ASA GOES MOBILE
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SPORTS AUTHORITY IS A PROUD PARTNER OF
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E.T. Colvin addresses the season ahead

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Meet the athletes who play ASA

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Men’s Slow Pitch National Teams
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Women’s National Team Selection Camp
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New Face, Same Winning Attitude
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Lisa Fernandez and the ’04 Olympic Team will be inducted into U.S. Olympic HOF

USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year
Oklahoma’s Keilani Ricketts is selected as the 2012 Player of the Year

From the Vault
Unique items in the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum archives
PowerChalk.com is the approved, licensed video analysis site of the Amateur Softball Association. This partnership between the ASA and PowerChalk.com allows coaches, players and parents to analyze and collaborate about pitching, hitting and positioning. Start by registering a free account at www.PowerChalk.com/ASA

**Video Analysis Benefits**

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- Real-time coach - player collaboration
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- Analysis sessions replace rainouts
- Mobile learning w/ iPhone/iPad, Android
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![PowerChalk Video Analysis](image)

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PowerChalk is available to leagues as a Gift Card fundraiser program. This no-cost, high impact fundraiser offers the card buyer an online motion analysis account at PowerChalk.com. Card buyers can upload their swing, pitch and field video (or their soccer kick and golf swing) and then analyze that clip in slow motion.

PowerChalk installs no software and yet allows analysis and collaboration between coaches and players.

Register an account today and begin to add voice and markup while you control the video in slow motion or freeze frame.

Hello softball fans, thank you for reading this issue of Balls and Strikes magazine. This is a very exciting time of the year in the softball world as teams enter the heart of their seasons and some begin preparations for Championship play. Softball is in full swing across the country and even making appearances on ESPN from time to time. Our national teams are putting the final touches on their preparation as they get ready to begin international play. Whether you are a player, coach, umpire or fan, good luck this season and enjoy it!

ASA/USA National Championship qualifying tournaments are currently taking place across the country. These National Championships include the highest level of competition in the game and are the pinnacle of our youth programs. As you prepare for championship play, please make sure all of the paperwork is completed properly and submitted to the host on time as it will make for an easier experience for your team when you arrive to the event. ASA has a great tournament program and it is due to our coaches, players, Commissioners and Junior-Olympic Commissioners taking the time to manage it correctly.

The 2012 Women’s College World Series (WCWS) recently came to another successful close at ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City, the National Headquarters of the Amateur Softball Association. The Crimson Tide of Alabama captured their first title defeating Oklahoma in the best-of-three championship series. The record-breaking crowds show that despite its exemption from the Olympics, the popularity of our sport is still growing at a tremendous rate. A total of 75,960 fans came through the turnstiles during the seven days of action, setting an all-time WCWS mark, easily topping the previous mark of 67,631 set in 2011. The record breaking crowds show that despite its exemption from the Olympics, the popularity of the sport is still growing at a tremendous rate.

Our USA Women’s National Team recently returned from selection camp where the team’s final roster was named. The 2012 squad is stocked with talented athletes who will look to defend their World Cup of Softball Gold from last year in Oklahoma City, June 27-July 2. Following the World Cup, the team will travel to Surrey, B.C. for the Canadian Open Fastpitch Championships and then on to Whitehorse, Yukon for the ISF World Championships.

The 2012 Men’s Slow Pitch National Team will also return to Oklahoma City later this month for the fourth annual Border Battle with the Canadian National Team. In addition to the Border Battle, this year a USA Men’s Slow Pitch Futures National Team will compete against both USA and Canada’s National teams in the days leading up to the Border Battle. All of which will take place in Oklahoma City.

Thank you for all that you do and are continuing to do. On behalf of everyone at the ASA good luck for the remainder of your season!

E.T. Colvin, President
Amateur Softball Association of America
MELANIE FIRESTONE, 10
Gaithersburg, Md.
Red Raiders 12U
Girls’ 12-Under Fast Pitch
P/Infield

SOFTBALL GOALS “My goals are to perfect my fastball, to throw more strikes than balls in games, to keep getting better every day, and to make it onto a high school team and then onto a college team.”

PROUDEST MOMENT “The toughest obstacle I have had to overcome is trying to be perfect at pitching. I used to get really upset if I didn’t do something exactly right and it would mess me up for the rest of the game. Now, I try to reset and just move on after a bad pitch.”

ROLE MODELS Kendra Knight from the University of Maryland, Jennie Finch and Dallas Escobedo.

SASHA MARCULIES, 17
San Diego, Calif.
Fury Softball
Girls’ 18-Under GOLD Fast Pitch
Catcher/1B

FAVORITE THING “Hitting. It’s the best part of the game. I think it’s where a softball player’s talents really shine and where they enjoy the sport the most. Nothing feels better than getting a clutch hit in a crucial situation.”

SOFTBALL GOAL “I’ve grown up watching the NCAA Women’s College World Series on television and wondering how cool it would be to win it all on the national level. Now that I have the fortune of playing for a Division I college softball program (I am committed to Ball State University, where I will play next fall) that’s exactly what I want to work towards. I really want to make my family proud in the most spectacular way I can, helping my team to a National Title.”

ROLE MODELS “I've always admired Kristie Fox who played at Arizona. I honestly don’t think there’s any other player in our generation who has the knowledge and passion for the game as much as Kristie does.”
CAROLYN CAMPBELL, 15
Vienna, Va.
Vienna Stars Elite
Girls’ 16-Under Class A Fast Pitch
Pitcher/2B/Outfield

HER START “My parents were coaching high school varsity softball and always volunteering in the youth organizations. I was always out with them at the fields and watching them coach and watching my older sister play. I began playing at age five and continue to play to this day.”

FAVORITE THING “The friendships, commitment, and competitiveness. I also enjoy watching the fans enjoy the games as well.”

ROLE MODELS Jessica Mendoza and Mike Candrea

MORGAN HAWKINS, 13
Folsom, Calif.
California Grapettes
Girls’ 14-Under Class A Fast Pitch
Pitcher

PROUDEST MOMENT “Pushing my body to its limits when I pitched four games one Sunday, leading my team to a championship victory!”

FAVORITE THING “The competition and the adrenaline rush that I get from pitching in tight games.”

ROLE MODELS “One of my role models is my pitching coach, Ron Engle. He has been training me every week since I was eight years old. He encourages me and motivates me to train hard and be the best pitcher I can be! Another role model is Jennie Finch. I admire her commitment to her Christian faith and her devotion to the sport of softball. I participated in a Jennie Finch training camp in 2009 and it was a great experience for me.”

AMBER MORRIS, 15
Lancaster, Pa.
Stingers
Girls’ 18-Under Class A Fast Pitch
Catcher/Outfield

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE “The toughest obstacle I’ve had to overcome in this sport was when I found out I had to get surgery on my knee. Catching is my passion so when the doctor said I might not be able to do that anymore I was devastated, but I listened to everything he told me to do and worked my way back into catching.”

SOFTBALL GOALS “My goals in high school are to go to state, in travel softball to place in nationals, and my overall goal is to play Division I in college.”

ROLE MODELS “Anyone who is/was part of the USA Women’s National Team is my role model. I can’t pick one specific person because they all dedicated an enormous amount of time to get where they are today and they show the youth that it is possible for your dreams to come true with hard work and dedication.”

HALEY HICKS, 14
Meridian, Idaho
Idaho Shock
Girls’ 14-Under Class A Fast Pitch
P/Infield

SOFTBALL GOALS “My goals in softball are to get at least a .500 batting average every season and to practice pitching so I can be the number one pitcher.”

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT “The accomplishment I’m most proud of is becoming a switch hitter. I worked really hard to learn how to slap, drag bunt, and hit from the left side.”

ROLE MODELS “My biggest role models are my coaches and my dad.”
Every day, millions of lives are shaped with a softball and a little open space.

There’s an insurance company that understands the value of those lessons.

Far from the stadium lights and the roar of the crowd come the moments when youth sports matters. These opportunities help form bonds that enrich the game and enhance the lives and life skills of young players. That’s why Liberty Mutual and our partners are proud to bring you the Responsible Sports™ program – offering educational resources, training tips and teaching tools for youth sports parents and coaches, plus coaching awards and valuable community grants.

Memorable youth sports moments are waiting for you. Visit ResponsibleSports.com/Softball today.
The Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program is designed to provide helpful advice and useful resources for youth softball coaches and parents that can be applied universally among youth athletes to help our children succeed both on and off the field.

**Parents**

As the parent of a youth softball player, you want the best for you child, on and off the field. The Responsible Sport Parenting guide provides helpful advice and useful resources that can help you fill the key roles of a Responsible Sport Parent.

**Coaches**

As a youth softball coach, you naturally want to prepare your team to win as many games as possible, and as a Responsible Coach, you want to prepare your players to win off the field, too. The Responsible Sport Coaching Guide can help you achieve both goals. Get started today!

