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Sweet Spot Along Whole Barrel
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Your team keeps score, we’ll do the math.

Parents & fans follow live
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Sign up at GC.com/create
The 2017 season is officially upon us! The smell of fresh cut grass, seeing the freshly chalked lines on the ballfield and hearing “Play ball” is happening all across the U.S. On behalf of all of us here at USA Softball, “Good Luck” to all teams, coaches, umpires and parents who play our great game.

What an exciting time to be a part of USA Softball! The start of 2017 means we have officially transitioned from ASA/USA Softball to USA Softball, and we could not be more excited! There are a lot of great things in store for our organization and the players, coaches and umpires who participate. As we head further into this season and beyond, we will continue to strive to provide the best softball for everyone involved!

Rebranding was an important step for our organization, not only from an identity standpoint but for the sport as a whole. Not only does the USA Softball brand better reflect and identify what our organization stands for, it also shows our commitment to providing the most exciting, level and competitive fields of play. We are USA Softball, the game for everyone and we want to unify our sport under the USA Softball umbrella. As the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States, we will continue to provide opportunities for people of all ages and all levels to be involved in the game we all love. I encourage all softball players, fans, umpires, coaches and administrators to connect with our reinvigorated brand. The legacy that ASA Softball established through our first 83 years is something that will continue to live on.

One thing I’d like to encourage for the 2017 season is to see how we can get more people involved in USA Softball. Participation numbers in sports have seen a downward trend over the past few years, so it’s our responsibility to find out how we can get softball back into the forefront of people’s minds. With so many activities for parents, adults and youth to choose from, it’s on us to show them just how much fun softball is and the great resources that we can provide to our membership.

So how do we combat this decline in participation? As an administrator, a great place to start is at the grassroots level. Reach out to leagues in your area and see what resources we can provide, whether in the form of coaching education or through our umpire program. We often hear that USA Softball is not offered in certain areas, so make it a mission to bring a USA Softball event or tournament to areas that may not have a strong presence. If you are one of our players, umpires, coach or a parent of one of our players reading this and have a concern or an idea on how to make USA Softball better, we invite you to reach out to your Local Association. We are a service oriented association and would love the feedback on how to provide better service!

With the reinstatement of softball into the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and the rebrand to USA Softball, there’s never been a better time to get involved in USA Softball! Thank you all for everything that you do and continue to do, and on behalf of everyone at USA Softball, let’s “PLAY BALL!”

Warren Jones, President
USA Softball

USA SOFTBALL

Letter from the President

USA SOFTBALL

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As a member of ASA/USA Softball, you could receive exclusive savings on auto and home insurance from Liberty Mutual.¹

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USA SOFTBALL NAMES NATIONAL TEAM ATHLETES OF THE YEAR!

Honored for their achievements and contributions to the USA Softball National Team Program, three athletes have been named USA Softball Athletes of the Year! Read more about each honoree on pages 40-41.
Over 450 of USA Softball’s finest crew-in-blue came together for a weekend of learning at the 25th Biennial Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) Clinic! Featuring breakout sessions and a panel discussion on the importance of mechanics, USA Softball also honored umpires for their years of service, excellence in umpiring, the Merle O. Butler National Award of Excellence and the Tom Mason Award of Excellence. Read more about the UIC Clinic on page 29.
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ENGINEERED TO THE EXACT SPECIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETES

JUST DO IT.
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 Marysa and Reece, two athletes who play USA Softball!

MARYSA, 10
Blue Springs, Mo.
KC Dirt Devils 10U - Halo
Girls’ 10-Under Fast Pitch
Third Base, Pitcher

HER START
I started playing t-ball at the age of four. One year later, I was playing t-ball again and a player from a coach pitch team was injured and they asked me if I could play in her spot. I would play on my t-ball team and as soon as it was over I’d change my shirt and run over to play for the coach pitch team.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
The hardest obstacle I am still trying to overcome is the feeling when I make a mistake or we lose a game. I do not like to lose.

HER ROLE MODELS
My idol is my cousin Alexis Reid, who is now pitching for the University of Kansas softball team. My dream is to be a pitcher for the Ohio State softball team.

GOAL
Softball is my passion and I am passionate about the game and obtaining my goals! I hope softball will help me get to Ohio State to play and be a doctor. These are my goals. My dream is to play on a professional softball team. I am a young lady with goals, ambition and a love for the game.

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT
I hit my first out of the park home run in the fall of 2016. This is one of my accomplishments along with striking out players!

BEST EXPERIENCE PLAYING SOFTBALL
One of my best experiences so far was playing in the World Series softball tournament and going to watch one of the 2016 NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) games in Oklahoma.

WHAT SHE LOVES ABOUT SOFTBALL
My favorite thing about softball is being on the field with my 11 sisters and having fun.
Do you want to be profiled in “Balls and Strikes Online Softball Magazine” in the future?  
Click here for information on how to submit your profile and photo.

FACES ON THE FIELD

REECE, 14
Jefferson City, Mo.
HC Avengers
Girls’ 16-Under Fast Pitch
Second Base

HER START
I started playing competitively at age eight but played parks and rec before that.

BEST EXPERIENCE PLAYING SOFTBALL
I hit a walk-off triple to win a championship game.

WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF
Keeping my batting average over .500 in a season!

GOAL
I want to start varsity as a freshman for my high school softball team. I also want to play for a college team.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
Staying mentally focused.
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.
USA SOFTBALL PRIDE STARTS WITH YOU BLUE!

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 three USA Softball umpires and highlight some of their achievements.


Goal: To learn something new every time I step out on the field.

Favorite thing about umpiring USA Softball: The competitive nature of the game and networking with players, coaches and other umpires.

Best experience in umpiring so far: Working with outstanding UIC’s and the treatment you receive at each national tournament location.

Proudest accomplishment: Getting into the National Indicator Fraternity in 2015 and making it to Championship Sunday in three National Championships!

USA Softball Umpire Awards: I’m in the National Indicator Fraternity (2015)

USA Softball tournament experience: I’ve umpired in 16 Wisconsin State Slow Pitch Tournaments, five State Fast Pitch Tournaments, two State Modified Pitch Tournaments and four National Championships.


His start: I registered to be an umpire in 1997 when I was 10 years old.

Favorite thing about umpiring USA Softball: I love giving back to the game that has given me so much. Not to mention the friendships you make working tournaments around the country.

Biggest accomplishment: I was inducted into the National Indicator Fraternity when I was 19! At the time, I was the youngest in South Dakota’s history.

Experience you remember the most: In 2008, the Bound for Beijing Tour came to South Dakota, and I was selected to work two games for Team USA against the South Dakota All-Stars. It was an incredible experience.

Advice he gives to umpires: I would encourage anyone who ever thought of umpiring to do it. The opportunities that come along with being a USA Softball Umpire are second to none.

How he gives back to the game: In recent years, I have been asked to help train youth umpires at an annual clinic in Sioux Falls. I have been fortunate to see those umpires obtain their goals, and even have had one reach their “Elite” Status.

USA Softball Umpire Awards: I am a member of the Gold Medals Program (2005) and also the National Indicator Fraternity (2006)

USA Softball tournament experience: I have been able to work in nine USA Softball National Championship Tournaments and at least 15 State Tournaments.
USA SOFTBALL PRIDE STARTS WITH YOU BLUE!

SCOTT  
Browerville, Minn. / USA Softball of Minnesota / Umpires: Adult Slow Pitch and Co-ed Slow Pitch / Started Umpiring: 1985

His start: My first year umpiring was with Minneapolis ASA in 1985. I took one season off when moving to the Fergus Falls area, and I have only worked USA Softball events.

Favorite thing about umpiring USA Softball: There are so many favorites but it would have to be the lifelong friendships made with umpires from all across the USA!

Biggest accomplishment: Being selected to represent USA Softball as an umpire working at the Canadian Open Championships in 2015.

Experience you remember the most: Umpiring two Armed Forces National Tournaments. The sportsmanship, level of competition, respect shown by players and coaches, the opening ceremonies...basically everything about those events were inspiring and a great honor to be a part of.

Advice he gives to umpires: Play USA Softball! Umpire USA Softball! There is no better family to belong to in the world of softball!

USA Softball Umpire Awards: I am a member of the Gold Medals Program (2003), am an Elite Umpire (2007), have my WBSC Certification (2014) and also am a member of the National Indicator Fraternity (2005)

USA Softball tournament experience: I have been an umpire for nine National Championships, an Assistant UIC for four National Championships and have umpired or served as a UIC for 43 Minnesota State Championships. I also have umpired at the Canadian Open Championships and the World Cup of Softball.

Do you want to be profiled in “Balls and Strikes Online Softball Magazine” in the future? 
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WHO WILL REPRESENT TEAM USA THIS SUMMER?

