Hello and thank you for reading the April issue of The Inside Pitch.

I hope that everyone’s season has been going smoothly. At ASA, we are proud of the quality of service we provide for our teams. With this said, I encourage our Commissioners to turn in all registrations to the National Office in a timely manner according to the ASA Code (Article 305-D-3). Not only does this make it easier on the National Office to provide our registration numbers, but it also helps our organization as a whole run more smoothly. Also, please make sure that the umpires you use for the regular season are registered with Register ASA.

With the closing date for any ASA National Championship bids nearing, I want to remind our Commissioners that they should be working with their bidding cities to ensure that they have all the required information for a bid. The information for a 2014 ASA National Championship bid is also now available on the portal.

I also wanted to take this time to mention that I am finalizing committee assignments. Should any council member have a request, please get that to me as soon as possible.

Thank you all for everything you do. Here’s to a great May!
Hello, and welcome to the April 2012 edition of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America. We are about a month away from the kick-off of the NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) here in Oklahoma City, and I am excited to experience this event for the first time as an ASA/USA Softball employee.

We recently announced our Top 25 Finalists for the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year. This award, which is considered the most prestigious honor in Division I softball, will be awarded on May 29 just prior to the start of the WCWS. Of the 25 student-athletes selected, seven are either current or previous Women’s National Team members, and we also have one member of the 2010-11 Junior Women’s National team. Not only are these women excelling at a collegiate level, but they also excel on the International scene. With the 2012 WCWS and the World Cup of Softball VII, we are proud to call the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Hall of Fame Complex the “Mecca” of softball.

Remember, if you would like to have a news item or photo included in The Inside Pitch, please send me an electronic copy by the 15th of every month at cwarren@softball.org. Thank you all for everything you do!

ASA banners and flags on sale

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, is now selling ASA flags and banners from the National Office. There are three available options for purchase:

- **Navy Blue “Play ASA” Banners** - $45 (plus shipping) - SIZE is 3 ft. x 8 ft. with grommets
- **New “Play ASA” Action Banners** - $60 (plus shipping) - SIZE 3 ft. x 8 ft. with grommets
- **ASA Shield Flags** - $32 (plus shipping) - SIZE 3 ft. by 8 ft. with flag grommets

Those interested in purchasing any items listed need to contact Julie Bartel. We will bill your association.
Being a family member of Team USA has its benefits.

Take advantage of partnership travel discounts.

United has flown Team USA for over 30 years, and we strive to be the airline of choice for Olympic family members as well. That’s why we offer discounted fares for USOC/NGB associated events. Visit united.com/USOC to book your flight, or to learn more.
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

Bollinger and ASA ~  
Teaming up together for the 49th year!
Steven Embree hired as ASA Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced the hiring of Steven Embree of Oklahoma City, Okla., as the new Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications. Embree’s duties will include serving as the editor of Balls and Strikes Magazine as well as USASoftball.com, managing all aspects of Social Media as it relates to the ASA/USA Softball brands and serving as the main contact for all USA Softball National Teams, events, tours and championships including the World Cup of Softball, which returns to Oklahoma City, June 27 – July 2.

Embree has previous experience with the ASA, having spent the last two years serving as the Events and Registrations Coordinator. While in this position, he worked with the local organizing committee in managing the NCAA Women’s College World Series (May 31-June 6), the Title IX Celebration Game (June 23), World Cup of Softball VII (June 27-July 2), including the Slow Pitch Showdown (June 27) and the Border Battle IV (June 30), and ASA/USA Softball Girls’ GOLD 18-Under Fast Pitch National Championship (July 22-28). For a complete schedule, visit ASASoftball.com. For tickets, visit SoftballOutlet.com or call 1-800-654-8337.

Steven has already started his research for our National teams and for the Balls & Strikes Online Magazine.

In 2009, Embree interned with the American Junior Golf Association’s communication’s team. In this role, he served as the on-site media liaison for the association’s junior golf events. Functions in this position included scheduling tournament pairing prior to each event and writing press releases following each tournament round.

Embree received his Bachelor of Arts in Advertising from Oklahoma’s Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication in May 2008 followed by a Master’s in Adult and Higher Education with an emphasis in Athletic Administration in May 2011 also from the University of Oklahoma.