**Earn a $2,500 grant for your softball team**

Each fall and spring you can earn one of the fifteen $2,500 grants to be awarded for demonstrating responsibility in youth sports. Join the Community Grant Hall of Fame along with the other softball winning organizations and see how they won to improve your team’s chances at winning!

**Responsible Sports Season Evaluation Tool**

The Responsible Sports Season Evaluation Tool, an easy to use online survey, allows you to share your valuable input on your child’s youth softball experience in an anonymous and confidential way to improve your league! Tell your administrator to sign up today! If you’re a softball coach, register your team to get started!

**Nominate your Coach for their hard work**

Nominate your coach for their dedication to youth softball. Nominate a coach you know for the Double-Goal Coach® Awards, presented by Liberty Mutual, and give them the recognition they deserve.

**Video & Podcast Library**

In the media library, watch Coach Candrea, Jessica Mendoza or a youth softball team in action demonstrating Responsible Sports principles and listen to the new podcasts series of sport celebrities.

For more information, visit ResponsibleSports.com/Softball and the join the movement today!
TICKETS ON SALE FOR TITLE IX 40TH ANNIVERSARY GAME

The 2012 USA Softball Women’s National Team will be included in ESPN’s weekend celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the signing of Title IX. On Saturday, June 23, at 6 p.m. CST, the Red, White and Blue will take the field on ESPN against Canada in a celebration game at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City. Don’t miss your opportunity to be in the stands cheering them on. Tickets are on sale now at www.softballoutlet.com or by calling 1-800-654-8337. Tickets are $7 for general admission seating and an autograph opportunity will be available following the game with both National Teams. Special giveaways and activities are planned throughout the game.

BERG JOINS NATIONAL TEAM STAFF

The most decorated USA Softball Olympic athlete will be back with the Red, White and Blue this summer as an assistant coach for the Women’s National Team. With three Olympic Gold Medals and one Olympic Silver, former center fielder Laura Berg (Santa Fe Springs, Calif.) will join head coach Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla./head coach of Univ. of South Florida) and assistants Mike White (Eugene, Ore/head coach Univ. of Oregon) and Tairia Flowers (Tucson, Ariz./head coach at Cal State Northridge) as an assistant for the 2012 season.

“It was such an honor to wear the Red, White and Blue as a player for many years,” said current Oregon State assistant coach Berg. “And now it’s even more of an honor and privilege to be a part of this coaching staff for the 2012 season and the International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championships. I am really excited for my new role and looking forward to this opportunity.”
There is no better place to shop for all of your ASA/USA Softball needs than SoftballOutlet.com. It’s your one-stop shop for USA Softball apparel and collectibles, coaches training material and DVDs, NCAA Softball merchandise, and tickets to ASA Hall of Fame events. Log on today and stock up for the season!

The International Softball Federation (ISF) announced the game schedule for the 16-nation ISF XIII Women’s World Championship taking place this July 13-22 in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. The ten-day competition features 66 matchups between the world’s best, including a seven-game set for the USA Softball Women’s National Team. The 16 teams that will compete are: Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, South Africa, USA, and Venezuela.

### 2012 ISF XIII WOMEN’S WORLD FASTPITCH CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complete USA Schedule (all times in CST):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JULY 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA vs. Venezuela</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA vs. Czech Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA vs. Puerto Rico</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA vs. South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA vs. China</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA vs. Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA vs. Dominican Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 20-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playoffs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ASA and DeMarini have teamed up to create new champion t-shirts that will be awarded to the winners of the 2012 ASA/USA Girls’ National Championships. These shirts will be awarded exclusively to the winners of the ASA/USA Girls’ 10-Under, 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under, 18-Under and GOLD 18-Under National Champions.

“DeMarini is proud to be a partner of ASA and the millions of players that share our insane dedication to the sport of fast pitch softball,” said Sara Bandauski of Wilson/DeMarini. “We look forward to every member of these ASA National Championship teams wearing their t-shirt as a symbol of their inclusion in a very small and elite group of players.”

The shirts will be distributed following the championship game of each of the above mentioned championships. In addition, a Wilson ball bucket will also accompany the shirts for 2012 championship teams.
A TRAILBLAZER STILL ON FIRE.
As one of the most dominating women to ever play the game, fastpitch ace Cat Osterman shines as the sport’s brightest star. And while her powerful left arm continues to fan out batters and rack up records, it’s her right arm that’s now getting much of the attention. Sporting the custom designed Wilson® A2000® ZCAT, she’s created a hot new glove that fits both her hand and her style – perfectly.

YOUR GLOVE IS YOUR GLOVE. CHOOSE WISELY.
ASA Softball Introduces new mobile website at M.ASASoftball.com

ASA has launched a mobile version of their website, available at M.ASASoftball.com. Designed using feedback from the ASA community, the new mobile site provides on-the-go information to any web-enabled iPhone, Android or other compatible mobile device. The new site provides users with easy to access ASA tournament listings, ASA Certified Equipment, top headlines, local association contacts, and an event listing for the ASA Hall of Fame Complex. In addition, the new technology provides a list of ASA preferred business partners and links to SoftballOutlet.com and OfficialGear.com. Visit m.ASASoftball.com from any web-enabled phone to access the site.

“We are excited to share the site with the public and enhance their browsing experience,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “With the number of people using mobile devices continually increasing, it is crucial for ASA to provide smart phone users quicker access to important information. With more and more visitors to our websites coming from their mobile devices, we can provide yet another avenue for the sharing of important information that our users would need. This site makes it easier for our parents, coaches, umpires and athletes who use smart phones to obtain helpful information about ASA Softball.”

The mobile website is intended to keep up with the increase in mobile surfing and meet the public’s growing preference for receiving information. The content is targeted to users who are at the softball field and will target relevant material that users may need. M.ASASoftball.com provides capabilities for users to:

**Search ASA Tournaments:** Users can search for and locate current, future, and past ASA National Championships and Qualifiers

**View ASA Certified Equipment:** This quick-use option allows users to view and search for ASA approved and non-approved bats and balls

**Shop:** Users can have quick access to specific items they wish to purchase, ranging from hats to ASA Hall of Fame Complex event tickets

The mobile website’s content is organized under seven main tabs: ASA Tournaments, ASA Certified Equipment, ASA Code, Headlines, Shop, Partners and Contact Us. The Tournaments tab allows users to browse all ASA National Championship Finals, National and Regional Qualifiers and GOLD National Championships and Qualifiers. Users will be able to browse through different divisions of play and access prior and future tournament information if that information is available. Additionally, the tournament Fact
Sheets will provide users who are already in transit to a tournament useful information such as local sponsoring hotels, playing field locations as well as contact information for the tournament directors and other coordinators. The ASA Certified Equipment tab will take users to lists of ASA approved and non-approved equipment. The non-approved sections provide a list and photo (if available) of all of the non-approved equipment, while the approved equipment is broken down by manufacturer and bat-type. The ASA Code provides browsers with an online version of the ASA Code, while the Headlines tab displays the most recent 20 news stories from ASASoftball.com. Upon choosing the Shop tab, users can select which online store they would like to visit. Within each section is a breakdown of the type of merchandise available so users can quickly have access to a specific item they wish to purchase. The Partners section lists all of ASA’s business partners and sponsors, while the Contact Us tab has a breakdown of the 76 local ASA associations. Within each association, browsers can view the contact information for their local association.

The new mobile-optimized website is a different version of ASA Softball’s original website, developed to suit the hardware of smart phones. Users will still be able to access ASASoftball.com on their phones and desktop computers in order to view information that is not available on M.ASASoftball.com. The mobile technologies fit well into ASA’s history of continually developing the sport of softball. In addition to being one of the first national softball organization’s to launch a mobile site, ASA was the first to accept and introduce a universal set of rules.
Does your team have bake sales to raise funds for an animal shelter? Do you visit the hospital to play with children? If you have a team that has shown a commitment to serving the community then the ASA and Musco Lighting want to honor you!

The “Bright Light Award” honors an ASA registered Junior Olympic (JO) team who has shown a commitment to the community through service and volunteerism. The first of its kind, the “Bright Light Award” process includes an application form with detailed specifics for consideration.

The award winning team will receive $2,000 towards registration fees for any 2012 ASA sanctioned tournament in the United States. The winners will also be honored with 20 “Bright Light” T-shirts for their roster and staff as well as a banner for display. The award presentation will take place on Sunday, November 11, 2012 in Dallas, Texas, at the ASA Annual Meeting Opening Session. (Winning team will receive one hotel room for two nights; must pay own travel costs.)

“This award is a way to recognize and give back to ASA Junior Olympic teams that are involved in the community and take time as a team to help others,” said ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “We are thrilled to work with Musco, our official lighting partner, on this project to give back to the teams who make ASA shine everyday both on and off the field of play.”

