame stadium. This photo, taken February 28, shows the progress that has been made on the team rooms that will be located below the stands.
THE LEAD OFF:
ASA Director of Umpires Kevin Ryan works with umpires on proper plate mechanics at the National Umpire School in Altamonte Springs, Florida in early February.
Faces on the Field

Every year, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America has 345,000 Junior Olympic (JO) athletes playing on more than 77,000 teams while over 1 million adults play on 88,000 teams across the United States. Meet Jenna, Kendall, Taylor and Laurin, four of the athletes who play ASA fast pitch.

JENNA S., 13
Monterey, California
Central Coast Fury
Girls’ 14-Under Fast Pitch
Pitcher / Infield

Best Softball Experience
Winning my first Championship in Modesto, Calif. in 12U a couple of years ago. We have won tournaments since but the first felt so good.

Proudest Accomplishment
Learning to hit left-handed and slap and becoming successful at it.

Toughest Obstacle
I have always played with older girls. Pushing myself to be better playing against them was very challenging at times. Probably the toughest was when I was 9, playing 12-U travel ball.

Goal
To play Division 1 Softball

Role Model
Keilani Ricketts and Monica Abbott, both of whom were coached by my pitching coach, Kenny Gardner

KENDALL O., 10
Los Lunas, New Mexico
NM SOL
Girls’ 10-Under Fast Pitch
Pitcher / Outfield

Best Softball Experience
When we were at a tournament and we beat one of the best teams in our area, and I caught the ball for the last out of the game.

Proudest Accomplishment
We were at our first tournament when I was nine. My parents had just bought me a new bat a few weeks before and my team was losing. It was my turn to bat with two outs, two strikes and I hit a grand slam to win the game.

Toughest Obstacle
I am a left-handed pitcher so when we do lessons or practice I have a harder time learning because everyone teaches it backwards from what I am used to.

Goal
To be the best player I can be, learning different pitches, and hitting an over the fence homerun!
TAYLOR T., 12
Rutland, Mass.
Central Mass Bad Apples
Girls’ 14-Under Fast Pitch
Catcher

HER START
I started playing softball in my hometown of Rutland on their tee ball team in 2006.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL
I love practicing, hitting and throwing with my father and learning new techniques at area clinics with college coaches.

GOAL
My goals are to continue to practice and play hard, play on my high school team and also in college someday.

ROLE MODEL
My role models include Johnny Gomes and Big Papi. Even though they are baseball players!

LAURIN N., 10
Wellford, South Carolina
Thundercats
Girls’ 10-Under Fast Pitch
Shortstop / Pitcher

HER START
I started playing softball at 5 years old. At 7 I played on a 10-U travel team and at 8 with a 12-U travel team as a pick up player.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL
Winning tournament with my team and hitting home runs

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
Trying to juggle softball, basketball and volleyball

GOAL
To play college softball

ROLE MODEL
My Dad Brian Nodine, Jennie Finch (I go to her camps) and Cheyenne Griffin, former Byrnes high school player and current first baseman at USC Upstate.
HOW TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR YOUTH SOFTBALL ATHLETE

Among the richest rewards of being a Responsible Sports Parent is the opportunity to have great conversations with your children. You can use the fun and excitement of sports to connect with your children.

To help your children get the most out of youth sports – especially the critical life lessons in teamwork, effort, and resilience that sports offer – visit ResponsibleSports.com for tips and ideas on how to make the most of those conversations.

Good luck this season!
THEN
Four double plays in one game.

NOW
$423* in policy savings for a family in my community.

At Liberty Mutual Insurance, we aim to achieve our personal best. Youth sports taught us valuable life lessons like dedication, teamwork and sportsmanship. And those same lessons influence our business today. We’re committed to doing our best – for our policyholders and their communities.

We created the Responsible Sports™ program to celebrate and champion responsibility in youth sports. And to teach those same life lessons to today’s kids.

Ashley Thomas
Second Base, Northwest 45 1984
Sales Representative, Liberty Mutual Insurance 2006

At ResponsibleSports.com, you’ll find:
- Expert advice and resources for parents
- Tips and tools for volunteer youth sport coaches
- Insight from softball players & coaches on their youth sports experience
- Videos, podcasts, downloadable handouts
- Much more!

Liberty Mutual Insurance
Official Sponsor of
ResponsibleSports.com/Softball

*Figure reflects average national savings for customers who switched to Liberty Mutual. Based on data collected between 1/1/12 and 6/30/12. Individual premiums and savings will vary.

© 2013 Liberty Mutual Insurance Company.
THREE ASA/USA UMPIRES ANNOUNCED FOR X JUNIOR MEN’S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Fourteen umpires from ten countries will partake in the X International Softball Federation (ISF) Junior Men’s World Championship in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada later this year and the list includes three umpires from the United States. The three were selected based on their performances umpiring with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball.

Umpires selected from the United States are Casey Waite (Boise, Idaho), David Hardage (San Diego, Calif.) and Larry Tait (Holly, Mich.). Waite has been an ASA umpire for over 15 years, is a member of the National Indicator Fraternity, is an Elite Umpire and has silver status in the ASA Umpire Medal Program. Hardage is also an Elite Umpire. Tate has been a member of the National Indicator Fraternity since 1998, has gold status in the ASA Umpire Medal Program and is an Elite Umpire.

ISF X JUNIOR MEN’S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP UMPIRES

| Jason Carter (Australia) | Scott Maclaren (Canada) | Bob Gieskins (Netherlands) | Larry Tait (USA) |
| Abel Metaboge (Botswana) | Valdimir Liss (Czech Republic) | Gavin Shepherd (New Zealand) | Manuel Tovar (Venezuela) |
| Terry Richter (Canada) | Thomas Lohnert (Germany) | Casey Waite (USA) |
| Daryl Helmer (Canada) | Motoichi Ueda (Japan) | David Hardage (USA) |

Experience it Live!