Following their respective selection camps, 20 athletes have been selected to represent the United States as a member of the 2017 USA Softball Women’s National Team (WNT) while an additional 24 athletes have been selected to continue their training for a spot on the 2017 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team (JWNT).

CHRIS DRUMM
APPOINTED TO WBSC REGIONAL SOFTBALL UMPIRE COORDINATOR COMMITTEE

Christina Drumm of USA Softball of Southern California has been appointed as one of the newest members of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Regional Softball Umpire Coordinator Committee. The new composition of the nine-member, gender-balanced committee covers the five Olympic continents -- Africa, Asia, America, Europe and Oceania. Drumm, who has served on the USA Softball National Umpire Staff since 2015, is well known throughout the international softball world, having served as an Assistant UIC for WBSC Junior Women’s and Women's Softball World Championships.
ATHLETES NAMED TO 2017 USA SOFTBALL COLLEGIATE PLAYER OF THE YEAR “WATCH LIST”

Florida’s Aleshia Ocasio and Auburn’s Kasey Cooper, two finalists for the 2016 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year, join 48 other student-athletes on the “Watch List” for the 2017 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award. In all, the “Watch List” includes 26 seniors, 18 juniors and 6 sophomores, with freshman ineligible for consideration. Find out the full list of athletes on page 27.

INAUGURAL USA SOFTBALL SLOW PITCH NIT A HIT!

In its inaugural year, the USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Invitational Tournament (NIT), also known as the Winter Classic, welcomed 12 teams to Myrtle Beach, S.C. After advancing through the Championship games, it was Deluxe Bakery and the Warriors who took home the titles in Division III and IV, respectively. Read more about the USA Softball Slow Pitch NIT on page 50.

TY MCKINNEY TO LEAD 2018 USA SOFTBALL JUNIOR MEN’S NATIONAL TEAM

Tyron McKinney (Ashland, Ohio) has been selected to lead the 2018 USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team (JMNT), who will compete at the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Junior Men's World Championship July 7-15, 2018 in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada. McKinney, a five-time USA Softball First Team All-American, recently completed his first season as an Assistant Coach with the USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team Program. Read more on page 34.
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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!

“Truly an All-Star lineup of coaches who are ready to help @USASoftball capture the gold. #Tokyo2020” – in response to the Women’s National Team Coaching Pool

“Definitely worth the trip! Thank you @USASoftball for this clinic!” – in response to a National Umpire School

“Well deserved! Great player and coach” – in response to Jessica Moore being named USA Softball Female Athlete of the Year

“Much love for this man. Can’t wait to see what’s in store for him” – in response to Ty McKinney’s selection as the 2018 USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team Head Coach

“I hope to be on the roster when I get older.” – in response to the WNT/JWNT roster announcements

“Proud of one of my greatest friends and college teammates for her induction into the @USASoftball Region 9 HOF. #VoltFamily #USASoftball”

“Let’s Hear from You!”

If you have any opinions, suggestions or feedback on any aspect of softball, we’d love to hear from you. Share your thoughts on social media with the hashtag #USASoftball and tag @USASoftball. Your input is valuable to us and helps shape our future initiatives.

“Very good tournament. Great job from the New Jersey teams.” – in response to the inaugural USA Softball Winter Classic in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

“Can’t wait til I have a chance to be there!!! Go USA!!!!! Softball is my life!!!!!”

“Congrats to Kelly Barnhill and Alexis Kilfoyl for earning spots on the @USASoftball National Teams! Go Bullets!!”

“Very good tournament. Great job from the New Jersey teams.” – in response to the inaugural USA Softball Winter Classic in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

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“Proud of one of my greatest friends and college teammates for her induction into the @USASoftball Region 9 HOF. #VoltFamily #USASoftball”
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
ASA@RPSins.com
RPSBollinger.com
The 2017 Official Rules of Softball are now available for purchase on the Apple and Android platforms. The user-interactive application contains the complete version of the 2017 Official Rules of Softball and also has a searchable option.

By downloading this app, all participants of softball, including umpires, coaches, parents, players and fans have the ability to access the official rules wherever they are at this season. With more than 1,500 downloads/active users in its second year, more and more are starting to recognize the value of having this great tool available to them at the tap of a finger. Downloading the app includes an annual fee of $15, which expires when the new version becomes available.

In addition to the 2017 Official Rules of Softball app, USA Softball also has the USA Softball Mobile App, which is available for free on iOS and Android platforms for both smart phones and tablets. Fans who download this app will have complete access to athlete stories, photos, videos and social media in addition to reading about the latest in breaking news for Team USA. For tournaments taking place at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex, users are able to search for the field and watch the live stream on their screens. Those interested can also locate membership benefits of playing USA Softball, including information on how to register as a team, player, coach or umpire, and donation opportunities for supporting USA Softball.

Head on over to the next page to find out why you should download the USA Softball Mobile App today!
NEW SEASON...SAME GREAT SOFTBALL!

ARE YOU READY TO PLAY #USASOFTBALL? WITH THE START OF CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, FIND OUT ALL YOU NEED TO “SWING” INTO THE SEASON!

Q. HOW DO I REGISTER MY TEAM WITH USA SOFTBALL?
A. Through its network of 70 State or Metro associations, USA Softball provides online individual registrations for team and league members. Most local associations that use RegisterUSASoftball.com to process individual registrations will have specific, detailed instructions posted on their website to guide the user through the registration process. NOTE: Some associations do not allow online registrations but will provide instructions on how to register your team or league.

Q. HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO REGISTER, AND WHERE CAN I FIND A TEAM TO PLAY ON?
A. Costs are determined locally, and vary with each Local Association. The National Office does not recommend or provide assistance with finding a local team or league to play on. However, contact your Local Association as they may have resources for what is available in your area for your desired competition level.

Q. WHERE CAN I FIND A LIST OF USA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS IN MY AREA?
A. USA Softball has an extensive list of tournaments on TournamentUSASoftball.com. A number of associations also publish tournament listings on their association website. For more information, contact your Local Association.

Q. WHERE CAN I FIND A LIST OF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS?
A. USA Softball National Championship qualifiers are held at both the Regional and Territory levels in the girls’ fast pitch division. You can find a list of qualifiers on our website at USASoftball.com.

Q. DO I NEED TO BE AN ACE COACH TO COACH MY JUNIOR OLYMPIC (JO) YOUTH TEAM?
A. The National Office requires that one JO coach present in the dugout during National Championship play must complete the ACE (Aspire, Challenge, Encourage) Coach Education Program. Additionally, all JO team personnel in the dugout and on the field must have passed a background check. Local associations may have stricter requirements for JO coaches. Contact your local association commissioner for the most accurate information regarding JO coaching requirements in your area.

Q. CAN WE GET DISCOUNTS WHEN TRAVELING FOR TOURNAMENTS?
A. In addition to the discounts that you may receive by using tournament partners, USA Softball has national discounts available to all members at Enterprise (USA Softball Discount Code: NAS1AS9) and Hertz (USA Softball Discount Code/CDP: 93614). USA Softball members can also take advantage of partnership travel discounts with United Airlines.

USA Softball is committed to providing softball teams across America with a first class personal, one-on-one connection for all of your travel needs. Members can contact Journey House Travel (800-726-0051) for bookings, and additional discounts may be available.

Q. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY BAT IS APPROVED FOR CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY?
A. On our national website, we maintain a section called “Certified Equipment”, which has the most up to date information on approved bats. Only items that are certified equipment can be used in USA Softball Championship Play. Remember that equipment may be subject to testing at games and tournaments, and could be ruled invalid for use, even if it is a certified bat. Should you have concerns with equipment testing, contact the Umpire-In-Chief of the event as soon as possible.

Q. HOW DO I BECOME A USA SOFTBALL UMPIRE?
A. Becoming a USA Softball umpire is something that you must do through your local association. For information, contact your local Umpire-In-Chief.

Q. WHEN WILL THE NEW USA SOFTBALL UMPIRE UNIFORM BE REQUIRED AND WHERE CAN I PURCHASE USA SOFTBALL-BRANDED GEAR?
A. New USA Softball branded uniform shirts, jackets and ball bags are available for purchase at OfficialGear.com, but will not be required until the 2020 season.

Q. WHERE CAN I GET A COPY OF YOUR OFFICIAL RULES OF SOFTBALL?
A. The “Official Rules of Softball”, the participant manual that governs USA Softball Championship Play, is a benefit of membership. For information on receiving a participant manual, contact your local association commissioner. You can also find the Official Rules of Softball mobile app for both Apple and Android products. The app is $15, and links to download the 2017 version can be found on our website USASoftball.com

Q. WHO DO I CONTACT WITH A GENERAL QUESTION?
A. Local Associations are put in place to help facilitate a relationship between the National Office and the organization’s 2 million members. Thus, most issues must be resolved at the local level, not through the National Office. Before contacting the National Office, contact your Local Association Commissioner to see if they are able to answer your question. If your association commissioner cannot answer it, they will reach out to the appropriate person at the National Office.