The winning team will be selected by a panel of administrators from ASA and Musco, using the following criteria for evaluation:

- Service must be 100% volunteer in nature (no payment)
- Service must be performed as a team with 75% of the roster in attendance
- Team must be ASA Registered by August 31, 2012
- Service must take place from January 1, 2012 to August 31, 2012
- Panel will take into consideration the following: Positive effect on community, number of people affected, impact of service to the team, total number of hours and participants

The deadline for submission is August 31, 2012, and the winning team will be announced on September 14. Applications must be submitted via email or mail to Julie Bartel at jbartel@softball.org or ASA National Office, 2801 N.E. 50th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73111, and must be received by August 31, 2012.
Nike Softball Camps

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(1-800-645-3226)

USSPORTSCAMPS.COM/SOFTBALL

NIKE Softball Camps Sponsored by USA Softball

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Freedom Park Complex, N. Cal
Twin Creeks Softball Complex, N. Cal
Cal State Monterey Bay, N. Cal
UC Santa Barbara, C. Cal
Just Softball – Mt. Sac, S.Cal
University of San Diego, S. Cal
San Diego City College, S. Cal
UNR & the Reno Sports Complex, NV
Willamette University, OR
Embry Riddle University, AZ
Metro State, CO

EAST
Fairfield University, CT
Curry College, MA
Amherst College, MA
Dan Duquette Sports Academy, MA
Gettysburg College, PA
SUNY Cortland, NY
Adelphi University, NY
The Lawrenceville School, NJ
New Jersey Jackals, NJ
The College of New Jersey, NJ
Salisbury University, MD
Shepherd University, WV
Greensboro College, NC
Columbus State, GA
Southeastern University, FL

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1.866.830.5014
As the Umpire in Chief for Roseville Girls Softball (RGS), closing another season is bitter sweet. I’m ready for the closure simply due to exhaustion of scheduling 74 youth umpires in a league containing over 700+ participants comprising 60 teams. However, the closure of season also means having to say goodbye to some umpires that are off to college.

This season is a tough one as one of our umpires, who started our program as a 7th grade student, is graduating and leaving RGS’s nest. Jacob Priley (Jake) is a senior this year and as many families experience, will be leaving for college in the fall.

I met Jake seven years ago, his sister was playing in the league and his mother was part of the board. Jake introduced himself to me when he was in 6th grade, expressed an interest in joining the program and told me I’d see him the following year in training.

Now, our youth umpire program traditionally doesn’t entice the young men to join – simply because there is a lot of estrogen flying around and guys are really outnumbered and normally last a season before moving onto something else. January came around and this 7th grade boy stood out in a sea of 65+ girls – he was the only male in the room! He didn’t care – he wanted to umpire, he wanted to earn money, he wanted to interact with adults outside of his immediate family and teachers, and he wanted to learn a new trade. The 2007 season started and ended and for the next five seasons, Jake returned to the flock, earning his way up as a senior umpire and becoming an outstanding young man.

During Jake’s sophomore year in high school, I took a handful of my senior umpires to National Umpire School, being held in Southern California, of course, Jake is still the only male. So my six umpires are very close in age and have created very close friendships and in the main lecture area, Jake walks in with his friends of five young ladies – don’t think heads didn’t turn! Suddenly, Jake was in the majority and the girls were in the minority but even better, Jake was envied by every guy at NUS. They came up to me and to Jake to get the “story” and when they found out that Jake was working in a league of 65+ female umpires (with many near his age), all the guys told Jake “Dude, you have THE best job in the world!”

That summer, Jake was selected to work in the National Tournament hosted in Roseville Calif., he worked a few summer tournaments when his schedule allowed but more importantly, he was appointed to serve on Roseville’s Parks and Recreation Board and got a firsthand view of community civics. Jake went on to serve on Student Government at his school and attended President Elect Obama’s inauguration.

Jake has worked hard academically over the years, earning a 4.5 GPA, working for RGS as well as other part-time jobs to save money for college. As he sent out college applications, he received MANY acceptances, including NYU. But NYU was different – they really wanted Jake. They called him after they sent out their acceptance letter, told him how much they wanted him to attend their school, proceeded to offer him a full-ride academic scholarship and to ensure he knew they were serious, flew him out to NYU to show him the campus and what they had to offer.

Proudly, Jake accepted their offer but that also means my first boy is leaving the nest. Jake is one of the nicest young men I have had the pleasure to meet; he is an exceptional leader and mentor and always tries to help his fellow umpire. His resume is impressive but more importantly, Jake is an impressive young man. I am so lucky to him a friend and to have had the pleasure to meet; he is an exceptional leader and mentor and always tries to help his fellow umpire. His resume is impressive but more importantly, Jake is an impressive young man. I am so lucky to him a friend and to have had the privilege to watch him grow up over the years. Good luck Mr. Priley and know that RGS will miss you but know that great success awaits you in the future.

Do you have original softball themed artwork, essays or poems that you would like considered for publication in a future magazine issue? Email it to promotions@softball.org with your name, age and location.
Let our team help you insure your teams!

THREE EASY WAYS TO INSURE SOFTBALL:

1. Contact your ASA Commissioner
   Visit www.ASASoftball.com for contact info

2. Contact Bollinger Sports—ASA Department
   Ph: 800-526-1379 • ASAInfo@BollingerInsurance.com

3. Visit the ASA Insurance & Risk Management Website
   www.BollingerASA.com
Let our team help you insure your teams!

Three Easy Ways to Insure Softball:

1. Contact your ASA Commissioner
   Visit www.ASA Softball.com for contact info

2. Contact Bollinger Sports—ASA Department
   Ph: 800-526-1379
   • ASAInfo@BollingerInsurance.com

3. Visit the ASA Insurance & Risk Management Website
   www.BollingerASA.com

Click here for more information about the 2012 ASA Gold National Championship
Seattle/Tacoma ASA Commissioner Mike Rabin sat down with Balls and Strikes Online Magazine to talk about his association and what makes them successful.

B&S: What sets Seattle/Tacoma ASA apart from other Associations?

Like many ASA Associations, Seattle/Tacoma has a long and proud history beginning with Seattle’s first commissioner appointed in 1939 and Tacoma’s first commissioner appointed in 1940. Our overall body of work since our inception 73 years ago perhaps distinguishes us from other Associations. Seattle Tacoma has nine members in the National Softball Hall of Fame, has been home to world class men’s fast pitch tournaments and teams, hosted ten national championships since 1995 including the 16-Under Class A ASA/USA National Championship in 2006. We hosted the largest national umpire school in ASA history and have a proud history of local umpires umpiring at the highest levels within ASA and internationally, including the Olympic Games.

B&S: You’re somewhat new to the Commissioner role having taken over in 2010. What’s been the biggest adjustments for you in this position and some of the things that you didn’t expect coming into the job?

I was fortunate to have had an excellent predecessor, Joe Wilson. The transition was orderly and well planned out. Consequently not too much has been a surprise although I’m still trying to find out the best place to buy aloha shirts. What has taken some adjustment has been the allocation of my time. My experience was mostly in the fast pitch side of the house so I’ve spent much of my time learning and understanding the slow pitch world. Because our Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioner, Jim Donner, is one of the best, I’ve been able to spend the time establishing relationships with the slow pitch league directors and the cities that they represent.

B&S: As the Commissioner, what helps you provide great service to your ASA players, coaches, umpires and fans?

I think there are two things that are keys to providing great service. First and foremost, a strong staff is a necessity. The JO, Umpire In Chief and Player Representative need to be engaged with the individuals who make up their areas of responsibility. This means listening to their concerns and to understand that these people are our customers. Secondly, all of us need to effectively communicate with our customers. While websites, e-mail and social media are important, what is more important is to physically interact with our customers at the ballpark. The more we’re visible the more we’ll learn what we’re doing correctly, what we need to do to improve, and most importantly it shows our customers how much we appreciate their participation in ASA softball.

B&S: As an organization what do you feel is Seattle/Tacoma ASA’s biggest strength/weakness

I believe we have a strong staff that is getting stronger, a strong umpire group, a strong JO tournament program and excellent slow pitch league participation. We need to improve our participation in social media, continue to develop our slow pitch tournament program, and increase the number of individuals who are part of our staff.

B&S: What are some of the ways that you reach out to the teams in your association and share information with them?

Our JO tournament program is almost 100% tournament oriented. Almost every weekend beginning in February through October/November, Jim Donner runs an invitational tournament. Consequently, much of the information is disseminated at the tournaments. Jim also has preseason coaches meetings as well as posting information on his website. Since our slow pitch program is almost 100% league play, information is shared physically with team managers and league directors at the preseason league meetings. We also forward pertinent information directly to league directors who forward information to the teams. We’ve also begun to build a substantial library of coaches e-mail addresses so that we can market directly to them.
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ASA has strengthened our partnership with Clubspaces this year by integrating Clubspaces with Register ASA. Over the years, we have seen our leagues continue to save time and money by taking advantage of all the league management tools Clubspaces has to offer. Clubspaces is ideal for all ASA leagues.