‘CHAMPIONS CROWNED’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Stanley Law/TWP captured the Men’s Open title with a 22-11 victory over the Seminoles. These two teams faced each other once earlier in the tournament with the Seminoles winning 16-15. Stanley Law/TWP outscored opponents 74-44 in the event to take home first-place honors.

Click here for the event brackets.

The Combat Capital City Classic is just one of the events out of the of 89 days of action at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex this year. Future events include the NCAA Women’s College World Series (May 31-June 6), the Title IX Celebration Game (June 23), World Cup of Softball VII (June 27-July 2), including the Slow Pitch Showdown (June 27) and the Border Battle IV (June 30), and ASA/USA Softball Girls’ GOLD 18-Under Fast Pitch National Championship (July 22-28). For a complete schedule, visit ASASoftball.com.
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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 Insurance 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.

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Responsibility. What's your policy?
We get a lot of questions asking for tips on how to rally the community to help win a $2,500 grant. To earn the grant, Rocklin Girls Fastpitch Softball of Rocklin, California rallied supporters to participate in the program through use of Facebook posts and personal messages to friends on Facebook, as well as tools and suggestions found on Extra Point to produce flyers and email messages.

Extra Point is sent twice monthly throughout the three-month grant period. Each issue will feature:
- A Key Grant Promotional Theme with exclusive new downloads
- “Where Are They Now?” Past Winner Feature
- “What I Learned” Parent Perspective

Once the grant period ends and the winners are announced, you will be automatically unsubscribed from this list.

This is the only way to get these insider tips and what you can be doing to make sure your softball team comes away with one of the 15 $2,500 grants to be awarded.

Sign up today! >>

Artifact of the Month!

Since softball has such a rich and vast history, we want to share with you some of the amazing artifacts we have deep within our collections. Stay tuned every month for a glimpse into our archives!

Arguably one of softball’s finest pitchers, Bertha Ragan Tickey (left) won the award “Miss Softball” in 1949. With a total of 11 ASA National Titles (four with the Orange Lionettes and seven with the Raybestos Brakettes), Tickey amassed a career record of 757-88 and 162 career no-hitters.
USA Softball vs. Canada on ESPN June 23 for Title IX 40th Anniversary celebration

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball are pleased to announce the 2012 USA Softball 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.

“Title IX has given me so many opportunities in my life,” said USA Softball National Team pitcher Chelsea Thomas (Missouri, Red Shirt Junior). “I am so thankful that I was able to play four sports in high school, along with the chance to play softball at the University of Missouri. These opportunities led me to become a member of the USA Softball National Team, a dream that I have had since I was very young. Without Title IX, these memories and dreams would not have been possible, and for that I am very grateful for all that Title IX has done for me and women all over the country. I am so honored that ESPN has chosen International Softball to be a part of celebrating the 40th anniversary of Title IX.”

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.

“We would not be here today as women and as athletes if it were not for Title IX,” said current Canadian National Team member and 2008 Olympian Caitlin Lever. “In 1972, the foundation was laid for women to begin breaking barriers, not only athletically but educationally as well. It was because these amazing women paved the way that we have the opportunities we have today. This game is not only to celebrate and thank those who fought for these rights for women, but to encourage women to continue to push the limit to break down walls. Having this milestone for women celebrated on ESPN, the biggest stage of sports media, is another wall broken down in itself. I am both honored and humbled to even have the opportunity to be a part of something so substantial.”

ESPN will offer a weekend of events and studio shows June 22-24 featuring women in sports across its networks – ABC, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, ESPN3 and ESPN Classic – highlighted by a full day of programming Saturday, June 23. The offering is part of the network’s three-month companywide initiative, The Power of IX, recognizing the 40th anniversary of Title IX, signed June 23, 1972.

The June 23 multi-network programming will be tied together, beginning at 11 a.m. ET, through studio coverage from ESPN’s Bristol, Conn., headquarters. ESPN soccer analyst Julie Foudy will host from a Title IX-themed set and welcome special guests throughout the day who have impacted or been affected by the law. ESPN will also report from Liberty State Park in Jersey City, N.J., where more than 30,000 Girl Scouts will be part of the B.I.G. Celebration (Believe in Girls) and the 100th anniversary of the organization.

