Balls and Strikes

March 2015

Official Publication of ASA/USA Softball

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THE LINEUP

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Hello everyone!

At the beginning of each year, a main goal of ASA/USA Softball is to improve the softball experience of each person that participates in our sport. To this end, internationally, nationally and locally many dedicated volunteers been working hard during this first quarter of 2015 preparing for the remainder of the year and the future beyond.

Internationally, the effort continues by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) to have baseball and softball placed back on the Olympic program for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The prospect of this happening is very encouraging, and therefore we are optimistic. In the meantime, this summer we have on our schedule two World Championships and a Pan American Games competition. At a selection camp for USA National Teams held during January in Southern California, three national teams were named. The Men’s National Team which will compete in the WBSC-Softball Division World Championship hosted by Canada and the Pan American Games also hosted by Canada, the Women’s National Team which will compete in the Pan American Games, and the Junior Women’s National Team which will compete in the WBSC-Softball Division World Championship that will be hosted at our ASA Hall of Fame Complex during August. Our Men’s Slow Pitch National Team will compete in the annual Border Battle in Midland, Mich., also during the summer. Please visit www.ASAUSASoftball.com for more information on these events.

Nationally, at the request of some of the top Junior Olympic (JO) teams, a new National Invitational Tournament, the USA Softball JO Cup, has been developed to begin play this summer in Southern California. This tournament, an annual NIT scheduled to be played the same dates as our ASA/USA “A” National Championships, will consist of 24-32 of the highest ranked JO teams in the nation. Play will be by invitation only. Also nationally, our umpire program held its biennial National Umpire-In-Chief (UIC) Clinic in Oklahoma City at the beginning of February. The clinic, attended by over 450 passionate and enthusiastic
umpires and supporters of the ASA/USA umpire program, was a great success. Attendees left the clinic energized and better prepared not only to umpire but also to lead their local umpire programs in doing their part for our sport. Our umpire program is the best in the world because of dedication and work ethic of the leaders in the program, which was evident at this event.

Locally, our 74 state and metro associations continue their training and dissemination of information for leagues, teams and umpires, and in some cases have begun tournament and league play. If you are in a part of our country where play has not yet begun because of the weather, please take this opportunity to register your teams, individuals and umpires to be ready to play when the weather permits. If you have questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact those in the chain above you. Persons at the region, territory and national office are willing and ready to assist in any way possible.

Finally, because of the unavailability of the ONG Energy Field at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex, this year’s World Cup of Softball X will again be played at Bill Barber Park in Irvine, Calif. Tickets are now on sale for all seven days of World Cup of Softball X. Please visit www.ASAUSASoftball.com or www.socalasa.org for more information and to order tickets.

Have a great 2015 season!

Phil Gutierrez, President
ASA/USA Softball
**THE LEAD OFF:**

Three USA Softball National Teams were named in January following their respective National Team Selection Camps! Visit pages 34-36 to find out who made the teams!
THE LEAD OFF:

Over 450 umpires attended the Biennial UIC Clinic in Midwest City this past February. Pictured above is the Region 7 Award of Excellence recipient Dora Martinez and Region 7 UIC Richard Crocker.
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USA Softball
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 Jim, Briana, Collie, Deianeira, and Alexandra - five athletes who play ASA/USA Softball!

**JIM, 69**
Warrenton, Virginia
*Northern Virginia Force 65s*
*Senior Slow Pitch, 65-Over*
*Pitcher*

**HIS START**
I began playing softball at age 25 in the Arlington County Church League.

**GOALS**
To continue to stay active and ageless as long as I can. I believe that you do not quit playing because you get old, but rather you get old because you quit playing.

**BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT**
Winning our first National Championship in 1990 in Montgomery, Ala. I pitched the final four innings in scoreless relief as our team came from 10 runs down to win 15-14.

**TOUGHEST OBSTACLE**
Health issues, I’ve had four operations in recent years.

**ROLE MODELS IN THE GAME**
Bill Cameron, Bobby Coleman, Tom Tudor and Billy Rice.
BRIANA, 12
Dallas, Texas
Team Mizuno Impulse - Brochu
Girls’ 12-Under Fast Pitch
Catcher, Third Base, Utility

HER START
I started playing when I was 4 years old in T-ball on the Thundercats team.

GOALS
One the most important goals I have is to have a positive attitude and always to uphold good sportsmanship! I want to work hard and grow with my family/team. I would love to see softball back in the Olympics, which could be possible in 2020, the year I graduate high school. If it is an option, I want to try out for the Olympic team!

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL
Getting to meet people and make new friends! I’ve been fortunate enough to travel to other states and play for other teams. Most of the friends that I have made I still keep up with and see in different venues!

PROUDEST MOMENT
Hitting my first over-the-fence homerun on a high school field when I was 10 years old.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
Coming off an injury that you can’t play through. I had a left hip flexor strain that took several weeks to heal. It was really hard to just watch, but I learned during that time to be a better teammate!
CALLIE, 11
Woonsocket, Rhode Island
Rhode Island Thunder Gold
Girls’ 12-Under Fast Pitch
Catcher

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL
All the friends I have made from all over Rhode Island and Massachusetts. My teammates are my best friends.

GOALS
I want to hit a grand slam one day and eventually play softball in college.

PROUDEST MOMENT
I’m proud of the great season we had last year and am looking forward to 2015!

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
I developed a bone cyst in my left arm when I was younger and broke my arm three times. I had to take some time off to recover after each break and then work hard to get back into “softball” shape. Thankfully, the cyst has gotten smaller and I’ve been healthy for a while now.

ROLE MODELS
My role model is Jennie Finch. I met her at the Jennie Finch Tournament in New Jersey last spring and got to see her Olympic medal!
ALEXANDRA, 11
San Diego, California
Lakeside, California
Girls’ 12-Under Fast Pitch
Utility

HER START
I played tee-ball when I was five and started playing softball in 2013. I made the Silver All-Star team my first year in the league. My parents had asked me if I wanted to play and I said “sure”! It has blossomed into an extreme love of the sport.

GOALS
To make the All-Star Gold team every year I play. I would love to make it on to a travel ball team. My main focus is to be an Olympic level softball player for Team USA like my idol, Jennie Finch.

PROUDEST MOMENT
I am very proud that I made the Silver 10U All-Star team my first year in the league. I am very happy to see my hitting ability progress. I also declared as a pitcher this year, which is exhilarating and scary at the same time.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL
I am very thankful for softball. It has made me aware of how important it is to stay in shape and eat right. I am thankful for the awesome friends I have made. I feel that through this sport I will be afforded many opportunities in school/college and giving back as a coach and mentor when I am older.

ROLE MODELS
Jennie Finch and Delanie Gourley
FACES ON THE FIELD

DEIANEIRA, 16
Rochester, Massachusetts
Bay State Sharks
Girls’ 16-Under Fast Pitch
Pitcher

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL
It allows me to find a way to strive, to always learn something new and to never give up just because something is hard. I find it helps me to relieve daily stresses. Because I have been bullied, it allows me to walk away from those negative life stressors and as soon as I reach the mound nothing else matters.