—Ron Radigonda, Executive Director of ASA

*Note: Online registrations may be charged credit card processing and transaction fees. Please call for quote 888.427.9170 Option 3, Option 1
June 10-17 witnessed a series of exciting events as the 2012 Jim Thorpe Native American Games, hosted at different venues throughout Oklahoma City, took over the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Hall of Fame Complex.

The Games, which featured more than 4,000 Native American athletes, helped celebrate the 100th anniversary of Jim Thorpe's record-setting Olympic performance in Sweden. “On behalf of the State of Oklahoma, I am pleased to welcome the Jim Thorpe Native American Games to Oklahoma City,” Governor Mary Fallin said. “This event allows us to showcase our state’s rich Native American heritage and also celebrates the accomplishments of one of Oklahoma’s and the world’s greatest athletes, Jim Thorpe.”

The Games were comprised of 11 competitive sports, sporting exhibitions, an art show and traditional entertainment. The competitive sports included: baseball, softball, basketball, tennis, stickball, golf, track and field, cross country, wrestling, beach volleyball and martial arts. At the ASA Hall of Fame Complex, five 12-Under, four 14-Under and six 18-Under squads took the field to compete for the Championship title. The following is a list of winners:

**12-Under:** Dream Keepers  
**14-Under:** Oklahoma Red Race  
**18-Under:** Oklahoma Intertribal
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Thirteen umpires from six countries will partake in the World Cup of Softball VII presented by Lumber Liquidators and the Border Battle IV in Oklahoma City. The World Cup of Softball, an international women’s fast pitch event that includes six countries, is June 27- July 2 at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium while the men’s slow pitch Border Battle IV is June 30.

“It is an honor to be selected as an umpire to represent your country in any international event,” said ASA Supervisor of Umpires Kevin Ryan. “These umpires have earned the right to do so. It is their umpiring ability that has allowed them this opportunity. I am sure they’re nervous and excited to be able umpire both the Border Battle and the World Cup.”

Umpires for the World Cup VII are Australia’s Ron Housion, Brazil’s Fernando Silva, Canada’s Peter Klusczynski, Netherlands’ Bob Gieskens, Puerto Rico’s Reynaldo Mora and the United States’ Diane Carden (Newark, Del.), Mike Latona (Winter Haven, Fla.) and Sue Sawyer (Orange, Calif.). The umpires will work 18 international softball games that feature Australia, Brazil, Canada, Netherlands, Puerto Rico and the 2012 USA Softball Women’s National Team.

“This has been a 16-year goal of mine to be able to work such a high level of international softball,” said Sue Sawyer. “You put in so much effort and spend so much time away from home and when you get the call that you’ve been selected for an event like this it’s truly an honor.”

Five umpires have been selected for the Border Battle IV, including Ben Clements of Canada. The U.S. umpires are Tom Borucki (Seaville, N.J.), Roger Garcia (Anchorage, Alaska), Chris McGee (Hattiesburg, Miss.) and Tim Watts (Lincoln, Neb.). In addition to the Border Battle IV, a game that will be
Because this sport is not in the Olympics, to be invited to work this game is the highest honor that a slow pitch umpire can receive."

Chris Mcgee

Umpires at the 2011 World Cup of Softball

Because this sport is not in the Olympics, to be invited to work this game is the highest honor that a slow pitch umpire can receive," said Chris McGee. "The fact that only four Americans and one Canadian are selected just adds to the honor of being selected."

Tickets for the World Cup VII and Border Battle IV are now on sale. Tickets to the Border Battle and all other slow pitch games games are included in all-session ticket packages for the World Cup, which are $275 for the Ultimate Fan Zone premium seating in the first three rows of the stadium, $80 for other reserved seating and $45 for general admission seating, and can be purchased online now at SoftballOutlet.com or by calling 800-654-8337. Single session general admission tickets are also available.

The World Cup and Border Battle are events sanctioned by the International Softball Federation.
“I am the parent of a very talented 10th grader and she is just a consistent hitter. She has hit a few out but never in front of her grandfather. Well her grandfather has lost sight in his left eye and is losing some in the right. He came to the game last week and told her that his wish was to see her hit it over before he completely lost all vision. She was up to bat and believe it or not hit it over on the first pitch. That day she went 4-4 with 5 RBI. She played an awesome game at first and they won the game 7-2. Needless to say there wasn’t a dry eye in the van on the way home! Thanks for letting me share my story.”

**Beverly Rosen**
*Huntington, Ind.*

“I have had many personal records throughout my 15 years of playing softball. I lost my father when I was 16 and he was the man who taught me everything about softball and how to never give up on athletics. I decided to choose Penn State Altoona for college and to try out for the school’s Division III Softball team. I ended up beating out five recruits and one returning player for a spot on the team. This was one of my own personal records, but nothing will beat when we played in a tournament in Myrtle Beach, S.C. My first collegiate hit was a homerun 60 feet past the fence on a rise ball with full count and also receiving one of two awards given out at the end of the season. I was honored with the Sportsmanship award as a college freshman in 2011. I hope my personal record made my dad proud even though he is not here today.”

**Colleen Hughes**
*Downingtown, Pa.*

“My softball personal record is when I pitched my first no-hitter. It was 11 o’clock at night and we were in the championship playing in our first ever 10-Under tournament. I warmed up really good and was confident my team could win. In the first inning the first batter bunted. I fielded it and got her out at first. After that nobody else put the ball in play. I ended up having 23 strikeouts and we won 3-0. The feeling was like no other and I wish I could live my softball personal record over and over again.”

**Paxton Scheurer**
*Mansfield, Texas*

“After three and a half years of travel ball my daughter made her first diving catch play at third base. She stopped the ball but didn’t have time to make the play at first, however she tagged the runner moving from second to third and this was the third out. She’s always been nervous to dive for the ball because she was worried she would miss and look stupid. This happened at our first ASA Tournament of 2012 at Tyger River Park. We thoroughly enjoyed the entire weekend. The Spring Swing Tournament was well run, the park was fantastic and we placed second in the 14-Under age group which is nothing to complain about.”

**Kristi Moffett**
*Mooresville, N.C.*
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Game Control
A common item for discussion among umpires is game management. The discussion centers around ways umpires can achieve a game without issues. Sometimes the discussion leaves out an important detail... "Game Control". Game Control can be described as taking charge of an unusual situation before the situation results in chaos. A good tool for game control and game management is often referred to as "preventive umpiring". In fact, if umpires use preventive umpiring techniques then game control and game management would become easier. Therefore, good "Game Control" leads to good "Game Management".

Umpires should not use the term game control as a tool for an umpire to be involved every situation occurring on the ball field. Game control should seldom, if never, be noticed: Example, if we have a batter-runner who starts to run to 1B thinking ball four has been awarded; the umpire should call "time" and bring the batter back to the plate. The same holds true with runners on 1B and 2B and the batter takes off for 1B thinking it is ball four causing runners to advance. To eliminate confusion for both the offense and the defense, the umpire should call "time." An umpire with good game control who gives a loud "time" can prevent the chaos before it gets a chance to start.

We get input from umpires around the country as to what game control should be.

One idea comes from one of our best Men's Fast Pitch umpires, Jack Floyd. Jack says "Respect for the game and how it is played contributes to how well an umpire manages and controls a game." Respect for the game and how it is supposed to be played starts by being a "student of the game" and it lends itself to the umpire's ability to control a game that might otherwise get out of control. It is important for umpires not to interject themselves personally into the game. Success in game control is handling every situation without anyone knowing you were there. Developing these skills gives everyone a sense of consistency and fairness in how the game was managed.

Another important part of Game Control is "credibility and integrity". These attributes are earned by an umpire every game. Teams, coaches, fans and even fellow umpires will see an umpire who can command and demonstrate their knowledge of the game as having credibility. Integrity comes from consistency; consistency in your calls as well as consistency in your approach to situations on the field. Teams and coaches learn quickly what umpires will or will not accept in the game you are working.

Confidence is also a vital part of umpiring that an umpire will not find in the rule book. This confidence gained thru rule knowledge, observations of other umpires, clinics, camps and on-field training will allow the umpire to deal with situations that do not normally occur. The umpire must grasp the idea that if they cannot control themselves, then they cannot control the situation. They must remain in control to create control.

If the umpire looses control of themselves then they may just as well walk off the field as they have lost their ability to control the game.

As you can see knowing when to step up and control a situation is not always easy. Learning how and when to control a game comes as a result of hard work honing one's skills as an umpire. The umpire should realize that they are only as good as their last game, and they should never be satisfied with their past performance on the field.

It is impossible for anyone to describe all the situations in which an umpire can use good game control techniques. However, an umpire that realizes that the game is for the players and if they do not play we do not get to umpire. We, the umpires, are there to insure that the game is played fairly under the ASA rules. If we see something unusual developing, we should read the situation, and, if an umpire needs to take control before chaos begins, do so. You will be a better umpire for it.
A special thank you goes out to fellow umpires Jack Floyd, Don Alexander, John Wright and Bill Silves for their input on this subject. Many, if not all of these thoughts, come from their umpire experiences in either quotes or input.