“I am extremely proud of ESPN for recognizing and focusing on the 40th anniversary of this legislation,” said Carol Stiff, vice president, programming & acquisitions at ESPN. “The hours of programming multiple ESPN networks are dedicating on June 23 show the company’s ongoing commitment to increasing the coverage of women’s sports.”

This special celebration comes just three days prior to the start of the World Cup of Softball VII which begins on June 27 with the USA Men’s Slow Pitch Showdown between the USA National Team and USA Futures Team followed by a special autograph session with all teams, including the USA Women’s National Team. The women’s fast pitch action kicks off on Thursday, June 28 and continues through July 2’s Championship game at 8 p.m. CST. For tickets visit, www.softballoutlet.com or 1-800-654-8337.
Reducing Spill and Glare Increases Satisfaction

When considering plans to install new lighting or upgrade existing lighting systems, the more knowledgeable you are about spill and glare issues, the easier it will be to establish specifications and selection criteria. It’s equally important to hold manufacturers accountable for results, because the containment of spill and glare is one of the most critical considerations of any sports-lighting system. Taking time to learn about the impact of spill and glare will not only simplify making an educated long-term purchasing decision, but will keep your customers and the general public satisfied with your choice.

The best lighting technology should provide multiple performance benefits for players, neighbors and the environment. Appropriately selected, it redirects wasted spill light, allows you to achieve desired light levels, reduces glare, and uses less energy to power fewer light fixtures.

**Know the Issues**

We’re all aware of the growing public concern to conserve valuable energy resources required to produce light. Understanding trespass light is one of the first steps to specifying a system that will not only contain it, but reduce energy consumption.

**Spill** is the light that overshoots the intended area and illuminates adjacent property. It is wasted energy and is generally considered annoying light.

**Sky glow** is the light that spills into the sky above the horizon, illuminating the moisture and other tiny particles in the atmosphere.

**Glare** refers to the sensation we experience when looking into an excessively bright light source that reduces our ability to see. It ranges from discomfort to disability. Glare can make it difficult for players to track balls, interfere with spectator enjoyment, and annoy nearby residents.

**Know the Consequences**

Communities often will develop and grow around existing recreational facilities. Houses and neighbors that didn’t exist when the lights were installed can experience spill and glare issues. As a result, many communities are developing environmental light pollution ordinances to regulate light shining on adjacent properties, through windows, onto roadways, and around astronomical research facilities.

One of the main contributors to spill and glare conditions is the use of old generation, standard symmetrical reflectors. Such designs actually allow a certain amount of primary light to spill off the playing surface. New technology redirects previously wasted spill light back onto the playing surface through improved luminaire designs that feature advanced reflector and visor systems. Poles with proper fixture mounting heights and pre-set aiming angles enhance horizontal illumination and keep light from extending beyond intended surfaces.

**Know the Solutions**

In Novi, Michigan, neighbors of the aging Ella Mae Power Park experienced huge glare problems from light spilling up to 30 yards beyond the outfield into surrounding residential areas. When city officials installed Musco’s Light-Structure Green™ system with advanced lamps and reflectors, they greatly reduced glare, cut spill light in half, and gained a secondary benefit. With fewer fixtures needed, energy costs are lower – an estimated savings of over $135,000 during the life of the system.

The new lighting and monitoring systems contributed to Novi significantly expanding league play, building community programming, and garnering support for national softball tournaments. “When you need lighting, you want quality lighting with less spillage. Now we’re able to look at Novi as one of the premier facilities in the Detroit metro area for hosting softball tournaments,” said Metro Detroit ASA Commissioner Stu Alderman.

One of the most troublesome issues facing the construction of a multimillion dollar 13-field facility in Virginia was the proximity of the sports complex to the runway protection area of the busy Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport. Located less than 2,000 feet from the airport, the sports complex is directly in the flight path of inbound/outbound planes.