GOAL
I hope to play in college and possibly in the Olympics.

ROLE MODELS
My role models in the game are Cat Osterman, Jennie Finch and my pitching coaches Jenn Pfister-Lomastro and Trishia Sullivan.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
My disability. I was born with severe Erb’s Palsy and have been told by some of the finest doctor’s in Boston that I would never be able to play any sport and I have been able to prove them wrong. I have to work ten times harder than most people but feel that it is my job to prove that people must learn to see me for my abilities not my disabilities.

PROUDEST MOMENT
Having made my high school’s varsity team as a freshman and sophomore and to be the main pitcher in my junior year.
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Every year, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball registers over 25,000 umpires across the U.S. From the local level to the international stage, ASA/USA Umpires are the best trained and proficient in the world! From our Umpire Awards Programs to the various local and national clinics through the country, it pays to be an ASA/USA Umpire! Here, we feature two ASA/USA umpires and highlight some of their achievements.

**DAVID**
Denton, Texas  
Texas ASA/USA Umpire  
Umpires: Adult Slow Pitch  
Started Umpiring: 1979

**GOALS**
To continue to improve and to mentor younger umpires

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT UMPIRING ASA/USA SOFTBALL**
ASA/USA Softball is the best and I’m proud to be affiliated with the association. I also like using my skills to do a good job on the field.

**BEST EXPERIENCE IN UMPIRING SO FAR**
Getting to umpire at the Hooter’s Championship Series in Oklahoma City at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex.

**ASA/USA UMPIRE AWARDS**
I’m an ASA/USA Elite Umpire (2006) and am also a member of the National Indicator Fraternity (1999).

**ASA/USA TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE**
I’ve umpired in 13 ASA/USA National Championships and numerous Texas ASA/USA State Tournaments

**GARY**
Renton, Washington  
Seattle ASA/USA Umpire  
Umpires: Adult Slow Pitch  
Started Umpiring: 1981

**HIS START**
I have been an ASA/USA Umpire since 1981. Like Mark Twain, I have never met a softball player I didn’t like.

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT UMPIRING ASA/USA SOFTBALL**
I’ve been dedicated to ASA/USA because they have softball for all skill levels with safety for the players being their No. 1 priority by not allowing hot bats and balls. Those are both very important to me.

**BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT**
Since the beginning, I have averaged over 200 games per year and have never been late to even one! The total number of players I have ejected can be counted on one hand and I have not had a single game protested.

**GAME YOU REMEMBER MOST**
It was the bottom of the seventh inning with the home team up to bat with no outs, bases loaded and down by one run. The batter hit a ball that landed right in the middle of home plate and rolled toward the pitchers circle. The catcher grabbed the ball, touched home plate, threw the ball to third, third fired it to second and second to first! All runners out, game over and an extra out to boot!
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News and Notes

Softball 360 TV to Feature ASA/USA Softball Events in 2015

ASA/USA Softball and Softball 360 are teaming up once again in the 2015 season as a variety of ASA/USA sanctioned events will be featured throughout 13, 30-minute episodes. Check your local listing for scheduled air dates and times or log on to Softball360.com for the complete network lineup!

Softball 360 is also the home of the ASA Long Haul Bombers Stadium Power Tour that travels to approximately eight Major League Baseball (MLB) Stadiums throughout the country showcasing some of the best hitters in the game. With Team Combat, Team DeMarini, Team Easton and Team Miken, eight ASA Long Haul Bombers will compete all summer long for the Manufacturers Cup and title of best home run hitter in the world!

Stadium Renovations Continue at OGE Energy Field in Oklahoma City

Renovations continue at OGE Energy Field at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Currently in Phase II, workers are on the finishing touches on an elevator down third base line. Major progress has also been made on the new hospitality building over on first base side and the building of brand new concession stands down first and third base lines.
TWO EMPLOYEES JOIN
ASA/USA NATIONAL OFFICE

The ASA/USA National Office welcomed two new staff members as Chuck White and Nick Dorety have been hired. White, the new Turf Manager for the ASA Hall of Fame Complex, joined the team in February while Nick, the new Marketing/Communications Coordinator, came on board in January.

Women’s College World Series tickets are on sale!
May 28 – June 3, 2015
OGE Energy Field at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium – Oklahoma City

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YOU SAID IT, WE READ IT!
If there’s one thing we love at ASA/USA Softball, it’s interacting with softball fans from around the world! With a strong following on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, here’s a collection of some of our favorite comments we have received from our followers!

Hearing @thescript’s Hall of Fame will always make me think of being at the @asausasoftball Hall of Fame Stadium in OKC for the #WCWS!

—@taylorlittleton

On summer nights at the ballpark: It is about the best thing I can think of! I have spent my entire life either at the field playing or coaching the last 15 years. Love being at the ball field!

—Billy Walker

When asked what Team USA athlete inspires her: @hayliemac8 because her attitude is the best I have ever experienced and we know each other VERY well! She is an awesome role model!

—@haleymo_8

In regards to the naming of the 2015 USA Softball Women’s National Team: Congratulations! Represent us with pride!

—@margo.jonker

@ASAUSASoftball @STLMSUA really enjoyed the clinic on Saturday in Wood River! Learned a lot! So excited for the season!

—@steviesunshine7

On ASA/USA attending the Bart & Nadia Sports Experience in Oklahoma City: Thank you so much for a wonderful experience today! We had a great time enjoying all the softball activity you guys had to offer!

—Lori Anderson-Normandic

So proud of the girls for running a youth clinic today! Working hard to be great role models!

@ASAUSASoftball

—@CLTMagic14U

On the passing of 2014 Hall of Famer Craig Elliott: A true icon of the slow pitch golden era.

—Chip O’Connor

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Growing up being involved in sports, no matter which one, we’ve all encountered some muscle soreness or hopefully less so, an injury or two. I would go one step further and say that those that have suffered an injury while playing sport have no doubt been told “put some ice on that”. The RICE principle (Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation) is one that we have had beaten into our heads since a very young age…but what if that was wrong?? What if all of this time, utilizing ice was actually slowing if not stopping the healing process and actually contributing to further damage? Makes you think, doesn’t it?

To ice or not to ice is probably one of the largest debates in the sports world currently. It has grabbed the attention of physicians, athletic trainers, coaches, athletes and so on at all levels of competition. So, let’s investigate this debate a little further.

There are a couple of important components to consider when thinking about the use of ice. What does ice actually do? What is the natural healing response our body goes through? How do those two things actually interact? Ice, or cryotherapy, has been used to decrease pain and promote local constriction of blood vessels, thus controlling bleeding and swelling. It has been reported that its pain-reducing effect is probably one of its greatest benefits (Prentice, 2003). Is the pain-reducing component enough, however, to warrant using ice and possibly negating the response of our body’s natural healing mechanism? Our body reduces and eliminates inflammation using the lymphatic system. This system is responsible for aiding the immune system in removing and destroying waste, debris, and dead blood cells along with excess fluid, and waste products from the interstitial spaces between the cells (so basically the “bad stuff” that results from the injured site). This resulting fluid or “lymph” moves in one direction toward the neck and depends on muscle and joint movement to facilitate its circulation and disposal.

