OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF ASA/USA SOFTBALL

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SEPTEMBER 2015

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THE LINEUP

4  Letter from the President
10  Faces on the Field – Get to know the athletes who play ASA/USA
18  News and Notes
21  Social Media – What the fans are saying
22  Meet your JO National Champions!
25  Team Miken cleans shop at ASA Stadium Power Tour Finals
27  Trainer Talk: The Dog Days of Summer
37  Get ready for the ASA/USA Annual Meeting
43  Ten ASA/USA players advance to MLB Pitch, Hit and Run finals
47  Pan American Games recap
52  ASA/USA umpires take on the world!
56  It’s a GOLDen summer for the USA Junior Eagles!
63  From the Vault
65  Balls and Strikes Trivia
GIVING IT

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Greetings everyone!

A fantastic summer of ASA/USA Softball was just completed featuring championship play in all divisions and classifications of Junior Olympic play throughout the country. Our Adult Program began championship play during the summer but will continue playing until the end of September. Congratulations to each of you who reached the ultimate goal of winning an ASA/USA National Championship. Those memories will be with you forever.

Also during the summer our National Teams participated in multiple international softball events. Our Men’s Slow Pitch Team participated in and won the annual Border Battle, which this year was held in Midland, Mich. This event, held in the Midwest area for the first time, was played before large and very enthusiastic fans. Our Men’s Fast Pitch National Team competed in the WBSC-Slowpitch Division World Championship as well as in the Pan American Games, both held in Canada. Although their run at each event ended without a medal, the team competed exceptionally well and very professionally. Our Women’s National Team participated in three events, the World Cup of Softball X, the Pan American Games and the Japan Cup. The Women earned Gold medals at the World Cup and the Japan Cup and earned Silver at the Pan American Games. Finally, during August our Junior Women’s National Team competed at the WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship hosted at our own ASA Hall of Fame Complex. Our Junior Women earned the Gold Medal by dominated play with outstanding performances, fantastic attitude and great coaching. Several offensive records were tied or broken, and through it all the comportment of our young ladies was impeccable. Congratulations and thank you to each one of our teams on a job well done.

From October 31 to November 6 the ASA/USA Softball Council will convene for its 84th Council Meeting at the Galt Hotel in Louisville, Ky. Council members, please visit our national website at www.asausasoftball.com or contact the National Office for important
Council Meeting information. I look forward to seeing each of you at this Annual Council Meeting.

Lastly, this is my final letter to the Balls and Strikes online magazine as President of ASA/USA Softball for my tenure as President ends at the conclusion of our Annual Council Meeting the first week of November. It has been a tremendous honor, an extreme privilege and a pleasure to serve as your President for the past two years. This is so because of the many people with whom I’ve worked with who have a great passion for serving others.

I’m very pleased with the accomplishments of ASA/USA Softball during the past two years. Today ASA/USA Softball is more diverse as we have more minorities and women serving in leadership roles. We are now a more transparent organization as information is more widely and readily disseminated, while all members are continually encouraged to participate in every facet of our organization. Our leadership, especially at the commissioner level, is now younger with many new and fresh ideas on how to move our association forward with increased participation. We cannot be all things to all softball people, but our aim now is to be the very best at what our members tell us matter the most to them. We listen and then, whenever possible and as quickly as possible, we make those changes that are appropriate.

ASA/USA Softball, the game for everyone!

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

Members of the Junior Women’s National Team hoist up the championship trophy after defeating Japan 8-1 in the gold medal game of the WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship in Oklahoma City!
The Lead Off:

Our youth championship season came to a close as over 30 teams were crowned ASA/USA National Champions! Read through this issue to find out the winners of our Junior Olympic (JO) program!
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JUST DO IT.
CAILEY, 14  
Bentonville, Arkansas  
NWA Knockouts 2000  
Girls’ 16-Under Fast Pitch  
Pitcher

**HER START**  
My dad started working with me when I was four years old.

**FAVORITE PART ABOUT PLAYING**  
My team and all the time we get to spend together.

**BEST EXPERIENCE**  
Winning the ASA 2015 Heartland Series!

**HOW SHE PLAYS THE GAME**  
I carry myself on and off the field the same way. Hard work and dedication is the key to everything you do! Respect your competition no matter what and always stay humble and respectful. Sportsmanship is key!

**TOUGHEST OBSTACLE**  
Learning to juggle school work and practice, games, etc...
AISLYN, 14
Spanish Fork, Utah • Utah Lady Lunatics
Girls’ 16-Under Fast Pitch • Pitcher/Shorstop

HER START
I started playing softball when I was six because my older sister was playing and learning how to pitch. I started to copy what she was doing and I started pitching before anything else (she never learned how to pitch!) By the time I was eight, I played on a travel 10-Under team, but only as a pitcher! I didn’t field a position at first and only hit in pool play. Over time, I worked hard to become a good hitter and a good fielder.

ROLE MODELS
Kelly Montalvo and Monica Abbott. Kelly is a tiny little third baseman that dominates the left side and is very energetic and expressive like me. I am only 5’5”, which isn’t tall for a pitcher, but small people can still be dominant. Monica is an amazing pitcher with no emotions, which is how I wish I could be sometimes. I got to watch her pitch a one-hitter in person and meet her and she is so competitive on the field and then so nice off the field.