York County Parks and Recreation’s Facilities Coordinator Chad Edmondson pointed out that with a high volume of evening activities on multiple adjacent fields, glare could disturb air traffic. “With Musco’s spill and glare control, we have confidence that all of our lighting is directed solely onto the playing fields, and light pollution that could affect the neighboring airport is vastly reduced and perhaps non-existent,” Edmondson said.

**Seek Accountability**

Partner with a manufacturer who has the resources to develop written specifications to address spill and glare and be accountable for the results. A company that can evaluate your current field lighting, perform a light reading test, compare the results to current standards, and design a lighting system that will keep your community and neighbors happy, and your budget intact.

**Click here** to learn how Musco Sports Lighting can help define your lighting goals.
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Join Mike Candrea, Head Coach of the USA Softball Women’s National Team, along with some of the all-time great players as they show you the tips and techniques they use to perform among the world’s best.

Featuring USA Softball Two-time Olympic head coach Mike Candrea, Two-Time Olympian Cat Osterman and 2008 Olympians Andrea Duran and Caitlin Lowe, and former National Team member Amy Hillenbrand.
Illinois ASA announces 2012 Hall of Fame inductees

The Illinois ASA recently held their Hall of Fame inductions for 2012. Enshrinement for the inductees took place at Avantis Dome in Pekin on Saturday, April 14th at the annual Illinois ASA Commissioners Council Meeting. The individuals and teams to be honored follows.

Merle Adams-deceased (Decatur)

Meritorious Service-Merle played mens fast pitch softball for 30 years with teams such as Clinton, Cerro Gordo, Agenta and Maroa. While pitching for Cerro Gordo, he went 85-45. He also managed the Maroa Red Door team. He suffered a heart attack and died in the pitching circle for his Maroa team in 1973.

Bruce Evans- (Bloomington)

Meritorious Service-Bruce has been the Illinois ASA Junior Olympic Assistant Commissioner for 15 years. Among his duties are administering the Illinois ASA website, handling team registrations, scheduling and financing. He is the Illinois ASA technology consultant to the National Office and has been involved in the BNGSA JO program for many years.

Judy Higginbotham Miebach-

(Marshall) Fast Pitch Player-Judy was the star centerfielder and manager for the Clark County Culverettes for many years, after which she went on to play for the Casey Stingers for seven years. During those years, the Stingers went 284-181 and won the 1980 Illinois ASA State Championship. She finished her career with a .320 batting average.

Marc “Bubba” Palmer-(Marion)

Slow Pitch Player-Mark was one of the greatest power hitters in the history of ASA softball. He played for the best of the best in the Midwest including the St. Clair A’s and Belcher Construction, and his accolades include being inducted into the St. Louis Metro Hall of Fame. He played for over 25 years.

Chris Smith- (Macomb) Umpire-

Chris has umpired for almost a quarter of a century. His tournament experience includes eight State tournaments and six Nationals. He has attended two National Umpire Schools and has been actively involved in the Macomb softball league.

Carl Stacey-(Calvert City, Ky.)

Sponsor-Carl sponsored softball teams for over fifteen years. His best and most well-known team was Arcola S & K Rigging, a squad that won the 1978 ASA Class A Men’s Fastpitch National Championship. Carl was also a driving force and major donor to the construction process for the Arcola City Park Diamond.

Tom Stredter- (Springfield)

Sponsor-Tom has sponsored mens slow pitch teams for 16 years in A, B, C and D ASA State Tournaments and has also sponsored and played in ASA Coed State Tournament(s). His teams won State Championships in 1995 and 1998 and finished 2nd in 1996 and 1998.

Mary Sylvester- (Pleasant Plains)

Umpire-Mary has 35 years of fast pitch umpiring experience and a resume’ which includes 20 state tournaments, nine JO Youth National Tournaments and one Men’s Masters 45-and-Over National Tournament. An Illinois ASA Don Plarski Award recipient in 2011, she is also highly regarded in IHSA umpiring circles.

Albert Zeller- (Peoria) Sponsor-

Albert sponsored ASA teams from 1985-2001. His best-known team was Avantis, a women’s fast pitch team often regarded as one of the premier clubs in the Midwest and the nation. His teams won six State Championships and participated in 12 national tournaments.

