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sportsauthority.com
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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.

Scan the code from your smart phone to visit TournamentASA!
ASA/USA Softball just completed a terrific summer of softball wherein nearly 1,500 Junior Olympic (JO) teams participated in National Championship play in all divisions and classifications of play. Our Adult Program began their championship play during the summer months but that play continues until the end of September. Participation in the adult program championship play will equal and most likely surpass that of our past two years. I congratulate each of you as it takes much hard work, tremendous dedication and countless hours of devoted preparation simply to qualify for one of these exceptional events. Very special congratulations to each of you who reached the ultimate goal of winning a National Championship. You have created memories that will last forever!

In my most recent letters I mentioned the selection and preparation of our National Teams for the ISF World Championship competition and, in the case of our Men’s Slow Pitch National Teams, the Border Battle competition. All these teams competed with pride, enthusiasm and professionalism; and completed competition successfully. In Whitehorse, Canada our Junior Men’s National Team won the consolation final, beating Mexico Softball 11-5. The JMNT finished the World Championship with a 7-4 record, their best finish since 1985. During the last week in July, in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, our MNSPT and our MNSPT Futures participated in the Annual Slow Pitch Showdown and Border Battle. Our MNSPT finished the competition undefeated, outscoring Team Canada 18-8 in the Border Battle VI game. Our Futures Team was defeated by our MNSPT to finish the competition with only one loss. Our Women’s National Team participated in a Tour Stop prior to winning Gold at World Cup of Softball IX, finished 2nd to Softball Japan at the Canadian Open Fast Pitch Championship in Surrey, BC, Canada, won Gold at the Italian Softball Week Tournament in Azzano, Italy and then finally returned home from the ISF World Championship with the Silver Medal as they were outscored by Softball Japan for the Gold Medal. Congratulations to each of these teams for their remarkable accomplishments, and
thank you for representing USA and ASA/USA Softball with distinction.

From the past to the near future, the Board of Directors meets during September to execute the duties by Article 102.A of the current ASA Procedural Manual. Please keep in mind that all meetings of the Board of Directors are open to Council members except when in “executive session”.

During October our Men’s National Team will travel to Paraná, Argentina to compete for a berth in the 2015 Pan American Games that will take place in Toronto, Canada. Nine teams from the Americas will compete for the five berths that are available.

During November 8-14 the ASA/USA Softball Council will convene for its 83rd Council Meeting at the Nugget Hotel, Reno, Nevada. Council members, if you have not yet received your Council Meeting information please visit our national website at www.asasoftball.com or contact the National Office. Please make sure you review all the Council Meeting information as some items and topics have changed, especially the agenda. If not already done, please contact Journey House as soon as possible to arrange for your travel plans to Reno.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our Council Meeting, but if you need anything from me prior to that date contact me at your convenience. My contact information is easily accessible through our website and in most of our publications. Thank you for all you do for ASA/USA Softball.

ASA/USA Softball, the game for everyone!

Phil Gutierrez, President
Amateur Softball Association of America
USA Softball Women's National Team outfielder Haylie McClaney lays down a bunt against the Netherlands at the International Softball Federation Women's World Championship in Haarlem, Netherlands.
A baserunner slides into second base at the Girls’ Class A ASA/USA 12-Under National Championship in Bloomington, Indiana.
FACES ON THE FIELD

Every year, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America has 924,000 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 Alexa, Alyssa, Kaitlyn and LeAnn, four of the athletes who play ASA fast pitch.

ALEXA L., 11
Simi Valley, Calif.
So Cal Future 12U
Girls’ 12-Under Fast Pitch
Pitcher

HER START
I started playing softball in local league at the age of four.

GOAL
To make the USA Team

WHY I LOVE SOFTBALL
How good I feel when I get off the mound after striking out the last three batters.

PROUDEST MOMENT
Winning the ASA 10U Western National Championship

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
Being the Manager’s Daughter
ALYSSA S., 15
Bay City, Mich.
Mid-Michigan Lightning
Girls’ 16-Under Fast Pitch
Third base

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL
I love to hear the crack of the bat, and to shut down the bunt

GOAL
My goal is to make my high school varsity team, and be the starting 3rd baseman then to play collegiate level

ROLE MODELS
My dad is my biggest fan, and he has helped me every step of the way, he has never officially been my coach, but is my own personal coach. I also, watch every televised college softball game that I can and my favorite team is UofM

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
The toughest obstacle to overcome while playing has to be making the decision to leave the Jets travel team last year. I did so because I knew that the ultimate goal was to develop leadership skills and work with girls I will be playing high school ball with. On the Jets we won almost every tournament and had great girls and fun, the transition was interesting at first but we ended up winning two tournaments and my goals for the season were met and exceeded
KAITLYN M., 12
St. Louis, Mo.
Center STL Surge
Girls’ 12-Under Fast Pitch
INF/OF

HER START
I’ve played for my school since Kindergarten and also started fast pitch at eight years old playing with older girls as a sub. I quickly worked my way up to an everyday player.

WHAT I LOVE SOFTBALL
I love to hit!

GOAL
To continue to have fun and play High School and College

PROUDEST MOMENT
When I made a diving catch in a Cape Girardeau, Mo. tournament.