Women’s College World Series tickets are on sale!
May 29 – June 4, 2014
ASA Hall of Fame Stadium – Oklahoma City

BUY TICKETS NOW!
ASA/USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL OFFICE WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES

The ASA/USA Softball National office recently added two new additions to the staff. Devin Loehrs joins the Membership Department and Preston Haddock takes over a portion of the programming duties with the IT Department.

Loehrs has a long history at the ASA/USA National Office. Since 2007, he has served as both an intern and part-time Technical Support staff member, particularly with the RegisterASA department. As part of his duties, Loehrs assisted with designing the website features and formats, trained and assisted administrative users on RegisterASA and created instructional manuals/how-to guides for users. Loehrs has also worked in the press box with ASA/USA Softball Tournament Directors at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium assisting with scorekeeping and announcing.

Haddock served as a web developer for Advanced Academics where he lead a team in converting all online courses to be accessible to people with disabilities. He has also worked as a web developer for Mathis Brothers, where he managed several company websites.

For more News and Notes visit ASASoftball.com and USASoftball.com
We're making it easier for ASA teams in your area to find your tournaments. Launched in 2010, TournamentASA.com is an ASA exclusive, tournament management system designed to promote your ASA tournament, register teams and manage your online bracket from the first pitch to the last out. Coaches and managers can’t get enough of the special features that are included on the site! Tools such as our Power Rankings, opponent overview and tournament history, all based off teams past games, give coaches a better understanding of the competition they are schedule to face.
WORTH
DESIGNED FOR
POWER NUMBERS

30 DAY PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE

"The new LEGIT has the most explosive response we have seen."

Patty Gasso
University of Oklahoma
2013 National Champion
YOU TWEETED IT!

Here's a collection of our favorite tweets that we have received from our followers over the past few weeks.

Congrats to Jessica Plaza on being chosen for the USA Softball Women's National Team Selection Camp! #gostanford
-@StanfordSball

@ASAUSASoftball One of my fav memories coaching was last game on a Saturday night on Stadium fld o- both teams made dirt angels afterwards
-@CoachJeffF

Congrats to all those named to the USA National team today by @ASAUSASoftball Look forward to hosting you guys in July!
-@borderbattlesp

Good luck to @taylorho6 @samfischer52 &- @NicoleHudson8 in @ASAUSASoftball tryouts! And also in your coaching careers. #Eagles
-@BriLeigh1012

Looks like I will have to go to Morgantown July 3rd to see Team USA play #Softball #USA #Eagles @ASAUSASoftball
-@Laskers

S/O to Matt Palazzo for being named @ASAUSASoftball male athlete of the year #welldeserved #USAMensFastpitch
-@DuddyT_03

To be the best...train and play with the best! Pretty simple! @DallasASA @ASAUSASoftball be prepared to excel in 2014 it's the ASA way!
-@nesagrider

Can't wait to see some of my favorite softball players play this year... @LGibby27 @ASAUSASoftball @taylorho6
-@sarahpenrose2

Tweet at us for a chance to see your tweet in the next issue!
@ASAUSASoftball
ASA/USA SOFTBALL PARTNERS WITH THE LONG HAUL BOMBER MLB STADIUM TOUR FOR 2014

Now in its 11th year, the newly titled ASA Long Haul Bombers Power Tour highlights a collection of the world’s greatest softball home run hitters. Four teams, representing Combat, DeMarini, Easton, Miken, of softball superstars stage one-of-a-kind home run derbies at MLB Stadiums across North America. Each slugger gets 15 swings and a home run is worth one point, except the last pitch, known as the money ball, worth two points and can be the tie-breaker. Six of the eight participants will qualify for the finals of the Stadium Power Tour, scheduled to take place at the 2014 ASA/USA Men’s Super National Championship, August 22-24 in Fort Worth, Texas.

**2014 LONG HAUL BOMBERS**

**TEAM COMBAT**  
Johnny McCraw & Chris Greinert

**TEAM DEMARINI**  
Chris Larsen & Dale Brungardt

**TEAM EASTON**  
Brian Wegman & Scott Kirby

**TEAM MIKEN**  
Denny Crine & Kevin Filby

**2014 ASA LONG HAUL BOMBER STADIUM TOUR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>San Diego, Calif. (Petco Park) + Youth Softball Night at the Park (Exhibition ONLY, no points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Houston, Texas (Minute Maid Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Cincinnati, Ohio (Great American Ballpark)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>St. Petersburg, Fla. (Tropicana Field)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>Arlington, Texas (Global Life Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>Detroit, Mich. (Comerica Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>St. Louis, Mo. (Busch Stadium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>San Diego, Calif. (Petco Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 22-23</td>
<td>Fort Worth, Texas - Bombers Tour Finals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Additional locations projected to be added include are Atlanta, Ga. (Turner Field), Seattle, Wash. (Safeco Field), Miami, Fla. (Marlins Park), and Minneapolis, Minn. (Target Field), and New York, N.Y. (Citi Field).*

Follow along all season long at www.softball360.com for point standings, features and stories during the Power Tour.
INFIELD CONDITIONS: STABILIZED

Arizona State University
2008 National Champions
Farrington Stadium, Tempe, AZ
You’re not just buying lights. You’re buying an affordable system that reduces energy and maintenance costs year after year. That means while decreasing wasted energy, you’ll save money and help protect the environment for her future.