GOAL
I would like to play professionally in Japan. I am learning Japanese and I know softball is more accepted as a professional sport in Japan.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL
My favorite thing about playing softball is teammates. I have some of the best teammates. They are so fun and supportive. I also get to meet a lot of girls on other teams and make a lot of friends. It’s always fun to go to tournaments and have lots of friends in different uniforms.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
I have bipolar disorder, which sometimes makes it hard to control my emotions. It was very hard to play at first because I would get so upset sometimes that all I could do was cry and cry. Sometimes I would be so hyper that I would be disruptive. You have to have fun in softball, but not be so out of control. Over time I have found ways to handle my changing emotions and be able to stay in the game and work hard, even when things are rocky.
MADISON, 12
Dacula, Georgia
Georgia Impact - Gusaeff
Girls' 12-Under Fast Pitch
Third Base/Shortstop

HER START
I begin playing at 5, after watching big sister play knew I wanted to play also.

FAVORITE PART ABOUT PLAYING
Defense, I love being on the dirt!

PROUDEST MOMENT
I am proud of a lot of my moments with my team. We work hard as a team and I love my teammates. They are my sisters!

GOALS
I am hoping that I will be able to play through college and then after that hoping to help coach maybe a college level.

ROLE MODELS
My big sister, Emilie. She is the best player that I know. I love watching her.
FACES ON THE FIELD

RYLIE, 12
Chesterfield, Mo.
St. Louis Worth Tigers
Girls’ 12-Under Fast Pitch
Pitcher/Shortstop/Third Base

HER START
I have been playing since first grade. I went to my brother’s baseball practice and have been playing ever since.

GOAL
I want to play in college and play in the NCAA Women’s College World Series!

PROUDEST MOMENT
I was selected as an ASA JO Player of the Week in 2014!

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
Coming back from a broken ankle this past summer. One week after getting my boot off I was playing in nationals with my team.

WHAT SHE LOVES ABOUT SOFTBALL
I love playing the sport and competing! I also enjoy spending my time with the girls on my team.
WHAT COULD YOU BUY FOR YOUR SOFTBALL TEAM WITH $2,500?

The Liberty Mutual Insurance Play Positive® Pledge Fall season is open. Now is your chance to earn $2,500 for your youth softball team!

How does it work?

1. **Register Your Team**
   The first step to participate is registering your youth sports team.

2. **Take The Pledge**
   Take the Pledge to promote good sportsmanship.

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   It’s a competition - you need to recruit support and rack up pledges.

Compete against youth sports teams from around the country to recruit the most number of supporters to pledge to promote good sportsmanship and your team could earn one of ten $2,500 grants. Get started by registering your team (it’s free) and then recruit your supporters. The Fall season ends October 15th. **Register your team now.**
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.

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ASA/USA PRIDE STARTS WITH YOU, BLUE!

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.

MATT, 15
Sioux Falls, S.D.
South Dakota ASA/USA Umpire
Umpires: Youth Fast Pitch
Started Umpiring: 2011

GOAL
To umpire college softball.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT UMPIRING ASA/USA SOFTBALL
Meeting other umpires and being around the game.

BEST EXPERIENCE IN UMPIRING SO FAR
Umpiring at the 2014 ASA/USA Girls’ 10-Under and 12-Under Western National Championships in Salem, Oregon.

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT
Getting the call at the plate in the championship game in Salem and third base in the championship game of the 18-Under Class B Nationals in Sioux Falls.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
My young age.

ASA/USA TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE
I’ve umpired at two ASA/USA National Championships and have also umpired South Dakota ASA/USA State Tournaments and the Ringneck International Tournament.
UMPIRE SPOTLIGHT

ASA/USA PRIDE STARTS WITH YOU, BLUE!

GERI, 52
Tempe, Ariz.
Arizona ASA/USA Umpire
Umpires: Youth and Adult Fast Pitch
Started Umpiring: 1995

ASA/USA UMPIRE AWARDS
I have attained the Gold Level of Excellence in the Medals Program, and am a member of the National Indicator Fraternity. I’m also Elite Umpire and ISF Certified.

WHY SHE LOVES UMPIRING
I like the camaraderie you feel with other umpires and how much everyone is trying to help everyone be a better umpire.

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT
This is a difficult question to answer since I have been given so many opportunities and am so grateful and proud of each one. I’ve been blessed to work several ASA/USA National Championships, my first International Championship, and the Women’s College World Series twice. I guess I’m most proud of the respect and support I have received from my peers, from my mentors, my teachers, my fellow umpires. That’s the thing that sticks with me no matter what.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT UMPIRING ASA/USA SOFTBALL
My favorite thing is the training and support ASA offers. There are many opportunities with umpire clinics and training through our local association as well as National Umpire Schools and Advanced Camps offered through the national office.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE
I just got back from working the WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship in Oklahoma City. That was absolutely one of the most memorable experiences of my umpiring career. To have the opportunity to meet and work with so many umpires (there were 24 of us) from so many different countries around the world and to be able to come together and work as a crew right from game one was such an amazing experience. I will never forget it!

Do you want to be profiled in “Balls and Strikes Online Softball Magazine” in the future?
Click here for information on how to submit your profile and photo.
BORDER BATTLE CHAMPS

Team USA once again came home with the Border Battle trophy after defeating Team Canada 22-7 (six innings) in Midland, Michigan. Team USA went 7-1 during the Border Battle tour while the USA Futures went 8-1. Read more about the Border Battle victory later in this issue.

2015 USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL COACHING SCHOOL

Coaches have the opportunity to attend the USA Softball National Coaching school, presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance, where they will receive instruction from current and former USA Softball Women’s National Team coaches Ken Eriksen, Laura Berg and Mike Candrea.