ROLE MODELS
Jennie Finch and my dad
LEANN SANDERS SHELTON, 32  
*Pickens County, Ala.*  
*Pickens County Lady Tornadoes*  
*High school and Summer Ball*  
*Pitcher/Center Field*

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL**  
It was a challenge for me

**PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT**  
Being inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2013 for the six years of playing and The University Of Alabama film students filming my documentary on my softball career.

**TOUGHEST OBSTACLE**  
Playing with one arm

**ROLE MODELS**  
My high school softball coach  
God has a plan for each of us and we always want to ask "Why"?? Don’t get me wrong I’ve asked that a few times myself. At the age of 4 I lost my left arm in a lawn mower accident. I overcame my disability and turned it into my ability by playing softball.
NEW SURVEY IDENTIFIES DECLINE IN SPORTSMANSHIP

With softball season in full swing, a new national survey of 2,000 youth sports parents and coaches by Liberty Mutual Insurance illuminates a troubling decline in what some would say is the most important lesson of youth sports: sportsmanship. The results generated new resources and information available to help address this important issue head on.

The survey reveals that sportsmanship is considered among the most important lessons taught by youth sports. Regrettably, approximately 50 percent of parents and coaches believe that sportsmanship has worsened in youth sports since they participated as children, while only 12 percent feel it has improved. Yet, survey results suggest it may be their own behaviors that are contributing to this perception:

- 60 percent of respondents reported either witnessing or participating in negative or abusive sideline behavior
- 26 percent of parents said they have witnessed a verbally abusive coach, and 16 percent of parents said they have witnessed a physical confrontation between parents
- 55 percent of coaches have experienced parents yelling negatively at officials or their own kids, and two in five have experienced parents yelling negatively at other kids

Further, 75 percent of parents and coaches say that teaching sportsmanship is the responsibility of parents. With 80 percent of parents responding to the survey claiming to play an active role in their child’s youth sports experience, the challenge isn’t parental involvement; it’s taking the time to instill the value
of sportsmanship in their children.

“Growing up as a youth athlete, my coaches and parents were constantly using examples of poor behavior on the field as an opportunity to teach me about the importance of sportsmanship,” said actor Chris O’Donnell, a father of five and the Liberty Mutual Insurance Responsible Sports ambassador. “Those lessons have stuck with me over the years, and now as a father of children involved in youth sports, I know the opportunity lies with us as parents to have the conversation and reinforce this important life lesson.”

Liberty Mutual Insurance Responsible Sports provides just the types of resources that parents need to have a meaningful discussion with their children about sportsmanship and other aspects of the youth sports experience that extend into everyday life:

• Start with a simple question, “What Is Sportsmanship?” – focus conversation on abiding by rules and respecting opponents and officials and teammates

• Explain that sportsmanship doesn’t have an off switch – reinforce that sportsmanship is important win or lose, even on the practice fields

• Commit to Mom and Dad’s role in sportsmanship – express that your child’s effort and learning is more important than wins and losses and that leading by example is the best way to exhibit sportsmanship

“The value of sportsmanship is an essential part of developing youth athletes into responsible adults,” said Anthony Storm, senior vice president and Chief Marketing Officer, Liberty Mutual Personal Insurance.

“Through this survey, we have pinpointed that sportsmanship is on the decline and there is a greater need for parents to reinforce this important life lesson. Our Responsible Sports program provides the resources and tips to properly arm parents for this discussion.”

More results from the survey, as well as the wide range of resources, tools and information that Liberty Mutual Insurance Responsible Sports offers to support youth sports parents and coaches who help children succeed both on and off the field, can be found at ResponsibleSports.com. Parents and coaches can join the conversation by visiting the Responsible Sports Facebook page.

ABOUT THE STUDY

As a leading resource in youth sports, Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program commissioned ORC International to conduct a national survey to uncover attitudes and perspectives towards youth sportsmanship in both parents and youth coaches. 2,000 parents and coaches of 7-12 year olds who participate in organized youth sports participated in the survey, resulting in a margin of error +/- 1.99%.

At Liberty Mutual Insurance, we constantly look for ways to celebrate the countless acts of responsibility and integrity shown by people every day. We created Responsible Sports, powered by Positive Coaching Alliance, as part of this belief to help ensure that our kids experience the best that sports have to offer in environments that promote and display good sportsmanship. We believe kids can learn valuable life lessons when coaches and parents come together to support winning on and off the field.
PUTTING SPORTSMANSHIP BACK INTO YOUTH SPORTS

Liberty Mutual Insurance started the Play Positive™ program to encourage good sportsmanship and help parents and coaches promote a better youth sports experience.

Visit PlayPositive.com for helpful advice, tools, and resources you can use on and off the field.

- Interviews with world-class athletes, coaches, and Olympians
- Tips and tools for youth sports coaches
- Expert advice and resources for parents
- Pledge to promote good sportsmanship

Learn more at PLAYPOSITIVE.COM
USA SOFTBALL’S LORI HARRIGAN-MACK DEBUTS ON NBC’S THE BIGGEST LOSER: GLORY DAYS

Fans of Olympic softball can see a familiar face on NBC’s The Biggest Loser: Glory Days this fall as three-time Gold Medalist and USA pitcher Lori Harrigan-Mack competes for the title Biggest Loser. Aptly titled *Glory Days*, the 16th season of the NBC hit features 20 professional and non-professional former athletes who will aim to change their lives and earn "The Biggest Loser" title and a $250,000 grand prize.