Q. WHO DO I CONTACT WITH A RULE QUESTION?
A. If the question arises at a tournament, it is best to address the question to the tournament director or the UIC. General questions that do not arise from a tournament should be directed to the Local Association Commissioner. If your association cannot answer it, they will reach out to the appropriate person at the National Office.

Q. WHO DO I CONTACT WITH A RULE QUESTION?
A. If you are at a tournament, it is best to address the rule question to the tournament UIC. At other times, address rule questions to your Local Association UIC.

Q. WHO DO I CONTACT THE NATIONAL OFFICE?
A. Local Associations are put in place to help facilitate a relationship between the National Office and the organization’s 2 million members. Thus, most issues must be resolved at the local level, not through the National Office. Before contacting the National Office, contact your Local Association Commissioner to see if they are able to answer your question. If your association commissioner cannot answer it, they will reach out to the appropriate person at the National Office. National Office contact information can be found by clicking “Contact Us” at USASoftball.com.
Wisdom is defined as, “the soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment”. In the definition, there is no mention of age as it isn’t a precursor to being wise.

Let me introduce you to Sarah Logan, a USA Softball Umpire who receives her training from Roseville Girls Softball and who attended the National Umpire School in Roseville, Calif. in February. In one of the breakout sessions, there was a topic for discussion of how do young umpires best handle a situation in which coaches may question their judgement or say that they shouldn’t be on the field because they are too young. Because they are too young it implies they don’t know what they are doing.

Sarah proudly spoke up and said she would tell the coach, “I am an umpire!” Think about the strength of that statement!

“I am an umpire!” She imparted that she knows the game, the rules, the mechanics and is confident in her abilities.

Much of the credit goes to Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) Elaine Dykhouse, who for 20-plus years has lead the Roseville Girls Softball Umpire Training Program. Elaine stated, “I have great passion for this program and feel strongly that our youth, particularly our young females, gain invaluable lessons. These lessons that could never be taught in a classroom and will reach far beyond just umpiring a softball game.” The premise of the program is to teach skills that include critical thinking, conflict resolution, decision making, accountability, responsibility, leadership and being a role model.

These young umpires are wise beyond their age and are the future of the USA Softball Program.
INFIELD CONDITIONS: STABILIZED

Arizona State University
2008 National Champions
Farrington Stadium, Tempe, AZ
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.

**#RoadToOKC!**

Can Oklahoma repeat as the 2017 NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) champion, or will a new champion be crowned? 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 Road to OKC!

---

**2017 USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL COLLEGIATE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

**WEEK 1** (FEB. 9-12): **SIERRA HYLAND**
Cal Poly
Senior / Pitcher
Visalia, Calif.

**WEEK 2** (FEB. 13-19):
***ALYSSA DENHAM***
Louisiana
Freshman / Pitcher
Alvin, Texas

**WEEK 3** (FEB. 20-26):
***MO MERCADO***
Arizona
Senior / Infield
Temecula, Calif.

**WEEK 4** (FEB. 27-MARCH 7):
***NICOLE SCHROEDER***
Arkansas
Senior / Outfield
Yorba Linda, Calif.

**WEEK 5** (MARCH 6-12): **ALEXIS OSORIO**
Alabama
Junior / Pitcher
Riverside, Calif.

**CO-WEEK 6** (MARCH 13-19):
***BRAXTON BURNSIDE***
Missouri
Freshman / Infield
Paragould, Ark.

***SIERRA HYLAND***
Cal Poly
Senior / Pitcher
Visalia, Calif.

---

Oklahoma athletes celebrate after winning the 2016 NCAA WCWS over Auburn.

Share the Experience with softball fans from across the country June 1-7 in Oklahoma City. Tickets are now on sale!
Continuing a long-standing commitment to the sport, ESPN offers more than 600 college softball games across its variety of networks this season beginning in February. The industry-leading slate features reigning NCAA National Champion Oklahoma, and 2016 NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) competitors Auburn, Florida, Florida State, Georgia, LSU and UCLA in more than 100 games and nearly every team in the Preseason Top 25. More than 65 games airing on television has a ranked team, including 30 games with ranked teams facing one another.

### 2017 NCAA Division I Softball Television Schedule (ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Network</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 2 Auburn at No. 3 Florida</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Oklahoma State at Arkansas</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 20 Kentucky at Ole Miss</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 7 Alabama at No. 19 Missouri</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 18 Texas A&amp;M at South Carolina</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 2 Auburn at No. 10 Georgia</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Houston at Texas</td>
<td>Longhorn Network</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Houston at Texas</td>
<td>Longhorn Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 20 Kentucky at Ole Miss</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 22 Notre Dame at Louisville</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 18 Texas A&amp;M at South Carolina</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 18 Texas A&amp;M at South Carolina</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
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<td>Western Kentucky at No. 20 Kentucky</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 1 Oklahoma at Texas</td>
<td>Longhorn Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Ole Miss at No. 2 Auburn</td>
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<td>9 p.m.</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 1 Oklahoma at Texas</td>
<td>Longhorn Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 5 LSU at No. 7 Alabama</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 5 LSU at No. 7 Alabama</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 9 Oregon at No. 12 Arizona</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Arkansas at Mississippi State</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 10 Georgia at No. 3 Florida</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 4 Florida State at Central Florida</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 18 Texas A&amp;M at Arkansas</td>
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<td>Savannah State at Florida A&amp;M</td>
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<td>No. 7 Alabama at No. 15 Tennessee</td>
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<td>No. 7 Alabama at No. 15 Tennessee</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 7 Alabama at No. 15 Tennessee</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Louisiana-Monroe at Arkansas</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Iowa State at Texas</td>
<td>Longhorn Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Iowa State at Texas</td>
<td>Longhorn Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 21 Baylor at No. 1 Oklahoma</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 10 Georgia at No. 18 Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Arkansas at Mississippi State</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Ole Miss at No. 3 Florida</td>
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<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 4 Florida State at Louisville</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td>April 24</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 21 Baylor at No. 1 Oklahoma</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td>April 25</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 15 Tennessee at No. 5 LSU</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>No. 9 Oregon at No. 12 Arizona</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Arkansas at Mississippi State</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Arkansas at Mississippi State</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Longwood at Radford</td>
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<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 18 Texas A&amp;M at No. 20 Kentucky</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 10 Georgia at No. 3 Florida</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 11 Missouri at No. 5 LSU</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>No. 11 Missouri at No. 5 LSU</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Cal State Fullerton</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 7 Alabama at Ole Miss</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 7 Alabama at Ole Miss</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 18 Texas A&amp;M at Corpus Christi</td>
<td>Longhorn Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Southern Miss at Ole Miss</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No. 20 Kentucky at Mississippi State</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>No. 5 LSU at South Carolina</td>
<td>ESC Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>SEC Tournament - First Round</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>SEC Tournament - Second Round</td>
<td>SEC Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>SEC Tournament - Semifinal</td>
<td>ESPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>American Softball Championship</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ACC Softball Championship</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>SEC Tournament - Championship</td>
<td>ESPN</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Air time later than game time. Rankings are per USA Softball (January 31)*
"WATCH LIST" UNVEILED FOR USA SOFTBALL COLLEGIATE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The most prestigious individual honor in NCAA Division I Softball, the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award recognizes outstanding athletic achievement by Division I female collegiate softball players across the country. Check out the list of the Top 50 "Watch List" athletes below!