November 20-22, 2015 – Las Vegas, Nevada
Hosted by Nevada ASA, the school is open to the first 250 registering participants. Registration is $200 per-coach, but those who register by October 1 will receive an early bird rate of $175.
2015 ASA/USA CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES, PRESENTED BY WORTH

(Tournament-Location-Date or Champion)
Men’s Super Slow Pitch National Championship Finals – Oklahoma City, Okla. – October 1-2
Men’s Class A Slow Pitch National Championship Finals – Oklahoma City, Okla. – October 2-4
Men’s Class B Slow Pitch National Championship Finals – Oklahoma City, Okla. – C-Town/GTS (Boise, Idaho)
Men’s Class C Slow Pitch National Championship Finals – Oklahoma City, Okla. – Russell’s Paint and Body (Lake Mary, Fla.)
Men’s Class D Slow Pitch National Championship Finals – Oklahoma City, Okla. – October 2-4
Women’s Open National Championships – Oklahoma City, Okla. – October 2-4

TEAM USA WINS JAPAN CUP IN THRILLER OVER JAPAN

Team USA ended their 2015 season with a gold medal finish at the 2015 Japan Cup following a 2-1 (eight inning) thriller over tournament hosts Japan. With the game scoreless through regulation play, the U.S. plated two runs in the top of the eight off a two-run double from Michelle Moultrie (Jacksonville, Fla.) while Ally Carda (Elk Grove, Calif.) shined from the circle to earn the title of tournament MVP. Read more about Team USA’s gold medal finish at ASAUSAsoftball.com!
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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!

Late night in Roanoke: Diamond and Ice Softball wins 2015 ASA National Championship! Best of 80 teams and no losses!

- @Jbfoot

On celebrating World Softball Day: Indy Dreams 16U Gold playing ASA A State Tourney! Always great day watching softball!!!!

— Stephen Groves

That field was amazing to play on! I’ve never played on a nicer field... I’ll never forget the hall of fame tournament. Not only playing on the field was an honor but WINNING the hall of fame tourney in 2014 on that field was incredible. I stole a handful of dirt and I still keep it in my softball bag to this day for good luck!

- @paxton.hoop41

Congrats @ASAUSASoftball on winning the Jr Women’s World Championship! See you in Clearwater in 2017. #sportamplified

- @ClearwaterAth

On why they play softball: Softball has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I’ve always played it and will continue to do so, even when I’m 80 and use a walker! Lol!! This sport is a part of me, now and forever.

- @jerbear5

@STLMSUA @ASAUSASoftball it was such a wonderful summer umpiring #softball!! So many great tournaments! So excited about the fall season!

- @steviesunshine7

On their favorite sport quote: “Make your weaknesses your strengths and your strengths stronger” - the one and only Lisa Fernandez

- Jennifer Feret

Be sure to "Like" our pages or tweet at us for a chance to see your posts in the next issue!
ASA/USA National Champs!

2015 ASA/USA JO National Champions Are Crowned

ASA/USA Girls’ Class A 10-Under National Championship
Normal, Illinois – July 26 – August 2
Championship: Birmingham Vipers ’04 – 8, Heartland Havoc ’04 Red – 3
Click here for the complete bracket

ASA/USA Girls’ Class A 12-Under National Championship
Sacramento/Roseville, Calif. – July 27-August 2
Championship: Texas Sudden Impact – 4, Frost Falcons 2020 – 2
Click here for the complete bracket

ASA/USA Girls’ Class A 14-Under National Championship
Salem, Virginia – July 26-August 2
Championship: Southern Force Carroll – 2, Atlanta Premier – Perkins – 1
Click here for the complete bracket
ASA/USA Girls’ Class A 16-Under National Championship
Chattanooga, Tennessee – July 26 – August 2
Championship: Florida Fire ’98 – 2,
Williamsburg Starz 16U – 0
Click here for the complete bracket

ASA/USA Girls’ Class A 18-Under National Championship
Spartanburg, South Carolina – July 26 – August 2
Championship: Windermere Wildfire -Stutsman – 3,
Tampa Mustangs – Boynton – 1
Click here for the complete bracket

ASA/USA Girls’ 16-Under GOLD National Championship
Salem, Oregon – July 20 – 25
Championship: Nebraska GOLD – Heard – 3,
Originals - Self – 0
Click here for the complete bracket

ASA/USA Girls’ 18-Under GOLD National Championship
Hillsboro, Oregon – July 19 – 25
Championship: Beverly Bandits – 3,
Marucci Patriots Gold – 2
Click here for the complete bracket
Being a family member of Team USA has its benefits. Take advantage of partnership travel discounts.

Proud to fly
Team USA

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It all came down to 15 pitches as the top four ASA Long Haul Bombers slugged it to the finish line at the ASA Stadium Power Tour finals in Miami, Fla. It turned out to be a double header evening for Team Miken as Denny Crine earned his fourth Stadium Power Tour title after sending nine out of Marlins Park, sending many of his shots beyond the concourse in left field. Crine’s nine points won the day along with his Team Miken teammate Kevin Filby as the two gave Team Miken the Manufactures Cup title.