To learn more visit: www.musco.com/generations
# ATHLETE GRID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATHLETE</th>
<th>Weirdest thing a fan has ever said to you.</th>
<th>Which coach would you pick if you were on The Voice?</th>
<th>Which of your teammates, past or present, deserves their own reality show?</th>
<th>Favorite Will Ferrell movie?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAUREN GIBSON</td>
<td>Will you marry me?</td>
<td>Usher or Adam</td>
<td>Either me and Raven (Chavanne) or Lauren (Chamberlain) and Des (Martinez)</td>
<td>Step Brothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TONY MANCHA</td>
<td>Do a lot of people have cars in New Mexico? (He didn’t know N.M. was part of the USA)</td>
<td>I don’t know but whoever got me would be pretty upset!</td>
<td>Diggy!</td>
<td>Step brothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAVEN CHAVANNE</td>
<td>A fan &quot;cawed&quot; at me before, like a raven. That was pretty hilarious</td>
<td>Team Adam for sure</td>
<td>My former Tennessee teammate Holly Baker, one of the funniest people I have ever met!</td>
<td>Step brothers!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAT SAGDAL</td>
<td>I was practicing in shorts and a guy asked me if those were cutoffs or if I was riding a chicken (referring to my skinny legs)</td>
<td>I would pick Shakira because she is easy on the eyes.</td>
<td>A former Canadian teammate of mine named Rob Gunter</td>
<td>Old School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATHLETE GRID

LAUREN GIBSON
USA Softball Women’s National Team

TONY MANCHA
USA Softball Men’s Fast Pitch National Team

RAVEN CHAVANNE
USA Softball Women’s National Team

PAT SAGDAL
USA Softball Men’s Fast Pitch National Team

My former Tennessee teammate Holly Baker, one of the funniest people I have ever met!

Step brothers!
The easy answer is for exercise, which is correct, but there is so much more that the game of softball provides to young women. With many opportunities at the recreational level starting as early as five years old, there are opportunities for our youth to forge a course of not only a fit body, but also of self-confidence and empowerment.

Players at any age can be overcome with anxiety before practice or games, often getting so worked up they get physically ill. Being part of a team that is working towards a common goal can help alleviate that anxiety and promote self-assurance and worth to athletes. We understand the importance of young girls’ involvement in the world of sports and how it offers its athletes a variety of opportunities to play!

“Softball has changed my life because it has given me opportunities that I might not have normally received,” said Cheridan Hawkins, a member of the USA Softball Women’s National Team.

“It has helped me attain a college education, it is allowing me to represent my country and it is giving me a chance to travel the world. If softball can open this many doors for me I am positive it can do the same thing for many other aspiring softball players. So go out and give softball a try because it could change your life!”

Here are five reasons that softball is such a positive experience for those who play it:

1. Softball players tend to have a higher level of confidence, self-esteem and empowerment
2. Softball players tend to have a more positive body image and psychological well-being
3. Softball players learn teamwork, goal-setting, the pursuit of excellence in performance and other achievement-oriented behaviors
4. Softball players are more likely to achieve better grades in school and more likely to graduate post high school
5. Softball players enjoy better physical health and are more likely to maintain a healthy weight and have stronger bones

Yes, the power of the bat, ball and glove is far reaching. It is no coincidence that 80% of top executive females identified themselves as “tomboys,” happy to take the dirt at a moment’s notice!
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
All-Session and Outfield Flex Ticket Packages
NCAA.com/WCWS

MAY 29-JUNE 4, 2014
OKLAHOMA CITY | ASA HALL OF FAME STADIUM
HOSTED BY UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA AND OKLAHOMA CITY ALL SPORTS ASSOCIATION

NCAA, Experience It Live and Women’s College World Series are trademarks owned or licensed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.
The Florida Gators held the top ranking in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll before the Bruins of UCLA took over the coveted top spot in week six and remain No. 1 through this week’s poll. Seven more regular season polls will be released leading up to the start of post season. Following the 2014 Women’s College World Series, the final ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll will be released. Visit www.USASoftball.com each Tuesday to view the current Top 25 poll as well as the weekly USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Week.

2014 USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL COLLEGIATE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**Week 1 (Feb. 6-9)**  

**Week 2 (Feb. 10-16)**  

**Week 3 (Feb. 17-23)**  

**Week 4 (Feb. 24- March 2)**  

**Week 5 (March 3-9)**  

**Week 6 (March 10-16)**  

**Week 7 (March 17-23)**  
ESPN.COM/USA SOFTBALL COLLEGIATE TOP 25
2014 SEASON – WEEK 7 – MARCH 25, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Pts.</th>
<th>Prev. Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>UCLA (16)</td>
<td>27-2</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Tennessee (3)</td>
<td>28-3</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Oregon (1)</td>
<td>25-3</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>30-4</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>27-5</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>22-6</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>21-6</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
<td>29-5</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>27-6</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>27-5</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Florida State</td>
<td>30-4</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Baylor</td>
<td>23-5</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>South Alabama</td>
<td>25-3</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parenthesis denotes first place votes.

**DROPPED OUT:** None

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Northwestern (19), James Madison (16), USC Upstate (14), LSU (8), North Carolina State (8), San Diego State (2), California (1), DePaul (1), Lipscomb (1)
ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU and ESPNEWS will combine to televise more than 40 games, including the entire SEC tournament and the ACC, American, SWAC, and Big South championship games. In addition, ESPN3 will carry more than 40 exclusive regular-season games to be announced at a later date. ESPN’s coverage will continue with regional round coverage and every pitch of the super regionals and the NCAA Women’s College World Series.

