OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USA SOFTBALL

BALLS AND STRIKES

2018 // ISSUE 1

THE LEGACY:

85 YEARS OF USA SOFTBALL

USA SOFTBALL

USAsoftball.com
SHOW YOUR
#USASOFTBALL PRIDE
ALL YEAR LONG!

SHOP THE LATEST STYLES AT
USASOFTBALLSTORE.COM,
THE OFFICIAL ONLINE STORE OF USA SOFTBALL!
THE LINEUP

4 Letter from the President
9 Faces on the Field – Get to know the athletes who play USA Softball
12 Proud to be a Blue – Get to know the umpires of USA Softball
19 The Legacy: 85 years of USA Softball
24 Strength and Conditioning Tips with Haylie McCleney
36 Meet the 2018 National Teams
40 National Team Check-in – Courtney Gano
42 USA Softball Athletes of the Year
50 What I wish my 16 year old self knew
51 Practice makes perfect – How to get the most out of a softball practice
53 Recruiting Do’s and Don’ts
54 Five tips to become the best student-athlete
56 Social Media Do’s and Don’ts
57 2018 Hall of Fame spotlight
61 From the Vault
62 Balls & Strikes Trivia
NIKE SOFTBALL CAMPS OFFERED NATIONWIDE

NEW! NIKE SOFTBALL CAMP TOUR IS HEADING TO AUSTRALIA THIS SUMMER! GO TO USSPORTCAMPS.COM/SOFTBALL TO LEARN MORE...

1-800-NIKE-CAMP (645-3226) | USSPORTSCAMPS.COM/SOFTBALL
When it comes to our responsibility as an organization, there is nothing more important than protecting our athletes and participants. Helmets, shin guards and face masks have long been employed to protect the physical well being of those who play softball from the possibility of injury that goes with playing our game. But what about protecting them from something else? Something far more sinister? Lately the news has been filled with stories of abuse and misconduct, stretching from the glitz of Hollywood to college campuses and Olympic training centers. When will it end? I say it must end now.

I am proud to say that USA Softball began educating its coaches and conducting background checks at a time when doing those things were the exception, not the rule. We did it for one reason, because it was the right thing to do. We take protecting our members very seriously and are proud to have been among the leaders when it comes to those types of initiatives. Some criticized us, saying that money was the motivation behind our actions. Meanwhile they sat back and allowed anyone to join their ranks and attempted to use our requirements against us.

Now, the reality of what can happen when a blind eye is turned has come to light. The despicable actions of certain individuals and the subsequent public testimony by the brave athletes who were victims has placed athlete safety at the forefront of the minds of the public and those in charge, which is where it should have been all along. Sadly, it took those horrors to bring home the reality of what COULD happen and indeed what DID happen.

This has led to the creation of SafeSport, an initiative that was passed by Congress in 2017. Out of this initiative the U.S. Center for SafeSport was created. Funding for the Center comes from the National Governing Bodies (NGB’s) of the Olympic Sports, which includes USA Softball. The mission of SafeSport is to make athlete well being the centerpiece of our nation’s sports culture and emphasize that all athletes deserve to participate in sports free from bullying, hazing, sexual misconduct or any form of emotional or physical abuse.

SafeSport provides education and outreach, as well as a reporting platform where individuals can report allegations of misconduct confidentially. Upon receiving a complaint, SafeSport, not the NGB, conducts an investigation and issues the discipline. In fact, if allegations of misconduct are reported to an NGB like USA Softball we are mandated to report it to SafeSport and not take any further action. This ensures that an unbiased third party makes the decision, not the respective NGB.

While we are saddened by the reasons for the creation of SafeSport, USA Softball welcomes this type of transparency and supports the process wholeheartedly. No athlete, male or female, young or old, should ever have to endure any kind of abuse. Sports should be a way to build character, camaraderie and teach the values of teamwork and good sportsmanship. It should not be a place where those who seek to perpetrate crimes of abuse feel comfortable. In fact, it is our hope that Congress takes it a step further and mandates that ALL sports organizations become part of the SafeSport initiative, not just the NGB’s.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the SafeSport web site, which can be found at SafeSport.org. Know your rights and do not hesitate to report any conduct that falls within the scope of SafeSport reporting. It is my sincere hope that we can rid the world of sports of the type of individual that seeks to hurt our athletes and by working together I know we can make it happen.

John Gouveia
GC.COM/USASOFTBALL
OFFICIAL AND PREFERRED SCOREKEEPING APP OF USA SOFTBALL

SIMPLE SCOREKEEPING
STATS & SPRAY CHARTS
TEAM MESSAGING
LIVE GAME UPDATES

GC.COM/USASOFTBALL
It's the most wonderful time of the year! That's right...it's softball time in Oklahoma City! The sun will be shining, the lines will be chalked and teams from across the country will have the opportunity to play at the Softball Capital of the World®! See what events are happening at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex on page 21.
Later this year, eight softball legends will be enshrined into the National Softball Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2018. In this issue of Balls & Strikes Magazine, we highlight two inductees: Dick Brubaker and Crystl Bustos. Read about their accolades on page 57.
A NEW GOLD STANDARD

30 DAY PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE

HIT IT FOR 30 DAYS. IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, RETURN IT FOR A FULL REFUND. VISIT RAWLINGS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS
Every year, USA Softball 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 Bonnie, Kailey and Layla… athletes who are proud to play #USASoftball!

**BONNIE, 10**
Stansbury Park, Utah
Grantsville Cowboys
Girls’ 12-Under Class A Fast Pitch Catcher

**HER START**
I started when I was seven as an unknown athlete in the recreation league. I was drafted for the spring league in the last round and by summer I made the All-Star Team and haven’t stopped since!

**GOALS IN SOFTBALL**
To have good sportsmanship.

**BEST EXPERIENCE IN SOFTBALL**
When we play against hard teams and I get to help my teammates to not get scared. It’s fun to help them.

**TOUGHEST OBSTACLE**
Playing a lot of games in tournaments in the heat of summer.

**WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF**
Becoming a catcher. When my coach thought I’d be a good catcher when I was eight years old I was nervous. I’m glad she had me try because now I really like it and I am good at it.

**SOFTBALL WISDOM**
Softball is life, but you have to get good grades too!
FACES ON THE FIELD

KAILEY, 17
Aurora, Colo.
Colorado Styxx Gold
Girls’ 18-Under Fast Pitch GOLD
First Base

FAVORITE THING ABOUT PLAYING SOFTBALL
The camaraderie with my teammates and coaches every time we hit the field. It’s the best!

GOALS IN SOFTBALL
To play college softball, professionally and hopefully one day the Olympics!

BEST EXPERIENCE IN SOFTBALL
There are so many, but one highlight was going to University of Alabama hitting camp and getting to meet Coach Murphy and the University of Alabama team.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
I had a complete tear of my ACL the summer before my junior year and had to have ACL reconstruction surgery. I missed my junior season, but worked extremely hard to come back strong my senior year. I led the state and country in just about every hitting category for fall high school softball.

WHO ARE YOUR ROLE MODELS IN THE GAME
Haylie Mccleney from Alabama, Kasey Cooper from Auburn, and Shay Knighten from Oklahoma.

ON WHAT SOFTBALL HAS TAUGHT HER
Softball has really taught me so many life lessons and that hard work really does pay off. Coming back from a horrible injury was quite a journey. I had many offers before my injury and most of them disappeared when I got hurt. I was determined to get back to my game and be even better than I was before and I have now committed to play Division I softball in the Big East Conference at Creighton University.
LAYLA, 9
Sacramento, Calif.
Heart Breakers
Girls’ 8-Under Fast Pitch
Pitcher and First Base

HER START
I was four. I watched my mommy and daddy play softball and I wanted to learn to be good like them.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT PLAYING SOFTBALL
Oh, this is easy. Chasing the Geese off the field before practice and also touching home plate.

GOALS IN SOFTBALL
To make new friends and get exercise and maybe one day play for the San Francisco Giants!

BEST EXPERIENCE IN SOFTBALL
I played in my first tournament during winter ball. We made it super far into the tournament but didn’t win...but I got an awesome tie-dye shirt from it!

ON BEING A GOOD TEAMMATE
Even if you’re not the best you are still a valuable part of the team. If you keep practicing you will be that girl you want to be.

SOFTBALL CHANT
Sacramento girls’ softball is the BEST! Heartbreakers!! Heartbreakers!! BUMP BUMP BUMP!!!!!!
Every year, USA Softball registers over 25,000 umpires across the U.S. From the local level to the international stage, USA Softball 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 a USA Softball Umpire! Here, we feature Jamie, a USA Softball umpire from Michigan.

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT UMPIRING USA SOFTBALL:**
The competitive nature of the sport. USA Softball has a high level of professionalism for the teams and fellow umpires.

**GOALS IN UMPIRING:**
To continue to work at the highest level available.

**BEST EXPERIENCE IN UMPIRING SO FAR:**
Umpiring at Border Battle.

**HAVE YOU EVER UMPIRED AT A USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:**
I have been fortunate to be selected to numerous State and National Championships.