“*It feels great to be a four-time champ on the ASA Stadium Power Tour, but it’s even sweeter for Miken to win the Manufactures Cup. It was a dream season.*”

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**2015 ASA STADIUM POWER TOUR FINALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>Denny Crine</td>
<td>Miken</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Filby</td>
<td>Miken</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bubba Brungardt</td>
<td>DeMarini</td>
<td>7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Wegman</td>
<td>Easton</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Larsen</td>
<td>DeMarini</td>
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In classic movies and television shows we are reminded of the “good old days”. Days in which children spent their summer vacations from school down at the fishing hole, at the pool or even playing pick up baseball in a vacant lot while trying to avoid the biggest monster of a dog we had ever seen (sadly, you younger readers may not get the movie reference to *The Sandlot*). I think it’s safe to say that those days are long gone. Kids who are a part of youth sports, especially softball, find almost every weekend and a hefty portion of week nights taken up with practices and games. Then, come August and September, kids get thrown right back into the throngs of the added stresses of a school year. I think it’s important here to consider how best to adjust from a hectic, yet less diversified, summer schedule into an even more hectic school year.

In NCAA collegiate athletics these days, the saying echoed is that there is truly “no off season anymore.” Take for example a collegiate softball player’s routine. They come in during the summer to begin conditioning and sports performance training to gear up for fall ball. Fall ball consists of individual sessions that transform into team practices through the fall semester, with daily practices, exhibition games, and the continuation of strength and conditioning sessions. They get a few weeks off during the winter break to “rest” for spring ball; however, they are expected to continue to train to maintain what has been built during the fall semester. Upon return to school in January, the athletes jump right into a rigorous daily practice routine, and a game schedule of 55 games and up that doesn’t end until the summer months, where the process starts all over again. As if that isn’t stressful enough, we compound their day with classes, tutoring, study hall, film sessions, strength and conditioning sessions, other academic obligations (community service, etc.), and, the worst case scenario, rehabilitation and treatment programs if they sustain an injury. Time is of the essence, and truly there are never enough hours in the day.

The same holds true for youth athletes making that transition from the somewhat tunnel vision schedule of a sports filled summer back into an even busier school year. Young athletes often are multi-sport or multi-activity individuals that fill their time with school, sports, music, performing arts, etc. So how can we best help young athletes make that adjustment from a softball filled summer back into a multi-faceted school year? I think we have to look at the big picture and take into account several different areas.

**Time Management**

I think this is a vastly undervalued skill for today’s youth. Yes, we push our children to do a variety of activities to be well rounded and exposed to many areas of life; however,
are they really prepared to manage all of those activities? Teaching young athletes how to prioritize tasks not only teaches them how to best manage their time, but also gets them involved and gives them some accountability in their schedule to take some ownership of what they want. I can’t tell you how many athletes I see get to the college level that have NO idea how to make a schedule or even how to manage multiple assignments for multiple classes and their due dates. Helping them to see the value in time management over the summer months can help ease them back into managing a more rigorous academic year.

**Physical & Mental Well-being**

Getting back to the “no off season” theory...it’s ok to just let kids REST. There is much to be said about the value of rest and recovery both physical and (sometimes more importantly) mental for an athlete. The constant high demand on their time and nonstop schedule is both physically and mentally draining and if not addressed, can lead to burnout. I have had the privilege to work with some of the most elite coaches in the country...and those that continue to be successful are those that recognize the need for rest and recovery in their players. For example, Ken Eriksen, Team USA head coach and head coach at the University of South Florida, is highly in tune with the needs of his athletes. In past years he has had several collegiate players that have earned spots playing for their national teams (USA, Puerto Rico, Great Britain, etc.). When these athletes have returned to campus in the Fall, he has never waivered on the importance of shutting them down and allowing both their body and mind to have some downtime so that ultimately they can thrive and continue to perform at a high level. Some days, kids DO need to be couch potatoes and missing an occasional practice or game is warranted for overall health and well-being. When those school bells ring at the end of the year, it’s not a bad idea to let the kids have some time to decompress before diving right into their summer sports schedule. The same can be said coming off their summer schedule back into their school year. Allowing them to solely focus on school alone or one activity as opposed to a multitude of activities can elicit better performance in and out of the classroom.

**Intellectual & Physical Maintenance**

As adults we can all look back on our summer vacations and think about the transition back into school the next year as one of having to grease the squeaky wheels or oil the gears. During the summer months it is important to maintain some intellectual stimulation as well as maintain physical performance gained throughout the summer. I think it is completely appropriate for kids to keep up their academic prowess over the summer. Reading a book, doing a workbook with math and science problems, or even having them research a topic they are interested in can help keep the mind sharp without overwhelming them. In addition to keeping the mind healthy, it is important that they maintain their physical status heading back into the school year to avoid soreness and, knock on wood, injury. Daily mobility, flexibility, and injury prevention work help prepare the body for the increased demands placed on it when they kick it up a notch and participate in multiple sports or activities come the start of the school year.

Inevitably, summer ends every year and the kids go, often times grudgingly, back to school. The transition from an enjoyable, usually sports-filled summer vacation back to the daily grind of school year routine can be hard. I think taking into account some of the areas mentioned above serve to help lessen the blow, and better prepare our young athletes to make the transition as easy as possible.
THE FEEL OF POWER

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A catcher on the Lady Hustle team frames the pitch during the ASA/USA Girls’ 18U Class A Western Championship in Hayward, Calif.

The ladies of Crunch ’02 celebrate after claiming the ASA/USA Girls’ 12U Class B Northern National Championship in Rochester, Minn.

An umpiring crew stops to take a picture at the ASA/USA 18U GOLD in Hillsboro, Ore.