## ESPN’S 2014 COLLEGE SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>GAME MATCHUP</th>
<th>TIME (ET)</th>
<th>NETWORK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>South Carolina vs. #1 Tennessee</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>#10 Texas at #16 Baylor</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>#12 Florida State at UNC</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Arkansas at #6 Alabama</td>
<td>9 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Auburn at #3 Florida</td>
<td>5 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Arkansas at #6 Alabama</td>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>#5 Washington at #20 Stanford</td>
<td>11 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>#1 Tennessee at #11 Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>#2 Oklahoma at #16 Baylor</td>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>#5 Washington at #20 Stanford</td>
<td>10 pm</td>
<td>ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>#1 Tennessee at #11 Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>#12 Florida State at Notre Dame</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Long Beach State at Cal State Fullerton</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Long Beach State at Cal State Fullerton</td>
<td>9:30 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>#10 Texas at #2 Oklahoma</td>
<td>9 pm</td>
<td>ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>#3 Florida at #11 Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>#19 LSU at South Carolina</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>#3 Florida at #11 Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Syracuse at #12 Florida State</td>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>#21 Georgia at #6 Alabama</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>#8 Oregon at #20 Stanford</td>
<td>10 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>#21 Georgia at #6 Alabama</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>GAME MATCHUP</th>
<th>TIME (ET)</th>
<th>NETWORK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Maryland at Notre Dame</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>#6 Alabama at #17 Missouri</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>#6 Alabama at #17 Missouri</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>#14 Kentucky at #21 Georgia</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>#20 Stanford at #13 UCLA</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>#3 Florida at Arkansas</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>#3 Florida at Arkansas</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>#20 Stanford at #13 UCLA</td>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>SEC Tournament – Play-In Game No. 1</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>SEC Tournament – Play-In Game No. 2</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>SEC Tournament – Quarterfinal No. 1</td>
<td>11 am</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>SEC Tournament – Quarterfinal No. 2</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>SEC Tournament – Quarterfinal No. 3</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>SEC Tournament – Quarterfinal No. 4</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>SEC Tournament – Semifinal No. 1</td>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>SEC Tournament – Semifinal No. 2</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>ACC Tournament – Championship</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>American Tournament – Championship</td>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>ESPNEWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>SEC Tournament – Championship</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>SWAC Tournament – Championship*</td>
<td>10 pm</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Big South Tournament – Championship</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FUNDRAISING’S ROSTER OF

Heavy Hitters

PRETZEL RODS
SCRATCHCARDS
NESTLÉ CHOCOLATE

ONLINE FUNDRAISING
CUSTOM TEES
CUSTOM SPORTS APPAREL

GET YOUR Free FUNDRAISING GUIDE TODAY
1.866.830.5014 FUNDRAISING.COM/ASA
@JWall1820: Why a 16 Gold division? Who and how is it managed?

@ASA_CraigCress: Why 16 Gold - we currently do the 18 Gold and have taken it to the next lower age group. Coaches wanted it!

@JWall1820: Several teams out there today that call themselves "Gold"!

@ASA_CraigCress: It will be based on playing and qualifying in a 16 GOLD event.

@OzarkKent: Bluetooth speakers in JO team dugouts. As umpires can we shut them down? Using smart phones to stream music.

@ASA_CraigCress: We have guidelines in the ASA Code for Championship Play which states no artificial noise makers.

@stricksdiggity: Here’s one, with the new ball and bat standards that we have in place with ASA, chances of bats eliminated from banned list?

- @ASA_CraigCress: Unfortunately the bats on the non-approved list will need to remain on the list - our goal is keep that list small!

@DonovanJNelson: Congrats on the position. What is @ASAUSASoftball doing to grow boys/men’s fast pitch? I need to know I don’t fight alone.

@ASA_CraigCress: We will also continue to provide an opportunity to play internationally which pushes us to the grass roots.

@CoachJeffF: Has the location for 2015 Gold Natls been decided yet?

@ASA_CraigCress: We are still reviewing this situation - hope to have a selection very soon. We do know that it will be heading West!
The 2014 season marks the 20th anniversary of the ASA Girls’ 18-Under GOLD Fast Pitch National Championship, an event that has seen the likes of some of softball’s greatest athletes over the past two decades. Stacey Nuveman, currently the all-time NCAA leader in homeruns, won the event with the Gordon’s Panthers in 1996. Prior to winning the Women’s College World Series (WCWS) in 2001 and an Olympic Gold medal in 2004, Jennie Finch helped guide the Orange County Batbusters to the 1997 ASA GOLD National Championship.

It’s an event unlike any other. As the popularity of youth fast pitch has skyrocketed over the last 20 years, the ASA GOLD National Championship has remained exclusive. There is no website to simply sign up for the event and money can’t buy a berth into this tournament, it must be earned on the field. The qualifying procedures are clear, but not easy. The inaugural 1994 tournament had just 66 teams and the 2014 version will have no more than 64.

The Amateur Softball Association Code lays out the guidelines for earning a berth into the GOLD National. Berths are distributed via Regional, Territorial and National qualifiers with a maximum of 64 teams accepted each year. With such stringent guidelines, the 14 athletes that made up the 2013 Atlanta Vipers Giles are well aware of how elite the club is that they joined when capturing the National Title at the tournament last summer in Clearwater, Florida.

“The journey of winning the ASA GOLD National was probably one of the longest, but most rewarding journeys that I have ever been a part of,” said former Atlanta Vipers Giles and current University of Michigan Pitcher Megan Betsa. “Every game we played we had to fight hard to come out with the win.” But not unlike other accomplishments in sports, a GOLD National Championship often is the end of one journey and the start of another.

All 14 athletes from the 2013 Atlanta Vipers Giles committed to play softball at the next level and many of which are excelling very early in their college careers. Miranda Strother, an outfielder with Ole Miss. has started in 24 games for the Rebels so far this season and...
credits playing in high-level tournaments, like the ASA GOLD National with helping her prepare for the college level. “I got to see some quality pitching along with girls who could hit,” said Strother. Betsa agrees, “From a pitching standpoint I was able to face some of the best hitters last summer. Hitters that I knew I would see again in college at some point. It also taught me how to approach certain situations and how to not let the highs and lows make or break me. I learned how to compete.”