**Rawlings Batting Helmet**

During the Equipment Testing and Certification Committee meeting on June 1, 2012, Rawlings Sporting Goods Company asked ASA to review the Cool Flow helmet with the snap fit face mask. After reviewing the helmet, it was determined that this helmet and facemask design met the intent of ASA Rule 3, Section 5E: OFFENSE: All adult fast pitch, modified pitch and all Junior Olympic offensive players, including the on-deck batter, and Junior Olympic players acting as coaches in the coach’s box, must properly wear double ear flap NOCSAE approved batting helmets. All Junior Olympic batting helmets shall be equipped with chin straps. All Junior Olympic Fast Pitch batting helmets shall be equipped with a securely fastened NOCSAE approved face mask/guard. Batting helmets that are broken, cracked, dented, or that have been illegally altered are prohibited from use.

The question was, “Is the face mask securely fastened?” The answer is “yes.” Based on the discussions, the Rawlings Cool Flow Batting Helmet with the snap fit face mask is approved for use in ASA Championship Play. Make sure the top clip is installed facing forward and both the mask and the helmet must have the NOCSAE Certification approval on them. Please note the NOCSAE approval on the mask is on the inside of the mask.

**Senior Bat Rule**

The Equipment Testing and Certification committee has approved the following definition of a senior bat that meets Rule 3, Section 1 Exception:

All bats used in ASA play for the Senior Divisions must be Official Softball Bats certified by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) and / or marked BPF 1.21 or less. Bats must have their original paint markings for complete identification. These bats must still meet all other provisions of Rule 3, Section 1 and pass all bat inspections performed by the National Championship Finals Tournament Official. The Miken Ultra is not allowed (the Miken Ultra II is allowed).

**Plays and Rulings**

**Play:** JO Fast pitch: In the top of the eighth inning. The offensive coach asks the umpires what they are supposed to do. The umpires tell the coach to place the batter due to bat last in this inning on second base and proceed with their normal lineup. B9 is scheduled to bat, but the team misunderstands the umpire and puts B9 on second base as R1 to begin the tie-breaker. B1 comes to bat and hits a ball between F7 and F8. R1 scores and B1 is thrown out at 2B. After calling time, the defensive coach appeals that the wrong runner was on 2B and the wrong batter just hit.

**Ruling:** B9 is out for batting out of order. There is no penalty for putting the wrong runner on base. However R1’s run does not count. B1 out stands, B8 is placed on 2B with two outs and B2 is the batter. Rule 7, Section 2D [2] EFFECT [a, b] and EXCEPTION

**Play:** Team A has ten players listed on the line-up card in a game of JO Fast Pitch. The DP is batting in the 4th spot for the pitcher listed in the 10 spot (FLEX) on the line-up card. In the 4th inning the DP gets a single to LF. The coach of team “A” calls time and puts the pitcher in to run for the DP. After one pitch the coach asks for time and now wants to put in a courtesy runner for the pitcher. Is this legal?

**Ruling:** This is not legal and should not be allowed. The courtesy runner is not permitted to run as a courtesy runner for the Designated Player (DP) if the DP is batting for the pitcher or the catcher. In this case the DP is who earned their way on base, not the pitcher, so no Courtesy Runner would be allowed. Rule 8, Section 10.
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- Connectors secure panels together to form one continuous fence.
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References

ASA Official Portable Fence; NCAA Women’s Fastpitch “World Series” Division I, II & III Championships Series; City of Woodland, City of Santa Maria, Salem VA, etc.

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GAME 3 • MAY 31

CALIFORNIA 5
GAME 2 • MAY 31

LSU 3
GAME 10 • JUNE 2

ALABAMA 5
GAME 4 • JUNE 2

OREGON 1
GAME 8 • JUNE 2

TENNESSEE 1
GAME 6 • JUNE 2

ARIZONA STATE 3
GAME 8 • JUNE 2

LSU 1
GAME 9 • JUNE 2

ARIZONA STATE 6
GAME 9 • JUNE 2

ALABAMA 2
GAME 11 • JUNE 3

ARIZONA STATE 1
GAME 11 • JUNE 3

OREGON 3
GAME 12 • JUNE 3

CALIFORNIA 2
GAME 12 • JUNE 3

CALIFORNIA 5
GAME 5 • JUNE 1

OKLAHOMA 3
GAME 5 • JUNE 1

OKLAHOMA 5
GAME 11 • JUNE 3

ALABAMA 5
GAME 12 • JUNE 3

CHAMP FINALS (BEST 2-OF-3)

OKLAHOMA 4-1
JUNE 4

ALABAMA 8-6
JUNE 5

ALABAMA 5-4
JUNE 6

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The National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum and gift shop are now open to the public after nearly five months of renovations. Housed at the ASA National headquarters in Oklahoma City, the museum and gift shop, which have been closed since December, 2011, reopened with a new look and display of artifacts that are available for public viewing for the first time.

Since its grand opening in 1973 at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex, the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum has served as the national institution for the study, interpretation and appreciation of the impact of softball on society as well as honoring those individuals who have made contributions to the sport. With 360 inductees, the National Softball Hall of Fame is among the most difficult sport halls in the nation in which to gain membership. Two initial renovations added additional square footage at the museum and gift shop, and in 2010, the museum received a face lift which included new carpeting and additional exhibit space in the bottom floor of the building.

Guests to the Museum and gift shop will notice several new features and additions to the building. Upon arriving at the ASA headquarters, guests will enter the building through an upgraded entrance which now provides easier access for visitors. The remodel will also feature additional Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations such as a newly installed elevator in the museum and new bathrooms. Our customers will also now have an opportunity to purchase additional items in the gift shop which will display umpire clothing and accessories from OfficialGear.com. The National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum also received a minor face life in the “Softball in the Olympic Games” exhibit. Upon entering the room, fans can take a journey to the past as they watch the U.S. play in the 1996-2008 Olympic Games. Text panels summarizing all four Olympic Games and redesigned exhibit cases are also the latest upgrades for the exhibit.
Above: The "Softball in the Olympic Games" exhibit has gotten a major face lift. Visitors can now view clips and interviews from all four Olympic Games on a new flat screen TV, and text panels provide an overview of the 1996-2008 Olympic Games.

Left: Guests enjoying the new video in the "Softball in the Olympic Games" exhibit.

The National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum and gift shop is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. During the winter, the Museum and gift shop are closed on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is $6 for adults and $3 for children.

To see more images of the renovation process, visit ASASoftball.com.
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2012 ASA 2K SERIES STANDINGS

- Tournament must be ASA Sanctioned
- Tournament upper division must play with ASA Restricted Player List. To view the current list, click here ASA Class A Men’s Slow Pitch Restricted Players List
- Tournament free to use rules it sees fit for event
- Teams can win cash certificate only one time, if they enter another event and win, the certificate will be passed down to the next team

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Remaining Events

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<td>McQuade</td>
<td>Jack Jones</td>
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<td>June 23</td>
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<td>Rivershore Sports</td>
<td>Larry Quartuccio</td>
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<td>Chattanooga Cho Cho ASA 2K Classic</td>
<td>Aristotle Huffman</td>
<td>423-771-1955</td>
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This summer the USA Junior Men’s Fastpitch team is preparing for the Junior Men’s World Championships November 1-10 in Parana, Argentina. The event is the first ever of its kind in Latin America.

Fifteen countries will compete in the tournament, making this the most countries to ever participate in a Junior Men’s. This is another first which indicates the growth and popularity of the sport. All regions will be represented by the national teams from the following countries: Argentina, Australia, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, United States and Venezuela. This will mark the first time four countries have participated in the Junior Men’s World Championship: British Virgin Islands, Croatia, India, and Singapore.

“We cannot be more pleased with the turnout for this event. The host organizing committee is charged and ready to put on the best event the Junior Men’s World Championship has ever seen and we are looking forward to their hospitality,” ISF President Don Porter said. “The growth of the game is evident with new countries achieving qualification for a spot to participate, we are very fortunate that countries like British Virgin Islands, Croatia, India, and Singapore have worked to elevate their play to this level as it should provide for good experience for the athletes.”

The USA Junior’s are slated to attend National Team Selection and Training camp in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 21-27 as well as Midland, Michigan, July 13-23. The final USA Junior Men’s National Team roster will be announced on July 25.