An athlete on the Williamsburg Starz leaps up to catch a line drive during the ASA/USA Girl’s 16U Class A National Championship in Chattanooga, Tenn.

A pitcher from the Wisconsin Lightning gets ready to fire it in during the ASA/USA Girls’ 10U Class A Northern Championship in Rochester, Minn.

An outfielder on the Jacksonville Storm 2000 throws in a ball during the ASA/USA Girls’ 14U Class A National Championship in Salem, Va.

A pitcher from the C-Town/GTS celebrates after claiming the Men’s Class B Slow Pitch Championship in Oklahoma City.

MEET THE STARS OF THE SUMMER OF SOFTBALL
There can only be one champion at one of the most prominent tournaments in the Junior Olympic (JO) play for ASA/USA Softball. This year’s 16U GOLD was held in Salem, Ore. at Wallace Marine Park, an outstanding softball complex surrounded by breathtaking greenery and the mighty Willamette River. The games on the field were intense all week, as 35 of the best teams from all across the United States were competing for the right to be a national champion.

The championship featured the Originals-Self against Nebraska Gold. Originals-Self had battled their way back into the National Championship by winning seven straight games, including three earlier in the day on Championship Saturday while Nebraska Gold won the winners’ bracket after steamrolling opponents. They entered the championship matchup after going 5-0 in the tournament while outscoring teams 23-4. With a tied score late and needing a win to force a ‘winner-take-all’ championship game, the Originals-Self exploded in the bottom of the sixth inning to get a 10-6 win.

Game two, however, would have a different outcome. Strong pitching by Olivia Ferrell held Originals-Self scoreless for seven innings to boost
Nebraska Gold to a 3-0 victory, earning them the 16U GOLD National Championship.

In total, Nebraska Gold went 9-1 throughout the entire tournament. They dominated not only the bracket, but also pool play, outscoring opponents 21-4 while going 3-0. Their only loss was in the first game of the National Championship.

“I’m very proud of how the team handled themselves all week,” said Nebraska Gold head coach Mike Heard. “I’m also proud of how we bounced back and handled the adversity of losing the first game of the championship. Something we’ve talked about all year was building on the positive and not the negative. Courtney Sandell had a great tournament and was one of the key players to our success this week. I’d also like to thank the Salem and the tournament directors for this tournament. It was an amazing experience out here.”

Far left, Nebraska Gold One: Nebraska Gold’s Courtney Sandell mid swing. At left, the phrase ‘Road To Gold,’ is used by many around the country, at Wallace Marine Park there’s actually a gold road! Below, a Nebraska Gold runner slides in safely.
Just 53 miles north of Salem and the 16U GOLD National Championship, teams continued to battle for the 18U GOLD National Championship in Hillsboro, Ore. This year’s 18U GOLD was hosted by Oregon ASA/USA Softball at Gordon Faber Recreation Complex and PCC Rock Creek Sports Complex. Teams arrived to a welcome gathering at the beginning of the week that featured great food, a ‘dunk tank,’ a Home Run Derby Contest, a photo booth and a dance floor with a DJ. Fifty-three teams came to Hillsboro with their sights set on winning a national championship.

During pool play, Jeff Standish, a coach for the Virginia Legacy Elite 18U GOLD, passed away while his team was in Oregon. Every field at each of the GOLD National Championships participated in a powerful moment of silence before the first game of the day. Teams continued to find ways to honor Standish in Hillsboro, as several teams wore blue ribbons in their games.

The action on the field was exciting all week long, culminating in a tightly
contested national championship game. The 18U championship featured the Beverly Bandits, from Ohio and the Marucci Patriots, from Louisiana. Earlier on Championship Saturday, both of these teams played one another in the winners’ bracket finals as the Beverly Bandits won 15-3 to seal their spot in the championship game. The Marucci Patriots would go on to beat Washington Explosion Gold 5-1 to force a championship rematch with the Bandits.

Unlike their first matchup earlier in the day, the title game was a back and forth affair as the Beverly Bandits won the national championship 3-2.

“It was a privilege and an honor to play in the 18 GOLD against awesome teams and in these exceptional facilities in Hillsboro,” said Beverly Bandits head coach Rona Dorsey. “Our team fought hard together and it was an amazing experience. Our team would like to thank everyone who put this tournament together.”
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ASA/USA SOFTBALL’S ANNUAL MEETING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

The clock is ticking to register for the 84th ASA/USA Softball Annual Meeting to be held in Louisville, Ky. from Oct. 30-Nov. 6, 2015. This year’s host will be the Galt House Hotel, located in the heart of downtown Louisville. Over 300 voting members of the National Council for ASA/USA Softball will be in attendance. Anyone is welcome to attend the week-long annual meeting. This year’s tradeshow will take place on Wednesday, November 4, and interested vendors have until October 1 to submit their application.

The 35th Annual National Softball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on Saturday, November 7. Inductees include posthumous umpire Bonnie Anderson (Springfield, Ore.), slow pitch player John Davide (Centereach, N.Y.), commissioner Andy Dooley (Thaxton, Va.), meritorious service inductee Sue Enquist (San Clemente, Calif.), umpire Mark Ingrao (Falls Church, Va.), meritorious service inductee Charles Moss, Sr. (Lanexa, Va.), fast pitch player Steve Padilla (Manteca, Calif.), and fast pitch player Mike White (Eugene, Ore.). The “Swing For A Cause” golf tournament is also back this year as the annual event benefits the ASA/USA Special Programs and Special Olympics NIT. Registration is due to Andy Dooley by October 17, 2015. This year’s tournament will take place at the Cherokee Golf Course and there are limited club rentals available.