The body heals itself by using the inflammatory process to rid the injured site of the “bad stuff” produced from injury (blood, edema, cell waste, etc.). The resultant inflammation we see after a sprained ankle for example is the by-product of that inflammatory response. THAT is the component that we need to focus on removing to facilitate optimum healing. If there is NO inflammation (such as from using ice), then the body cannot jump start the inflammatory process and start healing itself. So that swelling that you see after you sprain your ankle needs to be removed by the Lymphatic system and how we best help that system is the area we need to focus on. So how do we do that? Like we mentioned earlier…MOVEMENT (as able) and compression are key! Contraction and activation of the surrounding musculature creates a “pumping action” around the vessels and helps promote the drainage of the inflammation and the compression helps move the fluid up the one way highway. It has been argued that the use of ice cuts that process off and prevents the lymph system from properly doing its job.

As you can see there is a lot to take in and think about regarding the benefits or consequences of icing. What is the right answer? Perhaps a “happy medium” or a combination of treatment options. Ice is helpful in reducing pain, so perhaps that is the best use and leave movement and compression for the swelling. Perhaps the new saying should be “EMCE” (Early movement, compression, and elevation). It doesn’t have quite the same ring to it as RICE, but it may be the new trend in injury management. The research is out there to support and argue against the use of ice and all should be encouraged to read it and form their own thoughts and opinions.

Team USA trainer Michele Latimer gives some insight into the RICE debate
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LSU & FLORIDA TOP THE ESPN.COM/ USA SOFTBALL COLLEGIATE TOP 25 POLL

WEEK NUMBER 1 RECORD

<table>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>NUMBER 1</th>
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<td>Preseason</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>LSU</td>
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</table>

After holding the top spot for the first five weeks, Florida was overtaken by fellow SEC school LSU.

Auburn’s Emily Carosone earned Week 5 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week honors.

2015 USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL COLLEGIATE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**Week 1 (Feb. 5-8):** Taylor Schoblocher - North Texas - Junior - Utility - Forney, Texas

**Week 2 (Feb. 9-15):** Lauren Haeger - Florida - Senior - Pitcher/1B – Peoria, Ariz.

**Week 3 (Feb. 16-22):** Jenna Lilley - Oregon - Freshman - Infield - North Canton, Ohio

**Week 4 (Feb. 23 - March 1):** Sierra Lawrence - Michigan - Junior - Outfield - Snellville, Ga.

**Week 5 (March 2-8):** Emily Carosone - Auburn - Junior - Outfield - Orlando, Fla.

**Week 6 (March 9-15):** Bianka Bell - LSU - Junior - Outfield - Orlando, Fla.

**Week 7 (March 16-22):** Megan Good - James Madison - Freshman - Pitcher/Infielder - Mount Sidney, Va.
ESPN will offer its most robust NCAA Division I softball slate to date with more than 100 games televised across ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, SEC Network and Longhorn Network and at least 300 games carried on ESPN3 and SEC Network+, totaling more than 400 games available this spring. ESPN will also have extensive coverage of the 2015 NCAA Division I Softball Championship, including every game televised from the Super Regional’s and Women’s College World Series.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<th>NETWORK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 19 Auburn at Ole Miss</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 3 Oklahoma at No. 18 LSU</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 1 Florida at No. 4 Alabama</td>
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<td>No. 1 Florida at No. 4 Alabama</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 4 Alabama at No. 7 Kentucky</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 2 Oregon at No. 6 UCLA</td>
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<td>April 11</td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
<td>Radford at Coastal Carolina</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 19 Auburn at No. 24 Texas A&amp;M</td>
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<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 18 LSU at No. 14 Tennessee</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
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<td>No. 5 Florida State at Louisville</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td>No. 5 Florida State at Louisville</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td>9 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 11 Baylor at No. 3 Oklahoma</td>
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<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 4 Alabama at No. 19 Auburn</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 1 Florida at No. 10 Georgia</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 2 Oregon at Stanford</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>Cal State Fullerton at Long Beach State</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Cal State Fullerton at Long Beach State</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 14 Tennessee at No. 4 Alabama</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
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<td>April 25</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Houston at Tulsa</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>North Carolina State at Virginia Tech</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>North Carolina at Notre Dame</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Norfolk State at Hampton</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Long Beach State at Cal Poly</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 12 Arizona at No. 6 UCLA</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 7 Kentucky at No. 14 Tennessee</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 4 Alabama at Arkansas</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 7 Kentucky at No. 14 Tennessee</td>
<td>ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 19 Auburn at No. 18 LSU</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 25 Texas at No. 11 LSU</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>SEC Tournament: Semifinal No. 1</td>
<td>ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>SEC Tournament: Semifinal No. 2</td>
<td>ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>ACC Tournament: Championship</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>AAC Tournament: Championship</td>
<td>ESPN2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Oklahoma State at No. 3 Oklahoma</td>
<td>ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>SEC Tournament: Championship</td>
<td>ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 2 Oregon at No. 12 Arizona</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It’s not often that a person gets to travel across the world while playing the sport they love, yet alone by the age of 25. That’s exactly what three-time National Team member Amanda Chidester is doing these days. Whether traveling to Argentina to work with their National Team athletes or playing professional softball in the Japan league, Amanda, aka “Chiddy”, never would have imagined she’d have been able to visit so many places because of softball. We recently chatted with Chiddy to get some insight into her trip to Argentina and how she’s anticipating going to Japan.

B&S: What led to you heading to Argentina and how long were you there for?

What led me to Argentina is one of their national team players, Magali Frezzotti. We met the summer of 2013 in Puerto Rico when we played there for the Pan American Games Qualifier. After many great conversations and many big ideas/dreams/goals we had for softball we began to collaborate together. It started with her coming to the States to train together. I am going to be honest at first I wasn’t sure how much I was going to learn, but in the end I learned more than I ever could have imagined! I give a lot of my catching improvements, whether the knowledge or playing aspect, to her help and training. After continuing on she asked if I would like to come to Argentina to help, which of course I was all about! Last year I helped as much as a could, but this year I was able to commit two full weeks with the Junior National Team and help with their hitting.

B&S: Were you nervous about the language barrier? How did you overcome that?

I would not use the word nervous, but would definitely use the word frustrating because I never took Spanish growing up. I wish I would have. It’s amazing how much you pick up listening to it all day long and trying to figure out what everyone is saying. I can’t imagine how much I could have picked up if I actually learned some in school! I always thought growing up “Oh I will never need
to know another language”. Clearly, I was wrong. It is amazing how people know more than one language and I am determined to learn Spanish!

I am a very animated person so it was easier for the girls to understand what I am saying by how I describe it with my actions. That helped a ton. Also, having Magali around was definitely the easiest moments for me. We train together so we are on the same page and she is extremely good at translating. There are also three or four girls on the Junior National Team that speak good English as well so I would constantly call them over anytime I needed words or a longer explanation. The girls were extremely patient with me and never failed to remind me that I needed to learn Spanish!!!