Still, the difference in playing at the highest level of youth fast pitch and playing collegiately is apparent. Plenty of athletes struggle to make such a big step but these former Vipers are meeting the challenge. “The biggest difference is the college game is faster paced,” said Strother. “People also know your weaknesses and strong suits before you even come up to bat. If you can’t hit a drop ball they know it. As a player, that just gives you that extra push to get better and hope they throw you that pitch and have confidence you’ll make them regret it.”

But the great thing about the sport of softball is that regardless if you’re playing in game three of the championship series at the WCWS or pool play in a 12-under city tournament, you’re still playing softball. Once you step across the foul line there’s only one thing on your mind, winning.

Somewhere across the country, the 2014 ASA GOLD National Champions are taking infield and batting practice and beginning a journey that will end with “ASA National Champions” written across their backs. We may not know their names today but history proves we will very soon!
The NEW JUGS 7-foot Complete Practice Travel Screen® features a huge 6.5' x 6.5' Hitting Sock!

**$169**

- Comes complete with 30" nylon travel bag and flip-over strike zone.
- Will not tip over in windy conditions.
- Designed for use with regulation size baseballs and softballs.
- Weighs just 25 lbs.
- Frame is made of stable ⅜" fiberglass bungee poles.
- Base is made of sturdy 1" steel tubing.
- Black nylon netting.

At just 25 lbs. the JUGS Travel Screen is perfect to take with you either by air or land.

For more information, call 1-800-547-6843, or visit our new website online at jugssports.com
OFFICIALGEAR.COM
THE UMPIRE'S ONE-STOP SHOP

EQUIPMENT
CHEST PROTECTORS
LEG GUARDS
MASKS

APPAREL
JACKETS & SHIRTS
PANTS & SHORTS
CAPS

ACCESSORIES
INDICATORS
FLIP COINS
BASE BRUSHES

BUY 3 AND SAVE OVER 33%

FOR
OFFICIAL UMPIRE MERCHANDISE
Point your browser to
OFFICIALGEAR.COM
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA was the place to be for the BEST 12 & Under Teams in the State March 1-2, 2014. The University of South Florida and Florida ASA have worked to bring in Florida’s best 12-U teams to play during the USF College Tournament each March. This is the fourth year for 12 of the State’s best teams to gather and play in the Florida Elite Challenge.

One of the highlights of the tournament was when USF and Team USA Head Coach Ken Eriksen brought his team to speak with the girls. Coach Eriksen spoke with the players about making good choices and working hard in both the classroom and on the field. It was an outstanding visit with the players and one was heard saying “I’m going to work harder, I want to play for Coach Eriksen”.

Gainesville Gold took home top honors when they defeated Southern Pride in the Championship Game 9-8 in extra innings. Coach Jeremy McFadyen stated, “This definitely was Florida’s Best 12s! It was like the State Championship!!” Gainesville Gold returned 11 players from their 2013 team and has added one more player to make up their 12-player roster. Coach McFadyen says his team has a good balance of pitching and hitting with a few power hitters. McFadyen states his main strength is the team chemistry; the team works hard and plays well together.

Gainesville Gold finished 2-0-1 in pool play knocking off Florida Fire 8-4, Suncoast Storm 10-8 and tying Bucked Up 01 5-5. In bracket play, Gainesville Gold had to play four games to claim the championship, taking down Lady Phantoms 01 9-2. Florida Bat Busters Elite battled Gainesville Gold tough before Gainesville came out on top 11-7. In the semifinals, Gainesville had their hands full outlasting the Hatters Gold 01 10-8. This set up the Championship Game against Southern Pride.

The Championship Game was an outstanding battle between two of the very BEST Florida has to offer. After ending regulation in a 4-4 tie they went to the tiebreaker. Southern Pride scored three runs in the top of the inning; however, the Gainesville Gold battled back and added three of their own. In the next inning, Southern Pride added one more to take an 8-7 lead into the bottom of the inning. Gainesville Gold came back strong and added two more runs in their half of the inning to take home the Championship 9-8.

GAINESVILLE GOLD PLAYERS

Emily Barras
Kylee Barry
Hallie Bryant
Savanna Channel
Hannah Foster
Lucy Giebeig
Story Giebeig
Lauren Hutcherson
Sierra Jevyak
Whitney Lee
Adrianna Saavedra
Bryn Thomas

THE TOP FOUR TEAMS WERE

1 Gainesville Gold
2 Southern Pride
3 Safety Harbor Stone Crabs
4 Hatters Gold 01
The Mary Nutter Collegiate Classic is the largest and most competitive Division 1 softball event outside of the NCAA post season. This tournament features 35 top D-1 programs. Schools from the PAC 12, Big 10, Big 12, SEC, ACC and many others conference attend and the entire event is held at one complex. This year five of the eight teams from the 2013 NCAA Women’s College World Series, including defending champion Oklahoma, participated and the USA Softball Legacy Club was there for all the action!

ASA/USA Softball staff members held a USA Softball legacy Club booth during the event and were able to reconnect with many current and former USA Softball stars. The Legacy Club provides financial support to the USA Softball National Teams program while also serving as a way to connect alumni of the program.
EVERY DONOR MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
BE A PART OF OUR LEGACY!

To find out more or to join for just $100, contact us at (405) 425-3422, LegacyClub@softball.org or visit USASoftball.com and select Legacy Club under the Team USA tab.
NIKE SOFTBALL CAMPS 2014

Sponsored by USA Softball

At every Nike Elite Softball Camp, campers get exposure to 25 - 75 different colleges giving instruction at one facility. An amazing opportunity to get noticed by these top programs and make a lasting impression. Many camps are run in conjunction with USA Prep's Tournaments, 11 tournament locations nationwide.