**USA SOFTBALL UMPIRE AWARDS:**
I’m a charter member of the Elite Umpire Program, am a Gold Medals Program member, am in the National Indicator Fraternity and am WBSC Certified.

**TOUGHEST OBSTACLE TO OVERCOME:**
In the early years, looking and gaining respect as a young umpire. In the later years, trying to keep up with the speed of the game.
CUSTOMIZE YOUR PLAYER.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR TEAM.

CUSTOMIZE THE SPORT.

NIKETEAM.NIKE.COM

ENGINEERED TO THE EXACT SPECIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETES

JUST DO IT.
NEWS & NOTES

DRE MCKEE HIRED AS NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

USA Softball is excited to announce the hiring of Dre McKee (Tulsa, Okla.) as the new Managing Director of Marketing for the National Office. McKee, who has been a part of the USA Softball Membership Department since 2016 as an Event Coordinator, will oversee all marketing, promotion and sponsorship initiatives for USA Softball.

MEN’S MASTERS FAST PITCH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

USA Softball is excited to welcome teams and fans at the 2018 USA Softball Men’s Masters Fast Pitch National Championship this summer in Oklahoma City. With teams set to compete in the 40-Over and 50-Over division, this marks the first time since 2007 that the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex has held a men's fast pitch event. Watch the video to learn more about this exciting National Championship!

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A USA SOFTBALL ALL-AMERICAN?

The USA Softball All-American Games return to the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex June 29-July 1! Featuring 360 of the top 12-Under athletes from across the country, can Region 5 defend their All-American Games title or will a new Region be crowned?
USA Softball, together with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), is committed to enabling a safe environment for participants involved in USA Softball. As the National Governing Body of Softball under the USOC, USA Softball is required to communicate information to its members regarding SafeSport, and the importance of this matter.

Please watch the video on page 45 that the U.S. Center for SafeSport has made available to each National Governing Body to share with its members for important information on SafeSport.

USA Softball JO Commissioners Meet in OKC

Over 100 USA Softball Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioners and other representatives from across the country visited Oklahoma City for the 2018 JO Workshop. Featuring instructional and informative sessions on topics in youth softball, the JO Workshop also honored JO Commissioners for their Years of Service to the JO program.

The 2019 Biennial Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) Clinic is less than a year away and the plans to make this a “Clinic for the Ages” are underway! Our theme for 2019 is: USA Softball: Leading into the Future. Come to the clinic and help be part of that movement as umpires from across the U.S. will participate in training sessions, workshops and more!

Five athletes have recently been announced as USA Softball Athletes of the Year for their outstanding performance as a member of a 2017 USA Softball National Team roster. Congratulations to Bubba Nickles (Junior Female Athlete of the Year), Erick Ochoa (Male Fast Pitch Athlete of the Year), Michelle Moultrie (Female Fast Pitch Athlete of the Year), Dale Brungardt (Male Slow Pitch Athlete of the Year) and Christan Dowling (Female Slow Pitch Athlete of the Year).
Take advantage of partner travel discounts.

Fly United

fly the friendly skies℠
If there’s one thing we love at USA Softball, it’s interacting with softball fans from around the world! Are you following along on social media? Share your photos and be sure to tag @USASoftball with the hashtag #USASoftball for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue of Balls & Strikes Magazine!

“Thank You to @USASoftball and @GeorgiaASA for allowing me to Try-Out for the 2018 All-American Team. I had so much fun and built new relationships/friendships. #ViperNation #ViperStrong”

@JB80SOFTBALL

“Way to swing it today ladies! 2018 Battle of the Bases Champs! #USASoftball”

@COPEAKFASTPITCH

“Congrats Gregg, and build on what you accomplished last summer!! Go USA!” – in response to Gregg Leather being named Head Coach of the Men’s National Team at the Intercontinental Cup

FRANK ANDERSON

“1st Tourney of the season and these girls take Runner-Up #StangGang05 #USASoftball #GrindSomeMore”

@TAMPAMUSTANGS05

“Congrats Gregg, and build on what you accomplished last summer!! Go USA!” – in response to Gregg Leather being named Head Coach of the Men’s National Team at the Intercontinental Cup

FRANK ANDERSON

“Congratulations, Christian! You’re a great ambassador for the game we all love. I hope you and the girls have another great season. See you soon.” – in response to Christian Dowling named USA Softball Female Slow Pitch Athlete of the Year

@STEVETHALEY4

“Thanks to @D_Martinez00 for hosting a series of outstanding softball clinics for more than 125 young women today at the @Reds Youth Academy. #USASoftball”

@c_frank83

“Long way from MSA! Proud of what you have accomplished! Gave a lot of girls from Jacksonville hope they could do it to!!” – in response to Michelle Moultrie named USA Softball Female Athlete of the Year

@CROB5414

“There are some pretty amazing role models in the world of softball. Thank you ladies!” – in response to an International Women’s Day post featuring the Women’s National Team

BRENDA NEWBY
Let our team help you to insure your teams!

Three easy ways to insure softball:

• Visit USASoftball.com to contact your Commissioner
• Contact RPS Bollinger’s USA Softball Department
• Visit RPSBollinger.com, and select USA Softball, under Specialty Programs

To learn more contact:
RPS Bollinger, USA Softball Department
800.446.5311
USASoftball@RPSins.com
RPSBollinger.com
USA SOFTBALL

USA SOFTBALL

USA SOFTBALL

THE LEGACY: 85 YEARS OF USA SOFTBALL

Softball is a game for everyone. Whether you’re eight years old or playing well into your 80’s, there’s a place for everyone within the sport of softball. It’s why we refer to softball as the game America plays®. There’s no better proof of this than softball’s invention in 1887.

On a cold winter day in November, 1887 in Chicago, a rivalry between Yale and Harvard alumni sparked a friendly competition that would be the birth of indoor baseball. Using an old boxing glove for a ball and chalk for a home plate, bases and a pitcher’s box, this game would eventually transition into as many as 20 different games. It wasn’t until 1926 when Walter Hakanson coined the name softball.

As you can imagine, this disparity within the sport led to a variety of rules and interpretations on how the game could be played. Softball would find new direction in 1933 when Leo Fischer and Michael J. Pauly accepted an invitation from the Chicago World’s Fair organizers to stage a tournament featuring this new sport. Writing an arbitrary set of rules, 55 teams showed up to participate in this newly staged event. With free admission and unemployment at an all-time high due to the Great Depression, there was an incredible response as over 350,000 people attended the tournament.

Viewed as a tremendous success, Fischer and Pauley knew that the sport needed a national organization now more than ever. Setting up an office in Chicago, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) was founded. Fast-forward to 1978 when the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) named ASA the National Governing Body of Softball (NGB) in the United States, and ASA/USA Softball became the official moniker of the organization. Almost 40 years later, ASA/USA Softball announced a re-brand of the organization to USA Softball, which would be effective September 1, 2016.

Softball has been a sport for the masses and in its 85 years of history USA Softball has been the organization to move the sport forward. Established to provide as many opportunities for people to get involved in the game, millions of adults and youth get the opportunity to play or umpire at a variety of levels. Whether your goal is to be at the Olympic Games or in a city recreation league once or twice a week, softball is a game for everyone.

FUN FACTS:

The formation of ASA and the International Joint Rules Committee of Softball (IJRCS) gave softball what it lacked – uniformity. Throughout the years, a variety of rule changes have been passed to further and improve the game. Below are just some of the rule modifications that have been made in USA Softball’s 85 years of history.

- Pitching distances started out at 35 feet for both men’s and women’s softball.
- In 1939, the IJRCS passed a rule which allowed batters to try to get to first base on a dropped third strike.
- An “undertaker” rule required a pitcher to wear a totally solid-dark uniform different than the rest of the team to make it easier for the ball to see until 1940.
- Why seven innings in a ballgame? Many wanted to get 1-2 games after dinner before the sun went down, and seven innings allowed the game to be played in an hour or two.

Ritch’s Salvage became the first team to win both the Super and Major Slow Pitch National Championships.

Nina Korgan, sponsor Dick Jones and teammate Lottie Larson.

Bertha Tickey pitched three perfect games in National Championship play.

John Hunter never lost a state or regional game and once retired 45-consecutive batters on strikes.

“The Crusher” Scherr was legendary for crushing home runs, hitting 2,985 in his lifetime.
ORDER YOUR USA SOFTBALL OFFICIAL GEAR TODAY!

OFFICIALGEAR.COM
(800) 654-8337
The 2018 season officially kicked off March 2-3 with the Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) Classic, a tournament hosted by Langston University that welcomed athletes from Division I to NAIA historically black colleges. Following the HBCU Classic was the OSU Hall of Fame Classic, a three-day NCAA Division I Softball Tournament which included host-school Oklahoma State University (OSU), Purdue, Drake, Connecticut, Saint Francis University and Pacific.

Additional USA Softball grassroots events held at historic Hall of Fame Stadium so far have been the Capital City Classic and the 16U/18U USA Softball Spring Challenge, with the 10U/12U/14U Spring Challenge set to be held April 20-22. USA Softball is also proud to welcome back Special Olympics of Oklahoma to the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex, where teams will take part in a regional qualifier April 11 prior to their State Summer Games.