The USA Junior Men will have their hands full in Argentina. The Australians are the four time defending champions, having defeated Canada 2-1 after an eight inning pitching duel in 2008 in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. Seven scoreless innings saw Canada score first in the top of the eighth under the international tie-breaker rule. Canada’s pitching had held up in the bottom of the eighth with two runners on and two outs, only one out was needed in order for Canada to stop Australia’s reign as champions, however a pinch hitter (Drew Faulkner) thwarted Canada’s hopes by hitting a single scoring both runs giving Australia the Gold Medal once again. This year’s World Championship expects to be just as exciting.
USA SOFTBALL MEN’S SLOW PITCH NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM HITS THE ROAD THIS SUMMER

The 2012 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National and Futures Teams begin preparations for the Slow Pitch Showdown and Border Battle IV by competing in a series of exhibition games. The competition kicks off a series of three appearances the Red, White and Blue will make this summer with games scheduled for North Dakota, South Dakota and Oklahoma City.

The athletes will start the 2012 season at the Sam McQuade Sr. Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament in Bismarck, N.D. on June 22 as the new USA Softball Future Men’s Slow Pitch Team takes on the North Dakota National Guard All-Stars team at 6 p.m. At 8 p.m., the USA Men’s Slow Pitch National Team will face off against the Scheels Sports/Gene Were All-Stars, a team which is composed of participating players from the upper divisions of the McQuade Tournament. Members from both the Futures and Men’s National Team will be available for autographs from 1-3 p.m. on Friday, June 22 at Scheels Sports located at 802 Kirkwood Mall in Bismarck. National Team members will also be participating in a softball clinic for local Special Olympic athletes on Friday afternoon.

“The Sam McQuade Sr./Budweiser Charity Tournament is proud to host Team USA and the USA Futures Team at our 37th annual event,” said co-tournament director Jack Jones. “We expect several thousand fans at Clem Kelley Complex on Friday, June 22, as our country’s best players help kick off the world’s largest charity softball tournament, featuring a field of 458 teams playing 15 divisions of men’s and women’s softball.”

Admission prices for the McQuade Charity tournament are $6.00 for Friday only and a three-day tournament pass is $15.00.

After playing the two games in Bismarck, the men will head to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where the Men’s Slow Pitch National Team will play the Future Men’s Slow Pitch Team at 6:30 p.m. on June 25 at Sioux Falls Baseball Stadium. Following the game, the Men’s National Team will take on the local celebrities team at 7:45 p.m. Members from both teams will be
available after the games for a meet and greet, including an autograph session, at Boonie’s Bar & BBQ, located at 805 N. West Avenue in Sioux Falls. Preceding the exhibition games is a “Youth Night” and Kids Skill Camp, which begins at 4 p.m. Admission is $5.00 and all proceeds will go to the Harmodon Park Tree Fund, the Sanford Children’s Cancer Foundation and the Children’s Miracle Network. General admission gates open at 5:30 p.m. Prior to the games, members from both Men’s National Teams will be making an appearance at Sanford Children’s Hospital and Avera Children’s Hospital.

Following the action in South Dakota, both teams leave for Oklahoma City, where they will compete in the inaugural Slow Pitch Showdown at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex at 7 p.m. CT. On Saturday, June 30, Team USA will take on the Canadian Men’s Slow Pitch Team at 2 p.m. CT for Border Battle IV. Both games will be aired live on ESPN2. Autograph sessions will also follow both games.

Tickets for the Slow Pitch Showdown and Border Battle IV are now available in a variety of packages. All-session tickets, which are $275 for the Ultimate Fan Zone seating in the first three rows of the stadium, $80 for other reserved seating and $45 for general admission seating, are on sale now and include tickets to the Slow Pitch Showdown and Border Battle IV. The Ultimate Fan Zone package also includes a private autograph session and dinner with the 2012 USA Softball Women’s National Team, only open to Ultimate Fan Zone ticket holders, as well as free parking and a replica USA Softball jersey. Reserved single session tickets are $25 and general admission are $10 for each of the six days of the World Cup and Border Battle.

To purchase tickets, call 800-654-8337 or visit SoftballOutlet.com. Tickets will also be available at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium ticket booth during the event.

2012 USA SOFTBALL MEN’S FUTURES SLOW PITCH NATIONAL TEAM

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<td>Utility</td>
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<td>Kevin Filby</td>
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<td>3rd Base</td>
<td>Whittier, Calif.</td>
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<td>Birmingham, Ala.</td>
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<td>Brian Zirkle</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
<td>Kanakakee, Ill.</td>
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2012 USA SOFTBALL MEN’S SLOW PITCH NATIONAL TEAM

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<td>Lake Wylie, S.C.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Brian Wegman</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
<td>Hamilton, Ohio</td>
<td>R/R</td>
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Assistant Coach: Randy Raper
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Thirty-two of the country’s finest softball players traveled to Ashland, Ohio on June 9 for the USA Softball Women’s National Team (WNT) selection camp. In January, 12 athletes were named to the National Team. Twenty additional attendees competed at the camp for the remaining spots on the 2012 WNT roster.

Amanda Chidester (Allen Park, Mich./Michigan 2012), Sam Fischer (Simi Valley, Calif./Loyola Marymount 2012), Christi Orgeron (New Orleans, La./Louisiana Lafayette 2012), Jessica Shults (Valencia, Calif./Oklahoma senior) and Jackie Traina (Naples, Fla./Alabama junior) were named to the final roster following three days of competition. They will join the 12 athletes who were previously named to the WNT for this summer’s events in the US as well as Canada. Previously named athletes are Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif./Cal 2012), Kaitlin Cochran (Yorba Linda, Calif./Arizona State 2009), Lauren Gibson (Pasadena, Md./Tennessee senior), Ashley Holcombe (Fayetteville, Ga./Alabama 2009), Molly Johnson (Tucson, Ariz./Kentucky 2010), Stacy May-Johnson (Reno, Nev./Iowa 2006), Jenae Leles (Sacramento, Calif./Arizona 2009), Michelle Moultrie (Jacksonville, Fla./Florida 2012), Keilani Ricketts (San Jose, Calif./Oklahoma senior), Jordan Taylor (Valencia, Calif./Michigan 2011), Rhea Taylor (Buford, Ga./Missouri 2011) and Chelsea Thomas (Pleasantville, Iowa/Missouri senior)

Additional athletes who competed during the Women’s National Team
selection camp were: Lexy Bennett (Kingwood, Texas/Texas 2012), Katelyn Boyd (Phoenix, Ariz./Arizona State 2012), Elizabeth Caporuscio (Lake Arrowhead, Calif./Arizona State sophomore), Lauren Chamberlain (Trabuco Canyon, Calif./Oklahoma sophomore), Dallas Escobedo (Glendale, Ariz./Arizona State junior), Rebecca Gamby (Mount Victory, Ohio/Marshall 2012), Jolene Henderson (Elk Grove, Calif./California senior), Taylor Hoagland (Flower Mound, Texas/Texas senior), Destinee Martinez (Corona, Calif./Oklahoma junior), Meagan May (Spring, Texas/Texas A&M senior), Sara Nevins (Pinellas Park, Fla./South Florida junior), Ellen Renfroe (Jackson, Tenn./Tennessee junior), Janine Richardson (Auburndale, Fla./South Florida 2012), Madison Shipman (Valencia, Calif./Tennessee junior), Lindsey Ziegenhirt (Elk Grove, Calif./California senior)
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July 11 - Warwick, RI: Winslow Park
July 11 - Clermont, FL: National Training Center
July 17 - Irving, TX: University of Dallas
July 24 - Sacramento, CA: Cosumnes River College
August 7 - Glen Allen, VA: Deep Run HS
August 14 - Minooka, IL: Field of Dreams
August 19 - Ewing, NJ: College of New Jersey
August 19 - Milwaukee, WI: Alverno College
August 26 - Baltimore, MD: UMBC
August 26 - Council Bluffs, IA: Iowa Western CC
September 2 - Shawnee, KS: Shawnee Mission
September 9 - West Haven, CT: West Haven HS
September 16 - Sellersville, PA: B. Earl Druckenmiller Park
September 23 - Trussville, AL: Hewitt-Trussville HS
September 30 - Pearland, TX: Pearland HS
October 7 - Georgetown, TX: East View HS
October 14 - St. Louis, MO: U. Missouri - St. Louis
October 14 - Oklahoma City, OK: ASA Hall of Fame Stadium
October 21 - Waterford Township, MI: Oakland Yard
October 28 - Albuquerque, NM: La Cueva HS
October 28 - Shreveport, LA: Centenary College
November 4 - Fresno, CA: Clovis North HS
November 11 - Washington, PA: C-Side Sports Academy

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San Marcos, California; Vancouver, Washington; Conway, Arkansas; and Rochester, New York; what do all of these places have in common? They were some of the first stops on this year’s ASA/USA National Identification Program Tour, powered by Softball Factory. In 2012, Softball Factory will be in nearly 50 cities, searching for the very best talent each area has to offer. As the Official Scouting Partner of ASA/USA Softball, Softball Factory will host the National Identification events to not only assist the selection committee in their search for the next 2013 and 2014 Junior National Teams, but also provide additional college exposure and player development opportunities for players across the country.