For additional information (forms for council members, training session information, etc.) on the 84th Annual Meeting, visit the event page.
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Thirty-six teams from 15 states were represented at the Men’s Class C Slow Pitch National Championship in Oklahoma City. Russell’s Paint and Body defeated OC 28-24 in an exciting and intense national championship game on OGE Energy Field. OC emerged from the loser’s bracket after winning two games earlier in the day and had to beat Russell’s in back-to-back games to be named national champions.

This was Russell’s Paint and Body’s fourth time to Oklahoma City to compete and second time to win the Class C National Championship as their first came in 2005. Players and coaches remarked that it special to win the national championship in their first and tenth years together as a team.

“OC was a heck of a team, as we played them at the McQuades tournament a few months ago in North Dakota,” said Russell Robinson, head coach of Russell’s Paint and Body. “They played us tough then and I didn’t dream that we would be playing them in a national championship game. They are a very good hitting team. I think in the end that our pitching and defense is what won it for us in the end. A lot of teams just hit, but pitching and good defenses is what makes a team great.”
There's a new champ in town as C-Town/GTS/Beus Excavation/Action Garage Door defeated Above All Landscaping 23-22 in the championship game of the 2015 ASA/USA Men’s Class B Slow Pitch National Championship. Check out the list of All-Americans and visit our Facebook page for a photo gallery from the weekend event!

**MVP**
Brad Carleson
Outfielder
C-Town

**Batting Champion**
Nick Peterson
All-American Restoration
(.833)

**HR Leaders**
David Miller
Tim Bowser
Chris Hoffer
Reggie Schulte
8 home runs each

**IF**
Chaun DeMars
T's 13

**IF**
David Miller
Above All Landscaping

**IF**
Tim Bowser
Fence Brokers Inc.

**IF**
Michael Cervantes
Fence Brokers Inc.

**IF**
Ryan Goodman
C-Town

**IF**
Michael Powers
C-Town

**OF**
Christopher Hoffer
Tailgaters

**OF**
Brad Carleson
C-Town

**OF**
Nick Peterson
All American Restoration

**OF**
Jon Gastineau
C-Town

**UT**
Clint Murray
Above All Landscaping

**UT**
Steven Whaley
Fence Brokers Inc.

**UT**
Willie Allen
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For the first time since 2003, both the USA Softball Men’s and Women’s National Teams participated in the Pan American Games in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in July. It was a silver medal finish for the women, who went undefeated throughout the Pan American Games before dropping a 4-2 extra inning heartbreaker to Canada, while the men came just one game shy of a medal finish.

Proudly representing the Red, White and Blue, the Men’s National Team roster was comprised of 14 rookies and one veteran, finishing the Pan American Games with a 2-4 record. Finishing in fourth place, the U.S. Men came just one run shy of the win in their loss against Venezuela as the majority of the game was a pitching duel.

USA’s Tony Mancha (Las Cruces, N.M.) and Venezuela’s Ramon Jones came out strong in the top of the first inning. Both sides would get a runner on base in the first inning as Matt Palazzo (Pleasant Hill, Iowa) reached on a walk and Mancha issued a leadoff single, but both defenses stood behind their pitchers to keep the game scoreless. Venezuela would hit the would-be game winning home run.

Tony Mancha was lights out in the circle, finishing the Pan Am Games with 28 Ks.
in the bottom of the second inning. Mancha came back on fire, however, issuing two strikeouts and a fly out to keep the game close as Venezuela took the 1-0 lead.

The U.S. was kept off the bases until the top of the fourth inning as Josh Johnson (El Paso, Texas) connected for a two-out double down the left field line but was stranded at second base with a groundout. Team USA would get another opportunity to plate a run in the top of the sixth inning when Derrick Zechman (Watsontown, Pa.) reached base on a walk and moved to second on a single from Palazzo. With two outs already in the inning, a groundout to the first basemen kept the U.S. off the board.

Down to their final at-bat, the U.S. looked to get a rally going with a pair of leadoff base runners. Chase Turner (San Jose, Calif.) started the charge with a double to shallow right field and advanced to second base when Kris Bogach (Huguenot, N.Y.) was hit by a pitch. A strikeout would keep the runners at bay before they advanced on a ground out from Nick Mullins (Toms River, N.J.). Down to their final out, Pat Sagdal (Richland, Wash.) drilled a hard ground ball right back at the pitcher, who snagged the ball at the last second to get the last out of the game.

The U.S. Men finished the Pan American Games with a team batting average of .196 and were led by Zechman, who finished with a .333 (4-for-12) average and .579 on-base percentage. Mancha led the U.S. pitching staff in the circle, pitching 23 complete innings with 28 strikeouts and a 0.91 ERA.
Fresh off the program’s eighth World Cup of Softball title, the USA Softball Women’s National Team headed to Toronto for the Pan American Games. With a roster of 12 Pan American Games rookies and three veterans, Team USA rolled through the competition before ultimately falling 4-2 in extra innings to host country Canada.

It was a pitcher’s duel through the majority of the game as the teams remained scoreless through regulation play, forcing the international tiebreaker (ITB) rule. With the ITB rule in effect, Canada started the top of the eighth with a runner on second base. The first batter would reach on an error by the defense to put two on with no outs before a ground out to Sierra Romero (Murrieta, Calif.) at third advanced the runners a base. An intentional walk loaded the bases before Canada pushed across the first runs of the game with a hard hit two-run single from Joey Lye. With runners on second and third, an intentional walk to Kaleigh Rafter loaded the bases for the second time in the inning with one out. A sacrifice fly pushed across another run to grab the lead.

WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAM SCOREBOARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>RESULT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>USA 9, Puerto Rico 2 (six innings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>USA 7, Brazil 0 (five innings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>USA 7, Canada 0 (six innings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>USA 9, Cuba 2 (six innings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>USA 11, Dominican Republic 0 (four innings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>USA 5, Canada 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>Canada 4, USA 2 (eight innings), USA takes silver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kellie Fox prepares to swing in a 9-2 U.S. win over Cuba.
run for Canada before a two-out single plated the final run for Canada to give them the 4-0 lead.

Down by four runs, Team USA started with Kellie Fox (San Diego, Calif.) on second base per the ITB rule. A walk to Haylie McCleney (Morris, Ala.) put two on with no outs before Raven Chavanne (Thousand Oaks, Calif.) dropped in a fly ball single to left field to plate Fox to close the lead to 4-1. Kelsey Stewart (Wichita, Kan.) advanced the runners with a grounder to the third baseman before Lauren Gibson (Pasadena, Md.) collected an RBI on a ground out to second base. With two outs and a runner on third, a walk to Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif.) put runners on the corner, but a strikeout drew the game to a close with Canada earning their second Pan American Games Gold.

The USA Women finished the Pan American Games with a team batting average of .375 and were led by Fox who boasted a .562 (9-for-16) batting average with three home runs, six RBI and a 1.250 slugging percentage. Sara Nevins led the U.S. pitching staff in the circle, pitching 17 and one-third innings with 21 strikeouts and a 0.40 ERA.

For photos and videos from the Pan American Games, click here
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ASA/USA umpires are nationally recognized as the best-trained and proficient in the sport and are constantly involved in competition on the local and national level. The ultimate reward for an umpire is to officiate at a World Championship, such as the Pan American Games and various World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) World Championships.

This past summer, several ASA/USA umpires were chosen to represent the United States at the Men’s and Women’s Pan American games in Toronto, the WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship (JWWC) in Oklahoma City and the Men’s World Championship in Saskatoon, Canada.

“Being selected to umpire any international championship is identical to the feeling that the players on Team USA have,” said Tim Ellis, an ASA/USA umpire from Fort Worth. “Twenty years ago, I had no idea where umpiring for ASA/USA Softball would lead to.”

Ellis was chosen to umpire at the JWWC, in which six ASA/USA umpires were a part of. Geri Magwire, from Arizona, also shared how she felt umpiring with Ellis and others at the WBSC JWWC in Oklahoma City. “Working the JWWC was an amazing experience and one that I will never forget,” said Magwire. “It was one of the most incredible experiences of my umpiring career and to represent ASA/USA Softball at an international championship held right here in the heartland of the United States. Words cannot convey the pride I have from being a part of such a great event.”

Diane Carden traveled from Delaware to Toronto to umpire at the Women’s Pan American games in Toronto this past summer and felt the same pride for America despite being in another country.

“Umpiring at the Pan American games was one of the best experiences of my life,” said
Carden. “It was absolutely amazing and I could not have been more proud to represent ASA/USA Softball. It was my mission to make those who selected me proud.”

One thing that is common about umpiring is that friendships are formed very quickly, as was proven true at these international championships that Carden, Magwire and Ellis were a part of.

“The camaraderie of the umpire group at the JWWC on and off the field was palpable,” said Magwire. “I believe we had umpires from 14 different countries and it felt like we all had been working together. Making lifelong friendships is the ultimate reward.”

Carden felt the same way about the friendships that were formed. “It’s cool how my umpire family has expanded to knowing people around the world. Working with my new friends who share the same passion for the game as I do is priceless.”

There are many ways that young umpires can improve their skills in hopes of one day being selected to umpire at an international championship.

“Anyone aspiring to umpire on the highest level needs to attend the local clinics that their Umpire-In-Chief puts on,” said Ellis. “The fundamentals all start there. They should also attend regional and national camps and clinics. Steps like this and learning from more experienced umpires can allow aspiring umpires to be able to work an international championship one day.”

Carden, Ellis and Magwire all hope to work future international championships in hopes to experience the unmatched atmosphere and to represent their country again.

“There is nothing else that can compare to umpiring at an international championship,” said Carden.

Above left, Italy’s Sabrina Fabrizi and Tim Ellis come together to discuss a call at the WBSC JWWC. Left, Dora Martinez, Aaron Burns and Diane Carden at the Toronto 2015 Pan American Games.
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It was a summer to remember for members of the USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team. Seeking to reclaim their spot as the world’s best 19-under team, the Junior Eagles did so in striking fashion, defeating reigning world champion Japan 8-1 in the championship game of the WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship, held August 9-15 in Oklahoma City. The U.S. was hot at the plate all week, leading the tournament with a .425 team batting average while combining for 12 home runs.

The U.S. offense was the story of the WBSC JWWC as the team scored 119 runs in 10 games played, winning seven of those games via run-rule.

“I can’t speak more highly of this team,” said head coach Tairia Flowers (Tucson, Ariz.). “The way that they approached this tournament was amazing. Every pitch I felt we were locked in and everyone contributed. I’m extremely proud of them.”