Returning to the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex is the Big 12 Conference Championship, which will be held May 11-13, and the NCAA Division III Softball Championship, which will be held May 24-29. For the 28th year, the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex will host the NCAA WCWS May 31-June 6/7, which features the top eight teams in Division I softball competing for the National Championship title. Tickets are available online for the NCAA WCWS and can be purchased by visiting NCAA.com/wcws or by calling the NCAA at 800-591-9198.

The final event on the 2018 calendar will be the USA Softball All-American Games, a prestigious tournament intended to provide national exposure to elite athletes in the 12-Under Junior Olympic (JO) fast pitch division. Information on regional tryout and selection processes and additional information on the USA Softball All-American Games can be found at www.usasoftballallamericangames.com or by sending an email to AllAmericanGames@usasoftball.com.

Following the 2017 Proposition 5 Bond package that was approved by the citizens of Oklahoma City in September 2017, the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex is expected to shut down for renovations after the conclusion of the USA Softball All-American Games.

For more information on the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex, visit USASoftball.com. Many tournaments are open for teams to register and additional information, including Tournament Directors, hotels and maps can be found by visiting TournamentUSASoftball.com.
COLORS SO FLY THE BALL GETS WINGS.

YOUR COLOR. YOUR NAME. YOUR STYLE
CUSTOMIZE NOW AT SLUGGERCUSTOMBATS.COM
For 14-straight weeks, USA Softball and ESPN release a Top 25 Collegiate Poll with the final ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll coming after the conclusion of the NCAA Women’s College World Series. Visit www.USASoftball.com each Tuesday to view the current Top 25 poll as well as the weekly USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Week.

Can Oklahoma get a three-peat at the 2018 NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS)? Keep up with the latest in college softball on USA Softball’s “College Corner”! Bringing you the latest in Top 25 rankings, results and more, track your favorite team’s #RoadToOKC!
Haylie McCleney has been a member of the Women’s National Team and is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. If you’d like to contact Haylie for consultations, email mccleneystrength@gmail.com

As an athlete, our biggest tool is our body and we have to be able to take care of it properly. A big component of that is nutrition, but another large component is strength and conditioning. Not only can having a good training regimen make you a better, more well-rounded athlete, but most importantly it will prevent injury. My recommendation is to be resistance training at least two days a week in middle school (off-season and in-season) and in high school three days a week (off-season) and two days a week (in-season).

This entire article in a sentence: GET A STRENGTH COACH. If you have one at your high school or middle school, great. If not, seek out a professional to make you better. Investing in your body is crucial in developing as an athlete.

So, how do you know your strength coach is legit? Over the years I have had countless opportunities to talk to young athletes, especially young softball players, about their training regimens. When I ask who they see as a strength coach, they tell me all about their fancy facility, he/she used to play professionally, how hard they feel like they are working when they are in there, etc. Even some of my friends that are professional athletes give me this to boost credibility of their trainer without ever telling me education level or certifications their coach holds. If you are not careful, seeing an unqualified coach can decrease your performance and even lead to injury.

The fact of the matter is, fitness and sports performance are NOT the same. If you are an athlete, you probably shouldn’t be doing the same training regimen that your non-athletic friends are doing to “get toned” (whatever that even means). See someone that trains ATHLETES, that knows the demands of your sport, and is educated and qualified to do so. Would you see a doctor that hasn’t been to medical school or even passed an exam covering the human body? As an athlete, your body is your #1 tool. Take care of it.

1) Education
At least a bachelor’s degree in something relating to human performance. This could be in Exercise Science, Exercise Physiology, Kinesiology, or Sport Science. A master’s degree would be great, but at least make sure your coach has received some education in the field you are paying him/her for.

2) Certifications
If your coach does not have a degree in the field, he/she should definitely have a certification, but BOTH are preferred.

Some of the top certifications to look for:
• NSCA’s Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS)
• USA Weightlifting Certified Coach (USAW)
• College Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association’s Certified Strength Coach (SCCC)
• Functional Range Conditioning Mobility Specialist (FRCms)
• NSCA’s Certified Personal Trainer (CPT)

There are more certifications out there, but these are at the top of the strength and conditioning field at the moment.

3) Experience
Who has your coach trained and how long has he/she been training athletes? Chances are, if your strength coach is a body builder, that probably is not going to make you better on the field. Your biceps will look great, though.

4) Get Evaluated and Track Progress
A good coach will conduct baseline testing, issue questionnaires, and utilize other tools to ensure that their clients are making progress. Baseline testing is important for preventing injuries and analyzing movement patterns. A great baseline test is a Functional Movement Screen by Functional Movement Systems (FMS).

5) Exercise Selection, Variety, and Individual Programming
Your program should cater to your specific needs and training goals. As a client, you want to ensure that your program is fit for YOU. The younger the athlete, typically the simpler the exercises are going to be. All programs should progress every week to ensure the athletes.

These are some general guidelines, but each coach is going to have their own journey and their own path. As an athlete, you have to do what is best for you and what is practical for your training goals.
Founded in 2013, the USA Softball Legacy Club provides financial support to USA Softball National Team programs and athletes through annual membership giving. These contributions assist in supporting costs associated with training teams for international play and travel for competition.

The purpose of the USA Softball Legacy Club is to unite all of our supporters, National Team members both past and present, and fans who want to work together to see the growth of our National Team Program. With the goal of supporting National Team athletes, the USA Softball Legacy Club strives to honor the achievements of National Team alumni while connecting their legacy to those who one day will wear the Red, White and Blue.

Legacy Club members are friends, alumni and advocates of USA Softball who recognize the value of continuing the Legacy established by those in the past who have worn the Red, White and Blue.

No one said following your dream was easy or could be done alone. No one can get to the top of the podium without a network of coaches, teammates and supporters like you.

With your support, we can continue to improve our program and develop the talent needed to represent the United States. We would not be the organization we are today without our Legacy Club members — this is why we ask you to follow us along our journey to the Gold.
EVERY DONOR MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
BE A PART OF OUR LEGACY!

TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO JOIN FOR JUST $100, CONTACT US AT (405) 425-3422, LEGACYCLUB@SOFTBALL.ORG OR VISIT USASOFTBALL.COM AND SELECT LEGACY CLUB UNDER THE TEAM USA TAB.
Macy Richardson, of Tecumseh, NE was 1 of 12 girls to advance to the 2017 Scotts Major League Baseball Pitch Hit & Run (PHR) National Finals. PHR is the official skills competition of MLB and is designed for youth ages 7-14 to showcase their baseball and softball skills. Richardson competed locally with her USA Softball league, attended the Team Championship at Kauffman Stadium, and represented the Kansas City Royals at the National Finals during MLB All-Star Week in Miami. Richardson took some time to answer a few questions about her experience with Pitch Hit & Run!

**BIO INFO:**

**USA Softball Team/League:**
Tecumseh 12U

**Position(s):**
Pitcher/Shortstop

**Height:** 5’6”

**Age:** 12
1. How did you find out about the Pitch, Hit & Run competition/who encouraged you to try?
My first experiences with PHR, began at age seven in Auburn, Nebraska. My mom saw a flyer posted at her school advertising a local PHR competition that was going to be held in a nearby neighboring town through the Jaycees organization. The poster had information about possible advancement to the MLB All-Star Week, which intrigued my mom into researching more about the competition. She encouraged both my brother and myself to try it.

2. What was your favorite element about PHR: Pitching, Hitting, or Running? Did you practice a lot?
My favorite element of the PHR competition has changed over my years of experience. My first couple of years, I enjoyed the hitting portion. As I matured, I discovered that one of biggest assets is my speed, so the running skill ranked highest in my mind due to the ease of scoring and my confidence in my ability to compete with anyone my age. This past year, at the 2017 National Finals competition in Miami, FL, I changed my mind yet again to the pitching element. I stepped up as the first competitor in my age group and connected on 5 of 6 targets, putting pressure on my competitors.

3. What do you remember about the first time you stepped on to a Major League Field at the Team Championship?
I was 7 years old, dressed in white softball pants and a blue PHR shirt, standing outside of the Colorado Rockies stadium not knowing what to expect. My major focus was pitching to my dad from 35 feet away trying to put the ball in his mitt. I found a routine, and was consistently throwing strikes feeling pretty good, but anxious. The wait to go inside seemed like forever. Finally we got it okay, I nervously departed from my family and friends and entered Coors Field from the outfield gates. The field and stadium was gigantic, I really didn’t realize how much area a pro baseball outfielder has to cover until I actually got to walk the length of the field. I was overtaken for a moment with a bunch of mixed feelings. I was excited, yet nervous for what was about to take place. What a rush!