2. Kelly Barnhill – Florida – Sophomore – Pitcher
3. Alex Bayne – Ohio State – Senior – Outfield
5. Tera Blanco – Michigan – Junior – Infield
7. Jessica Burroughs – Florida State – Senior – Pitcher
8. Kaylee Carlson – Auburn – Junior – Pitcher
9. Kasey Cooper – Auburn – Senior – Infield
10. Aleah Craighton – Louisiana – Junior – Outfield
11. Ivie Drake – Georgia State – Junior – Catcher
13. Hannah Flippen – Utah – Senior – Infield
14. Taty Forbes – Coastal Carolina – Sophomore – Outfield
15. Megan Geer – Tennessee – Senior – Outfield
16. Taylor Glover – CSUN – Senior – Outfield
18. Delanie Gourley – Florida – Senior – Pitcher
19. Sara Groenewegen – Minnesota – Senior – Pitcher
20. Kylee Hanson – Florida Atlantic – Senior – Pitcher
22. Sierra Hyland – Cal Poly – Senior – Pitcher
24. Sahvanna Jaquish – LSU – Senior – Catcher
25. MJ Knighten – Nebraska – Senior – Infield
27. Jenna Lilley – Oregon – Junior – Infield
28. Makayla Martin – Auburn – Sophomore – Pitcher
29. Katiyana Mauga – Arizona – Senior – Infield
31. Keeli Milligan – Texas A&M – Outfield
32. Aleshia Ocasio – Florida – Junior – Pitcher
33. Alexis Osorio – Alabama – Junior – Pitcher
34. Danielle O'Toole – Arizona – Senior – Pitcher
35. Paige Parker – Oklahoma – Junior – Pitcher
37. Mandie Perez – Arizona – Senior – Outfield
38. Erika Piancastelli – McNeese State – Junior – Catcher
39. Alex Powers – Florida State – Senior – Infield
40. Rochelle Roberts – ULM – Senior – Outfield
41. Sydney Romero – Oklahoma – Sophomore – Infield
42. Randi Rupp – Texas State – Junior – Pitcher
43. Vanessa Shippy – Oklahoma State – Sophomore – Infield
44. Delaney Spaulding – UCLA – Senior – Infield
45. Stephanie Texeira – FIU – Senior – Infield
46. Nikki Udria – Oregon – Senior – Infield
49. Karley Wester – Notre Dame – Senior – Outfield
50. Morgan Zerkle – Marshall – Senior – Outfield/Infield

Michigan’s Sierra Romero poses with Head Coach Carol Hutchins (left) and USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress (left) after winning the 2016 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year. (Photo credit: Richard Clifton)
Are You Wearing the Best?

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Another fantastic Biennial Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) Clinic has come to an end as 50 umpires were honored by USA Softball. Held at the Sheraton Hotel in Midwest City, Okla., over 450 umpires from around the country attended the biennial clinic with the USA Softball Umpire family gathering to recognize years of service, awards of excellence, the Merle O. Butler National Award of Excellence and the Tom Mason Award of Excellence at Saturday evening’s awards banquet. USA Softball also honored members of the National Umpire Staff who retired since the last UIC Clinic, which was held in 2015.

The evening was highlighted by the 15 Regional Awards of Excellence and the Merle O. Butler National Award of Excellence that was given to Bill Silves (USA Softball of Seattle). In its second year, USA Softball also posthumously awarded the Tom Mason Award of Excellence to Julie Johnson (USA Softball of Indiana), which honors excellence in rule knowledge and application. The USA Softball family also honored Malcom Boyles, Dave Epperson, Jerry Fick, Gene Harrison, Julie Johnson, Bob Mauger, Jim Peters, Joe Robinson, Bill Silves, and Paul Tomazzoli who will be retiring from the National Umpire Staff.

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIONS:

Region 1 New England – Donna Vavrenic, USA Softball of Connecticut
Region 2 Mid Atlantic – Bob Mauger, USA Softball of New Jersey
Region 3 Central Atlantic – Robert Angeli, USA Softball of Central Virginia
Region 4 South Atlantic – Randy Burgess, USA Softball of South Carolina
Region 5 Southern – Keith Thrasher, USA Softball of Alabama
Region 6 Southwestern – Mike Adams, USA Softball of Arkansas
Region 7 Texas – Steve McCown, USA Softball of Dallas Fort Worth
Region 8 Great Lakes – David Schimpf, USA Softball of Michigan
Region 9 East Central – Randy Shepard, USA Softball of Ohio
Region 10 Midwest – Dave Chandler, USA Softball of Indiana
Region 11 Northern – Elliott Gerhardt, USA Softball of North Dakota
Region 12 Mid America – Tracy Kutscher, USA Softball of Kansas
Region 13 Rocky Mountain – Geri Magwire, USA Softball of Arizona
Region 14 Pacific Coast – Jim Winchester, USA Softball of Greater San Joaquin
Region 15 Northwest – Mike Solis, USA Softball of Idaho

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE RECOGNIZED FOR HAVING ATTENDED ALL 25 UIC CLINICS:

Kinard Latham
Les Novak
Henry Pollard

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE:

Al Waldvogel – USA Softball of Wisconsin – 15 years
Scott Tilton – USA Softball of Maine – 20 years
Pam Vallejos – USA Softball of Colorado – 20 years
David Anderson – USA Softball of Oklahoma – 30 years
Jerry Kramer – USA Softball of Wyoming – 30 years
Ed Rowe – USA Softball of Tennessee – 30 years
Rick Smith – USA Softball of Montana – 30 years
Brian Warner – USA Softball of Dayton – 30 years
Ron Adkins – USA Softball of Greater San Joaquin – 35 years
Jeff Amaral – USA Softball of Massachusetts – 35 years
Luau Bowers – USA Softball of Pennsylvania – 35 years
Jimmy Derrick – USA Softball RUIC of Region 3 – 35 years
Chuck Louie – USA Softball RUIC of Region 10 – 35 years
Jim Ballengee – USA Softball RUIC of Region 2 – 40 years
Jim Craig – USA Softball Deputy RUIC of Director Staff – 40 years
Gary McCartney – USA Softball of Idaho – 40 years
John Orlowski – USA Softball RUIC of Kansas City/Region 7 – 40 years
Bryan Smith – USA Softball RUIC of Michigan – 40 years
Randy Sprouse – USA Softball RUIC of Deputy Director Staff – 40 years
Mike Wolf – USA Softball RUIC of North Dakota – 40 years
John Combs McCartney – USA Softball of Kentucky – 45 years
Dave Epperson – USA Softball RUIC of Region 7 – 45 years
Jerry Stewart – USA Softball of Mississippi – 45 years

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE USA SOFTBALL UMPIRE PROGRAM, VISIT USASOFTBALL.COM
USA SOFTBALL UMPIRE CHRISTINA DRUMM APPOINTED TO WBSC REGIONAL SOFTBALL UMPIRE COORDINATOR COMMITTEE

Christina Drumm of USA Softball of Southern California has been appointed as one of the newest members of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Regional Softball Umpire Coordinator Committee. The new composition of the nine-member, gender-balanced committee covers the five Olympic continents -- Africa, Asia, America, Europe and Oceania.

The global umpire committee members oversee umpire activities and programs in their respective territories, working with the Director of Umpires on training and certification courses, including the web-based Ump School. The committee also reviews rule changes and provides rule interpretations, while bringing recommendations to the WBSC Softball Executive Board. This reinforced global umpiring committee -- whose members have been part of a combined 59 softball world championships and have extensive Olympic softball experience -- also addresses strategies to bolster growth and training among officials, as the popularity of softball among players and school programs continues to expand.

Christina Drumm received her WBSC certification in 2003 and has umpired in six softball World Championships and the World Cup of Softball. She has also served as an Assistant UIC for WBSC Junior Women’s and Women’s Softball World Championships. Drumm was named to the USA Softball National Umpiring Staff in 2015.

WBSC-SD REGIONAL UMPIRE COORDINATORS COMMITTEE:

DIRECTOR OF UMPIRES
Bob Stanton (Canada)

REGIONAL UMPIRE COORDINATOR, AFRICA
Vincent Maoeng (South Africa)

REGIONAL UMPIRE COORDINATOR, ASIA
Haruhi Goto (Japan)

REGIONAL UMPIRE COORDINATOR, CENTRAL AMERICA & SOUTH AMERICA
Santos Vasquez (Puerto Rico)

REGIONAL UMPIRE COORDINATOR, EUROPE
Pavel Prachar (Czech Republic)

REGIONAL UMPIRE COORDINATOR, NORTH AMERICA
Christina Drumm (United States)

REGIONAL UMPIRE COORDINATOR, OCEANIA
Wayne Saunders (New Zealand)

SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR
Margo Koskelainen (Australia)

SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR
Marlies Struyve (Netherlands)

“I am honored to have this opportunity to work with amazing people all over the world to assist umpires in their quest for greatness,” said Drumm. “I’ve been fortunate to be trained as an umpire and UIC at the highest levels by USA Softball and I am excited to contribute at a global level.”
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CATCH UP WITH A FEW MEMBERS FROM THE USA SOFTBALL JUNIOR WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAM!

For many softball athletes, the dream of suiting up for their first-ever collegiate season is something they’ve looked forward to from the moment they first arrived on campus. For members of the USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team, their first season as an NCAA student-athlete has just begun! We caught up with four of these athletes who could be competing this June in Oklahoma City at the NCAA Women’s College World Series:

AMANDA DOYLE
LSU
INFIELD

How has your freshman year gone so far?
My freshman year at LSU has gone pretty well so far. What I like most about LSU is the coaching staff, the managers, and my teammates who push me every day to become better. They work as hard as they can to make me and the team the best we can be. We all put in unbelievable hours to become better and we take the game seriously.