**B&S: What are some things you learned about the Argentinean culture and the state of their softball programs?**

The culture in Argentina is amazing and I have to say I am extremely grateful for the Argentinians I was surrounded by. They took me in like they have known me their whole lives. They really take the time to share special moments with each other and they have no idea how much it meant to me to be a part of it!

Most everyone drinks tea there, but it’s not your everyday tea we see. It is called Mate, which is so much more than a drink! When you have Mate, most everyone you’re with will have it with you. It can be anywhere at any time and is a time to share with each other and be social. Another big part of their culture is the food. If you know me, then you know I love food. I decided that if I ever had to choose my last meal it would be “Asado.” Now if you don’t know what that, you seriously need to look it up right now! It is the best meat ever! I have never tasted such amazing food in my life.

Their softball is not like what we have in the states, but the girls work so hard and love to learn so much. In the states we have so much room for growth and opportunity, but it’s not like that there. It’s not at all that the girls in Argentina are less capable than anyone else, but they don’t have the resources like we do. In my opinion any girl who loves softball and works so hard to be the best they can be in every area of the game deserves a shot to do it. I hope I can help make that happen one day.

**B&S: Any memorable experiences while there?**

I have so many great memories, but I think one that is worth sharing would be the week the girls from the U.S. came and shared many great moments with the Argentinean players. Long story short, after some big (maybe crazy) ideas/dreams/goals were said out loud and put out there to different people, Magali and I were able to make something happen. We ended up getting six girls from Michigan, two girls from Iowa and their parents to come to Argentina for one week. All of this became so much bigger than softball! It just proved how amazing the sport of softball really is and how the game is so much bigger than just a game. It was such a huge experience for everyone involved. It definitely makes you appreciate the game and life.

Another great moment was when the Junior National Team had just gotten done playing two games but I needed two of their players to play one more game to help the girls who came from the U.S. to play. They were all sitting in the grass and I yelled out “Anyone want to come play with us?” Almost the whole team jumped up out of the grass “Chiddy, Chiddy yo yo yo,” (which means me me me). I couldn’t believe it. All they wanted to do was play and be on that field with anyone.

**B&S: Argentina is participating for the first time ever in the World Cup of Softball this year! Are you excited to be reunited with some of the athletes you worked with?**

I am so excited! It’s going to be great to see them all. I hope they can have an amazing experience while they are here!

**B&S: You’re heading to Japan for the first time to play in Japan league. What are you looking forward to the most about heading over there?**

Japan is going to be a whole new culture for me to experience! It’s crazy how softball has taken me all over the world. I never dreamed any of this would happen. I am looking forward to just playing the most. Never in my life besides the summer have I ever been able to just play softball. No school, no lessons, no camps...just me playing the game. I can’t wait for that!!

**B&S: Any advice you want to give to athletes who are wanting to take their game to the next level?**

You can always learn something! It doesn’t matter the environment or where the information is coming from you can always learn. The key is to have an open mind to learn and try new things. Some may work for you some may not. Some may be awful experiences, but take something from it. Never be afraid to go out of your comfort zone. You always have room to get better at some part of the game! Always remember the game never changes. Doesn’t matter what country, what state or who you’re playing with because the game is always the same!

You can never dream too big if you’re willing to work for it and enjoy the process to get there. Actually doing the work and talking about doing the work are completely different. Think about it. What are you doing?
# ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

We asked members of our Women’s, Men’s and Junior Women’s National Teams what are some of their favorite things…and this is what they responded with!

| Three people I’d like to have dinner with | KRIS BOGACH  
USA Softball Men’s National Team | CHASE TURNER  
USA Softball Men’s National Team | RACHEL GARCIA  
USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team | PAIGE HALSTEAD  
USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team | ANNIE ALDRETE  
USA Softball Women’s National Team | JANELLE LINDVALL  
USA Softball Women’s National Team |
<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Biel, Dan Marino and Coach K</td>
<td>Popeye, Peter Griffin and the cast of Always Sunny in Philadelphia</td>
<td>Justin Timberlake, Chris Hemsworth and Scarlett Johansson</td>
<td>Blake Griffin, Hunter Pence and Steve Carell</td>
<td>Robinson Canó, Miguel Cabrera and Ronda Rousey</td>
<td>Jamie Rae Sullivan, my boyfriend and Phil Knight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three favorite movies</td>
<td>Boondock Saints, Shawshank Redemption and Gladiator</td>
<td>Boondock Saints, Shawshank Redemption and Dumb &amp; Dumber</td>
<td>Beauty and the Beast, Divergent and Dodgeball</td>
<td>Pitch Perfect, Sandlot and A League of Their Own</td>
<td>Frozen, Safe Haven and American Sniper</td>
<td>Beauty and the Beast, The Sandlot and Tarzan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three favorite TV shows</td>
<td>Game of Thrones, Walking Dead and How I Met your Mother</td>
<td>Impractical Jokers, Family Guy and Modern Family</td>
<td>Vampire Diaries, Pretty Little Liars and The Walking Dead</td>
<td>Chopped, Friends and The Big Bang Theory</td>
<td>Love &amp; Hip Hop Atlanta and Rehab Addict</td>
<td>Once Upon a Time, Full House and Workaholics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three favorite drinks</td>
<td>Dr. Pepper, Milk, Cherry Pepsi</td>
<td>Water, Milk, Sports Drinks</td>
<td>Ice Tea, Lemonade, Gatorade</td>
<td>Green Iced Tea, Arizona Iced Tea and Coffee</td>
<td>Water, Gatorade and more water</td>
<td>Iced Tea, Iced Coffee and Dr. Pepper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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2. Take The Pledge
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3. Recruit Supporters
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McKenna Arriola • 27
West Hills, Calif. • IF/OF • L/R
Oregon State - Freshman
@McKennaArriola

Kelly Barnhill • 33
Marietta, Ga. • P • R/R
Pope HS - Senior
@KellyBarnhillAA

Nicole DeVitt • 23
Garden Grove, Calif. • IF/OF • L/R
Florida - Freshman
@mckenna_devitt

Astin Donovan • 41
Guilford, Conn. • OF • L/R
South Florida - Freshman
@41austind

Rachel Garcia • 21
Palmdale, Calif. • P • R/R
Highland HS - Senior
@RachelGarciaUCLA

Johanna Grauer • 15
Pleasanton, Calif. • P • R/R
UCLA - Freshman
@JohannaGrauer

Meghan Gregg • 55
Williamson, Ga. • IF • L/R
Tennessee - Freshman
@MegGregg5

Emily Griggs • 8
Wichita, Kan. • OF • L/R
LSU - Freshman
@em_uh_l_e_n_c_e

Paige Halstead • 25
Williamson, Ga. • IF • L/R
Los Osos HS - Senior
@pugelSTUDENT

Jazmyn Jackson • 24
North Canton, Ohio • IF • L/R
Cal State Northridge - Freshman
@jazmyn_jackson

Jenna Lilley • 2
North Canton, Ohio • IF • L/R
North Carolina - Freshman
@JennaLilley00

Madilyn Nickles • 48
Merced, Calif. • IF • R/R
Merced HS - Senior
@Madilyn_Nickles