4. Looking back at your PHR National Finals experience during All-Star Week, what was your favorite memory?
Many memories come to mind, although the Home Run Derby probably tops the list. The thrill of being in the outfield while some of the greatest hitters were blasting shots over your head or even errant line drives at you, was absolutely crazy. The balls are coming so fast and the crowd is going wild. It is a rush! Even while waiting our turn to go onto the field was a treat, as some All-Stars stopped by, took pictures with us and we even received autographed baseballs from them. Other notable favorites was going to PLAY BALL Park, where we spent time with former USA softball members, watching the Celebrity Softball game, and seeing Flo Rida and Pitbull perform. We had so many exciting activities going on, it is hard to pick just one favorite.

5. What was it like when you got home after the All-Star Game with classmates, teammates, reporters, etc?
The 2013 National PHR Championship (7-8 Year Old Softball Division) was very special to me, as it was my first individual National Championship. I received numerous texts and calls from family and friends that asked me about my experiences, then stated how proud they were of me and my accomplishments. Many couldn’t truly believe that someone from a small town in Nebraska could compete on a national level against kids from all the other states.

This was only the beginning of the exciting things that happened to me as a result of the win. On my way home from New York, NY we stopped in St. Louis, MO to watch a Cardinals game, and to my surprise they asked me to throw out the FIRST PITCH. When we finally returned home, to my disbelief my entire driveway was filled with balloons, signs and people waiting to celebrate with me. The news traveled quickly of my recent accomplishment, my classmates made me posters, area newspapers and tv stations covered the story, and my small town Mayor and City Council created the Tecumseh Pride Award and presented it to me. I couldn’t believe the excitement in southeast Nebraska over ME!

The 2017 National PHR Championship (11–12 Year Old Girls Division) was a personal goal checked off my list, as I wanted to prove to myself that it wasn’t just luck the first time. I knew of the great opportunities that the PHR program provided and I was determined to get back to the National Finals and win another championship. I was fortunate enough to fulfill this goal and each of my individual National Championships have great meaning to me, and I will continue to strive for yet another.

6. What advice would you give to other girls planning to compete in their local PHR competition?
The advice that I would give to other girls is simple. Set your sights high, never give up on your goals, and push yourself to practice hard (mentally & physically) even when you want to make excuses. You will never reach your full potential, if you just talk about it and not WORK for it!

7. Who are your softball idols?
My softball idols are not only great players, but great leaders too. Jenny Finch, was an obvious stand out on the softball field as a pitcher, but even now she is still able to enjoy a sport she loves by leading clinics, camps and giving advice to young aspiring athletes, such as myself. She displays her enthusiasm for the game through her efforts to give back to the sport, by developing the next potential generation of softball players.

8. What are your goals for the next couple years?
I have many goals for the upcoming 5 years in regards to sports. Adding another National Championship in any sport/event, is the first thing that comes to mind. I want to become a familiar face at the PHR National Finals as I only have 2 years left to compete. I want more National Championships would be great! Going out with a bang in this competition, would possibly assist in my ultimate goal of playing NCAA Division 1 ball for a top college.

9. Are you planning to participate in PHR next spring and if so, how will you practice to return as a repeat National Finalist?
YES! I plan on participating in PHR until I am aged out of the competition. I wouldn’t want to miss out on the wonderful opportunities awaiting each potential participant. The PHR representatives and the sponsors treated all National Finalists and their guests like kings/queens. Each one of us regardless of our final placings or hometowns were fully supported and encouraged throughout, as if we were their family.

I am going to continue to NOT make excuses, and get out in my driveway everyday to make myself better. I believe that if you want something, you are going to have to work for it! Practicing may not always be fun, but it is necessary to put forth 100% effort both mentally and physically to make good things happen!
USA SOFTBALL National Finalists

Annually over 625,000 youth participate in the free Scotts® MLB® PITCH HIT & RUN™ program. Participants have the opportunity to advance through four levels of competition, including Team Championships at MLB® ballparks and the National Finals hosted during MLB® All-Star Week™.

8 USA Softball Players advanced to the 2017 National Finals in the Softball Division

- Candice Puig
  7/8 Division
  Whittier, CA

- Mya Bartlett
  9/10 Division
  Las Vegas, NV

- Mylia Perez
  9/10 Division
  San Ramon, CA

- Macy Richardson
  11/12 Division
  Tecumseh, NE

- Maysen Fisher
  11/12 Division
  Dauphin, PA

- Olivia Shaw
  11/12 Division
  Flowery Branch, GA

- Abbey Smith
  13/14 Division
  Austin, TX

- Brianna Mendez
  13/14 Division
  Marina, CA

Will one of your girls be next?

For more information and to get involved today, visit PitchHitRun.com
2018 OFFICIAL RULES APP NOW AVAILABLE!

Stay on top of the game by learning the Official Rules of Softball published by USA Softball.

Learn the rules of softball by downloading the Official Rules app – available for iOS (iPhones/iPads) and Android devices for just $14.99! The app includes a free copy of the Umpire Manual and an interactive map with local Umpire-In-Chief contact information.

Click on the photo below to start downloading today!
Are you ready for the 2018 season?

April showers bring May flowers...and softball! Before you take the field for Championship Play, make sure you familiarize yourself with the 2018 USA Softball Playing Rule Changes below.

2018 USA Softball Rule Changes with Comments as of November 09, 2017

NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE January 1, 2018 unless otherwise noted.

Rule 3, Section 7C: (JO Only) All equipment that shall be inspected by the umpire is to be placed outside the dugout/bench area prior to the start of the game for pregame inspection.

Comment: Requires teams to put all equipment to be inspected by the umpires outside the dugout/bench area before the game begins.

Rule 5, Section 10: Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Classifications of Play, for Pool Play and Elimination Play with a time limit, the time limit will be 1-Hour and 20 minutes and finish the inning and then play one more complete inning, or half inning if the home team is ahead.

Comment: Changes the time limit for all Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Classification of Play, Pool Play and Elimination Play, that uses a time limit. It changes it from 1 hour 40 minutes finish the inning to 1 hour 20 minutes finish the inning and play another inning or 1/2 inning if the home team is ahead.

Rule 7, Section 2F: Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Pool Play: Nine defensive players will bat or teams have the following options:
1. Bat nine players without the DP/Flex.
2. Bat nine Players and use the DP/Flex.
3. Bat up to and including all roster players without a DP/Flex.
4. Bat up to and including all roster players with the DP/Flex.

Continued on next page
ARE YOU READY FOR THE 2018 SEASON?

April showers bring May flowers...and softball! Before you take the field for Championship Play, make sure you familiarize yourself with the 2018 USA Softball Playing Rule Changes below.

**Rule 7, Section 2F:** Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Pool Play: Nine defensive players will bat or teams have the following options:
1. Bat nine players without the DP/Flex.
2. Bat nine Players and use the DP/Flex.
3. Bat up to and including all roster players without a DP/Flex.
4. Bat up to and including all roster players with the DP/Flex.

**Rules referenced below are affected by this change for JO Pool Play Only.**
- Rule 1, Extra Player (EP) Definition;
- Rule 4 Section 1C, Added New [C];
- Rule 4 Section 1D [2A] Exception;
- Rule 4 Section, 3B;
- Rule 4 Section 4, Added G;
- Rule 4 Section 6D, Adds an exception for JO Pool Play only;
- Rule 8 Section 10C, Adds an exception for JO Pool Play only;

**Effects of this rule are as follows:**
- Players not listed in a defensive position will be listed as an EP;
- EPs will be listed beginning in the 10th spot of the batting order;
- When not using the DP/FLEX any 9 can play defense;
- When using the DP/FLEX any 8 and the FLEX can play defense;
- The Batting order will always remain fixed;
- Any Player may be used as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher;
- Any Player can be used as a pinch runner for an injured player;
- If a player is on base when it is their time to bat;
  - They will be removed from the base and take their turn at bat.
  - The person who they are running for will be called out.
ARE YOU READY FOR THE 2018 SEASON?

April showers bring May flowers...and softball! Before you take the field for Championship Play, make sure you familiarize yourself with the 2018 USA Softball Playing Rule Changes below.

• When only batting nine defensive players or using the DP/FLEX;
  ➢ If an injured player is not able to bat an out will be recorded for their turn at bat unless the team has a substitute not already in the batting order that can take their place.

• When batting more than nine defensive players and have no available substitutes;
  ➢ If an injured player is not able to bat in their place in the batting order, the batting order will be compressed to the number of batters in the batting order less the injured player with no out recorded for the injured player unable to bat.

**Comment:** This requirement now allows you to either bat 9 players or bat up to every roster player present. Any player can be a pinch runner or a courtesy runner. Any player on base, running for someone else is removed to take their turn at bat, an out recorded for who they are running. If an injured player is unable to take their turn to at bat the batting order will be compressed with no out recorded for the injured player unable to bat.

**Rule 8, Section 7F-I Effect, [3] (Dead Ball Appeal):** Once the ball has been returned to the infield and time is called, any COACH or infielder, with or without possession of the ball, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing a base or leaving too soon on a caught fly ball. No runner may leave a base during this period as the ball remains dead until the next pitch.

**Comment:** Adds a coach to those who can make a dead ball appeal.

REV 2 dated 11-09-17
What a lineup!