How did it feel to step out on the diamond in your first collegiate softball game representing your school?
Putting on the LSU uniform for the first time was unforgettable. I would not have wanted to put on any other uniform. I have grown to be a part of a family here and I love being on the field with every one of my teammates and coaches.

What are you looking forward to most this season?
I'm looking forward to this season to progress each day. We are excited for more competition at Tiger Park. We talk about getting to the NCAA Women’s College World Series again this year, and we strive to get to that championship game.

BETHANEY KEEN
USF
INFIELD

How has your freshman year gone so far?
So far this year has been excellent. We are overcoming a lot of injuries, and being able to come back late in games, which I think is very key to success. We never think the game is actually over, and it has been great to play for a team that has the fight in them. What I like most about USF, and being a Bull are the relationships I have made with my coaches, and teammates not just on the field but off the field, as well as, having close friendships with people in other sports.

How did it feel to step out on the diamond in your first collegiate softball game representing your school?
The first game being suited up in your college uniform for the first time was a great feeling. Going into the season I was staying humble not expecting to start at first, but that first game I saw my name on the starting lineup, I was so happy, and a little nervous. Not nervous really as in scared, but nervous because I was so excited to take the field with this team. My first game was an unbelievable experience, because I hit a walk-off, game-winning home run as my first collegiate hit in my first collegiate game, and that is a moment I will never forget. Every day I get to suit up. I play with passion wearing USF across my chest.

GISELLE JUAREZ
ARIZONA STATE
PITCHER

How has your freshman year gone so far?
This year has been a great journey. In August I had hip surgery and was on crutches the first few weeks of classes so getting around in 100+ degree Arizona weather on crutches with a backpack full of books made me appreciate walking without crutches that much more! I was so excited to start college and begin my next chapter in life. In the years prior to coming to ASU I had played back to back High School Championships at Farrington Stadium so being on the field was something I was familiar with. However, the first time I looked in the mirror in full uniform I did my best to hold back my tears. Years of trying out for club teams, pitching lessons with my dad, holding up my teammates as we moved on from a defeat, it all hit me. I did it. I am here. I am a college athlete. I am a Sun Devil!

What do you enjoy the most about playing for Arizona State?
This season is already off to an amazing start. We have already played some of the best teams in the country. I am looking forward to seeing the best talent the game has and competing with them every pitch. This year I want to be the best teammate I can be. I believe when all teams are equal, we all have hitters, we all have good pitching, and we all have defense, it is the connection to each other that makes the difference. When I look in my teammates eyes I want them to know I have their back. That every pitch I throw is in defense of their effort, I pitch for them. I believe that if we can all play for each other, not just in games, but give our best effort in practice dedicating it to the person next to you, anything is possible.

ALISSA DALTON
OKLAHOMA
UTILITY

How has your freshman year gone so far?
This year has gone really well so far. I’ve created bonds with my teammates that won’t just last these next four years but probably the rest of my life. What I like most about Oklahoma is that they don’t just focus on who you are as an athlete and as a player, but they focus on growing you as a person and a Christian.

How did it feel to step out on the diamond in your first collegiate softball game representing your school?
It’s an honor. Especially with their success of last year, just getting to put on the jersey every day is a dream come true.

What are you looking forward to most this season?
Personally, I would like to be the best I can be for my team and fill the role I’ve been assigned to the best that I can. Of course winning is always going to be a team goal, but we are more focused on the process and not the result.
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San Diego, CA
The USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team (JMNT) program welcomes Tyron McKinney (Ashland, Ohio) to lead the 2018 USA Softball JMNT. Selected by members of the USA Softball Men’s National Team Selection Committee (MNTSC), McKinney will lead the 17-athlete roster that will compete at the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Junior Men’s World Championship (JMWC) July 7-15, 2018 in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada.

McKinney, a five-time USA Softball First Team All-American, recently completed his first season as an Assistant Coach with the USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team Program. As a member of the coaching staff, McKinney helped the U.S. to a fifth place finish at the WBSC JMWC in Midland, Mich. McKinney worked primarily with the pitching staff, which issued a total of 57 strikeouts and combined for a 2.68 ERA over the course of seven games. McKinney also served as an Assistant Coach for the 2016 USA Softball Women’s National Team (WNT) during their time at the 2016 Japan Cup.


McKinney has served as an Assistant Coach at Morehead State University (Morehead, Ky.), Asbury University (Wilmore, Ky.) and Pleasure Ridge Park High School before joining the Adam LaLonde USA Softball Training Academy in Huntington, W. Va. as an instructor. McKinney currently resides in Huntington, and is the father of 11-year old daughter Takiah.

Thank you to USA Softball and the Men’s National Team Selection Committee for selecting me to lead the 2018 USA Softball JMNT. I am very excited, humbled and honored to represent our country again and work with these young men to get them ready to or someday play in the Men’s National Team Program. Thank you to everyone who has supported me and continues to support me. It’s time to start the medal hunt as we begin this new era for the USA Softball JMNT program.
Two-time Olympian and NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) Champion Jennie Finch has been named Youth Softball Ambassador. Finch will support MLB’s Youth Programs with initiatives and strategies that are designed to grow softball at the amateur and youth levels. In addition to her duties as an ambassador of softball, she will also support an effort to promote girls baseball. A tentative list of softball- and baseball-focused events at which she is scheduled to represent MLB include the “Trail Blazer” Girls Baseball Tournament, Softball Breakthrough Series, Church Softball Tournament, PLAY BALL Park as part of All-Star Week, Softball Elite Development Invitational, and the softball portion of RBI World Series.

“It is an honor to serve in this new role with Major League Baseball to grow the sport that has given so much to me and millions of girls and women throughout the country,” said Finch. “Together, we will promote youth participation at the grassroots level while also helping develop the skills of players ready for the next level. This is a really special time for softball and I am thrilled to play a small part in this effort to increase opportunities to play the greatest game ever created.”

Finch, the current host of USA Softball’s Softball 360 TV show, led the USA Softball Women’s National Team to the gold and silver at the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games, respectively. Finch graduated from the University of Arizona in 2002 after a record-breaking softball career, including a perfect junior season on the mound (32-0) and an NCAA WCWS Championship in 2001. Finch also pitched for the Chicago Bandits in the National Pro Fastpitch (NPF) league from 2005 to 2010. She continues to host instructional softball camps throughout the country.

“Jennie Finch is one of the most accomplished female athletes in history and we are thrilled she will be assisting us to grow the game of softball,” said MLB Senior Vice President of Youth Programs, Tony Reagins. “Increasing youth and amateur participation is a central goal for our department. We know that Jennie’s passion, insight and talent will be invaluable to our efforts during this special moment for our sport.”

Finch’s appointment is the latest in a string of efforts by MLB to increase softball participation. In June 2016, USA Softball began their partnership with MLB, particularly focusing on “PLAY BALL,” an initiative to encourage widespread participation in all forms of baseball and softball activities. USA Softball and MLB also created the inaugural Softball Breakthrough Series (BTS) in 2016. Similar to Baseball BTS events, the Softball Breakthrough Series is designed to promote softball as a viable collegiate option for youth from underrepresented and underserved communities. The event is completely cost-free for participants, who are selected by invitation only. The 2017 Softball Breakthrough Series will be held June 11-15 in Oklahoma City.

“We are excited and honored that MLB has named Jennie as the Youth Softball Ambassador,” said USA Softball Executive Director, Craig Cress. “Her accomplishments, both on and off the field, and her ability to inspire athletes will greatly enhance and support the initiative by MLB, USA Baseball, and USA Softball to grow our sports at all levels.”

For the past 28 years, the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) program has provided young men and women with opportunities to play baseball and softball. RBI currently reaches more than 230,000 boys and girls throughout the U.S. and in Canada, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Curacao. Since 2006, young people have had the opportunity to receive free, year-round baseball and softball instruction, as well as other educational and baseball vocational services, through the MLB Youth Academy network. There are six operational MLB Youth Academies in the U.S. in Cincinnati (Ohio), Compton (California), Dallas (Texas), Houston (Texas), New Orleans (Louisiana), Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) and Washington, D.C. There are three additional facilities under development in the Bronx (New York), Kansas City (Missouri) and San Francisco (California).
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The standard of excellence continues within the USA Softball National Team Program as 41 coaches have been selected to National Team Coaching Pools. This elite crew features 22 coaches selected to the 2017-19 Women’s National Team (WNT) Coaching Pool while 19 coaches have been added to the 2017-20 Men’s National Team (MNT) Coaching Pool.

“We are honored to have another outstanding group of coaches making up the USA Softball National Team Coaching Pools,” said USA Softball National Teams Director Chris Sebren. “Their experiences as both players and coaches at the elite level will bring a wealth of knowledge to our National Team Program.”