"After I retired in 2004, I met my husband, got married, we had a beautiful boy and after that I suffered eight miscarriages," Harrigan-Mack told *People Magazine*. "So after that I think I kind of went into, obviously, a depression and I just didn’t deal with it at all. With my husband 100 percent behind me, I said *The Biggest Loser* is where I have to change. I have to do this."

*The Biggest Loser: Glory Days* airs each Thursday at 8/7C.
USA SOFTBALL TAKES SILVER IN ISF WOMEN’S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The USA Softball Women’s National Team came up one game short of winning its first International Softball Federation (ISF) Women’s World Championship since 2010 when they lost to Japan 4-1 in the finals in Haarlem, Netherlands last month. Despite the loss, Team USA put up an impressive showing as they finished the tournament with a 9-2 record and outscored opponents 70-15.

The senior squad finished the year with a 28-6 record in international tournament play. Chavanne led the way offensively on the year with a .464 batting average and Nevins notched the best ERA at a .869 clip. Following a four month break, Team USA will regroup in January with a selection camp to choose the roster that will compete in the 2015 Pan-American Games among other events.

POOL PLAY
USA 10 – Netherlands 0 (4 innings)
USA 7 – Botswana 0 (5 innings)
USA 5 – Chinese Taipei 1
USA 11 – Great Britain (4 innings)
USA 4 – Australia 2
USA 10 – Dominican Republic 0 (4 innings)
USA 7 – Italy 0

PLAYOFFS
USA 6 – Canada 1
Japan 6 – USA 1
Bronze Medal Game: USA 8 – Australia 1
Gold Medal Game: Japan 4 – USA 1

Gold – Japan
Silver – USA
Bronze - Australia

For more NEWS and NOTES visit ASASoftball.com and USASoftball.com
MY ACTIVE IS...

Find your ACTIVE at ACTIVE.com

WHAT'S YOUR ACTIVE?
RPS Bollinger and ASA ~
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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 • ASALinfo@Bollinger.com
YOU TWEETED IT!

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

Running the scoreboard=best seat in the ballpark! First tournament of the fall!
—@Press_Dan

Thirty-four years of history! Happy Birthday! #JF27 #DreamBelieve @ASAUSASoftball
—@MarianoZanel

So happy for our guys! Great tourney, taking 1st & 2nd at Elkland. Go USA! @ASAUSASoftball
—@MickeyMets

Happy birthday @LMULions alum and @ASAUSASoftball National team member @samfischer52! We hope your day is magical!
—@LMUsoftball

Congrats to @valeriearioto & @jolenecal54 on a silver medal with @ASAUSASoftball at the #ISFWorldChampionships! Japan won champ. game 4-1.
—@CalSoftball

@ASAUSASoftball Thanks for bringing a piece of home to Italy for us! We loved watching you play! #wnt
—@TrescaLitney

Tampa Mustangs end season with a 91-12 record and ASA National Championship! Congrats ladies and coaches!
—@Mustangs18U

What else do you do on your drive to ASA/USA 16 Nationals, stream the 16Gold championship game of course #peppers @ASAUSASoftball
—@Dana_grammer

Tweet at us for a chance to see your tweet in the next issue! @ASAUSASoftball
The season finale of the ASA Stadium Power Tour ended in dramatic fashion at Busch Stadium. Three-time champ Denny Crine from Miken, was one point from qualifying for the finals, despite a 10 point performance. The St. Louis fans were treated to a great show, with many upper deck bombs, even a blast into the 3rd deck by Kevin “Flip” Filby. Bubba Brungardt, from DeMarini one of the youngest sluggers on the tour, rounded out the top five. Team Easton leads the Manufactures Cup, followed by DeMarini and Miken.

### 2014 ASA STADIUM POWER TOUR INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Average Points Per Swing</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Scott Kirby</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>.711</td>
<td>TO FINALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Kevin Filby</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>.656</td>
<td>TO FINALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Chris Larsen</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>TO FINALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Brian Wegman</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>.611</td>
<td>TO FINALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Dale Brungardt</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>.589</td>
<td>TO FINALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Denny Crine</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>.578</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Chris Greinert</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>.533</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Johnny McCraw</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>.489</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chris Larsen
The ASA Stadium Power Tour Finals are set for Friday, September 26 at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark in downtown Oklahoma City. The top 5 will slug out for the right to the greatest softball home run hitter in the world. Team Easton, DeMarini and Miken will face off for the coveted Manufactures Cup.

### 2014 ASA POWER TOUR MANUFACTURES CUP STANDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Average Points Per Swing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team Easton (Kirby, Wegman)</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>.693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team DeMarini (Larsen, Brungardt)</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>.617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Miken (Crine, Filby)</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>.617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Combat (McCraw, Greinert)</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>.511</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TO FINALS
INFIELD CONDITIONS: STABILIZED

Arizona State University
2008 National Champions
Farrington Stadium, Tempe, AZ
FOURTEEN ASA/USA SOFTBALL JUNIOR OLYMPIC ATHLETES EARN PLAYER OF THE WEEK HONORS

New for the 2014 youth softball season, ASA/USA Softball, along with Worth Fastpitch StudentSports.com, created a Player of the Week award aimed at recognizing outstanding play by ASA players playing in ASA sanctioned events. Players, male or female, 18 year and young were eligible to be nominated for the weekly award. Athletes must have been registered with their local ASA/USA Softball association and must have participated in an ASA/USA Softball sanctioned event or tournament during the week nominated.