Don’t miss these ways to be a better coach

NFCA Coaches Clinics

THE BEST softball coaches in the country bring their knowledge, drills, and secrets to YOU each winter! Each clinic offers 15 hours of educational programming, a social hour with the speakers, giveaways, vendors, and numerous opportunities to make yourself a better coach.

☆☆☆ Five all-star speakers for each site will be announced soon! ☆☆☆

- CHICAGO • Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2018 • Chicago Westin O’Hare
- CHICAGO • Jan. 4-5, 2019 • Crowne Plaza Chicago O’Hare
- LOUISVILLE • Jan. 4-5, 2019 • Horseshoe Southern Indiana
- NASHVILLE • Jan. 18-19, 2019 • Franklin Marriott Cool Springs
- MINNEAPOLIS • Jan. 18-19, 2019 • Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport
- CHARLOTTE • Jan. 25-26, 2019 • Sheraton Charlotte Airport
- PORTLAND • Jan. 25-26, 2019 • Sheraton Portland Airport
- KANSAS CITY • Feb. 1-2, 2019 • Overland Park Marriott

NFCA National Convention

Dec. 5-8 - Chicago “The Greatest Softball Show on Earth”

LEARN FROM OUR WORLD-CLASS SPEAKERS Network with the best in the game, celebrate award winners, see the latest innovations in softball equipment and much more!

FOUR DAYS OF CLINIC SESSIONS COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF THE GAME Gain valuable insight, drills, and tips from some of the best speakers and sharpest minds in our game. Veteran coaches and national experts share their softball secrets.

AWARDS Join us in celebrating our coaches, as we honor them at the NFCA Victory Club luncheon, the NFCA Champions Brunch and the NFCA Hall of Fame Banquet.

THE LATEST INNOVATIONS IN SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT Make sure you don’t miss our exhibitor show, where you can check in with your favorite companies and see the latest and greatest in softball training, technology and apparel.

FORUMS TO DISCUSS CHANGES, THE FUTURE OF THE SPORT AND NETWORK Our member groups and various NFCA committees will conduct their annual in-person meetings this week and will come together for several full-membership discussion events, including the new Fastpitch Issues Forum and the always-popular Softball Summit.

Become a member

JOIN THE NFCA and take advantage of discounted Convention registration rates and receive a host of exclusive Association membership benefits, including access to education, events and our prestigious awards program, plus 12 issues of our official newspaper, Fastpitch Delivery, our electronic newsletter, access to free legal advice and a whole lot more.

Our high school, travel ball and youth member coaches also get access to our exclusive Coaching Tools package, which includes practice plans, drills, a hitting eBook and instructional videos.

Free educational resources

TIP TUESDAY Each week, a tip, drill, or advice video is posted on YouTube featuring a member coach or other influential person. A variety of topics are covered, and past videos can be easily viewed.

“THE DIRT” NFCA PODCAST Each Wednesday, NFCA Director of Education Joanna Lane hosts a discussion about an issue facing softball coaches, or spotlights a member coach making a difference.

Send players to our camps!

PERFORM AND BE SEEN Since their debut in 1993, the NFCA’s camps have been one of the most popular ways for high school athletes to showcase their talent to college coaches. In past years, the camps have attracted more than 5,400 athletes and coaches from more than 500 colleges and universities from around the nation.

2018 camp schedule

- NORTHEAST ACADEMIC AT PENNSBURY • June 13 • Yardley, Pa.
- PENNSBURY CLASSIC • June 14 • Yardley, Pa.
- ATLANTA LEGACY EXCEL • June 20 • Woodstock, Ga.
- ST. LOUIS EXCEL • June 28 • Chesterfield, Mo.
- OHIO STINGRAYS EXCEL • July 12 • Columbus, Ohio

NFCA.org  NFCAevents.org
USA SOFTBALL

THE HOTTEST
BAT IN
THE GAME

LOWEST BARREL COMPRESSION IN THE GAME
BEST-IN-CLASS ACOUSTICS AT IMPACT
MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE FROM THE FIRST SWING

NOW AVAILABLE IN -11

#MakeTheSwitch

EASTON.COM/FASTPITCH
**WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER**  
**JAPAN ALL-STAR SERIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Bats/Throws</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sis Bates</td>
<td>UCLA - 2020</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Pitcher/Infield</td>
<td>Elk Grove, Calif.</td>
<td>@sibates22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kylan Becker</td>
<td>Ole Miss - 2019</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
<td>Miami, Fla.</td>
<td>@KylanBecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ally Carda</td>
<td>UCLA - 2020</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Pitcher/Infield</td>
<td>Elk Grove, Calif.</td>
<td>@ACarda3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Chidester</td>
<td>Michigan - 2012</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>Allen Park, Mich.</td>
<td>@Chiddle3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carley Hoover</td>
<td>LSU - 2018</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>Clemson, S.C.</td>
<td>@carleyhoov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenna Lilley</td>
<td>Oregon - 2018</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>North Canton, Ohio</td>
<td>@jenna_kate00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dejah Mulipola</td>
<td>UCLA - 2020</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>Garden Grove, Calif.</td>
<td>@dejahmulipola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Flippen</td>
<td>Utah - 2017</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>Bonita, Calif.</td>
<td>@hannahflippen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jazmyn Jackson</td>
<td>California - 2018</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
<td>San Jose, Calif.</td>
<td>@jazmynjacksonn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mo Mercado</td>
<td>Arizona - 2013</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>Temecula, Calif.</td>
<td>@MercadoMo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Kleist</td>
<td>Washington - 2016</td>
<td>L/L</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>Appleton, Wis.</td>
<td>@MeganKleist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Moore</td>
<td>Oregon - 2013</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>Sutter, Calif.</td>
<td>@Mooreduck12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delanie Courley</td>
<td>UCLA - 2015</td>
<td>R/L</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>West Covina, Calif.</td>
<td>@CGano8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Kretschman</td>
<td>Florida - 2017</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>Indian Harbor, Fla.</td>
<td>@yankeekk12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valerie Arioto</td>
<td>California - 2012</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>Pleasanton, Calif.</td>
<td>@ValerieArioto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Garcia</td>
<td>UCLA - 2020</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>Palmdale, Calif.</td>
<td>@raaaccchhheeeell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Moultrie</td>
<td>Florida - 2012</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Fla.</td>
<td>@Moultrie16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keilani Ricketts</td>
<td>Oklahoma - 2013</td>
<td>L/L</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>San Jose, Calif.</td>
<td>@laniricketts10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Barnhill</td>
<td>Florida - 2019</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>Marietta, Ga.</td>
<td>@kkatlyn111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahvanna Jaquish</td>
<td>LSU - 2017</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Catcher</td>
<td>Highland, Calif.</td>
<td>@Sahvannajay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aubree Munro</td>
<td>Florida - 2016</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Catcher</td>
<td>Brea, Calif.</td>
<td>@aubree1munro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haylie McClney</td>
<td>Alabama - 2016</td>
<td>L/L</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
<td>Morris, Ala.</td>
<td>@HaylieMac8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle O’Toole</td>
<td>Arizona - 2017</td>
<td>L/L</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>Upland, Calif.</td>
<td>@Oh_tooly3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Stewart</td>
<td>Florida - 2016</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>Wichita, Kan.</td>
<td>@KelseyKels7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janie Reed</td>
<td>Oregon - 2015</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
<td>Placentia, Calif.</td>
<td>@JTakeda19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Junior Men's National Team Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Seth Brandel</td>
<td>Houghton Lake, Mich.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Trey Brown</td>
<td>Sanford, Fla.</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jose Dominguez, Jr.</td>
<td>Union City, Calif.</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Derek Gomez</td>
<td>Austin, Texas</td>
<td>Catcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Dalton Gray</td>
<td>South Jordan, Utah</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Steven Hecht</td>
<td>Vassar, Mich.</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Alejandro Ibarra</td>
<td>Cedar Hill, Texas</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>Nathan Landry</td>
<td>Indian Brook, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Craig Lewis</td>
<td>Winston, Mo.</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Jeff Lewis</td>
<td>Amboy, Minn.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Chayton Lloyd</td>
<td>Lakeside, Calif.</td>
<td>Outfield, Bats/Throws: Outfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Justin Martinez</td>
<td>Covina, Calif.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Paul Miklovic</td>
<td>Caro, Mich.</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Travis Miller</td>
<td>Kewaunee, Wis.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Jason Obregon, Jr.</td>
<td>Pico Rivera, Calif.</td>
<td>Catcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>William Pahlow</td>
<td>Osh Kosh, Wis.</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ethan Rodriguez</td>
<td>San Ramon, Calif.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Daniel Stangel</td>
<td>Kewaunee, Wis.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Dustin Thompson</td>
<td>Nevada City, Calif.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tony Wark</td>
<td>Munger, Mich.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Coaches:

- **Tyron McKinney**  
  Head Coach  
  Ashland, Ohio
- **Tony Aresco**  
  Assistant Coach  
  Stoneham, Mass.
- **Mike Armitage**  
  Assistant Coach  
  Normal, Ill.
- **Bob Piddock**  
  Assistant Coach  
  Castro Valley, Calif.
Nothing more. Nothing less.