**2017-2020 MNT COACHING POOL**

- Anthony Aresco (Stoneham, Mass.)
- Michael Armitage (Normal, Ill.)
- Denny Bruckert (Gillespie, Ill.)
- Mike Gasaway (Mogadore, Ohio)
- Ron Guzman (Salinas, Calif.)
- Greg Hicks (Bakersfield, Calif.)
- Joshua Horton (Albany, N.Y.)
- Wallace King (Hudsonville, Mich.)
- Bill Kunkel (Eaton Rapids, Mich.)
- Gregg Leather (Staten Island, N.Y.)
- Tim Lyon (South Jordan, Utah)
- Nick McCurry (Ashland, Ohio)
- Tyron McKinney (Ashland, Ohio)
- Chris Norris (Spanish Fork, Utah)
- Robert Piddock (Castro Valley, Calif.)
- Ken Schwartz (Manhattan Beach, Calif.)
- Kerry Shaw (Bates City, Mo.)
- Jack Starling (Midland, Mich.)
- Ernie Yarbrough (Atlanta, Ga.)
- Jerry Zimmerman (Ephrata, Pa.)

Coaches selected from this pool will have the opportunity to coach in some of the highest level softball competitions in the world over the course of the next four years. The schedule for the USA Softball MNT and JMNT has yet to be finalized for the 2017-20 cycle, but those international calendars will be highlighted by the 2017 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Men’s World Championship, to be held in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, the 2018 WBSC Junior Men’s World Championship to be held in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Canada, the 2019 Pan American Games to be held in Lima, Peru, the 2019 WBSC Men’s World Championship to be held in Prague, Czech Republic and the 2020 WBSC Junior Men’s World Championship.
2017-19 WNT COACHING POOL

Tony Abbatine (Monroe, N.Y.)
Founder, Frozen Ropes

John Bargfeldt (Tulsa, Okla.)
Head Coach at Tulsa

Laura Berg (Corvallis, Ore.)
Head Coach at Oregon State

Suzy Brazney (Huntington Beach, Calif.)
Assistant Coach at Chapman University

Howard Dobson (Baton Rouge, La.)
Assistant Coach at LSU

Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla.)
Head Coach at South Florida

Lisa Fernandez (Long Beach, Calif.)
Assistant Coach at UCLA

Tairia Flowers (Tucson, Ariz.)
Head Coach at Cal State Northridge

Trisha Ford (Fremont, Calif.)
Head Coach at Arizona State

Kristie Fox (San Diego, Calif.)
Head Coach at UT-Arlington

Lori Harrigan-Mack (Las Vegas, Nev.)
Pitching coach at College of Southern Nevada

Kyle Jamieson (Stittsville, Ontario, Canada)
Head Coach at Furman

Peter Meredith (Salt Lake City, Utah)
Assistant Coach at BYU

Patrick Murphy (Tuscaloosa, Ala.)
Head Coach at Alabama

Lisa Navas (Columbia, S.C.)
Associate Head Coach at South Carolina

Cat Osterman (Houston, Texas)
Assistant Coach at Texas State

John Rittman (Valencia, Calif.)
Associate Head Coach at Kansas

Jennifer Rocha (Gainesville, Fla.)
Assistant Coach at Florida

Heather Tarr (Redmond, Wash.)
Head Coach at Washington

Gina Vecchione (New Rochelle, N.Y.)
Associate Head Coach at Cal Poly

Kirk Walker (Woodland Hills, Calif.)
Assistant Coach at UCLA

Natasha Watley (Irvine, Calif.)
Director of Operations at Cal State Northridge

Selected to the coaching pool by the Women’s National Team Selection Committee (WNTSC), coaches may be required to participate in international events, player evaluations, selection camps and other specified events as part of the evaluation process. Coaches selected from this pool will have the opportunity to coach in some of the highest level softball competitions in the world over the course of the next three years. The schedule for the WNT and JWNT has yet to be finalized for the 2017-19 cycle, but those international calendars will be highlighted by the 2017 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Junior Women’s World Championship to be held in Clearwater, Fla., 2018 WBSC Women’s World Championship to be held in Chiba, Japan, the 2019 Pan American Games to be held in Lima, Peru and the 2019 WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship to be held in Irvine, Calif.

For updates on the USA Softball National Team Program and events throughout the 2017 season visit www.USASoftball.com
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2016 USA SOFTBALL
ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:
JESSICA MOORE

• Four-time member of Team USA
• WBSC World Championship Gold Medalist
• Pan American Games Silver Medalist
• Two-time World Cup of Softball Champion

2016 STATS
8-2 record, 43 strikeouts, 2.79 ERA in 37 2/3 innings pitched
2016 USA SOFTBALL
ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

MALE SLOW PITCH ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:
TRAVIS CLARK

• Four-time member of Team USA
• Four-time Border Battle Champion
• Helped lead the U.S. to 4-1 record

2016 STATS
.857 batting average, four home runs, 11 RBI and 10 runs scored

JUNIOR MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:
BRYCE DUCHARME

• Two-time member of Team USA
• Had a hit in each of USA Softball's games at the WBSC World Championship
• Led the WBSC World Championship with nine runs scored and 11 hits

2016 STATS
.478 batting average, 11 hits, nine runs scored and .609 slugging percentage
The JUGS® 7-foot Complete Practice Travel Screen® features a huge 6.5' x 6.5' Hitting Sock!

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The USA Softball Junior Olympic (JO) Cup returns to the west coast July 24-29! Featuring the top competition in the 16-Under and 18-Under divisions, Lake Elsinore and Perris, Calif. will be the site of the third-annual event.

QUICK FACTS:
• Each age division will feature the Top 32 teams in the country, based on rankings.
• Five-game guarantee with three pool play games and double-elimination brackets.
• Both pool and bracket play are determined by blind draw with no protections.
• The Top 12 finishing teams will each receive a cash donation back to their 501c3 programs.
• Tournament also serves as identification opportunity for athletes wishing to be seen by the USA Softball Women’s National Team Selection Committee.
• In 2016, over $55,000 was donated to the top finishing teams in each age group.
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Hitting the road this softball season? We’ve got you covered! We’ve picked out some of our favorite items from USASoftballStore.com to help make your trip as comfy as possible!

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Can’t hit the road without a cup of coffee! Drink with style while showing everyone around you what you love!

Pack everything you need for a day out at the fields in these Nike Cinch Bags! Available in Red, Blue, or Black, they’re the perfect size to hold all of your essentials.

Because everyone’s closet can use a pair of comfy shorts and sweatpants! Whether you’re driving from one game to another or need a pair of shorts to slip on for practice, make sure you get yourself a pair!

Fun AND cozy! Stay comfortable on the road with this softball fleece blanket! It even comes with a carrying strap!
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The world’s best softball will return to Oklahoma City this summer with the World Cup of Softball XII and Border Battle IX taking over the ASA Hall of Fame Complex - OGE Energy Field - INTEGRIS Field from June 30 to July 2 and July 5 to July 9. The World Cup of Softball will be highlighted by the top four teams in the world while the Border Battle will pit the USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team against Canada. All-session tickets for both events are on sale by phone at 800-654-8337 or online at USASoftball.com.

Fans will start the week with the ninth-annual Men’s Border Battle from June 30 to July 2, which will feature round-robin games between the USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team, the USA Softball Men’s Futures Slow Pitch National Team, Team Canada and several USA Softball-registered teams. The three-day event will be highlighted by Border Battle IX, where Team USA will look to keep Border Battle bragging rights on July 1. In addition to the Border Battle, the USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team and the USA Softball Men’s Futures Slow Pitch National Team will also be competing in Oklahoma City in the Slow Pitch Showdown on July 2.

The 2017 World Cup of Softball, a World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC)-sanctioned event, will be held from July 5 to July 9 and features six of the Top 10 teams in the world: No. 1 ranked Japan, No. 2 USA, No. 3 Canada, No. 4 Australia, No. 7 Puerto Rico and No. 10 Mexico. Also scheduled to participate are the No. 17 ranked Philippines and the USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team (JWNT). The complete Border Battle and World Cup of Softball game schedule, special promotions, autograph sessions with the USA Softball teams, and media schedule will be announced at a later date.