The first year of the ASA Player of the Year Award was very successful as 14 youth players from around the country received honors. Congratulations to the winners and everyone who was nominated!

2014 ASA/USA Softball JO Player of the Week award winners

Week 1 (April 30 - May 6):
Faith Willis (Liberty, Mo.) - Originals-Shanks

Week 2 (May 7 - 13):
Allie Roberts (Rogers, Minn.) - Northwest Diamonds

Week 3 (May 14 - 20):
Jordyn Kadlub - Tampa Mustangs

Week 4 (May 21 - 27):
Lauren Mathis (Windermere, Fla.) - Windermere Wildfire

Week 5 (May 28-June 3):
Mackenzie Dixon (Huntsville, Texas.) – Huntsville Heat

Week 6 (June 4 - 10):
Lauren Gohacki (Finleyville, Pa.) - Pittsburgh Diamond Stars 14U

Week 7 (June 11 - 17):
Avery Winchell (New Cumberland, Pa.) - Columbus County Magic Red 12U

Week 8 (June 18 - 24):
Morgan Hirai (Pasco, Wash.) - Tri-City Fuzion 12U

Week 9 (June 25 - July 1):
Sydney Hoffman (Lewisburg, Pa.) – PA Power Elite 12U

Week 10 (July 2 - 8):
Jaycie Cline (East Moline, Ill.) – Quad City Lady Hitmen 12U Red

Week 11 (July 9 - 15):
Haylee Petre (Atlanta, Mo.) – Velocity 12U

Week 12 (July 16 - 22):
Hannah Newton (Peachtree City, Ga.) – GA Power DeMarini Gold

Week 13 (July 23 - 29):
Holly Murray (Carbon Hill, Ala.) – White Lightning 98

Week 14 (July 30 – Aug. 5):
Rylie Perry (Chesterfield, Mo.) – St. Louis Worth Prospects 03

Nominate your youth softball star for ASA/USA Softball JO Player of the Week! Nominations are accepted at http://www.studentsports.com/softball/2014/02/12/asa-player-week-form/ until noon ET every Tuesday.
2014 PINK AUCTION USA SOFTBALL

HELP THE 2014 USA SOFTBALL WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAM RAISE FUNDS FOR SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE® BY BIDDING ON THEIR GAME-WORN, AUTOGRAPHED JERSEYS FROM THE 2014 GENERAL TIRE WORLD CUP OF SOFTBALL!

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NIKE SOFTBALL CAMPS 2014

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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.
ASA/USA NATIONAL CHAMPS!
2014 ASA/USA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS ARE CROWNED

ASA/USA Girls Class A 10-Under National Championship
Johnson City, Tennessee – July 27-August 3
Championship: Tennessee Mojo 03 – 3,
OCBB-Team Mizuno Garcia – 0
Click here for the complete bracket

ASA/USA Girls Class A 12-Under National Championship
Bloomington, Indiana – July 27-August 3
Championship: Arkansas Team Worth 01 – 7,
Franklin Flames 01 – 3
Click here for the complete bracket
ASA/USA Girls’ Class A
14-Under National Championship
San Diego, Calif. – July 28-August 3
Championship: So Cal Athletics-Quarles – 4, Windermere Wildfire-Mathis 0
Click here for the complete bracket

ASA/USA Girls’ Class A
16-Under National Championship
Salem, Virginia – July 27 – August 3
Championship: Ohio Lasers Blue 5, Tamp Mustangs-TJ 2
Click here for the complete bracket

ASA/USA Girls’ Class A
18-Under National Championship
Montgomery, Alabama – July 27 – August 3
Championship: Tampa Mustangs-Boynton 2 – Birmingham Vipers Gillespie 1
Click here for the complete bracket
TN FURY 97 CLAIMS INAUGURAL 16U GOLD NATIONAL TITLE

After forcing the if-necessary game with a 10-9, extra inning victory over the undefeated Tulsa Elite 98, the TN Fury 97 captured their second ASA/USA National Championship with a 7-2 win to take the first ever ASA/USA 16U Gold National Championship title. The TN Fury 97 finished the week long tournament with a 10-2 record, with one loss occurring in pool play and the second loss at the hands of the Tulsa Elite 98 in the winner’s bracket finals. They also outscored opponents 117-31.

The TN Fury 97 were led by Libby Sugg, who collected 23 RBI with four home runs and 11 runs scored, finishing the tournament with a .583 batting average. From the circle, Brianna Jones led the way with a 3-2 record, issuing 25 strikeouts in 29.1 innings pitched with a 2.39 ERA.

A four first-inning runs helped TN Fury 97 to a 7-2 win over Tulsa Elite 98 on Saturday in the if-necessary game. Libby Sugg racked up three RBI on one hit for TN Fury 97, hitting a three-run homer in the first inning.

2014 ASA/USA 16-U Gold bracket

TN Fury 97 relied on Jordan Fortel in the if-necessary game as Fortel pitched all seven innings and allowed two earned runs, six hits and one walk while striking out two.

Taylor Compton lasted one-third of an inning on the rubber for Tulsa Elite 98, surrendering four hits and four runs. Erica Battiest entered in relief during the first inning, issuing one strikeout, five hits and three runs in her 6.2 innings of work.
This year’s winner’s bracket champion, after placing second in last year’s championship, Wagners came to OKC this year ready to take home the title. Entering the tournament double elimination bracket after going 2-1 in pool play warm up games, Wagners outscored opponents 58-16 throughout the week and tallied a 9-1 overall record. They recorded a team batting average of .327 and were led by Aleshia Ocasio who hit .543 for the week with 13 runs scored and a .579 on base percentage. From the circle, it was all Ocasio as well as she tossed 40.1 innings with five wins and 41 strikeouts.