- Rigorous purity testing
- Highest quality ingredients
- No unnecessary additives or fillers

thorne.com/sports-performance
NATIONAL TEAM COACHING STAFFS ANNOUNCED FOR 2018 SEASON

With a little over three months until the beginning of the international season for the USA Softball National Team Programs, the complete coaching staffs have been announced for competitions this year. Check out the coaching assignments below!

WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAM

WBSC Women’s World Championship
Ken Eriksen – Head Coach
Laura Berg – Assistant Coach
Howard Dobson – Assistant Coach
Heather Tarr – Assistant Coach

USA Softball International Cup

USA Red - World Championship roster
Ken Eriksen – Head Coach
Howard Dobson – Assistant Coach
Heather Tarr – Assistant Coach

USA Blue - Japan All-Star Series roster
Patty Gasso – Head Coach
Laura Berg – Assistant Coach
Melyssa Lombardi – Assistant Coach
Natasha Watley – Assistant Coach

Japan All Star Series
Laura Berg – Head Coach
Patty Gasso – Assistant Coach
Melyssa Lombardi – Assistant Coach
Natasha Watley – Assistant Coach

JUNIOR MEN’S NATIONAL TEAM

WBSC Junior Men’s World Championship
Tyron McKinney – Head Coach
Tony Aresco – Assistant Coach
Mike Armitage – Assistant Coach
Bob Piddock – Asssitant Coach

SLOW PITCH NATIONAL TEAM

Men’s Slow Pitch National Team
Brett Helmer – Head Coach

Women’s Slow Pitch National Team
Don Cooper – Head Coach

Men’s Slow Pitch Futures Team
Rob Humphrey – Head Coach

MEN’S NATIONAL TEAM

Intercontinental Cup
Gregg Leather – Head Coach
Ron Guzman – Assistant Coach
Greg Hicks – Assistant Coach
Nick McCurry – Asssitant Coach

Tyron McKinney
Ken Eriksen
Laura Berg
Patty Gasso
Don Cooper
Brett Helmer
Here is what I have been up to as I prepare for this summer with USA Softball...

In January, at USA tryouts, Coach Suzy Brazney told Hannah Flippen and me that she played alongside both of our moms! Of course we had to take a picture to send to our mothers. Both of our moms were former players on the USA National Team and now we get to make them proud and play together this summer!

Ali Aguilar and I played together at the University of Washington and now currently for Team USA. Her and I both still reside in Washington, so not only do we get to practice together but we get to spend quality time. She sent me a random text on a Saturday asking if I wanted to drive down to Portland with her the next day. Of course I said, “Yes!” We drove down to Portland, Ore. the next day and explored the city and ate some good food. We always hear about the famous donut shop there, so of course we had to make that our first stop.

Four members of Team USA are a part of the Louisville Slugger brand as ambassadors. In February, we were flown down to Arizona to do a photo shoot with Wilson, Louisville Slugger, and Evoshield. One of the best parts about the shoot was that we got to put on our USA uniforms and our new catcher’s gear!

One of the best parts about playing softball is being able to give back to the youth. I had the privilege of working with Spokane Girls Fastpitch in Washington to host their annual winter clinic. The girls were so much fun to work with and we had a great turnout!
USA SOFTBALL FACTORY

SOFTBALL FACTORY™ UNDER ARMOUR

NATIONAL TRYOUT TOUR

40 STATES. 100 CITIES. GET DISCOVERED.

THE NATION’S TOP RESOURCE FOR ALL YOUR COLLEGE RECRUITING & PLAYER DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS. YOUR PATH TO PLAYING COLLEGE SOFTBALL STARTS HERE. CONTACT A PLAYER REPRESENTATIVE TODAY.

SOFTBALLFACTORY.COM OR 855.822.5115

@SOFTBALLFACTORY
USA SOFTBALL

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Christan Dowling (Rochester, N.Y.) – Female Slow Pitch Athlete of the Year

Dowling was a mainstay of the U.S. lineup, hitting in the top of the Women’s Slow Pitch National Team lineup to spark the Red, White and Blue offense. Appearing in every game played at Border Battle, Dowling led the team with two home runs, five walks and a 2.000 slugging percentage with five RBI and three runs scored. One of the most impressive hitters in the game, Dowling was intentionally walked in three-out-of-four plate appearances in the Women’s Border Battle against Canada after blasting a home run in her first at-bat of the game.

Erick Ochoa (Imperial, Calif.) – Male Fast Pitch Athlete of the Year

Ochoa made an appearance in every game for the Red, White and Blue last summer at the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Men’s World Championship and was consistent at the plate, finishing with a .381 (8-for-21) batting average with five RBI, six runs scored and a home run. Ochoa had continued success at the Pan American Championship, leading the team with three home runs and a .724 slugging percentage while tying a team-high record of nine RBI.

Bubba Nickles (Merced, Calif.) – Junior Female Athlete of the Year

Nickles made an appearance in all but two games last summer for the JWNT, which competed at the World Cup of Softball and the WBSC JWWC, putting up team-leading numbers as a veteran leader on the U.S. squad. At the World Cup of Softball, Nickles led the U.S. with two home runs, 10 RBI and four runs scored while compiling a 1.050 slugging percentage and a .550 (11-for-20) batting average. She followed with another dominating performance at the WBSC JWWC, where she went 20-for-29 (.690) with 10 runs scored, 30 RBI and six home runs, while shattering event records in hits, batting average, RBI and home runs.
USA SOFTBALL
ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

(Cont.)

Dale Brungardt (Vancouver, Wash.) – Male Slow Pitch Athlete of the Year

Brungardt was perfect at the plate throughout Border Battle IX, leading the U.S. roster by going 5-for-5, which included three singles and two doubles. Appearing in every game for the Red, White and Blue, Brungardt also knocked in three RBI with four runs scored, producing a 1.400 slugging percentage at the plate. Against Canada at the Men’s Border Battle, Brungardt went 1-for-1 with one run scored after getting on base with a double in the bottom of the seventh. His top performance at Border Battle IX came against All Star Plumbing, where he went 3-for-3 with two RBI and two runs scored.

Michelle Moultrie (Jacksonville, Fla.) – Female Fast Pitch Athlete of the Year

Moultrie made an appearance in all but two games last summer for the WNT, which competed at the World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City, the Pan American Championship in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and the Japan Cup. At the World Cup of Softball, Moultrie went 7-for-21 (.333) with one home run, four runs scored and five RBI. In the Dominican Republic, Moultrie was lights out at the plate, going 17-for-33 (.515) with one home run, nine RBI and 12 runs scored as the U.S. earned the Gold to qualify for the 2018 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Women’s World Championship and 2019 Pan American Games. At the Japan Cup, the final event of the 2017 season, Moultrie continued her hot-hitting streak. Going 7-for-15 (.467), Moultrie collected three RBI with one home run and two runs scored.
USA SOFTBALL

Special Price for USA Softball: $269.99

Get Your Pitching & Hitting Skills Noticed

Regular Price: $299.99  30 Day Risk Free Trial

BallCoachRadar.com/USAsoftball  888.381.2672

POCKET RADAR

Ball Coach

CLICK HERE TO SEE IT IN ACTION

POUR PARTNER OF

USA SOFTBALL

GET PROMO CODE
USA Softball, together with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), is committed to enabling a safe environment for participants involved in USA Softball. As the National Governing Body of Softball under the USOC, USA Softball is required to communicate information to its members regarding SafeSport, and the importance of this matter. To this end, it has developed a SafeSport Strategy for the attention of all National Office Staff, National Teams, Local Association Officials and other members of USA Softball.

Please watch this video that the U.S. Center for SafeSport has made available to each NGB to share with its members for important information on SafeSport.
1 Website! 1 Association! 100’s of tournament listings!

We’re making it easier for USA Softball teams to find USA Softball-sanctioned events in their area! Visit the new and improved TournamentUSASoftball.com, USA Softball’s exclusive tournament management system, to find a USA Softball tournament near you! From easy-to-access brackets, text alerts and Power Rankings, check out these special features and more today!

Visit TournamentUSASoftball.com to find a tournament near you!
JOIN THE USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL UMPIRE STAFF AND UMPIRES AROUND THE COUNTRY FOR THE BIENNIAL UIC CLINIC HELD IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. JAN. 31 – FEB. 3, 2019!

The 2019 theme will be: USA Softball – Leading Into the Future

Save the date for the 2019 UIC Clinic!

Reserve your hotel today and invite fellow umpires to a UIC Clinic that is sure to be a good time!