“Our sport needs Softball Factory,” said Karen Johns, USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team Head Coach. “This organization is revolutionizing the sport of softball and providing much needed opportunities in player development and college recruiting for players across the U.S. They have a proven system that simply gets results for players. Our sport was really lacking in player development before Softball Factory came along.”

Many talented players have come through the program to-date, including Arkansas native Tyra Williams. At the National I.D. Program held at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, her performance earned Top Underclassman honors. A rising sophomore at Sylvan Hills High School, Tyra is just beginning the college recruiting process. She brings a ton of athleticism to her game, with a great combination of speed and strength. To further accelerate her skills, Tyra will join the Softball Factory at the College World Series Select Training this June. It promises to be a great event with top notch instruction from Coach Lea Ann Jarvis, former Team USA member and Katie Cochran, current member of Team USA. The sky is the limit for Tyra and she is a player to watch for in the future.

Another standout player to come through the program is Madison Anthony out of Vancouver, Washington. Madison is a rising senior at Skyview High School. An Oregon Blaze Gold player, she was named the Top Prospect at the National I.D. Program held in Vancouver and is on the radar for several Division I programs. Madison’s mother played for Coach Jarvis at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, so the strong bloodlines are present with Maddie. A 5’10” SS/3B, Madison displays the speed and power to play at a high level.

This summer our tour will take us to 13 different cities, including Dallas, Texas; Warwick, Rhode Island; and Clermont, Florida to name a few. We will be looking for players to select to the Softball Factory World Series taking place this August, as well as other select Player Development opportunities. All players who participate in the National Identification Program will have an evaluation written by our scouting staff that is passed on to the Junior Women’s National Team selection committee for review. In addition to the summer events, Softball Factory will be hosting the ASA/USA Softball National Identification Programs across the country this fall, including a stop at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma!
The story has been written from every angle imaginable. The one-time Olympic power USA Women’s National Softball Team is ousted from the Summer Olympic Games. One after another, former Olympic stars hang up their Red, White and Blue jerseys for good. A new group of young athletes must face the task of living up to the expectations of a team that won three Olympic Gold Medals and a Silver Medal.

Fast forward one year. With only two returning members from the 2010 Women’s National Team, a new stock of USA talent picked up right where their fast pitch idols had left off. While the names on the USA Softball Women’s National Team line-up are new, the winning attitude hasn’t changed. Dubbing themselves the “Eagles”, in 2011, this rookie squad captured a fifth-straight World Cup Gold Medal, an eighth Pan American Gold Medal and a Canadian Open Silver Medal. Needless to say, the Eagles have landed.

“I have so much pride for being part of USA Softball,” said infielder Jenae Leles. “I have the opportunity to represent every softball player in the U.S., not only present players but the past players who made this possible for me. I don’t think that feeling will ever get old. It’s something I don’t take for granted.”

While Jenae and her teammates won’t be making the trip to London this summer, they will represent the USA in a number of exciting international events including the World Cup of Softball, the Canadian Open Fastpitch Championship and culminating with the International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championships in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

The World Cup, now in its seventh year, is held annually at the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City. This event is widely considered to be the premier annual event in softball. This year’s competition consists of 20 international games spanning six days and includes a men’s slow pitch Border Battle IV game between Canada and the United States on June 30.

On the women’s side, the National Teams of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Netherlands and Puerto Rico will compete alongside the 2012 USA Softball Women’s National Team.

“'I am so excited to play in OKC for the World Cup. With all the Red, White and Blue in the crowd and fans cheering in the stands, you could not ask for a better atmosphere to play softball in.”

Chelsea Thomas
USA PITCHER
Among others also representing Team USA this summer will be Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif./Cal 2012), Kaitlin Cochran (Yorba Linda, Calif./Arizona State 2009), Lauren Gibson (Pasadena, Md./Tennessee 2013), Ashley Holcombe (Fayetteville, Ga./Alabama 2009), Molly Johnson (Tucson, Ariz./Kentucky 2010), Stacy May-Johnson (Reno, Nev./Iowa 2006), Michelle Moultrie (Jacksonville, Fla./Florida 2012), Keilani Ricketts (San Jose, Calif./Oklahoma 2013), Jordan Taylor (Valencia, Calif./Michigan 2011), and Rhea Taylor (Buford, Ga./Missouri 2011. Five additional members will be added to the team following the June 10-12 USA Softball Women’s National Team Selection Camp, held in Ashland, Ohio.

All session reserved ($80) and all session general admission ($45) tickets are on sale now by calling 1-800-654-8337 or online at Softballoutlet.com. Single session tickets are also available. Ultimate fans will not want to miss out on a package designed just for them. The Ultimate Fan Zone package ($275) includes a reserved seat in the lower three sections of the stadium for both World Cup and Border Battle IV games plus an exclusive meal and autograph session with the Women’s National Team, parking pass, a jersey and more.

Public autograph sessions will also be held with USA players following the games on Friday, June 29 and Monday, July 2.
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As Pittsburgh hosted the 31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games, many people volunteered their time to help make the games a success. For some, it was manning the souvenir booth or registering the athletes, but for one US Army Corps of Engineers employee, these games provided an opportunity to use skills that few have.

John Decolati, an accountant with the Pittsburgh District’s Resource Management office, used his skills as an Amateur Softball Association Umpire to help with the Wheelchair Games. “I just wanted to give back,” said Decolati, who has been umpiring for 37 years. “My dad was a Navy veteran and I wanted to give them my time.”

After submitting his umpires resume, the Glassport, Pa., native was asked to umpire for the games. Although being new to the Veteran’s Wheelchair Games, he had umpired a wheelchair softball exhibition game played in Pittsburgh in 2006 as part of the Major League Baseball All-Star Fan fest.

“Just watching these athletes was very emotional for me,” he said. “When you see someone in a wheelchair, you think about the disabilities, but after one inning I realized the abilities were there.”

Organized wheelchair softball began in South Dakota in the mid-1970s and the National Wheelchair Softball Association was founded in 1976. Although it has been around for more than 40 years, wheelchair softball has only been a part of the Veteran’s Wheelchair Games since 1997. Decolati umpired in five qualifying games and based on his performance was asked to be the first-base umpire for the bronze medal game. Wheelchair softball is similar to recreation league softball, but it does have some differences. An umpire usually watches the base and listens for the “pop” of the ball in a player’s glove. With wheelchair softball umpires can’t rely on sound and have to watch the player’s wheel as it touches the base.

Decolati began umpiring at 13 as a summer job to make some extra money. During college, he ran a softball league at Bethany College, W.Va. “As the years went on I got more involved,” he said. “What started as a teen job is now an enjoyable hobby that permits me to work with all age groups and get exercise at the same time.” He also added that staying cool under pressure and remembering that you are only as good as your last call are the keys to being a successful umpire.

Besides umpiring, Decolati also referees football throughout western Pennsylvania.

“I wouldn’t be here without the mentoring and training I have received from some of the other ASA umpires such as Bill Connelly who passed away in 2010, after a lengthy battle with cancer.”

One of the biggest differences between ASA softball and the Veterans Wheelchair Olympic softball is the interaction with the players. “In recreational leagues you don’t really get to interact with the players, you show up, do the game and then leave,” he said. He had the chance to interact with many of the players, after being invited to the closing ceremonies by another umpire. “I got to interact with the athletes,” he said. “I talked with some of the players who made an impact on me. One of the players gave me a jersey with the number ‘2,’ this was in honor of the second time I umpired wheelchair softball.”

At the conclusion of the games, Decolati was asked to consider umpiring in the games in Richmond, Va., next year. “I am thinking about doing it again next year.” He added. “I got more out of this then I ever anticipated.” •
Three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Lisa Fernandez and the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team will be inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame’s Class of 2012 as announced by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). Fernandez is one of six individuals who have been selected in the individual category while the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team will be the only team honored.

“I am completely overwhelmed by this honor,” said three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Lisa Fernandez. “Never did I ever think that playing the game of softball that I love so much would allow me to reach this level of accomplishment. This is bigger than anything I have dreamed of. What we have been able to accomplish as a sport is incredible. There is no greater honor than being inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame.”

Recognizing the ongoing support that fans give U.S. Olympians, Paralympians and hopefuls in their training and competition, the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame presented by Allstate was one of the first major sports halls of fame to incorporate fan voting into the selection process. The induction ceremony will take place Wednesday, July 12 in Chicago at the Hilton Palmer House. More details will be announced at a later date including television and broadcasting information. Fernandez and the 2004 team are the first softball athletes to be inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame.

Dubbed the “Real Dream Team” on the cover of Sports Illustrated magazine, the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team went 9-0 in Athens, a record that included eight consecutive shutouts and four run-rule wins. In total, the Americans outscored opponents 51-1, not allowing an opponent to score until 55 2/3 innings into the tournament when Australia scored in the sixth inning of the Gold Medal Game.