Alyssa Palomino • 32
Mission Viejo, Calif. • OF • L/L
Mission Viejo HS - Senior
@alyssapalomino21

Jenavee Peres • 43
Garden Grove, Calif. • OF • R/R
San Diego State - Freshman
@JenaveePeres

Kobbie Pettis • 18
Jackson, Calif. • IF • L/R
California - Freshman
@kobbiepettie

Arden Pettit • 13
Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. • C • R/R
Stanford - Freshman
@ardenpetti

Sydney Romero • 4
Murrieta, Calif. • IF • R/R
Vista Murrieta HS - Senior
@Syd_Syd2

DJ Sanders • 37
Columbus, Miss. • IF/OF • R/R
Louisiana-Lafayette - Fr.
@dj_37ss

Jenny MacKay • 22
Martinez, Calif. • P • R/R
LSU - Freshman
@JennyMcKays

Allie Walljasper • 22
Martinez, Calif. • P • R/R
LSU - Freshman
@AllieWalljasperLSU

Tairia Flowers
Head Coach
Tuscon, Ariz.
Cal State Northridge - Head Coach

Trisha Ford
Assistant Coach
Fremont, Calif.
Fremont State - Head Coach

Kristie Fox
Assistant Coach
San Diego, Calif.
San Diego - Head Coach

Tim Walton
Assistant Coach
Cerritos, Calif.
Florida - Head Coach
2015 USA SOFTBALL
MEN’S NATIONAL TEAM

Kris Bogach • 14
Huguenot, N.Y.
Infield • L/R

Freddy Carmona • 5
San Antonio, Texas
Catcher • R/R

Kevin Castillo • 13
Elk Grove, Calif.
Utility • R/R

Frank DeGroat • 8
Ringwood, N.J.
Catcher • R/R

Nate Devine • 40
Sonora, Calif.
Utility • R/L

Josh Johnson • 19
El Paso, Texas
Pitcher/Outfield • R/R

Tony Mancha • 11
Las Cruces, N.M.
Pitcher • R/R

Chris Miljavac • 12
Easton, Mo.
Infield • L/R

Gerald Muizelaar • 10
Grand Forks, N.D.
Pitcher • R/R

Nick Mullins • 35
Toms River, N.J.
Infield • R/R

Pat Sagdal • 25
Richland, Wash.
Outfield • L/R

Rylan Sandoval • 24
Castro Valley, Calif.
Infield • R/R

Marcus Tan • 21
Union City, Calif.
Utility • R/R

Chase Turner • 77
San Jose, Calif.
Oufield • L/R

Derrick Zechman • 9
Watsonville, Pa.
Infield • R/R

Denny Bruckert
Gillespie, Ill.
Head Coach

Greg Hicks
Bakersfield, Calif.
Assistant Coach

Gregg Leather
Staten Island, N.Y.
Assistant Coach

Nick McCurry
Ashland, Ohio
Assistant Coach
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Will one of these athletes claim the 2015 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Award? Back in January, ASA/USA Softball unveiled the 50 student-athletes who were named to the “Watch List” for the annual award, which recognizes outstanding athletic achievement by Division I female collegiate softball players across the country. This year’s “Watch List” includes 26 seniors, 18 juniors and six sophomores, with freshman ineligible for consideration. (Freshman can be considered for the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award once they have competed at the collegiate level.)

Reigning USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Lacey Waldrop is one of 26 seniors on the Top 50 “Watch List”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex Hugo</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>Jr. - Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ally Carda</td>
<td>Pitcher/Util</td>
<td>Sr. - UCLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amber Freeman</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Sr. - Arizona State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Letourneau</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Jr. - Northwestern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Aldrete</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Soph. - Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bianka Bell</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>Jr. - LSU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandy Melero</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>Sr. - Auburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cacy Williams</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>Jr. - Wichita State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Goodacre</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Sr. - Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Wilkinson</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Jr. - Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheridan Hawkins</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Jr. - Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheyenne Cordes</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>Sr. - California</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dani Gilmore</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>Sr. - Oregon State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emilee Koerner</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>Sr. - Notre Dame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Crane</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>Jr. - Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farish Beard</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Sr. - South Alabama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hallie Wilson</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>Sr. - Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haylie McClenery</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>Jr. - Alabama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haylie Wagner</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Sr. - Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaiyn Ford</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Jr. - James Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janelle Lindvall</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Jr. - Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janie Takeda</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>Sr. - Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaitlyn Richardson</td>
<td>Util.</td>
<td>Sr. - Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karley Wester</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>Soph. - Notre Dame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasey Cooper</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>Soph. - Auburn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Katiyana Mauga – Util. – Soph. - Arizona
Kellie Fox – IF – Sr. - Arizona
Kelsey Nunley – P – Jr. - Kentucky
Kelsey Stevens – P – Jr. - Oklahoma
Kelsey Stewart – IF – Jr. - Florida
Kylee Lahnerr – IF/OF – Sr. - Washington
Lacey Waldrop – P – Sr. – Florida State
Laura Messina – P – Sr. – Central Connecticut State
Lauren Chamberlain – IF – Sr. - Oklahoma
Lauren Haegar – P/IF – Sr. - Florida
Lexie Elkins – C – Jr. - ULL
Lindsey Stephens – OF – Jr. - Texas
Maddie O’Brien – IF – RSr – Florida State
Megan Baltzell – C – Sr. - Longwood
Missy Taukeiaho – IF – Jr. - Cal State Fullerton
Paige Wilson – IF – Sr. - Georgia
Sammy Marshall – IF – Sr. – Western Illinois
Sara Groenwegen – P – Soph. - Minnesota
Shelby Pendley – IF/P – Sr. - Oklahoma
Shellie Robinson – OF – Sr – SC Upstate
Sierra Lawrence – OF – Jr. - Michigan
Sierra Romero – IF – Jr. - Michigan
Steph Pasquale – C – Sr. - Nebraska
Stephany LaRosa – C/1B – Sr. - UCLA
Tori Finucane – P – Soph. - Missouri
ASA/USA Softball staff members were out in full force at the 2015 Mary Nutter Collegiate Classic in Palm Springs, Calif. The largest and most competitive Division 1 softball event outside of the NCAA postseason, this tournament features 35 top Division I programs, including several of the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 teams!

Schools from the PAC 12, Big 10, Big 12, SEC, ACC and many others conference attended the entire event, which is held at one complex. Expected to grow into two tournaments next year, plans are for the event to expand to a maximum of 70 teams over the course of the two-week event!

Once again, Julie Bartel and Polly McCormick from the ASA/USA National Office attended the event to promote the Legacy Club. Established in 2014, the Legacy Club provides financial support to all of the national teams while serving as a way to connect alumni and fans of the program.

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Umpiring runs in the Cappadonia family. It all began with Phil, an ASA/USA Umpire for over 18 years. His sons, Tyler (17) and Cameron (14) have carried on the legacy umpiring for Utah ASA/USA. Balls & Strikes Online’s Nick Dorety recently chatted with Phil, Tyler and Cameron to get some insight on the umpiring family.