The following teams/organizations were also inducted into the Illinois ASA Hall of Fame at the Banquet in Pekin on April 14, 2012:

Stewardson-Strasberg Tates Farm Implement (Men’s Fast Pitch)- This team participated in ASA for over 20 years with an overall record of 1,290-634. They finished as a State Tournament runner-up eight times and won the Class A State Championship in 1989.

Wood River Aces (Men’s Slow Pitch)- This team participated in ASA for 22 years with an overall record of 728-439. In ASA State Tournament competition, the Aces finished second twice, third once and fifth twice. They also participated in ASA Midwest Regional Tournaments in Alton, Sioux City, Iowa; Louisiville, Ky. and Cincinnati, Ohio.

Limestone Girls JO Organization (Girl’s Fast Pitch)- Organized and founded in 1975, this team has produced four State Championships and three Regional Championships.

Washington Cobras Girls JO Organization (Girl’s Fast Pitch)- Organized and founded in 1978 and is still in competition today. The organization has produced four ASA State Championship teams.
Softball Factory hosts an event in Massachusetts

A parent of an athlete at the April 15 Softball Factory National Identification Program recently said: “We would like to thank you and your staff for a great day yesterday in Marlboro. My daughter Melaney and I had a great day interacting with the coaches and other very talented players and parents from the area. I wish this program was available when she was younger. More so than playing travel ball or attending “showcase tournaments” this program puts into perspective where your child stands against her peers, what she excels at and what she needs to work on. Thank you again and good luck to Softball Factory. Your programs are a breath of fresh air to tournament and showcase softball.”

For more information, please visit Softball-Factory.com.

ASA/USA Softball participates in the 2012 OKC Litter Blitz

More than 10,000 people in the metro area participated in OKC Beautiful’s annual Litter Blitz this month. The Adventure District provided over 28 volunteers who collected trash alongside the highways throughout the Adventure District on Wednesday, April 25. Over 30 bags of trash were collected during the day long initiative. To learn more about this event, please visit OKCBeautiful.com.
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Summersville, West Virginia set to host the USA Softball Women’s National Team

Summersville, W. Va. will play host to the USA Softball Women’s National Team when they take on the USA Softball Women’s Elite National Team in an exhibition doubleheader, June 14, at Nicholas County Veterans Memorial Park. Tickets to the event can be purchased by visiting the Summersville Arena and Conference Center or by calling 1-304-872-3722. General admission tickets can be purchased for $15, VIP for $20 and Premium for $25.

“How exciting it will be for our City to host the best of the best in the softball world,” said Summersville Mayor Robert Shafer. “Bringing the USA Softball Team to our community is another Patriotic Moment for us to showcase how much we love our country and support those who wear the Red, White and Blue.”

The action kicks off Thursday at 6 p.m. with the gates opening at 3 p.m. Following the doubleheader, USA National Team members will hold an autograph session for ticket holders in attendance.

National Team infielder and Maryland native Lauren Gibson is excited for the chance to return to her part of the country and represent the USA. “It was always a dream of mine growing up in Maryland to have the chance to wear the Red, White and Blue uniform,” Gibson said. “To be able to live that dream and play as a member of Team USA so close to home is a great experience, especially since it makes it easier for my family and friends to be there to support me.”

In conjunction with the exhibition doubleheader, the Summersville CVB, West Virginia ASA and City of Summersville will be presenting a USA Softball Youth Clinic, Friday, June 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Nicholas County Veterans Memorial Park. Youth, ages 9-16, have until June 8 to register for the event at a cost of $50.00. Registration includes a T-shirt, snacks and beverages, a participant gift bag, a Team USA poster as well as instruction from the best softball players in the world. For more information on the clinic please contact Andy Dooley at 540-330-9635.

In addition to the doubleheader, the Women’s National Team will compete in exhibition games against the Women’s Elite National Team in Ashland, Ohio, the Title IX 40th Anniversary Celebration Game vs. Canada in Oklahoma City, the World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City and the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International Championship in Surrey, B.C., Canada and the International Softball Federation (ISF) XIII Women’s World Championship in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. Click here for ticket information.