Stay tuned for additional information and check USASoftball.com for more!
**DON’T MISS OUT ON TWO REMAINING UMPIRE SCHOOLS!**

To be the best, you’ve got to learn from the best!
The purpose of the USA Softball National Umpire School is to develop each student's individual talents and skills as an umpire. Because of your interest, we realize that you have the pride and attitude it takes to become one of the best softball umpires in the nation. Our goal is to bring out the best in your talent and ability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>COORDINATOR</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slow Pitch Camp</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, Ga.</td>
<td>Region 3</td>
<td>Rick Hearn</td>
<td>770-560-3754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6-10, 2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fast Pitch Camp</td>
<td>Irvine, Calif.</td>
<td>Region 10</td>
<td>Don Parker</td>
<td>619-672-4269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 5-8, 2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BRING YOUR GAME
CUSTOMIZE YOUR A2000 NOW AT WILSONCUSTOMGLOVES.COM

KELSEY STEWART
Team USA, 2B
Custom A2000 DW5

YOUR GLOVE IS HERE
WHAT I WISH MY 16 YEAR OLD SELF KNEW

BY DRE MCKEE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MARKETING FOR USA SOFTBALL

At 16 years old you feel like you have it all figured out, right? School, softball and social life are a walk in the park... your parents are there to support you through it all. Then, you get your driver’s license and begin to gain a little independence. You can start driving yourself to school, to hang out with your friends and to softball practice/games. You are showing your parents you are responsible enough to be on time to these events. Look at you go, proudly taking a step up the ladder. I was the same way and so eager to grow up and go off to college. Before you get too far, I want to give you a couple pointers I wish I had.

What I wish I would have known at 16 years old...

1. I control my attitude! On and off the softball field, you get to make the decision of how you will react to a situation. A college coach will notice you for hitting a pop up to the centerfielder and you’re standing on second base by the time the ball is caught because you ran as hard as you could. You made the decision to give it all you have. Maybe your parents won’t let you go out with your friends because you have a test the next day. You have a decision to make, how will you react? Make it a positive reaction!

2. My parents are always looking out for my best interest. You may not agree with everything they have to say at the age of 16, but they mean well. They aren’t keeping you in the night before softball games because they don’t want you to have fun. Mom and Dad want you to be successful! The both of them know if you’re out until curfew, you probably won’t perform at your highest level the next day. Your dream college coaches could be there and it’s your time to shine! Listen to what your parents are saying to you.

3. What will it take for me to be noticed by college coaches? Here is where you want to ask yourself, “What is going to set me apart from the thousands of other softball players wanting to go to this same college?” Is it your work ethic, attitude, ability to listen/learn quickly or your capability to balance every aspect of life? I wish I would have known that not only are coaches looking for good players, but also young athletes that they can mold into the young women they want on their team. You separate yourself from all the others with your mindset! “I can, and I will.” (Go to as many camps as possible. Get in front of the coaches.)

4. How will I be successful at the next level (college)? Balance! Learn how to manage your time wisely. What are your priorities? At 16 years old I had no idea how important it is to balance school, softball, and social life.

I wish I knew these life skills, and had this mind set as a 16 year old. Step back and look at the bigger picture in life. Softball can take you a long way if you put in the time and effort. Make sure you’re having fun with your teammates and enjoying every moment you get with them on and off the field. Not saying this ride will be easy, but it will be worth it in the end.
PLAYER VS. COACH
GETTING THE MOST OUT OF PRACTICE

Submitted by Destinee Martinez,
Event Manager for USA Softball

As a former athlete for the USA Softball Women’s National Team and the University of Oklahoma, I have found that there are many ways to make the most out of practice. It is very helpful when there is a plan given at the beginning of practice to execute throughout your time on the field.

From a player’s perspective, it gives the athlete a sense of completion. Being able to give 100% at each task, knowing which task and how many more lie ahead was very beneficial for me. However, keeping on schedule can be difficult if there are plays that need to be tweaked, throws that need to be better, ground balls that need some work, pitches that need better movement or bunts that need better placement. All of these items and many more can slow down the practice plan, but knowing what is next will allow your teammates to push you to be better and demand perfection to move on to the next task.

From a coach’s perspective, a plan allows you to keep everyone focused on one thing at a time and also allows you to get the most out of your athletes in each portion of practice. When coaching younger teams, you will sometimes notice the athletes going through the motions just to move on to the next task. At that moment, coaches can step in and train them to understand “you play the way you practice.” Demand that every rep is treated game-like and help them understand that repetition is key to their success, so be sure to practice every rep correctly.

One huge factor that should always take place before the start of the first practice is making sure that every coach is on the same page. Coaches, be sure that your coaching tips are consistent and that your athletes aren’t being taught a variety of ways. This can lead to confusion and frustration between the athlete and the coach. There are countless ways to teach the game, however, the more consistent your staff is the more fundamentally sound your team will be. Athletes, be sure to ask questions. Ask questions so that you better understand the technique and lesson being taught. No question is a dumb question when you want to be the best you can be!
Are You Wearing the Best?

Softball’s Fastest Growing Batters Helmets

schutt

TPU TECHNOLOGY
AiR Maxx T 5.6 / 4.2

D3O TECHNOLOGY
AiR 5.6 / 4.2

5 consecutive years of double digit growth. Powered by unmatched innovation and technology.

schuttsports.com
Recruiting is one of the cool parts of my job and most heartbreaking part as well. I enjoy getting to know the young athletes and watching them play and develop as student athletes. It’s heartbreaking if they choose to go somewhere other than Oregon State.

One piece of advice I would give a young student athlete is to have blinders on. Just because a teammate may verbal early in their career doesn’t mean that you won’t verbal at some point. Don’t panic. Keep working hard and you will land somewhere you are meant to be.

Another piece of advice would be to take as many visits as possible. Put a list together of what your priorities are. For example coaching staff, location, weather, do they have your major?, etc. Don't commit somewhere because they have the bells and whistles. It may not be a good fit.

Good luck in your search. The next stage in your life is an important one. Your heart will tell you if it’s the perfect fit.
FIVE TIPS TO BECOME THE BEST STUDENT ATHLETE

By Megan Schallom, USA Softball Event Coordinator

Heading into your freshman year of college is an exciting time for student athletes. It’s important for student athletes to adapt to a rigorous schedule that includes schoolwork, travel, games and practice. We’ve put together some tips on helpful and effective ways to become the best student-athlete.

Manage Your Time Wisely
From classes to practice to study hall and back to practice, you’ll move a million miles a minute as a student athlete. Plan out your days and remember, “If you’re early, you’re on time, if you’re on time you’re late, if you’re late, you’re left!”

Be Coachable
It’s one thing to be coachable on the field but it’s just as important to be coachable in the classroom. Sit in the front row, take notes and ask for help when you need it.

Up your Work Ethic
Homework is inevitable, so focus up and knock it out when you have time. Remember, you’re a student athlete not just an athlete. Put in the work in the classroom to ensure you’ll be eligible to play every day.

Positive Vibes Only
Tell yourself you’ll ace the test, give a flawless presentation, go 5 for 5, throw a no-hitter and truly BELIEVE you will. Bring positivity to your classwork and your sport and you will see success.

Be Resilient
Bad grade? Miss a class because of games? Personal life problems? Adjust and move forward. If you can adapt and be better better because of what you’ve overcome, you will thrive as a student athlete.
USA SOFTBALL MOBILE APP

- All the latest in breaking news, results, announcements and stories
- Watch live-streaming from USA softball events across the U.S.
- Find photo galleries and athlete profiles for members of USA softball national teams
- Discover the membership benefits of playing USA softball and learn how to register
- Locate a USA softball event near you
- Expansive photo galleries
- Links to social media accounts
- Visit our online store, USASOFTBALLSTORE.COM
- Donation opportunities
- Free and available for both Android and Apple products

For more information and to download the app, please visit USASOFTBALL.COM
THE DO’S AND DON'TS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Whether you are looking to get recruited, have committed or find yourself stepping into your first year as a student-athlete, it is important to keep in mind a few DO’S and DON'TS when it comes to your social media presence. Good news? You can make a stronger case for yourself by using social media in a smart way. Bad news? You have the potential to hurt your chances or your reputation if your presence gives coaches any cause for alarm. Let your actions on the field emulate what kind of individual you are off the field.

“Social media is such a big part of everyday life, for so many people. It’s natural for us to see what we can find when we’re going through that evaluation process with every athlete. You may or may not be able to see reality in everyone just by looking at their social media, but you can certainly see their use. That’s something we pay great attention to. Is a player using their social media in a professional manner? During school hours, are you liking and retweeting all day? Are you up all hours of the night posting or sharing emotions? If so, that’s probably not a good thing. It’s an indicator to coaches of how you spend your time or how you’re going to represent yourself if you were in our program. We want people that know how to professionally represent themselves while they’re here, and as alumni of the University of Washington.”

-Coach Heather Tarr
Team USA Assistant Coach | Head Coach at Washington

**DO:** Be critical of yourself – Look at what you have posted, tweeted or commented on and ask yourself, “If my family, teammates, coaches, fans and others viewed my social media accounts, what would they think?” What you say or do on social media lives on forever.

Understand that nothing is ever private – Just because your account is private doesn’t mean that what you do is private thanks to actions like taking a screenshot. Old tweets tend to resurface if you have said something negative about a team or teammate of yours, so save yourself any future awkwardness or embarrassment and always put your best foot forward!