**Bo-S: How did you guys get involved with ASA/USA Softball? What’s the backstory there?**

**Tyler**- I’ve been around ASA/USA Softball my whole life. My dad started umpiring the year before I was born (1996). Since I was at the ball fields at a very young age, I developed a love for the game and a desire to become an ASA/USA umpire. My dad was friends with Greg Simental, a fellow umpire, who took me under his wing and taught me basic mechanics and rules. In fact, he still emails me rule situations and it helps me to stay sharp even in my seventh year of umpiring.

**Cameron**- I got involved in ASA/USA because of my brother. In 2013, he had the opportunity to work a 10U/12U Class B Western National Championship in Peoria, Ariz. I went to watch him in action and I’ll have to admit, I was a little bit jealous of all the attention he was getting. I said to myself that if he can do it, so can I. Then the next year I was wearing an ASA/USA blue uniform. I’ve now been umpiring for two years.

**Tyler & Cameron**- We have a great support system within Utah ASA/USA Softball, starting at our Commissioner Steve Rollins and Umpire-in-Chief Ralph Anderson. These individuals along with our dad have helped get us to the levels that we are currently umpiring in ASA/USA.

**Bo-S: So umpiring is a family affair? Does anyone else umpire in the family?**

**Tyler**- Our dad has been an ASA/USA umpire for 18 years and he is the main reason why we started umpiring in the first place. He really started it all. Seeing him work or UIC games has shown us the responsibility of an ASA/USA umpire on and off the field. He also gives us inspiration to be the best we can be. In addition to our dad, my oldest sister also umpired for a few years before I began my umpiring career at age 10.

**Cameron**- Absolutely umpiring is a family affair. Before we even started umpiring we were going to all of our dad’s games to watch and support his umpiring. Mom always encouraged us to go and support our dad. She is a huge support in our umpiring and the whole association by going to many of our tournaments. She helps by bringing water and food to umpires! It’s exciting because our little sister wants to also be an umpire when she is a little bit older.

**Tyler & Cameron**- There was one tournament in the 2014 season that we had the opportunity to work a family three-man game. Believe us when we say that if it was the last game we ever umpired, it would have been the best game ever!

**Bo-S: So you guys have had a chance to all umpire with your dad?**

**Tyler**- I actually worked a game at the Western B National with my dad. That was a great experience.

**Cameron**- I worked my very first game with my dad. I’ve been lucky to have many opportunities to umpire with both Tyler and my dad.

**Bo-S: What’s your favorite umpiring moment so far?**

**Tyler**- It’s really a toss-up for me. There have been a lot of great highlights so far in my umpiring career, but I’ll mention a few of them. One was at the Western National and then at another national, I got to work a game with my dad. That was awesome. Another fun moment was when I would get questions from coaches.

*Story continues on next page*
about various rules. I would give them my answer and they would walk back to their dugout shaking their head saying “that kid just said the rule word for word out of the book.” My mom overheard a coach say that! This was a huge boost of confidence to me and reminded me that I was worthy to be at the national. My last favorite moment was when I was doing Special Olympics. I had a pitcher really interested with my flipping coin and he told me all about his collection of coins he had. I let him choose one of my coins the look on his face was like I gave the most prized possession.

Cameron-
My favorite moment in umpiring was when I had my first three man game with my dad and Tyler. I remember being scared and having fun all at the same time. I remember hoping for all the easy calls, but the last play of the game I had a really close play at first, and in our post-game they both said “great call.” Having both of their seals of approval was a huge confidence boost for me. I also remember a game where I grabbed the wrong pair of pants. It gets tricky since all of our pants look the same! I umpired a game wearing my dad’s pants by accident. That was a really funny circumstance.

Bo-S: What kind of tournaments do you umpire?

**Tyler**- I have worked at cancer awareness, State Rec, State Accelerated, Western B National, and a Special Olympics Tournament.

**Cameron**- I have worked leagues, State Accelerated, and State Rec.

Bo-S: You guys are so young with so many great umpiring years ahead of you. What is your dream event to umpire?

**Tyler**- I would love to do international ball and as high as possible as an ASA/USA or international umpire.

**Cameron**- I would love to do international ball as well. I’d love to umpire a game in Italy, since it is our family’s heritage.

Bo-S: Phil, what are your thoughts on all this? What’s it like to have been the inspiration for your children’s umpiring careers?

**Phil**- It’s been special, having my oldest daughter start when she was 16 years old, then Tyler when he was 10 and Cameron when he was 12. Its great sharing this together since it’s something that not just anyone can do. It was funny when Tyler started umpiring as a 10-year old when he looked younger than the girls competing in the games. He didn’t even have to squat much since he was so short. I remember him making a call in a game and the coach started to argue and one of the coach’s players said “don’t yell at the cute umpire!” Tyler’s older sister was scared off by an unruly coach, but Tyler has such an ability to express his knowledge of the rules. We’ve had to hold him back a little bit, so that he could be more confident in his abilities before moving up to bigger tournaments.

Cameron is now entering his second year umpiring and like his brother, passed the ASA/USA Umpire Exam with a perfect score.

It is my dream to see my kids do well and to teach them to respect the game and to act the part of an ASA/USA umpire. We think nothing of that but what that means is that they have to be careful when they choose to act like kids, which of course they have to be able to do, but also to uphold the standards of being an umpire. As umpires, we are being watched and can easily be discredited by our actions. As a kid, it’s easy to say that they are just a kid when this happens. My boys are professional and confident when they are at events as to always give a positive impression of an ASA/USA umpire. Even my youngest daughter wants to become an ASA/USA umpire when she is older. My dream is to work a National Championship with all of my children. I was lucky to be able to work a National with Tyler, which was the best experience for me. I look forward to having the chance to work one with Cameron and maybe even all three of us.
The 2015 Biennial Umpire-In-Chief (UIC) Clinic, held the weekend of Feb. 5-7, brought over 450 umpires to Oklahoma. Hosted at the Sheraton in Midwest City, the clinic included breakout sessions and a banquet to honor those who received the Award of Excellence and years of service to the ASA/USA Umpire Program.

Sessions began on Thursday evening with sessions for new UIC’s and those wishing to be a UIC for a National Championship as well as tours of the ASA/USA National Office and ASA Hall of Fame Complex.