In the championship game, Wagners Gold Dunn jumped on Lil Rebels 96 early on its way to the 7-2 win on Saturday, scoring three runs in the first inning. Wagners scored in the first on an error, a passed ball, and an RBI single by Brittney McGuire. McGuire racked up two RBI on two hits for Wagners in the championship victory.

One run in the top of the second helped Lil Rebels 96 close its deficit to 3-1. A sacrifice fly by Katie Dawson gave Lil Rebels 96 life, but Ocasio got Caitlyn Lloyd to end the rally hit bunt. After pushing across one run in the top of the third, Lil Rebels 96 faced just a 4-2 deficit. An error sparked Lil Rebels 96’s rally. The Lil Rebels 96 threat came to an end when Ocasio finally got Brooke Stover to ground out.

It didn’t take long for Wagners to respond as they scored again in the third on a sacrifice fly by Cacey Simmons plating Brittany McGuire who was hit by a pitch. Wagners added two more runs in the bottom of the fourth when McGuire kicked things off with a double, scoring Ocasio. Kelli Tidwell then doubled bringing home McGuire to give Wagners the eventual 7-2 victory.

From the circle, Ocasio recorded the win for the Wagners while Jacquelyn Sertic was saddled with the loss allowing four earned runs.

Wagners Gold Dunn 7 – Lil Rebels 96 2

2014 ASA/USA 18-U Gold bracket
ASA’s OFFICIAL RULES OF SOFTBALL APP ($15 annual fee)

FOR UMPIRES, COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS AND FANS... A GREAT TOOL TO LEARN THE RULES OF SOFTBALL

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THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY OF SOFTBALL
**THE ASA SUPER SLOW PITCH** National Championship is the pinnacle of ASA Slow Pitch Championship play and this year’s event will take place in the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark in downtown Oklahoma City on September 26. A series of participating Super tournaments have taken place all summer and ASA will finally crown the National Champion with $25,000, the 2nd place team with $15,000 and the 3rd place team with $10,000 in OKC. In addition to the Super finals, OKC will play host to the Men’s and Women’s Slow Pitch Championship Series over the weekend.

“We decided to move the inaugural Super Championship title to Oklahoma City to be a part of our Men’s and Women’s Slow Pitch Championship Series weekend,” said Craig Cress, ASA/USA Softball Executive Director. “We want to take every advantage we can to showcase the highest level of slow pitch to an audience that is engaged and invested in the sport. In addition, the ASA Long Haul Bombers Finals will certainly be quite the show for all teams in Oklahoma City that weekend.”

In addition, the top five ASA Long Haul Bombers will square off Friday night September 26 at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark for the Bombers Finals. After a summer of slugging softball’s at Major League Ballparks across America, the top five sluggers will go head to head, to earn the title as world’s greatest softball
Teams from Combat, Easton, DeMarini and Miken will also compete for the Manufactures Cup as best home run hitting team in the nation. Last season, Team Easton won the Manufactures Cup and Denny Crine of Miken was crowned world’s greatest softball home run hitter.

The ASA Super and the Finals of the ASA Stadium Power Tour will be televised nationally on The CBS Sports Network at dates to be announced. The Stadium Power Tour Finals and the ASA Super can also be viewed on "Softball 360" the week of Oct 7 and 21. For networks and playback times in your region log on to Softball360.com.

---

**Long Haul/H. Auto Easton**

**Rip City/DeMarini**

- Game 1
  - 1:00 PM

**Sonnys**

- Game 2
  - 3:00 PM

**Loser Game 1**

- Game 3
  - 5:00 PM

**Loser Game 2**

- Game 4
  - 7:00 PM

"If" Game

- 9:00 PM
OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn/Midwest Whitetail/Worth of Fayetteville, Ga. secured the ASA Men’s Class B National Championships by going 5-1 over the weekend and defeating T’s 13/DeMarini 25-15 in the “if necessary” game.

OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn/Midwest Whitetail/Worth skated through the winner’s bracket going undefeated before meeting up with Precision in the finals. Having just defeated ASPNation.com/Easton in the third-place game, T’s 13/DeMarini needed to beat OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn/Midwest Whitetail/Worth twice to claim the title. Game one of the finals went T’s13/DeMarini’s way as they came out on top 25-22 but OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn/Midwest Whitetail/Worth proved to be too much in the "if" game winning by a final of 25-15.
**MVP**