It was a perfect ending to U.S. slugger Alyssa Palomino (Mission Viejo, Calif.), who was lights out at the plate for Team USA. Palomino sealed her spot in the record books in WBSC JWWC history, breaking the record.
for most RBI with 27 while tying the home run record with five. Both records were previously set in 1995 by U.S. Olympic legend Stacey Nuveman.

“It feels pretty good to set records,” said Palomino. “I was told after the games that I did, but honestly that wasn’t my goal. Winning the gold medal was all that mattered.”

Team USA’s ace from the circle Kelly Barnhill (Marietta, Ga.) summed up her experience over the summer perfectly.

“This summer has been an amazing experience. I’ve seen these girls in travel ball and many have seen one another in college. Getting to know these girls and to play for USA has been an honor. Tonight we came together and showed everyone what Team USA is made of.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>RESULT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 9</td>
<td>USA 10, Chinese Taipei 0 (four innings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>USA 20, Italy 0 (three innings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>USA 6, Australia 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 11</td>
<td>USA 16, Brazil 0 (four innings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 11</td>
<td>USA 7, Puerto Rico 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 12</td>
<td>USA 16, Mexico 0 (three innings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 12</td>
<td>USA 7, Czech Republic 0 (five innings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 13</td>
<td>USA 15, Canada 0 (three innings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 14</td>
<td>USA 14, Japan 2 (five innings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>USA 8, Japan 1, USA wins GOLD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Team USA came out on top early en route to a 22-7 (six inning) win over Canada in Border Battle VII. The seventh annual competition took place at Dow Diamond, home of the Great Lake Loons in Midland, Mich., where the U.S. connected for eight home runs in the run-rule win.

Bryson Baker (Woodland, Calif.) and Brett Helmer (Cicero, N.Y.) both homered in the first inning to put the U.S. out to an early lead. Luis Reyna (Tampa, Fla.) and Kevin Bazat (Columbia, Mo.) broke open the game in the second inning as each of them had triples, which pushed the U.S. to an eight run lead in second. Canada finally got on board in the third with a home run to left field.

Team USA continued to roll throughout the game as Canada threatened briefly in the fourth before a Dale Brungardt (Vancouver, Wash.) two-run home run solidified the lead. Team USA scored eight more from there to decide the game by run-rule in six innings. Baker racked up eight RBI on five hits for the U.S. He homered in the first, second and fifth innings, doubled in the sixth and singled in the third. Team USA hit eight home runs in the win.

Border Battle VII was part of a weeklong exhibition tour with the Men’s Slow Pitch and Future’s Slow Pitch National Team. Both teams participated in round-robin games against local ASA/USA slow pitch teams in addition to Team Canada and Canada Selects. The sole loss for Team USA came at the hands of the Futures as the two teams went 1-1 against the other.
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U.S. Men earn Placement Championship at WBSC Worlds

Team USA fought their way to a ninth place finish at the WBSC Men’s World Championship in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, finishing with a 7-3 overall record. The U.S. secured a spot in the placement division of the championship after rolling past Denmark 9-2 in six innings.

“We certainly didn’t finish where we wanted at the World Championships,” said head coach Denny Bruckert (Gillespie, Ill.). “We had two close losses that were the difference in making the playoff round. I really thought we played well except the lost to Australia. The Venezuela loss was really hard as I thought we did outplay them but calls sure didn’t fall our way. We regrouped and played three really nice ball games to end on a positive note.”

The Red, White and Blue came out big in their final day at the WBSC Men’s World Championship, notching wins over Guatemala and Mexico. In their first game of the placement division, the U.S. was powered by Gerald Muizelaar (Grand Forks, N.D.) in the circle en route to a 4-0 win over Guatemala. Muizelaar racked up 12 strikeouts in the victory stifling the Guatemala batters allowing just three hits over seven shutout innings.

The U.S. followed with a close fought 4-3 win over Mexico to capture the placement division championship. Tony Mancha (Las Cruces, N.M.) recorded 12 strikeouts in the game, allowing three earned runs and two walks. Six U.S. batters contributed a hit a piece in the placement game victory.

WBSC Worlds Scoreboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>RESULT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>USA 7, Mexico 0 <em>(six innings)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>USA 6, Dominican Republic 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>Japan 5, USA 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>USA 4, Netherlands 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Venezuela 3, USA 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>Australia 8, USA 0 <em>(five innings)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>USA 9, Denmark 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>USA 4, Guatemala 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>USA 4, Mexico 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Above, the Junior Women’s National Team. Right, Team USA’s Janelle Lindvall tags out a Japan runner attempting to go home on a hit.

Head coach Ken Eriksen holds up the gold after the U.S. defeated Japan in the championship game.

Above, Team USA took gold. Left, Junior Women’s National Team athlete Jenavee Peres waits for the pitch in her at-bat against Mexico.

JWNT athlete Jenna Lilley outruns a play at first base in a game against Mexico.

Check out photos from the World Cup of Softball X in Irvine, Calif., where the Women’s National Team claimed the title! The Junior Women’s National Team also claimed a fifth place finish.
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.

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FROM THE VAULT

Iva Poston of the Tucson Ramblers takes a picture before a game.

Bill Griglock, a manager for the Raybestos Cardinals, takes a picture for the team’s program.

An early look at construction on the ASA/USA National Office in Oklahoma City.

Gary Hanke, a member of the Local 57 softball team, boasted some serious guitar skills in addition to his fast pitch abilities!

Members of the PBSW Ramblers take a fun picture for a team program.
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