All-session tickets for Border Battle are $12 for both adult and youth tickets, while the World Cup of Softball has two all-session ticket packages. Adult all-session tickets are $40 while youth all-session tickets are $20. All tickets are for general admission seating and allow the ticket holder to watch all games held on the respective date. Tickets can be purchased by phone at 800-654-8337 or online at USASoftball.com. Single-session tickets will go on sale at a later date.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Player Name</th>
<th>Hometown/Misc.</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Bats/Throws</th>
<th>School/Year</th>
<th>Twitter Handle</th>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hannah Adams</td>
<td>Hoschton, Ga.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>Mill Creek High School - Senior</td>
<td>@hmadamss11</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Elissa Brown</td>
<td>Eclectic, Ala.</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>Alabama - Freshman</td>
<td>@Lissatlara22</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Amanda Doyle</td>
<td>Santa Clarita, Calif.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>LSU - Freshman</td>
<td>@amandadoleeee</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Bethaney Keen</td>
<td>Bradenton, Fla.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>South Florida - Freshman</td>
<td>@bethaneyyykeen</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Dejah Mulipola</td>
<td>Garden Grove, Calif.</td>
<td>Catcher</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Arizona - Freshman</td>
<td>@dejahmulipola</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Kathryn Sandercock</td>
<td>McLean, Va.</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Bishop O’Connell High School - Junior</td>
<td>@k_sandercock</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Alexis Kilfoyl</td>
<td>Land O’Lakes, Fla.</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Academy at the Lakes - Sophomore</td>
<td>@lexikilfoyl</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Jessica Harper</td>
<td>Stevenson Ranch, Calif.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Arizona - Freshman</td>
<td>@jess_s_harper</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Holly Azevedo</td>
<td>San Jose, Calif.</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Pioneer High School - Senior</td>
<td>@daltonalissa1</td>
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<td>Nicole Bates</td>
<td>Ceres, Calif.</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>Washington - Freshman</td>
<td>@DetersGabi</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Julia Cottrill</td>
<td>Stillwater, Okla.</td>
<td>Catcher</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Stillwater High School - Sophomore</td>
<td>@juliacottrill</td>
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<td>Alissa Dalton</td>
<td>Cypress, Texas</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Oklahoma - Freshman</td>
<td>@maryiakopo</td>
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<td>Gabi Deters</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Mo.</td>
<td>Catcher</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>Bowling Green High School - Sophomore</td>
<td>@GGotGame2016</td>
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<td>Mary Iakopo</td>
<td>Carson, Calif.</td>
<td>Catcher</td>
<td>L/L</td>
<td>Los Alamitos High School - Senior</td>
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<td>Baylee Klingler</td>
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<td>R/R</td>
<td>Dickinson High School - Junior</td>
<td>@bayleekling</td>
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<td>Natalie Lugo</td>
<td>West Covina, Calif.</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>South Hills High School - Senior</td>
<td>@natalie_lugo</td>
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<td>Sydney Sherrill</td>
<td>Moore, Okla.</td>
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<td>L/R</td>
<td>Southmoore High School - Senior</td>
<td>@sydneysherrill</td>
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<td>Taylor Snow</td>
<td>Chino Hills, Calif.</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
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<td>Chino Hills High School - Senior</td>
<td>@taylonsnoww</td>
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<td>Kaylee Tow</td>
<td>Madisonville, Ky.</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>Madison North-Hopkins High School - Senior</td>
<td>@kaytowt12</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Briana Perez</td>
<td>Martinez, Calif.</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>IF/OF</td>
<td>Alhambra High School - Senior</td>
<td>@brinperezz</td>
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<td>Alyssa Rivera</td>
<td>Eagle Lake, Fla.</td>
<td>IF/OF</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>Auburn - Freshman</td>
<td>@Alyssa_Rivera_9</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>Madilyn Nickles</td>
<td>Merced, Calif.</td>
<td>IF/P</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>UCLA - Freshman</td>
<td>@madilyn_nickles</td>
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<td>Giselle Juarez</td>
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<td>Ali Aguilar</td>
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<td>Amanda Chidester</td>
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<td>Paige Halstead</td>
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<td>Jessica Moore</td>
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<td>Kelsey Stewart</td>
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<td>IF/OF</td>
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<td>Ally Carda</td>
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<td>Michelle Moultrie</td>
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<td>Florida</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Aubree Munro</td>
<td>Brea, Calif.</td>
<td>Catcher</td>
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<td>Oregon</td>
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<td>Danielle O’Tooole</td>
<td>Upland, Calif.</td>
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<td>Haylie McCleney</td>
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<td>Kasey Cooper</td>
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<td>Jenna Lilley</td>
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<td>Morgan Zerkle</td>
<td>Milton, W. Va.</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>Senior</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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PROUD PARTNER OF USA SOFTBALL
Oklahoma City, the Softball Capital of the World®, will play host to the NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS), World Cup XII, Border Battle IX and five USA Softball Hall of Fame National Qualifiers, while also welcoming new events such as NCAA Division III Softball National Championships, the inaugural USA Softball All-American Games and Major League Baseball’s (MLB) Breakthrough Series camp.

The 2017 season kicked off March 3-5 with the Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) Classic, a tournament hosted by Langston University which welcomed athletes from Division I to NAIA historically black colleges. USA Softball is also proud to welcome back Special Olympics of Oklahoma to the ASA Hall of Fame Complex, where teams will take part in a regional qualifier April 5 prior to the State Summer Games set for May 17-19 at Oklahoma State University. Prior to the NCAA Division III Softball National Championships taking place May 24-30, the Big 12 Conference Championship will return to the ASA Hall of Fame Complex May 11-13 after a six-year absence. Oklahoma was the last team to win the league’s postseason championship in 2010.

Joining the schedule this year is the inaugural 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 http://usasoftballallamericangames.com/ or by sending an email to AllAmericanGames@usasoftball.com

As part of USA Softball’s partnership with MLB’s PLAY BALL initiative, USA Softball and MLB will host a softball-specific Breakthrough Series (BTS) camp from June 11-15 for the second consecutive year. The Softball BTS is designed to promote softball as a viable collegiate option for youth from underrepresented and underserved communities. The event is completely cost-free for participants, who are selected by invitation only.

In its 27th-straight year being played in Oklahoma City, the NCAA WCWS will return June 1-7, 2017 and feature the top contenders in college softball. Fans saw Oklahoma earn its third championship title last year, its first since 2013. Will the Sooners return to claim another or will fans see a different team battle it out for the Championship title? Fans can visit NCAA.com/WCWS for ticket information.

Returning to the Softball Capital of the World® in July is Border Battle IX and the World Cup of Softball XII, where fans will have the opportunity to watch teams from around the globe, including Team USA, compete for the Gold Medal. The ninth-annual Border Battle Slow Pitch game will feature the USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team, who will take the field against Canada in the annual event. At the World Cup of Softball XII, the USA Softball Women’s National Team looks to continue last season’s momentum in which they won Gold at the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) World Championship in Surrey, B.C., Canada.

Five USA Softball Hall of Fame (HOF) National Qualifiers will showcase young talent, from 10-under teams to 18-under. The first HOF qualifier will be held June 16-18 for the 10U teams, while the 14U teams will start June 20. The 16U qualifier will be played June 22-24, with the 18U qualifier following right after on June 24. Ending the month of June will be the last of the qualifiers in the 12U age level, June 26-28.

Whether as a player, coach, umpire or fan, there’s plenty of softball to come and enjoy this summer in Oklahoma City!
THE USA SOFTBALL MEN’S SLOW PITCH NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (NIT), also known as the Winter Classic, crowned two divisional Champions on the fields of Myrtle Beach’s Grand Park Athletic Complex at the close of the weekend tournament. After advancing through to the Championship Games, it was Deluxe Bakery and the Warriors who took home the titles in Division III and IV, respectively.

After taking a 2-0 win over Gameonmobile.com on Saturday, No. 2 seed Blend Bar/Speedy Petey dropped a 14-4 decision to Deluxe Bakery but battled back to force a rematch against New Jersey team. Deluxe Bakery, who went 2-0 and outscored their opponents 37-11 in pool play, entered as the No. 1 seed and won two straight en route to Sunday’s Championship game. With several top hitters contributing to the team’s offensive success combined with a solid defense, Deluxe Bakery took home the title of 2017 Winter Classic Division III Champions with a 19-5 win over Blend Bar/Speedy Petey.

The Division IV Championship game saw No. 5 seed Showtime/Army Dawgs and No. 4 seed Warriors go head-to-head for the second time this weekend. Despite dropping a 12-11 decision to the Warriors early on, Showtime/Army Dawgs fought to earn a spot in the title game and won 11-9 over the Warriors to force an if-necessary game. The Warriors were able to hold off Showtime/Army Dawgs, 6-1, and claim the Championship title.

The 2017 Winter Classic featured a total of 12 teams who were given a five-game guarantee with no player classifications and an opportunity to win prize packages, including sponsor awards and Championship rings at this first-of-its-kind event. Division III included Blend Bar/Speedy Petey, Colt 45s, Deluxe Bakery, Demolition, GameOnMobile, and Second Family, while Division IV included Hitting Gas Softball, MDL, RAS, Roughneck Kennels, Showtime/Army Dawgs, and the Warriors.