**Adam Tennyson**
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn/Midwest Whitetail/Worth

**Batting Champion**

**Chris Nissley**
Topeka, Indiana
Ceder Creek/RC Recycling
(15-20 .750)

**HR Champion**

**Brett Rettenmeier**
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
T’s 13/DeMarini
8 Home Runs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASA Men’s Class B ALL-AMERICAN FIRST TEAM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
<td>Anthony Elrod</td>
<td>OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn/Midwest Whitetail/Worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OF</strong></td>
<td>Jason Madsen</td>
<td>T’s 13/DeMarini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OF</strong></td>
<td>Bobby Mitchell</td>
<td>ASPNation.com/Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OF</strong></td>
<td>Reggie Schulte</td>
<td>T’s 13/DeMarini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OF</strong></td>
<td>Adam Tennyson</td>
<td>OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn/Midwest Whitetail/Worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IF</strong></td>
<td>Joey Bulens</td>
<td>T’s 13/DeMarini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IF</strong></td>
<td>Mike Cervantes</td>
<td>ASPNation.com/Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IF</strong></td>
<td>Robert Knoblauch</td>
<td>OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn/Midwest Whitetail/Worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IF</strong></td>
<td>Matt McCraw</td>
<td>OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn/Midwest Whitetail/Worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IF</strong></td>
<td>Brett Rettenmeier</td>
<td>T’s 13/DeMarini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UTL</strong></td>
<td>Cal Ford</td>
<td>Classic Glass/Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UTL</strong></td>
<td>Carlton Griffin</td>
<td>OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn/Midwest Whitetail/Worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UTL</strong></td>
<td>Chris Potts</td>
<td>ASPNation.com/Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UTL</strong></td>
<td>Jesse Scott</td>
<td>OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn/Midwest Whitetail/Worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UTL</strong></td>
<td>Tyson Steele</td>
<td>Classic Glass/Easton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLICK HERE TO SEE THE COMPLETE BRACKET
Forty-one teams were on hand for the ASA/USA Men’s Class C Slow Pitch National Championship in Mustang, Oklahoma in August. Despite losing their third winners bracket game, Tailgaters/Boys/B&E/Easton of Pittsburgh, Pa. fought their way back winning six straight games to force an “if necessary” game against previously undefeated Infinity Plumbing. In the championship, Tailgators fell behind 19-8 after three innings but rallied to score 15 unanswered runs in the final four innings of the game and secure the ASA National Championship by a final score of 23-19.

Tailgaters/Boys/B&E/Easton of Pittsburgh, Pa
### ASA Men’s Class C ALL-AMERICAN FIRST TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Jon Dombrowski</td>
<td>Tailgaters/Boys/B&amp;E/Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OF</td>
<td>David Teske</td>
<td>Infinity Plumbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OF</td>
<td>Mike Padovani</td>
<td>Fairview Hills Golf Club/Great Lake Belt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OF</td>
<td>Mason Loegering</td>
<td>State Farm/Albertville Body Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF</td>
<td>Tommy Bigler</td>
<td>Tailgaters/Boys/B&amp;E/Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF</td>
<td>Jesse Young</td>
<td>Tailgaters/Boys/B&amp;E/Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF</td>
<td>Nolan Ahrens</td>
<td>Infinity Plumbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF</td>
<td>Nate Freiermuth</td>
<td>Infinity Plumbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF</td>
<td>Ryan Parker</td>
<td>All American Restoration/BBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL</td>
<td>Bill Lewis</td>
<td>Tailgaters/Boys/B&amp;E/Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL</td>
<td>Eric Marshall</td>
<td>Tailgaters/Boys/B&amp;E/Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL</td>
<td>Graham Nelson</td>
<td>Infinity Plumbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL</td>
<td>Darren Nelson</td>
<td>All American Restoration/BBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL</td>
<td>Justin Bloor</td>
<td>Fairview Hills Golf Club/Great Lake Belt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL</td>
<td>Anthony Willington</td>
<td>DeMarini Headbangers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE COMPLETE BRACKET](#)
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Want to bring Team USA to your city to run a clinic? Visit ChiddySoftball.com
Catcher’s positive influence shines both on and off the field

By Richard Mairano

TESSA SPINOSA’S CONTRIBUTIONS to the CT Seahawks Black 11U out of Connecticut go well beyond the playing field. Although she’s just been on the team for a year, her coach, Richard Mairano, says she had already proven to have a very positive influence for the team.

“On the field, she is extremely competitive, has a great work ethic and does a great job for us behind the plate,” said Mairano. “Off the field is where she really impresses.”

Tessa has been part of her Student Leadership Council at school since the 3rd grade. As a member of the council, she has helped organize and promote a school supply, toy and clothing drive for children in Zimbabwe. She recently participated in the Relay for Life team to benefit the American Cancer Society. Her team rose over $20,000 for cancer research and programs by selling merchandise, hosting car washes, tag sales and special “wear a hat to school” days.

Tessa has a learning disability and has worked through her dyslexia for many years but that didn’t stop the young softballer from helping to organize and facilitate a Diversity Day at her school. This day was developed to foster an understanding of children with physical differences, whether they are blind, wheel chair bound, hearing disabled or dyslexic. She also participates in various food drives and even shops and delivers food with her Mom for Cut Out the Hunger as well as Operation Hope. She is currently helping put together packages of school supplies and toiletry items for children in Ghana that will be delivered when members of her church go on their mission trip. Tessa is also involved in helping with the children’s worship service at church and volunteers at a Vacation Bible School. Despite all of her efforts, she still makes time for softball.

In doing all this, many see how much time she gives and how committed she is to each and every cause and they have asked her to take more active roles in things. Her dermatologist nominated her and she was chosen to attend a camp for children with disfiguring skin disorders. Recently though, perhaps what she and her parents are most proud of, Tessa was given the Person of Character award at her school. She was recognized by her teachers and school staff as someone who embodies the school’s ideals- trustworthy, treats others with respect, caring, responsible, fair and a good citizen.