The following individuals received Awards of Excellence for their respective regions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>New England</th>
<th>Mid Atlantic</th>
<th>Central Atlantic</th>
<th>South Atlantic</th>
<th>Southern</th>
<th>Southwestern</th>
<th>Texas</th>
<th>Great Lakes</th>
<th>East Central</th>
<th>Midwest</th>
<th>Northern</th>
<th>Mid America</th>
<th>Rocky Mountain</th>
<th>Pacific Coast</th>
<th>Northwest</th>
<th>Steve Verive (Aurora, Ill.)</th>
<th>Leroy Zafft (Sioux Falls, S.D.)</th>
<th>Tim Watts (Lincoln, Neb.)</th>
<th>Andy Williams (Glendale, Ariz.)</th>
<th>Stan Finch (Honolulu, Hawaii)</th>
<th>Steve Demeyer (Richland, Wash.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region 1</td>
<td>New England</td>
<td>Jim Fanning (Saugus, Mass.)</td>
<td>Kathleen Zifchock (Bloomingburg, N.Y.)</td>
<td>Steve Huskin (Madison Heights, Va.)</td>
<td>Rick Hearn (Loganville, Ga.)</td>
<td>Steve Seither (Winter Garden, Fla.)</td>
<td>Perry Henley, Jr. (Hope, Ark.)</td>
<td>Dennis Troshak (Howell, Mich.)</td>
<td>Jerry Selmon (Dayton, Ohio)</td>
<td>Dora Martinez (San Antonio, Texas)</td>
<td>Steve Verive (Aurora, Ill.)</td>
<td>Leroy Zafft (Sioux Falls, S.D.)</td>
<td>Stan Finch (Honolulu, Hawaii)</td>
<td>Steve Demeyer (Richland, Wash.)</td>
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Story continues on next page >
Friday’s activities began with a welcome from the ASA/USA leadership and also included a presentation from Bollinger Insurance. There were also meetings regarding the ASA/USA Elite Umpire Awards and Regional dinners. Throughout Friday & Saturday, groups rotated through several breakout sessions, which included lessons on dominant-eye tracking, diagramming plays, technology, planning and organizing local clinics, focus and ASA/USA Pride.

Highlighting the UIC Clinic was the Awards Banquet on Saturday night, where umpires gathered to recognize years of service, awards of excellence, the Merle O. Butler National Award of Excellence and the inaugural Tom Mason Award of Excellence. The evening was highlighted by the 15 Regional Awards of Excellence and the Merle O. Butler National Award of Excellence that was given to Walt Sparks (San Antonio, Texas). ASA/USA Softball awarded the inaugural Tom Mason Award of Excellence to Henry Pollard (Mechanicsville, Va.), which honors excellence in rule knowledge and application. The ASA/USA Softball family also honored Dave Maudsley (Citrus Heights, Calif.), who will be retiring from the national umpire staff.

The following individuals were recognized for their years of service:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rick Hearn</td>
<td>Georgia ASA/USA</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Dunbar</td>
<td>Florida ASA/USA</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Verive</td>
<td>Chicago ASA/USA</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Zawierucha</td>
<td>Maryland DC ASA/USA</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Keller</td>
<td>Minnesota ASA/USA</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Kramer</td>
<td>Minneapolis ASA/USA</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Adams</td>
<td>Arkansas ASA/USA</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Johnson</td>
<td>Rhode Island ASA/USA</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve McKeown</td>
<td>Dallas ASA/USA</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Mount</td>
<td>Houston ASA/USA</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Huskins</td>
<td>Piedmont Va. ASA/USA</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Drumm</td>
<td>Southern California ASA/USA</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Barel</td>
<td>Detroit ASA/USA</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Martin</td>
<td>New Hampshire ASA/USA</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Drake</td>
<td>Ohio ASA/USA</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Christiansen</td>
<td>Vermont ASA/USA</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Crocker</td>
<td>Texas ASA/USA</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chuck Brabc</td>
<td>Sacramento ASA/USA</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Petty</td>
<td>Missouri ASA/USA</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Gino</td>
<td>Southern New York ASA/USA</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Duffy</td>
<td>Portland ASA/USA</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe McGeeever</td>
<td>Philadelphia ASA/USA</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Murphy</td>
<td>Iowa ASA/USA</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Johnson</td>
<td>Indiana ASA/USA</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Montgomery</td>
<td>Mississippi ASA/USA</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malcolm Boyles</td>
<td>Seattle ASA/USA</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike De Leo</td>
<td>Michigan ASA/USA</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Silves</td>
<td>Washington ASA/USA</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The following individuals were recognized for attending all 24 UIC Clinics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Les Novak</td>
<td>St. Louis Park, Minn.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinard Latham</td>
<td>Columbus, Ga.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Pollard</td>
<td>Richmond, Va.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SCHEDULES SET FOR 2015 JUNIOR WOMEN’S AND WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAMS

Fans across the United States will get a chance to see Team USA this summer as both the 2015 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team and Women’s National Team will play in exhibition games in several cities in preparation for their respective international seasons.

The Juniors’ schedule features three tour stops, including a joint tour stop in Houston, Texas with the Women’s National Team who will make five tour stops throughout the summer.

### 2015 JUNIOR WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAM SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 7-13</td>
<td>Training Camp</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, Okla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15-16</td>
<td>Exhibition Games</td>
<td>Houston, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 18-19</td>
<td>Exhibition Games</td>
<td>Ashland, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29-July 5</td>
<td>World Cup X</td>
<td>Irvine, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>Exhibition Games</td>
<td>Hillsboro, Ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18-26</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1-8</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, Okla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9-15</td>
<td>WBSC Softball Junior</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, Okla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s World Championship</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2015 WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAM SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15-16</td>
<td>Exhibition Games</td>
<td>Houston, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 18-19</td>
<td>Exhibition Games</td>
<td>Waldorf, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>Exhibition Games</td>
<td>Kansas City, Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29-July 5</td>
<td>World Cup X</td>
<td>Irvine, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10-11</td>
<td>Exhibition Games</td>
<td>Ewing, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13-14</td>
<td>Exhibition Games</td>
<td>Findlay, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15-26</td>
<td>Pan American Games</td>
<td>Toronto, Ontario, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2-10</td>
<td>Japan Cup</td>
<td>TBD, Japan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Come out to Bill Barber Park and watch at least six of the world’s top softball teams compete!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT WWW.SOCALASA.ORG
Group discounts available & autograph sessions with all teams

For ticket questions email WorldCupXIrvine@aol.com
Hosted by Southern California ASA/USA Softball

JUNE 29 - JULY 5 2015
2014 USA SOFTBALL ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

TONY MANCHA
MALE FAST PITCH ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

• First-time member of Team USA
• Led pitching staff at the Pan American Games/ISF Qualifier

2014 STATS
1.60 ERA, 55 STRIKEOUTS, 2-3 RECORD

JUNIOR MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

TYLER BOULEY

• First-time member of Team USA
• ISF Junior Men’s World Championship Consolation winner

2014 STATS
.421 BATTING AVERAGE, 6 R, HR, 11 RBI, .632 SLUGGING

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

MICHELLE MOLTRIE

• Four-time member of Team USA
• Two-time ISF World Championship silver medalist
• Pan American Games gold medalist
• Three-time World Cup of Softball champion

2014 STATS
.378 BATTING AVERAGE, 17 RBI, 2 HR, 20 R

BRYSON BAKER
MALE SLOW PITCH ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

• Five-time member of Team USA
• Five-time Border Battle Champion

2014 STATS
.814 BATTING AVERAGE, 34 R, 12 HR, 37 RBI
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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.
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Hitting the road this softball season? We’ve got you covered! We’ve picked out some of our favorite items from SoftballOutlet.com to help make your trip as comfy as possible!

Rock the latest softball fashion trends! From t-shirts to sleepwear, we’ve got you covered!

Just because you’re spending a lot of your time on the road doesn’t mean you can’t rock a cute shirt AND stay comfy! With this heather-grey and optic yellow shirt, you can really show that you “love” softball!