Nike Elite Softball Camps
Powered by USA Preps

AZ - Embry Riddle University, Prescott
CA - UC Berkeley, Berkeley
CA - Cal Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks
CA - Cal State Monterey Bay, Monterey Bay
CA - Gunderson High School, San Jose
CA - Menlo College, Atherton
CA - Rainbow Sports Complex, Modesto
CA - Sierra College, Rocklin
CA - UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara
CA - University of San Diego, San Diego
CO - Metropolitan State University, Denver
CT - Fairfield University, Fairfield
FL - Southeastern University, Lakeland
GA - Columbus State University, Columbus
IN - Valparaiso University, Valparaiso
MD - Salisbury University, Salisbury
MA - Amherst College, Amherst
MA - Dan Duquette Sports Academy, Hinsdale
MA - Curry College, Milton
MA - Tufts University, Medford
MI - Davenport University, Grand Rapids
NV - University of Nevada, Las Vegas
NJ - Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville
NJ - New Jersey Jackals, Montclair
NY - Adelphi University, Garden City
NY - Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester
NY - Vernon Verona Sherrill Schools, Verona
NC - Charlotte Latin School, Charlotte
NC - Greensboro College, Greensboro
OH - Ohio Northern University, Ada
OR - Willamette University, Salem
PA - Lock Haven University, Lock Haven
PA - West Chester University, West Chester
PA - York College of Pennsylvania, York
TX - University of Dallas, Irving
TX - University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio
WA - Seattle University, Seattle
WI - Concordia University, Mequon

NIKE and the Swoosh Design are trademarks of Nike, Inc and its affiliates and are used under license. NIKE is the title sponsor of the camps and has no control over the operation of the camps or the acts or omissions of US Sports Camps.
Each year, Southern California ASA’s eight District Umpires-in-Chief’s select one umpire from their district to be recognized as Umpire of the Year. Those selected are honored for their ability on the field, their continuous improvement, their help in maintaining the Southern California umpire program and their loyalty to the local and national ASA programs.

The 2013 selectee from Southern California’s East District is Gary Fleischer.

Gary was born in Yonkers, New York, but his family moved to Southern California when he was very young. He played Little League Baseball during his elementary years and attended Sierra Vista Middle School and South Hills High School in Covina. Today, Gary, his wife Rachel, and their three children, live in Redlands, California.

Gary’s parents and his brother, also an umpire, encouraged him to try his hand at umpiring. He began in 2005 and has worked his way from 8-Under to 18-Under girls’ fast-pitch. He has also worked Southern California District and State Championship play, and he has helped support the ASA clinics and programs. Gary has improved every year and been an inspiration to others.

Gary has accomplished all of this in spite of the fact that he is considered deaf. He has worn hearing aids for his entire life. He can communicate with those who can hear without the need of signing or writing and he is proficient at reading lips.

Gary attributes his success as an umpire to the encouragement of his brother, Brad, and the training received in the demanding Southern California umpire training program. Gary recognizes the help, training and support of Debbi Lauderback and Larry Patterson at the local level, and the Southern California ASA staff at the state level. Gary’s District UIC, Glenn Waggoner, said Gary is, “One of the hardest working and most dedicated umpires in our district.”

Commissioner Phil Gutierrez said, “I would love to see all of our umpires exhibit the level of effort to be the best demonstrated by Gary.”

When Gary was asked what the best part of umpiring was for him, he said the camaraderie among umpires along with the satisfaction of “Getting it right” on the field were just two of the things he finds satisfying and enjoyable.

When asked about problems he faces in umpiring, Gary shared that on-field communication with partners during playing action is very difficult. It is an area he works on constantly. He also said the difficulty in not being able to hear the “sounds of the game” makes some calls more difficult. When asked for examples, he said foul tips, and catcher’s obstruction are just two examples of calls the non-hearing impaired deal with more easily.

When Gary was asked how he deals with coaches who might not agree with his calls, he said, “I work very hard to review and explain for the coach, but when their arguing reaches the point of being over-bearing, I merely turn the volume down on my hearing aids. Problem solved!!!”
Now you can build your own custom softball batting helmets online and purchase them directly from schuttstore.com.
## USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team

### Player Rosters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Bat Manufacturer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bryson Baker</td>
<td>Magalia, Calif.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Bazat</td>
<td>Columbia, Mo.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Blackburn</td>
<td>Indian Trail, N.C.</td>
<td>Louisville Slugger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis Clark</td>
<td>Kenosha, Wis.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denny Crine *</td>
<td>Henderson, NY</td>
<td>Miken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Dillon *</td>
<td>Anderson, Ind.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Filby</td>
<td>Cardington, Ohio</td>
<td>Miken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Hall</td>
<td>Gastonia, N.C.</td>
<td>Worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Helmer</td>
<td>Cicero, N.Y.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Kirby</td>
<td>Miramar Beach, Fla.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Larsen</td>
<td>Vancouver, Wash.</td>
<td>DeMarini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff McGavin</td>
<td>Macomb, Mich.</td>
<td>Combat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donovan Pokraka *</td>
<td>Englewood, Colo.</td>
<td>DeMarini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luis Reyna</td>
<td>Tampa, Fla.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC Watson *</td>
<td>Grand Prairie, Texas</td>
<td>Louisville Slugger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Wegman</td>
<td>Hamilton, Ohio</td>
<td>Easton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rookie

### Game Schedule

- **USA Futures vs USA National Team**
  - **July 21, 2014**
    - Midland, Michigan

- **USA Futures vs USA National Team**
  - **July 22, 2014**
    - Cleveland, Ohio

- **Border Battle VI**
  - **USA vs Canada**
  - **July 26, 2014**
    - Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
# USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch Futures Team