“Sometimes kids feel like they are too young to help solve the problems in the world,” said Tessa. “We might be young but there are a lot of lonely and scared people facing big problems. We might be too young to fix all the problems but we can let those people know that there is someone out there who cares about them and wants to help, so they don’t feel so alone and so they are brave to face another day.” ●
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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.
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY HELPS SOFTBALL PARK STAND OUT

BY NESA GRIDER, DALLAS ASA

MANY SOLDIERS STILL DEPLOYED IN Afghanistan are missing significant family events; birthdays, anniversaries, births, but even missing the littlest event is sometimes painful. The families of these soldiers understand just by the nature of their chosen professional many events will be missed... but North Richland Girls Softball League’s (NRGSL) outside the box thinking was able to connect one soldier to his players game.

While a first softball game certainly pales in comparison to most of these life events, with the fast approaching opening of the softball season a local soldier was disappointed he was unable to be in the stands for his player. NRGSL Walkers Creek’s innovative technology and live game feed allowed this soldier and his shipmates on the USS Ronald Reagan to watch the game that included play-by-play commentary.

“To be able to watch my daughter play and hear the play-by-play was just like I was sitting in the stands,” said the Softball Dad. “It just made my day, thank you so much for thinking of us over here”

There are a number of exceptional softball parks and complexes around the North Texas area, so what make Walkers Creek North Richland Hills “standout”? Walkers Creek is an award winning 57-acre Park which hosts numerous local, regional and state tournaments, broadcasting each event through live streaming video.

“We have received a considerable amount of positive feedback from parents, grandparents and others about the ability to watch games remotely,” said NRGSL President Orlando Orchoa. Most recently a grandmother from out of state thanked us for the broadcast and the ability to watch her granddaughter play.”

It is apparent that NRGSL strives to remain on the cutting edge always looking for the next advancement for the betterment not only for the game as a whole, but for coaches, players and fans. Dallas ASA is delighted to be able to support NRGSL with a number of ASA events throughout the coming season. Dallas ASA embraces a like attitude...Stand Up, Stand Out and do something that allows your qualities to shine for the support of the game, players and coaches! ●
Now you can build your own custom softball batting helmets online and purchase them directly from schuttstore.com
Moline — When the Silvis Little League needed a fill-in umpire during the summer of 1976, Henry Nache volunteered. His status eventually changed as he became a permanent umpire.

"I just started liking it," Nache said.

Pretty soon, his son Marcus gained that perspective after watching him on the field.

"Seeing him do it, I thought, 'That's something I'd like to do,'" Marcus Nache said. "Like most kids, you want to follow in your parents' footsteps. This is something to do."

Both love doing this sometimes thankless job, staying involved because it still remains fun. Henry, 64, is nearing his 40th year as an umpire, with Marcus, 38, in his fourth.

Part of what makes the experience so rewarding is doing this together. During the ASA Girls’ 16U Fastpitch Northern National Championships on Friday at the Milt Hand Complex, the father-son duo shared the field as a two-man crew for the day.

"It's always a pleasure," said Henry, a 1968 United Township graduate and a Rock Island Arsenal retiree. "You try to school him and tutor him, stuff I have learned from past umpires. I just try to pass it on to Marcus."

Dad has the experience, having served as an umpire for various ASA, high school and college contests. All those games have taught him the professionalism needed to fill this responsibility. That includes treating each colleague the same.

Each time Henry umpires with Marcus, it remains all business. The job supersedes the relationship between the white lines. The veteran umpire just wants to help bring a new one along.

"I've been watching him," said Marcus, a
1994 United Township graduate employed at John Deere Harvester Works and as a volunteer Silvis firefighter. "I'm the type of guy that if I see something, I try to emulate it. That's all I've ever done -- try to emulate what he's done."

 Marcus knows his father is good at what he does, especially the first time he took the field with him.

 "I was nervous," Marcus said. "I didn't want to mess up. I didn't want to be in the wrong place and leave him out to dry. As the game went on, I loosened up and went with the flow. I looked to him for guidance."

 The two understand their duties to the game, evident by a call they made as a crew on Friday afternoon. In their second game together, Henry called a runner out after being tagged for the third out at second base. The third-base coach argued that the fielder was bobbling the ball as the tag was made. Henry quickly went to Marcus, who was working behind the plate, for help.

 A quick chat had Marcus saying his angle revealed the ball being bobbled. The runner was ruled safe and the inning continued.

 "I'm there to watch his back," Marcus said.

 Maybe that's why the son is respected in this profession.

 "I get a lot of feedback from other umpires," Henry said. "They say he'll be a good umpire."

 Even though he has experience, Marcus is smart enough to call Henry and discuss something he saw on the field or how to handle a call. They still sometimes travel to tournaments, even being on the same field. Friday was the only day of the Northern National Championships they worked in the same crew.

 For those four games, it was all about the game.

 "You work with many different umpires," Marcus said. "I'm working with my dad, but he's an umpire just like everyone else."

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7 ASA players advanced to the 2014 National Finals in the Girls Softball Division!