**DON'T:** Get into arguments or make fun of others online – Profanity and negative comments are frowned upon and won’t get you any points with anyone. What you post is a reflection of you, and you never know when your paths may cross. If you are negative and are constantly fighting with others publicly, coaches and schools are most likely going to pass on recruiting you.

Share your personal information – It’s important to never allow other access to post on your account without your approval. Nobody knows you better than you know yourself so don’t give others permission to speak for you and potentially harm your reputation.

Use your voice for good – Who are you off the field? What are you passionate about? If you find yourself wanting to support a struggling teammate, a local travel ball team fundraiser, the softball community around you, etc., be an advocate and let your voice encourage positive change for whatever it may be – then follow it up with action to spur on support from others.

Connect with coaches, trainers and others you look up to – Show interest in others and do your homework. If you’re in the midst of the recruiting process, nothing shows more initiative than mentioning what you’ve seen from the team/college on social media and where you see yourself positively contributing to its success.

Be your true genuine self – Never act like somebody you’re not on social media. Stay true to who you are and what you’re about – you’ll come to find that just as coaches are looking for someone to play a key role for their program, you will also realize whether or not it’s the perfect fit for you as a player and person.
A staple of the Home Savings & Loan squad for 13 years, Dick Brubaker brought one of the best physical and mental approaches to the game of Men’s Fast Pitch softball. With an unconventional start in the Men’s Fast Pitch national scene, Brubaker played in his first USA Softball National Championship at the age of 36, but it didn’t take long for the Illinois native to make a name for himself. With a lightning-fast delivery, “Bru’s” trademark grunt and hard drop ball would baffle batters at the plate well into his final season with Home Savings & Loan in 1984. In his illustrious career, Brubaker amassed a 337-63 record and a stifling 0.63 ERA, four times earning USA Softball All-American honors while finishing runner-up at the Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship five times. These notable accolades also earned him a spot on the 1972 USA Softball Men’s National Team, which earned silver at the 1972 WBSC Men’s World Championship. Brubaker went 4-1 in the circle with a 0.18 ERA and provided for his team at the plate, going 5-for-15 (.333) with one run scored as the U.S. finished with a Silver Medal.

One of the most feared hitters to ever step up to the plate, Crystl Bustos is considered one of the all-time greats. Between 1999-2018, Bustos helped Team USA to two Olympic Gold Medals, an Olympic Silver Medal, three Pan American Championship Gold Medals and a WBSC World Championship Gold Medal. Getting her first run with the Women’s National Team at the 1999 Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada, she made an immediate impact as she led the team with 18 hits, three home runs and 15 RBI. Bustos would continue to be a valuable asset to the American offense, compiling an Olympic-career stat line of 26 runs scored, 14 home runs, 24 RBI and a .372 (30-for-85) batting average. A rugged slugger, Bustos also has the distinction of holding two individual Olympic records: most RBI (10) and most home runs (5), and she, along with her 2004 Olympic teammates, were inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame for their outstanding performance at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.
SWEET SPOT? TRY SWEET BARREL

Introducing the NIGHTHAWK & SILHOUETTE Fastpitch Bats

Nighthawk 2-PIECE LINK CONSTRUCTION
significantly reduces vibrations to hands

Nighthawk & Silhouette
X-ZONE TECHNOLOGY
Sweet Spot Along Whole Barrel
THE WOUNDED WARRIOR AMPUTEE SOFTBALL TEAM (WWAST) RECENTLY KICKED OFF THEIR 2018 SCHEDULE WITH SPRING TRAINING AT TIGERTOWN (HOME OF THE DETROIT TIGERS SPRING TRAINING) IN LAKELAND, FLA. ON JANUARY 24-28. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY TWO EVENTS IN BREVARD COUNTY, FLA. ON FEBRUARY 23-25 AND A TOURNAMENT IN ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. ON MARCH 16-18.

2018 SCHEDULE

- APR 13 - 15 Glassboro, N.J.
- APR 20-29 Tour of Virginia
- MAY 18-20 Long Island, N.Y.
- MAY 25-27 Toledo, Ohio
- JUNE 10-17 Kids Camp, Manchester, N.H.
- JUNE 22-24 Bismarck, N.D. (TOURNAMENT)
- JULY 6-8 Grand Forks, N.D. (TOURNAMENT)
- JULY 13-15 Brainerd, Minn. (TOURNAMENT)
- JULY 20-22 Elmira, N.Y.
- JULY 27-AUG 1 Alumni Kids Camp, Branson, Mo.
- AUG 10-12 Fond du Lac, Wis.
- AUG 17-19 Cincinnati, Ohio
- SEPT 14-16 Welch, Minn. (TENTATIVE)
- SEPT 21-23 Adrian, Mich.
- OCT 12-14 Dayton, Ohio
- OCT 26-28 Huntsville, Ala. (TENTATIVE)
- NOV 30-DEC 2 Scottsdale, Ariz.

Scheduling for the 2019 Season opened up in January 2018. If your community is interested in hosting the WWAST for 2019 please contact Executive Director, Dennis Wince (dennis@thewwast.org).

OUR MISSION
To inspire and educate others while enhancing the health and welfare of Wounded Warrior Amputees.

MEET OUR PLAYERS

Brent Nadjadi

Staff Sergeant (Retired) Brent Nadjadi was born and raised in Bath, N.Y. After a brief stint in college, Brent enlisted in the United States Army as a heavy equipment operator. Brent deployed to Afghanistan in 2009 as a member of a route clearance package that specialized in clearing routes for coalition movements. Nine months into his deployment, his up armored vehicle was hit by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), which resulted in Brent losing his left leg below the knee. Brent’s awards and decorations include a Purple Heart, Afghanistan campaign medal, Army Achievement medal, combat action badge and parachutist badge. Brent, along with his wife and two children, currently reside in Bath, N.Y.

Dan Lasko

Corporal (Retired) Dan Lasko was born in 1982 and is from Easton, Pa. He enlisted in the U.S. Marines on the morning of September 11 and has a combat tour to Afghanistan in 2004 serving with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. On April 24, 2004 while on a reconnaissance mission, the convoy he was traveling in was ambushed. His vehicle struck an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) which resulted in him losing his left leg below the knee. He has been awarded the Purple Heart and the Navy Marine Corps Achievement award. Corporal (Retired) Lasko currently resides in Bethlehem, Pa. with his family.

Daniel Lopez

Sergeant (Retired) Daniel Lopez was born in 1979 and is from Brentwood, N.Y. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1997 and had a combat tour to Iraq in 2005-2006 serving as a mortarman. Nine days after his return from Iraq he was struck by a vehicle rendering him a right leg above the knee amputee. Sergeant (Retired) Lopez has been awarded an Army Commendation Medal and an Army Achievement Medal. He currently resides in Williamsburg, Va. where he works for Reach Orthotic and Prosthetic Services.
It’s been almost 10 years since the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, which marked the last year that softball was an Olympic sport until the year 2020. As we celebrate softball’s return to the Tokyo 2020 Games, let’s take a look at some behind-the-scenes action in Beijing.

Monica Abbott fields some post-game interviews.

Cat Osterman and former President George W. Bush throw up the Hook ‘em Horns prior to the Opening Ceremony.

Members of the Women’s National Team participate in a press conference prior to the start of the Olympic Games.

Vicky Galindo shows off her poncho during a rain delay.

Lovie Jung, Cat Osterman and Lauren Lappin post for a photo before a Today Show appearance.
Balls and Strikes Trivia

How well did you pay attention to this edition of Balls and Strikes? Submit your answers to these five questions to promotions@usasoftball.com with the subject “Balls and Strikes Trivia” and you could win a Softball Prize Pack from USA Softball.

1. What will be the theme for the 2019 UIC Clinic?

2. What year did USA Softball become the National Governing Body for Softball in the United States?

3. Who will be the Head Coach of the 2018 Junior Men’s National Team?

4. Name one location of a 2018 National Umpire School.

5. What category is Dick Brubaker being inducted into the National Softball Hall of Fame under?
The JUGS® 7-foot Complete Practice Travel Screen® features a huge 6.5' x 6.5' Hitting Sock!

- Comes complete with 30" nylon travel bag and flip-over strike zone.
- Will not tip over in windy conditions.
- Designed for use with regulation size baseballs and softballs.
- Weighs just 25 lbs.
- Frame is made of stable ½" fiberglass bungee poles.
- Base is made of sturdy 1" steel tubing.
- Black nylon netting.
- Less than 2 minutes to set up.

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

For more information, call 1-800-547-6843, or visit us online at jugssports.com

$179
The World’s Best
- Training Nets • Protection Nets •
- Portable Backstops • Pro Series and Elite Nets •
- Tees • Softballs • Training Balls •
- Equipment Bags • Player and Coaches Bags •
  Accessories and much much MORE!

SHOW YOUR TEAM PRIDE!
Now available, USA Softball Training Gear from Bownet!
- Big Mouth
- Fungo
- Bucket Bag
- Ball Bag

Proud Partner of USA Softball

For Info or to place orders contact
Cathy Weatherred
636-248-0226 | Cathy@bownet.net