The Winter Classic, which was created following discussions at the 2016 Slow Pitch Task Force Committee meeting, was formed to provide an avenue for Slow Pitch teams from around the country to play in a destination city during the winter season, while allowing for rule modifications that would otherwise not be eligible for Championship Play. Featuring a group of large multipurpose fields and two youth fields, the Grand Park Athletic Complex staff offered options for teams to practice and use the batting cages located on site throughout the entirety of the weekend.

After posting a 19-5 win in the Championship Finale, Deluxe Bakery/Speedy Petey claimed the Division III title. The Warriors took home the Division IV Championship.
You are heading into your second season as an assistant coach for Cal Poly’s softball program, how do you like being on the other side as a coach versus a player?

"Cal Poly has been an amazing place to start my coaching career. I am now in my second season and I am already more confident as a coach and learning so many new things from my others coaches and the student-athletes on the team. I think my role as a coach has improved and I look forward to this upcoming year because I feel like I have gained so much knowledge from the USA coaches and players that I will be able to share with my players."

How does it feel seeing the game from a different perspective compared to how you normally do as a player?

"If we could all be coaches before we become players, I believe we would all be so much better as athletes because you see the game a different way. You learn so much from teaching other people and it grows you more as a player and person. You see more of the 'bigger picture' and focus more on the process rather than the outcome, which is huge. I have become more patient with myself because that is what we preach to our own players, 'be patient and trust the process!'"

Is there any 'Ally Carda' trait that’s specifically helped you that you also try and instill in the student-athletes you coach?

"When I played, I was big on out working everyone. It takes zero talent to put in extra work and have a positive outlook on the day. I try to show the girls I coach now that no matter how hard the day is when you come to the field, you need to leave anything that is happening in your world outside the gates and focus on being positive for your teammates. When you work hard, work extra and have a positive attitude, everyone around you, including yourself, will get better."

What are some of the team goals for the upcoming season?

"Our goal for this upcoming season is to win the Big West Conference and winning the Big West means making it to post season! That is the goal every year, and I am very excited to help these girls anyway I can to achieve that goal. We are in a good place right now to be able to make that happen this year."

How would you recap last summer playing for Team USA?

"Last summer was an absolute blast being able to play again for Team USA. We have only gotten better and better as a team. The chemistry, the togetherness, the pitching, the defense, the hitting... it is a fun group to be a part of! Our highlight last summer was winning the World Championship against Japan! I think I can speak for everyone, when I say that that was one of the BEST feelings."

Ally Carda returns to the USA Softball Women’s National Team for the 2017 season after coming off an exciting year with the 2016 squad who claimed its 10th World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) World Championship title in Surrey, B.C., Canada. With years of experience at the international level in addition to her time spent playing collegiately at UCLA, Carda’s resume speaks for itself. Carda’s accolades include being a USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Top 3 finalist and receiving Pac-12 Player of the Year and NFCA All-American honors. Carda now heads into her second season as an assistant coach for Cal Poly.
Each week, USA Softball highlights some of the legends in the game of softball. From legendary hitters like Bruce Meade to dominant pitchers like Bertha Tickey Ragan...find out which legendary players helped pave the way for the players of today!
**Where Will You Qualify for Slow Pitch Championship Season at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex?**

Wanting to play at the historic ASA Hall of Fame Complex this year for an adult slow-pitch National Championship but aren’t quite sure if your team has earned a berth? Don’t worry, we’ve got you covered! Below you’ll find a list of teams who have qualified in their respective Adult Slow Pitch National Championship. Who will make it to the Softball Capital of the World® this fall?

### Men’s Class D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aftershock</td>
<td>Muskegon, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad Company</td>
<td>Everett, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellar Peanut Pub</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comachos</td>
<td>Utica, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dewey’s</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolution/Martino Roofing</td>
<td>Sewell, NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lakes Water Laser</td>
<td>Marshall, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hombres/CDZ Apparel</td>
<td>Bellflower, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Nappanee, IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JJ Sports</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katzer’s Trucking</td>
<td>South Dakota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Enhancements/USI</td>
<td>Water Works, NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maulers</td>
<td>Burke, VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mugshotz</td>
<td>Syracuse, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murphy’s Mafia</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omaha’s Finest</td>
<td>Omaha, NE</td>
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<tr>
<td>T.O.I</td>
<td>Roanoke, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talamo Foods</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Men’s Class C

**Oklahoma City, OK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ace Kolles Plumbing</td>
<td>St. Michael, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berg Plumbing/Play Makers</td>
<td>Parkers Prairie, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Rapids Mulisha</td>
<td>Cedar Rapids, IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP/Sewer Septic Pros</td>
<td>Palm Springs, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>DBO</td>
<td>Enid, OK</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCL</td>
<td>Glen Allen, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demars Softball</td>
<td>East Haven, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS Sports/DeMarini</td>
<td>Irvine, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jethros/Iconic Apparel</td>
<td>Ankeny, IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legion</td>
<td>Fruitport, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midwest Assault</td>
<td>St. Joseph, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOJO</td>
<td>Stephens City, VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moose Merchants</td>
<td>Austin, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTW/Elite</td>
<td>San Dimas, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint Doctor</td>
<td>Hockessin, DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rookies Sports Pub</td>
<td>Junction City, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triad/Fatman/Claddagh Pub</td>
<td>Haverhill, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Versatile Roofing/Fanatics</td>
<td>Kearney, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zibos</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Men’s Class B

**Oklahoma City, OK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comatose/ THEMshirts</td>
<td>Beloit, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illmatic</td>
<td>Ardmore, OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Bs</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponytail Express</td>
<td>Cypress, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sloopys</td>
<td>LaCrosse, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNT Softball</td>
<td>Avenel, NJ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Teams if you are interested in accepting this berth for 2017 or have any questions please contact your Local USA Softball Commissioner.*
Our athletes work hard for all that they’ve earned. And so do you. That’s why we insure every medal you’ve earned in life.
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PLAYERS REGISTERED WITH CLASS “A” TEAMS CAN BE PICK-UP PLAYERS FOR EITHER CLASS “A” OR GOLD TEAMS.

PLAYERS THAT ARE REGISTERED ON GOLD REGISTERED TEAMS CANNOT BE PICK-UP PLAYERS FOR CLASS “A” TEAMS!

64 AVAILABLE BERTHS

BY REGISTERING AS CLASS “A”, TEAMS STILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO PLAY UP AT THE GOLD LEVEL.

TEAMS THAT DO NOT QUALIFY FOR THE GOLD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP HAVE THE ABILITY TO STILL QUALIFY FOR CLASS “A” NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

TEAMS ONLY QUALIFY FOR A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BY ACCEPTING AN EARNED BERTH.
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FROM THE VAULT

Pat Guenzler of Kutis Funeral Home established a 1975 Women’s Major FP Tournament record with four hits.

Members of the Erv Lind Florists take a moment on the bench before a big game.

Teams compete at the 1982 Men’s Major Industrial Slow Pitch National Championship in Kansas City, Kan.

The Joe Gatliff Auto Sales claimed the Men’s Open Slow Pitch National Championship.

Pat Guenzler of Kutis Funeral Home established a 1975 Women’s Major FP Tournament record with four hits.
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. How much is the USA Softball Official Rules of Softball app?

2. Name one college matchup that will be featured on ESPN this season.

3. Who received the Region 4 Award of Excellence at the 2017 UIC Clinic?

4. Name one coach in the Men’s National Team Coaching Pool and one coach from the Women’s National Team Coaching Pool.

5. Where will the 2017 USA Softball JO Cup be held?
USA SOFTBALL

#Women'sHistoryMonth: Delanie Gourley
USA Softball recognizes and celebrates #Women'sHistoryMonth by featuring a post from WNT athlete, Delanie G.

Upcoming Events

USA Softball News

#WellnessWednesday: How Sleep Impacts Health and Performance by Thorne Research
O'Toole no hits her way to USA Softball Player of the Week honors
Undefeated season moves Oregon to No. 1 in Week 7 of ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 Poll
How the Top 25 Fared - Week 7
Twenty-two teams to compete in USA Softball Spring Challenge; College Preview Tournament to feature OU, UAB, Mississippi State and LA Tech
Legends of the Game - Ruth Sears
USA Softball to field inaugural Women's Slow Pitch National Team in 2017
#WellnessWednesday: The Travel Ritual by Thorne Research

PHOTO GALLERIES, PLAYER JOURNALS, BLOGS, TRAINING TIPS AND STILL YOUR SOURCE FOR LIVE SCORING, STATS, BIOS, PRODUCTS AND MORE.

FOLLOW THE USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL TEAMS AT WWW.USASOFTBALL.COM AS THEY TAKE ON THE WORLD.