Click here for ticket information.
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At the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, Stacey Nuveman was the youngest member on the 15-member roster. Age didn’t matter though, as Nuveman helped lead the team to a second-consecutive Gold Medal, a feat which would occur again in 2004 in Athens, Greece. During her 10-year stint as a member of the USA Women’s National Team, Nuveman collected one World Cup Championship, two ISF Women’s World Championships, two Pan American Championships, two Olympic Gold Medals and one Olympic Silver Medal. Stacey recently took time away from her coaching duties to speak with us about life after the Red, White, and Blue.

Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with us. Tell us about what you’ve done since your days playing for the Red, White and Blue.

Shortly after the 2008 Beijing Games ended, I accepted a position as an assistant coach at San Diego State University (SDSU). My husband, Mark, our son Chase and I all moved to San Diego at the end of 2008 and are loving life in San Diego! I am now the Assistant Head Coach at SDSU and love the challenges of coaching and mentoring the next generation of softball players.

How did you become involved with softball?

My dad coached my brother’s Little League team and I used to tag along to practice. My dad noticed right away that I had some talent and was competing with the boys just fine. My parents decided that they would sign me up for softball the next season, and the rest is history!

You’ve captured eight medals during your career with USA Softball and have participated in various international competitions, including the Olympic Games, the Pan American Games, the World Cup of Softball and World Championships. What would you say is your favorite memory?

Being able to represent the USA in the Olympics is an experience beyond belief, and truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. I was lucky enough to get to do it three times, and each trip carries with it special and extra–dinary memories. I really could not single out one Olympics; they were all unforgettable. My most powerful memory though was standing on the Gold Medal podium with my teammates and watching the Stars and Stripes be raised while listening to our National Anthem. I STILL get the chills each and every time I hear the National Anthem!

Do you still keep in touch with any of your former teammates?

Thankfully I have Facebook and Twitter! Honestly, that’s the main way I keep in touch with my teammates and keep updated on what they are up to. Many of them are still playing, coaching, having families, and leading very awesome lives. There are a handful I spend time with and keep in closer contact with; some of my very best and most cherished friends are those I played USA Softball with. And at the end of the day, the relationships are the true treasures you get when you wear the Red, White and Blue...the relationships last forever.

What was the best part about being a USA Softball player?

It is difficult to pin-point one aspect that is the most precious, but I think back to all of our domestic touring, and the opportunity we had to bring the best sport in the world to all of our friends and neighbors all over the United States. We signed autographs, posed for pictures, and had the honor of being the inspiration for young softballers all over the United States. It was an honor and a privilege, and we represented the USA as positively as possible.
The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City played host to the Special Olympics Oklahoma Regional Qualifier on Wednesday, April 11.

“Our athletes absolutely love coming to this facility and are very deserving,” said Special Olympics Oklahoma state softball director Don Hull. “It is a huge deal for them to be there and play on the same fields that the colleges play in the NCAA Women’s College World Series and that they see so much on television.”

At 11 a.m. on Wednesday, a memorial golf cart donation ceremony took place. In memory of Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Tim Stafford, a long-time Special Olympics Oklahoma volunteer, a golf cart was donated to Special Olympics Oklahoma.

With 36 youth and adult teams in attendance, the action started at 9 a.m. with Level I tee-ball which consisted of athletes ranging from ages 9-12. Later in the day, the upper level teams played, including junior teams (ages 8-16), senior teams (ages 16-22) and masters teams (ages 22 and above). This event served as a regional qualifier for the State Summer Games that take place in Stillwater, Okla. May 9-11.

“It’s an honor to host this Special Olympics group as this is such a wonderful event for all involved,” said ASA Stadium Director Chris Sebren. “We look forward to seeing them out here every year!”

For more information visit SpecialOlympicsOklahoma.org.
Catching up with Haig Zotian

Haig Zotian began his career with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America in 1951 shortly after ending his career in the service. Since then, he has been a visible participant for the sport of softball, whether he was at the plate or behind it. Haig recently took time out his busy schedule to chat with us about his experiences as an ASA umpire.

You’ve had over 60 years of experience as an ASA umpire. What led you to get involved with softball?

When I was younger, I was always interested in athletics, whether it was baseball or softball. When I was drafted into the army, I continued to play whenever I had time away from my duties. After the war [World War II] ended, I became involved as an umpire and player in fast pitch softball in Newark, N.Y.