Members of the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team are Laura Berg (Santa Fe Springs, Calif./Fresno State), Crystl Bustos (Canyon Country, Calif./Palm Beach Community College), Fernandez (Long Beach, Calif./UCLA), Jennie Finch (La Mirada, Calif./Arizona), Amanda Freed (Cypress, Calif./UCLA), Lori Harrigan (Las Vegas, Nev./UNLV), Lovieanne Jung (Fountain Valley, Calif./Arizona), Kelly Kretschman (Indian Harbour Beach, Fla./Alabama), Jessica Mendoza (Camarillo, Calif./Stanford), Tairia Mims Flowers (Tucson, Ariz./UCLA), Stacey Nuveman (La Verne, Calif./UCLA), Leah O’Brien-Amico (Chino Hills, Calif./Arizona), Cat Osterman (Houston, Texas/Texas), Jenny Topping (Whittier, Calif./Cal State Fullerton) and Natasha Watley (Irvine, Calif./UCLA). The three alternate members were Jaime Clark (Tustin, Calif./Washington), Nicole Giordano (Saugus, Calif./Arizona) and Lauren Lappin (Anaheim, Calif./Stanford). The team was coached by Mike Candrea (Tucson, Ariz./Arizona Head Coach) with assistant coaches Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla./South Florida Head Coach) and John Rittman (Palo Alto, Calif./Stanford Head Coach).

“First of all, what a great honor for the...
2004 Olympic team and Lisa to be inducted into the Olympic Hall of Fame,” said 2004 and 2008 Olympic head coach Mike Candrea. “This team set the standard for our sport as they performed flawlessly in Athens and dominated the world. They put together a great performance by great athletes and truly committed to the process of being the very best ever. I am so proud to have been a part of this great group of athletes, coaches, and the USA Softball family.”

Members of the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team set 18 Olympic records in Athens. No U.S. Olympic Team has ever given a more dominant performance with as many team and individual Olympic records broken en route to the Gold Medal. Among the teams records set were the most hits (73), highest team batting average (.343) and highest slugging percentage (.559). Fernandez set the individual record for batting average with .545 while Crystal Bustos’ 10 RBI and five home runs were also records.

The U.S. pitching staff, led by Fernandez, had the lowest combined earned run average (.12) in Olympic history. One run is also the fewest allowed by a team in Olympic history. And dominant pitching was no fluke in Athens as the team also had a .22 ERA during the “Aiming for Athens” Olympic preparation tour, in which they went 53-0 in 30 cities.

While the team relished in on-the-field triumphs, the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team battled off-the-field tragedy. The team wore “SC” on their helmets to honor Sue Candrea, coach Candrea’s wife, who passed away from a brain aneurysm 10 days before the team left for Greece. Sue was traveling with the team in central Wisconsin on the “Aiming for Athens” tour.

“It is an incredible honor for all of us to be inducted, together, into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame,” said three-time medal winner Stacey Nuveman. “Our Gold-Medal performance in Athens was truly a team effort, which makes this team honor very fitting. We had a special group and overcame very difficult circumstances to win in such a dominant fashion in 2004. I could not be more proud of our team and our accomplishments. Thanks to you the fans who voted for us, and I cannot wait until the induction ceremony in July!”

Other honors garnered by the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team were the 2004 USOC Team of the Year award and the 2004 ESPY for Best Female Olympic Performance.
Candrea was named the 2004 USOC Coach of the Year and for her individual performance in Athens, Fernandez was a finalist for the 2004 USOC SportsWoman of the Year award.

Fernandez is part of a rare class of U.S. Olympians who hold three Olympic Gold Medals from three Olympic Games. In 1996, 2000 and 2004, Fernandez led the Americans to the Gold Medal, the only pitcher to appear in three Olympic finales. Most notably, she entered the final game of the 1996 Olympic Games in the sixth inning and earned the save as Team USA defeated China 3-1 for the inaugural softball Olympic Gold Medal. Overall, she achieved a 7-2 record in the circle throughout her Olympic career, allowing only 20 hits, seven walks and six runs (four earned) while striking out 93 over 74.2 innings of Olympic play.

“Whenn I heard I was a finalist for this opportunity, it meant so much to my family, especially my mom and dad,” added Fernandez. “With my dad being born in Cuba and my mom born in Puerto Rico and for me being synonymous with representing the United States, this truly is the most amazing honor. I literally yelled when I got the call and when I called my parents we were all very emotional. Honestly, I am speechless and so thankful for my teammates, coaches, and so many who guided me during my career. Especially to the USOC as the support they provided with strength training, nutrition, psychology, the training center in Chula Vista, the list goes on and on. It really assisted our team to put on the amazing performance that we did.”

While Fernandez is most renowned for her work in the circle, she also recorded 76 at-bats over three Games. Fernandez hit .333 (23-for-76) overall in Atlanta, Sydney and Athens with three doubles, three home runs and 15 runs batted in (RBI) and 13 runs scored.

“Being an Olympic athlete, well there is no greater level,” added Fernandez. “That every four-year cycle is something so precious as there literally is just one moment in time. It is like an addiction that comes with it because it is the ultimate test of greatness and you have just a small window of opportunity to be your absolute best. It is most special because you represent, literally your entire country. When you go into that arena, you have millions of people cheering you on and that sense of pride is incredible. I still remember those people who would say thank you....and to know you did something for them in your own element of sport is breathtaking. And to think that the sport of softball provided me all these opportunities and experiences is never what I expected when I first picked up the ball as a child.”

A rare pitcher/hitter, Fernandez has the distinction of holding four individual Olympic records in addition to those she helped set as a team. In 2000, she struck out 25 Australian batters, a record. She holds the Olympic record for fewest runs allowed. In 2004, she achieved the highest batting average (.545) in Olympic play and hit three doubles, another record. Fernandez currently resides in the Los Angeles area and is an assistant coach for the UCLA softball program.
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— Mike Candrea, two-time U.S. Olympic Team Head Coach

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Oklahoma pitcher Keilani Ricketts (San Jose, Calif.) was selected as the 2012 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year. Ricketts, also the 2012 Big 12 Player of the Year, helped lead the Oklahoma Sooners to their second straight NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) appearance.

Going into the Women’s College World Series (WCWS), Ricketts ranked third in the NCAA with a .99 ERA, fifth with 33 wins and her 393 strikeouts, including 21 in Super Regionals versus Arizona, ranked third nationally. Ricketts, at the time the award was presented, was second in the nation only giving up 3.71 hits for every seven innings pitched. In 43 outings this season prior to the WCWS, Ricketts recorded 23 double-digit strikeout games and 1,190 total career strikeouts, putting her third on the Big 12 career list.

“This is an honor and a dream come true,” said Ricketts. “I couldn’t have won without my team, they’re my backbone and my family. They give me tons of support and I wouldn’t be where I am without them.”

Following Super Regionals, the Oklahoma junior ranked eighth in the country with an on-base percentage of .563 and twelfth with an .853 slugging percentage. Ricketts, at the time, was ninth nationally with 49 walks.

“This is the biggest individual honor that we’ve ever had in our program,” said
Oklahoma Head Coach Patty Gasso. “She was up against some tough competition and it could have gone to any of them because they’re all phenomenal. Keilani has continued to get better every year and this is a tribute to her hard work. We are very proud of her.”

The other two finalists for the 2012 award were Pac-12 Player of the Year Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif.) of California and Pac-12 First-Team honoree Katelyn Boyd (Phoenix, Ariz.) of Arizona State.

The USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award is voted on by coaching representatives from 11 Division I Conferences in the 15 ASA Regions as well as members of the media who consistently cover Division I Softball across the country, and previous Player of the Year recipients. Past winners of this award include UCLA’s Stacey Nuveman, Florida State’s Jessica Van der Linden, three-time winner from Texas Cat Osterman, Tennessee’s Monica Abbott, Virginia Tech’s Angela Tincher, two-time winner Washington pitcher/hitter Danielle Lawrie and 2011 winner Ashley Hansen from Stanford.

“This is an honor and a dream come true. I couldn’t have won without my team, they’re my backbone and my family. They give me tons of support and I wouldn’t be where I am without them.”

Keilani Ricketts
OKLAHOMA PITCHER

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Ricketts poses with her Oklahoma Sooner teammates, Arizona State Senior Katelyn Boyd, Oklahoma Junior Keilani Ricketts, California Senior Valerie Arioto
FROM THE VAULT

ABOVE: 1942 World Champs Tulsa Oilers

RIGHT: Softball Fans try to cool down during a game

ABOVE RIGHT: Members from the Corpus Christi Express participate in a parade in Texas

RIGHT: USA 1984 WIC

BELOW: Players sit on the sidelines and watch as one of their team members runs out a throw at first base
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1. What is one of the seven main tabs found on the new ASA Mobile site?

2. Name five current members of the Women’s National Softball team.

3. In what city will the 2012 ASA/USA GOLD National be held?

4. On what date, including the year, was Title IX signed into law?

5. Who were the Top 3 Finalists for 2012 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year?
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