Let the world know exactly what your vehicle is being used for...a softball player’s taxi! No ride to the fields would be complete without this license plate!

Because everyone’s closet can use a bit of pink to add some color! Here’s one of our favorite USA Softball t-shirts!

Planning on catching up on some zzzz’s while traveling this Spring? These pajama pants and shorts would make for some great travel apparel!

Fun AND cozy! Stay comfortable on the road with this fabulous softball fleece blanket! It even comes with a carrying strap!
ASA/USA Softball and Softball 360 TV are teaming up to bring softball to your televisions this season! Produced and edited by Long Haul Productions, the show is now in its 11th season and will create 13 original air dates that reach over 97.4 million households through a series of 25 networks.

Listed below are events the Softball 360 show is planning to cover with additional events and the Bombers tour dates to be announced at a later date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT &amp; LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 28-31</td>
<td>NCAA Women’s College World Series - Oklahoma City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14-16</td>
<td>USA Women’s &amp; Junior Women’s Tour Stops – Houston, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 26-28</td>
<td>McQuades Charity Softball Tournament – Bismarck, ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30-July 3</td>
<td>World Cup of Softball X – Irvine, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27/28</td>
<td>ASA/USA Softball 10-Under Girls National Championship- Normal, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 6-8</td>
<td>ASA/USA Boys Slow Pitch National Championship - Kendallville, IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 13-15</td>
<td>WBSC Jr Women’s World Championships – Oklahoma City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 18-20</td>
<td>Men’s USA Slow Pitch National Teams – Midland, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1-2</td>
<td>ASA/USA Men’s SUPER National Championship – Oklahoma City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Five umpires will represent ASA/USA Softball this year at two different international events in the 2015 season. Three umpires from the U.S. will join the umpiring staff at the XIV WBSC Softball Men’s World Championship June 26-July 5 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada while two umpires will participate at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

John Hand (Bloomington, Ill.), Keith Cook (Little Canada, Minn.) and Fred “Bubba” Ewald III (Ft. Worth, Texas) have been selected to umpire at the WBSC Men’s World Championship. Cook has umpired ASA/USA Softball for over 35 years and has been a member of the ASA/USA Medals program since 1978. He became ISF Certified in 2004, is a member of the National Indicator Fraternity and is also an Elite Umpire. Hand is also an Elite Umpire. A member of the National Indicator Fraternity since 2003, Ewald III became ISF Certified in 2010 and became an Elite Umpire in 2011.

For the Pan American Games, Diane Carden (Newark, Del.) and Aaron Burns (Chandler, Ariz.) will represent ASA/USA Softball. Carden has umpired at 10 ASA/USA National Championships, including three ASA/USA 18U GOLD Nationals and a Women’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship. Carden was also a part of the umpiring staff at the World Cup of Softball VII in Oklahoma City. A member of the National Indicator Fraternity since 2000, Carden also earned her Elite Umpire honors in 2004 and is a member of the ASA/USA Umpire Medals Program at the Gold Level. She was also inducted into the Delaware ASA/USA Hall of Fame.

An umpire since the age of 12, Burns also has an extensive history as an ASA/USA umpire. In all, Burns has worked at eight ASA/USA National Championships, including two Men’s Major Fast Pitch Nationals and two ASA/USA 18U GOLD National Championships. A member of the National Indicator Fraternity since 2003, Burns has also been an Elite Umpire since 2011 and is a member of the ASA/USA Umpire Medals Program at the Gold Level.
Known as the softball capital of the world, the ASA Hall of Fame Complex is proud to welcome the world’s best 19-under fast pitch athletes to Oklahoma City August 9-15 for the 2015 WBSC Softball Junior Women’s World Championship.

Gold Pass tickets are on sale now and include all-session tickets for the seven-day event. With over 80 games to be played, it’s the ultimate ticket package for softball’s biggest fans! In addition to tickets to each and every game, Gold Pass ticket holders will also get an official event t-shirt, program, a personalized name slide on OGE Energy Field…all while watching the future stars of softball from the best seats in the house!

While the game schedule has yet to be announced, a record 18 countries are expected to participate, including the Top 5 finishing teams from the 2013 WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship.

Argentina
Australia
Brazil
Canada
China
Chinese Taipei
Columbia
Czech Republic
Ecuador
Great Britain
Italy
Japan
Mexico
Nigeria
New Zealand
Puerto Rico
Team USA
Venezuela

More information can be found at 2015 JWWC.com
Being a family member of Team USA has its benefits. Take advantage of partnership travel discounts.

Proud to fly Team USA

Book now
It’s OKC or bust for several teams looking to play at the legendary ASA Hall of Fame Complex and OGE Energy Field. With 30 events for the 2015 season, both youth and adult teams will have plenty of opportunities to take the field where legends and champions are made!

With the action having already kicked off March 6-8, several youth fast pitch tournaments comprise the March and April events leading up to the NCAA DII National Championship May 19-25. This marks the first time that the ASA Hall of Fame Complex will host the DII Championships.

For the 25th year, the NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) will bring softball fans from across the country to Oklahoma City. Held May 28-June 3, tickets are now available at NCAA.com/WCWS or by calling 800-591-9198.

The ASA Hall of Fame Complex will also continue its international softball resume as hosts of the 2015 WBSC Softball Junior Women’s World Championship. Fans will get the opportunity to see the future stars of softball at the 19-Under event when OKC welcomes 17 countries to OGE Energy Field to compete for the gold!
1 Website! 1 Association! 100’s of tournament listings!

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!
The most decorated player in USA Softball history and the only four-time Olympian, Laura Berg has gone down in history as one, if not the, best outfielder in softball history. Since taking the field for the first time with Team USA in 1994, Berg collected three Olympic Gold Medals, an Olympic Silver Medal, three Pan American Games Gold Medals and four World Championship Golds.

On February 28, Berg was honored with having her jersey retired at Fresno State, where she earned All-American honors and helped the Bulldogs to a National Championship in 1998. During her time at Fresno State, Berg helped lead the Bulldogs to three trips to the NCAA Women’s College World Series and ranked No. 2 in NCAA history in career hits. She was also the school record holder in runs, at-bats and triples and tied for the lead in career steals.
Now you can purchase S3 Chest Protector and S3 Multi-Flex Leg Guards directly from schuttstore.com.
FROM THE VAULT

Dottie Moore demonstrates the proper catching techniques, circa 1944.

A photo from opening ceremonies of the 1984 Men’s Major Industrial National Championship.

Members of the Westerners softball team pose before a game.

The 1966 USA Softball Men’s Fast Pitch National Team that won the Gold at the ISF World Championship in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Betty Doughman and Harry Turner have a bit of fun before a game.
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. How many NCAA softball games will be aired across the ESPN family of networks this NCAA season?

2. Name one athlete from each of the 2015 USA Softball National Teams.

3. Who won the Merle O. Butler Award of Excellence at the UIC Clinic in 2015?

4. When is the WBSC Softball Junior Women’s World Championship?

5. How many World Championship gold medals does Laura Berg have?
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