Since then, I have umpired at a variety of levels for softball and basketball, ranging from high school to college. I put in 40 years of officiating for basketball, 25 years in high school softball and 21 years of college.

You’ve umpired at a variety of levels for ASA. What’s your favorite memory you have, whether as a player or umpire?

It’s hard to pick just one, but I’d have to say the 1990 ASA Men’s Major Industrial Slow Pitch Tournament was one of my favorites. The staff in Tupelo, Miss. were so great and I was treated very nicely as an umpire.

Are there any major differences that have occurred from 1951 to now?

Besides the normal rules adaptations, one major difference from when I first started officiating is the rate of pay that umpires receive. Since it was during the Great Depression, in 1953 umpires received $3.00 per game officiated.

My goodness, that is a big difference! Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with us Haig. Is there anything else you would like to add?

I’m very fortunate to have had the opportunities that I have had throughout my career. I may be 92-years old, but I plan on officiating as long as the good Lord lets me!

Zotian has been an ASA umpire for over 60 years.
The International Softball Federation (ISF), softball’s world governing body, 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 match-ups between the world’s best, including a seven-game set for the USA Softball Women’s National Team.

**Click here for a complete schedule.**

Team USA will open play against Venezuela July 13 at 2 p.m. CST (see below for complete USA game schedule) and will continue pool play through July 19. Playoffs begin at 2 p.m. CST on July 20 and end with the Gold Medal game at 6 p.m. on July 22. Looking to capture an eighth-consecutive Gold Medal, Team USA comes in as the defending World Champions, having defeated Japan in the Gold Medal game of the last edition of the event, which took place two years ago in Caracas, Venezuela. The two teams are in separate pools for this year’s world championship, which means the opportunity for a rematch would not come until a possible playoff matchup.

Among the women in Red, White and Blue are current World Champions Kaitlin Cochran (Yorba Linda, Calif.) and Ashley Holcombe (Fayetteville, Ga.) as well as 10 additional athletes who have already been named to the 2012 USA Softball Women’s National Team. Those members are Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif./Cal senior), Lauren Gibson (Pasadena, Md./Tennessee junior), Molly Johnson (Tucson, Ariz./Kentucky 2010), Stacy May-Johnson (Reno, Nev./Iowa 2006), Jenae Leles (Sacramento, Calif./Arizona 2009), Michelle Moultrie (Jacksonville, Fla./Florida senior), Keilani Ricketts (San Jose, Calif./Oklahoma junior), Jordan Taylor (Valencia, Calif./Michigan 2011), Rhea Taylor (Buford, Ga./Missouri 2011) and Chelsea Thomas (Pleasantville, Iowa/Missouri junior). 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.

Complete USA Schedule (all times in CST):

- **July 13** – USA vs. Venezuela – 2 p.m.
- **July 14** – USA vs. Czech Republic – 6:30 p.m.
- **July 15** – USA vs. Puerto Rico – 4 p.m.
- **July 16** – USA vs. South Africa – 4 p.m.
- **July 17** – USA vs. China – 9 p.m.
- **July 18** – USA vs. Netherlands – 6:30 p.m.
- **July 19** – USA vs. Dominican Republic – 4 p.m.
- **July 20-22** – Playoffs

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.

In addition to the ISF Women’s World Championship, the Women’s National Team will compete in exhibition games against the Women’s Elite National Team in Summersville, W.V. and Ashland, Ohio, the Title IX 40th Anniversary Celebration Game vs. Canada in Oklahoma City, the World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City and the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International Championship in Surrey, B.C., Canada. **Click here for ticket information.**
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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

Clubspaces is the official online league management system of ASA
By Bill Plummer

Bobby Lutz, one of the best managers in men’s slow pitch softball history, has passed away, at age 76, April 11 at his home in Denver, N.C. He was born June 30, 1935.

Lutz managed Howard’s Furniture to three national championships and compiled a record of 1,282 wins and only 291 losses for a winning percentage of .815. In 1973-74, Lutz managed Howard’s to back-to-back ASA national titles.

In the three years Howard’s won national titles under Lutz, the team compiled a record of 331 wins and only 59 losses for a winning percentage of .849 and were 23-4 in national championship play.