**Player** | **Home Town** | **Bat Manufacturer**
---|---|---
Dale Brungardt * | Vancouver, Wash. | DeMarini
Josh Carter * | Yuba City, Calif. | Miken
Cameron Cox * | Mebane, N.C. | Combat
Chris Greinert * | Casper, Wy. | Combat
Westy Guill * | Fresno, Calif. | DeMarini
Neil Haglund | Brooks, N.Y. | Louisville Slugger
Dave Kessler | Cincinnati, Ohio | Louisville Slugger
Cory Large | Bedford, Texas | Easton
Jonathan Lenz * | Sugar Land, Texas | Louisville Slugger
Faron Miller * | Goshen, Ind. | Easton
Bryce Oliveira | Hannah, Hawaii | Combat
Kyle Pearson * | Panama City Beach, Fla. | Easton
Adam Rockoff | Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. | DeMarini
Mike Umscheid | Kenosha, Wis. | Easton
Andy Vitcak | Oakdale, Minn. | Easton
Brian Zirkle | Kanakee, Ill. | Easton

*Rookie*

## USA Futures vs USA National Team

**July 21, 2014**
Midland, Michigan

**July 22, 2014**
Cleveland, Ohio

## Canadian Event Exhibitions

**July 24-26, 2014**
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
THE NEW BREED OF SPEED

MAKO | THE FASTEST BAT THROUGH THE ZONE, WITH THE MOST BARREL IN THE ZONE

EASTON.COM/FASTPITCH
EASTON FASTPITCH PHOTO GIVEAWAY!

Earlier in March we asked our Facebook followers to send us photos of themselves using their favorite Easton Fastpitch products. We received hundreds of photos and selected our two favorite images. For submitting their photos, these two athletes will receive a brand new Easton Fastpitch bat.

Thanks to everyone who submitted a photo!
SOFTBALLOUTLET.COM FEATURED ITEMS

1. Softball Grandpa T-shirt $18.00
2. Softball Grandma T-shirt $18.00
3. ASA/USA Softball Polo $49.00
4. Softball Flip Flops $9.95
5. 'I Love Softball' Coffee Mugs $6.95
6. 2014 Umpire Casebook and Clinic Guide $15.00
7. ASA/USA Softball Banner $59.95
8. Florida Gators Softball Hat $18.00

SOFTBALLOUTLET.COM
Your 24/7 Softball Source
Let our team help you insure your teams!

THREE EASY WAYS TO INSURE SOFTBALL:

1. Contact your ASA Commissioner. Visit www.ASASoftball.com for contact info
2. Contact RPS Bollinger Sports—ASA Department, Ph: 800-526-1379 • ASAInfo@Bollinger.com
WORLD CUP of SOFTBALL
COMING TO IRVINE, CA
JULY 7-12
BILL BARBER PARK
ULTIMATE FAN ZONE TICKETS
On Sale March 1
GENERAL TICKETS
On Sale March 21
Visit: www.worldcupsofsoftball.com
For Ticket Questions EMAIL WorldCupIX@aol.com
Hosted by Southern California ASA
USA SOFTBALL WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAM
SELECTION CAMP INVITEES

*Additional athletes could be invited at a later date

SELECTION CAMP EVENTS

DATE       EVENT                  LOCATION                  DATE       EVENT                  LOCATION
June 8-12  Selection Camp       TBD                      June 19    Exhibition Game       Purcellville, Virginia
June 13    Exhibition Game      Lynchburg, Virginia      June 22    Women’s National Team Replace
June 17    Exhibition Game      Findlay, Ohio

46 BALLS & STRIKES
## WNT 2014 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2-3</td>
<td>Exhibition Games</td>
<td>Morgantown, West Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7-12</td>
<td>World Cup IX</td>
<td>Irvine, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14-21</td>
<td>Canadian Open FP International</td>
<td>Surrey, B.C., Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>Exhibition Games</td>
<td>Waldorf, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 6-10</td>
<td>Italian Softball Week</td>
<td>Azzano, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 12-24</td>
<td>ISF Women’s World Championship</td>
<td>Haarlem, Netherlands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Is your team Awesome?
Show Us.
2013 USA SOFTBALL ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Valerie Arioto was recently named the 2013 USA Softball Female Athlete of the Year for the second consecutive year while Matt Palazzo was selected as the USA Softball Male Fast Pitch Athlete of the Year and Brian Wegman the USA Softball Male Slow Pitch Athlete of the Year.

In her third year with the USA Softball Women’s National Team, infielder Arioto showed why she’s considered one of the best in the game. The 24-year-old saw action in 22 games and helped lead Team USA to Silver in the General Tire World Cup of Softball, a Bronze at the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International and Gold at the Pan-American Games/World Championship qualifier in San Juan, Puerto Rico this past summer.

“This is such a humbling honor to be named the USA Softball Female Athlete of the Year,” said Arioto. “The knowledge I have accumulated from working with the USA Softball staff and my teammates has been a blessing and they have made me better!”

The Cal-Berkeley alum batted .404 on the year with five home runs, 23 RBI and 18 runs scored. She compiled an astonishing .606 on-base percentage and an .830 slugging percentage.

In the field, Arioto recorded just one error in her 22 outings. The slugger also saw time in the pitching circle where she went 2-0 and allowed just two runs on eight hits in 11.2 innings for a 1.24 ERA.

On the men’s side, power hitter Palazzo led the USA Softball Men’s Fast Pitch National Team in hitting at the 2013 International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championships to earn the USA Softball Male Fast Pitch Player of the Year title. Palazzo was successful in 10 of his 18 at-bats during the World Championships to amass a .556 batting average. He totaled 10 runs, four doubles, and four home runs as well as eight RBI in the event.

“It’s truly an honor to be recognized as the USA Softball Male Fast Pitch Player of the Year,” said Palazzo. “ASA/USA Softball does a great job of promoting our sport and I appreciate the confidence they have shown in me to invite me to participate on the National Team over the past few years. There’s nothing like representing your country in the sport that you love.”