*Josie Peterson – 13/14 Division
Enders, NE

Amy Jensen – 13/14 Division
Parker, TX

*Olivia King – 9/10 Division
Lee’s Summit, MO

*Gabriella Emeana – 7/8 Division
Copperas Cove, TX

Brooke Denning – 11/12 Division
WaKeeney, KS

*Madison Hayes – 11/12 Division
Ooltewah, TN

Madison Hamby – 7/8 Division
Surprise, AZ

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Register today to host a Local Competition – [www.mlb.com/phr](http://www.mlb.com/phr)

### TIMELINE/LEVELS OF COMPETITION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Competitions:</td>
<td>Administrative kits distributed to Local hosts in February with events being hosted in March, April or early May.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sectional Competitions:</td>
<td>Local winners advance to Sectional Competitions in late May.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Championships:</td>
<td>Hosted in all 30 Major League Ballparks. Qualifiers compete in a pre-game competition and recognition ceremony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Finals:</td>
<td>The top participants nationwide take part in the National Finals competition as a part of MLB All-Star Week in July.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STEPS TO HOSTING A PHR LOCAL COMPETITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Register to Host:</td>
<td>Visit <a href="http://www.mlb.com/phr">www.mlb.com/phr</a> and register your free event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive Support Materials:</td>
<td>Receive a free administrative kit, which will include a handbook, strike zone banner, registration forms, posters, participation cards, awards, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Day</td>
<td>Host your 1-day competition with a handful of volunteers and pass along awards and advancement information to the winners (provided by PHR Headquarters).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report Results:</td>
<td>Submit results online and mail in registration forms (pre-paid postage provided).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ARIOTO NAMED SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR FINALIST

USA SOFTBALL WOMEN’S NATIONAL
Team first baseman Valerie Arioto was selected as a finalist for the Women’s Sports Foundation’s Sportswomen of the Year award in the team sport category in early September. A member of the USA Softball Women’s National Team since 2011, Arioto was selected based on her achievements between August 1, 2013 and July 31, 2014.

Arioto helped Team USA capture a Gold Medal at the Pan American Games Qualifier in August 2013, where she batted .500 with five home runs, 18 RBI and 13 runs scored. Most recently, Arioto helped lead the 2014 USA Softball Women’s National Team to a Gold Medal at the General Tire World Cup of Softball IX in Irvine, Calif. The University of California - Berkley grad turned in a .400 performance at the plate, sending five balls out of the park to record 12 RBI while scoring seven runs. Arioto finished the General Tire World Cup IX with a 1.400 slugging percentage and a .526 on-base percentage.

A two-time USA Softball Female Athlete of the Year, Arioto also earned a Silver Medal at the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International this past July where she continued to shine in the batter’s box. Arioto compiled a .474 batting average with five home runs, 14 RBI and 12 runs scored.

The Sportswoman of the Year award winners is by a combination of a public vote (50%) and the Women’s Sports Foundation’s
The winners will be the two athletes – one individual sport finalist and one team sport finalist – who receive the highest combined share of a public vote and the Awards Committee vote.

The winner in each category will be invited to attend the Annual Salute to Women in Sports Awards Gala on Wednesday, October 15 at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City, where they will accept their awards.

Past USA Softball Women’s National Team members who have won the Women’s Sports Foundation Sportswomen of the Year award include Lisa Fernandez (1994), Cat Osterman (2005), Monica Abbott (2007), and Jessica Mendoza (2008).
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2014 USA SOFTBALL MEN’S NATIONAL TEAM

14 KRIS BOGACH
Infield
Huguenot, NY
L/R

8 FRANK DEGROAT JR.
Catcher
Ringwood, N.J.
R/R

40 NATE DEVINE
Utility
Sonora, Calif.
R/L

13 TYLER DUDLEY
Infield
Battle Creek, Mich.
R/R

2 LUCAS GORING
Outfield
Minneapolis, Minn
L/R

6 BENJAMIN KELLY
Pitcher

19 JOSH JOHNSON
Pitcher
El Paso, Texas
R/R

11 TONY MANCHA
Pitcher
Las Cruces, NM
R/R

12 CHRIS MILJAVAC
Outfield
Easton, Mo.
L/R

10 GERALD MUIZELAAR
Pitcher
Grand Forks, ND
R/R
35  
NICK MULLINS  
Infield  
Toms River, N.J.  
R/R

4  
MATT PALAZZO  
Infield  
Pleasant Hill, Iowa  
L/R

7  
BOBBY ROSTHENHAUSLER  
Catcher  
Tucson, Ariz.  
L/R

20  
JASON ROZICH  
Catcher/OF  
R/R

25  
PAT SAGDAL  
Outfield  
Richland, Wash.  
L/R

21  
MARCUS TAN  
Utility  
Union City, Calif.  
R/R

77  
CHASE TURNER  
Outfield  
San Jose, Calif.  
L/R

9  
DERRICK ZECHMAN  
Infield  
Watsontown, Pa.  
R/R

HEAD COACH
DENNY BRUCKERT, GILLESPIE, ILL.

ASSISTANT COACHES
GREG HICKS, BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.  
GREGG LEATHER, STATEN ISLAND, NY  
NICK MCCURRY, ASHLAND, OHIO

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FROM THE VAULT

(above) Dick Brubacker

(right) Crowdata 1971, Womens Major FP Tournament, Varner Stadium

Talk About Ups!

Westerners Softball Club

Irene Sebok, Team Photo Day

Early Umpire Clinc, circa 1948
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. Name the former USA Softball Women’s National Team player currently competing on NBC’s The Biggest Loser.

2. Name one finalist in the LongHaul Bombers Tour Championship.

3. Who won the 2014 ASA Men’s Class B Slow Pitch National Championship?

4. What country will the 2014 USA Softball Men’s National Team play in this October?

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