One of only four athletes who have appeared on all five USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Teams, Brian Wegman earned his first USA Softball Male Slow Pitch Athlete of the Year honor in 2013. Wegman, along with the USA Softball Slow Pitch National Team, went 4-0 on the year including a 25-10, five inning run rule over Canada in the fifth annual Border Battle and a 32-16 (five inning) victory over the USA Softball Slow Pitch Futures Team in the second annual Slow Pitch Showdown.

In his four games with the USA Slow Pitch National Team Wegman went 14-of-15 from the plate for a .933 batting average and scored 14 runs. The Ohio native hit five home runs and three doubles on his way to recording 13 RBI.

Wegman also earned MVP honors in the 2013 ASA Super Slow Pitch Championship playing with tournament champions Hortenbach Auto/Easton. Wegman went 12-for-17 in the tournament for a .706 average with six home runs, 13 RBI and 14 runs scored. Wegman also collected MVP honors at the Men’s Class A Slow Pitch National Championship where he hit .900 (18-for-20) with eight home runs, 19 RBI and 19 runs scored.
Laura Farnsworth, 14, of Frankenmuth, MI is the 2013 MLB Pitch, Hit & Run (PHR) National Champion in the 13/14 girls softball division. PHR is the official skills competition of MLB, designed for youth ages 7-14 to showcase their baseball and softball skills. Farnsworth competed locally in the city of Frankenmuth’s Parks and Recreation Department before going on to compete at the regional and national levels. In 2013, Farnsworth was invited to the 2013 PHR National Finals and was 1 of 12 girls to advance to the 2013 PHR National Finals in New York City. Farnsworth took some time to answer a few questions about her experience with PHR!

Question: What do you remember about the first time you attended a PHR competition?

Farnsworth: My first time attending a PHR was at the Team Championship at Comerica Park. I was pumped up for the competition, so I was mostly zoning and picturing what I was going to do. It was epic!!! I learned to relax and zone before a competition, so I was mostly zoning and picturing what I was going to do.

Question: What was your favorite element about PHR?

Farnsworth: My favorite element about PHR was seeing all these baseball players like Alex Gordon, Prince Fielder and Jenny Finch, if you’re a pitcher you have to love Jenny. Also, Jessica Mendoza from Team USA and Amanda Chidester from the University of Michigan.

Question: What was it like when you got home after the nationals like I did. I was a second slower because of it. Stay healthy, lol!

Farnsworth: It was amazing, we had so many calls and emails from everyone. Before nationals I was in a few news reports, etc.?

Question: What is your advice to young girls planning to participate in PHR?

Farnsworth: Rewards so I am now thinking bigger I want to play for Team USA one day. What are your goals for the next couple years?

Farnsworth: To become a state champion in varsity softball, play in a world series with my Travel team, figure out where I want to go for college and start working out for the Olympic team. If you have any questions, please contact us at pitchhitrun@mlb.com

If you have any questions, please contact us at pitchhitrun@mlb.com

Hosting a FREE PHR competition allows girls and boys ages 7-14 to showcase their softball and baseball skills. Participants have the opportunity to advance through four levels of competition, including Team Championships at Major League ballparks and the National Finals hosted during the 2014 MLB™ All-Star Week in Minneapolis, MN!

Upon registering to host a Local Competition, an administrative kit will be provided including a handbook, strike zone banner, promotional materials, and other items necessary to host your event.

- **FREE to the local host and local participants**
- **Host as a league-wide event or during a team practice**
- **Any coach, parent or adult volunteer can host a competition**
- **Local competitions are held from March through early May**

Register to host a local competition this spring at www.mlb.com/PHR

If you have any questions, please contact us at pitchhitrun@mlb.com

Like us on Facebook to keep up with all the 2014 PHR action!
ENGINEERED TO THE EXACT SPECIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETES

CUSTOMIZE YOUR PLAYER.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR TEAM.

CUSTOMIZE THE SPORT.

NIKETEAM.NIKE.COM

ENGINEERED TO THE EXACT SPECIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETES

JUST DO IT.
COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU!
NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION & PREMIUM VIDEO PROGRAM

PROFESSIONAL WORKOUT

UNBIASED EVALUATION FROM A FORMER COLLEGE COACH

COLLEGE RECRUITING ASSISTANCE

UNDER ARMOUR SOFTBALL FACTORY TEAM & TRAINING PROGRAM SELECTION

WILL YOU GET SELECTED?

VISIT WWW.SOFTBALLFACTORY.COM FOR AN EVENT NEAR YOU!
Womans Fastpitch & Youth Packages

1~ Woman’s Basic Pant
1~ Woman’s Full Sub Jersey
1~ Visor  *$76 per player

2~ Woman’s Custom Pant
2~ Woman’s Full Sub Jersey
1~ Visor  *$162 per player

1~ Woman’s Custom Pant
1~ Woman’s Full Sub Jersey
1~ Visor  *$86 per player
FROM THE VAULT
How well did you pay attention to this edition of Balls and Strikes? 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. What is ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress’s twitter account name?

2. What is Lauren Gibson’s favorite Will Ferrell movie?

3. Name one collegiate player who has won USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week so far this season.

4. Where will the 2014 World Cup of Softball be held?

5. Name one 2013 USA Softball Athlete of the Year.
Being a family member of Team USA has its benefits. Take advantage of partnership travel discounts.

Proud to fly Team USA

Book now
GIVING IT

110%

CAN SAVE YOU UP TO 15%.

SAVE UP TO 15% AT ANY HOTEL IN THE HILTON HHONORS™ PORTFOLIO.

Your dream is our dream. As a proud sponsor of USA Softball and Team USA™, Hilton HHonors is helping you save up to 15% on your stay at any of our 10 distinct hotel brands. So no matter where your journey takes you, we have destinations in 90 countries ready to cheer you on.

Come dream with us.

<<< BOOK NOW AT HHONORS.COM/SOFTBALL >>>