Besides the back-to-back titles, Lutz managed teams to three third place finishes, one second place, one fifth place and one 10th place in national championship play.

Lutz, who was known as the “quiet motivator,” played on the Howard’s team for six years before being named manager in 1964 before retiring in 1979. In 1983, he was elected to the ASA Hall of Fame in the manager category.

Besides being involved with the Howard’s softball team, Lutz was co-manager of Howard’s Furniture Store from 1958 to 2001.

Lutz is survived by his wife of 56 years, Janice Howard Lutz, a son, Bobby M. Lutz and wife, Janet, of Raleigh; two grand-daughters, Natalie and Christine, both of Raleigh, three brothers, Hansel Lutz of Sherrills Ford, Elmer Lutz and wife, Abby, of Newton, Thad Lutz and wife, Sue, of Sherrills Ford and a sister-in-law, Peggy Lutz of Sherrills Ford. A funeral service was held April 14.

Eastern Territory meeting held in Kenilworth, N.J.

Approximately 65 representatives of the ASA Eastern Territory were present April 13-14 in Kenilworth, New Jersey for a two-day meeting discussing ASA rules, issues, marketing, promotions, formats and ideas. Executive Director Ron Radigonda, Director of Membership Services Craig Cress and Director of Marketing and Communications Julie Bartel from the National Office were also in attendance.
World Cup of Softball “TEAM PACK” tickets now available

Back by popular demand is the World Cup of Softball TEAM PACK ticket package for the scheduled June 27–July 2 event in Oklahoma City at the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Hall of Fame Stadium. A great package for a team night at the ballpark, this option is available until June 26 and we encourage teams to capture this opportunity to see the Red, White and Blue in action as well as Canada, Australia, Puerto Rico, Netherlands and Brazil. 

Click here to purchase.

In conjunction with the World Cup of Softball, the Men’s Slow Pitch Border Battle will take center stage on Saturday, June 30 for the fourth-consecutive year at 2 p.m. as the USA National team will once again take on northern foes Canada. In addition a USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch Futures team was announced this year and will take part in the Slow Pitch Showdown on Wednesday, June 27 at 7 p.m. against the Men’s National Team. Following this contest, all three USA teams, including the women, will sign autographs.

The Team Pack ticket package features the following:
- 10 general admission tickets for the single session of your choice (Wednesday – Monday)
- 10 hot dogs, 10 bags of chips and 10 small sodas

The cost is $120 and there is a minimum of ten tickets that must be purchased.

NOTE: Each “Team Pack” is for a minimum of 10 people and additional people can be added for $12 apiece. A voucher for the concession stand items will be included in ticket package.

Visit www.softballoutlet.com or call 1-800-654-8337 to purchase today!

ASA awards more ACE coaches

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, Pocket Radar™ and Powerchalk™ continue to award prize packs to coaches who achieve an ACE Certification. Every time the ACE Program reaches a 1,000th milestone, ASA will award that coach with a Pocket Radar ($200 value) and the next coach with a custom Powerchalk account ($100 value).

The following coaches are the latest recipients:
- Barbara Withers (Spanaway, Wash.) - Pocket Radar
- Will Berarducci (Monaca, Penn.) - Power Chalk account
- Scott McKay (Dublin, Calif.) - Pocket Radar
- Lee Van Hoosen (Omaha, Neb.) - Power Chalk account

This brings the number of awarded coaches to 22. Previous recipients of the complimentary Pocket Radar and custom Powerchalk account are Rodney Holder (Magnolia, Texas), Kimberly Moore (Oxford, Ga.), Amye Scrivener (Prince Frederick, Md.), Dan Proffer (Grand Blanc, Mich.), Brian Gorniak (Glen Carbon, Ill.), Katherine Egbert (Hillsborough, Calif.), John McCauley (Malone, N.Y.), Karen Hughes (Henderson, Nev.), Chalise Brown (Conroe, Texas), Julie Cox (Albany, Ore.), Jason Epps (Cypress, Texas), Maria Conn (Flat Rock, Mich.), Randy Eacret (Castle Rock, Colo.), Richie Wood (Soddy Daisy, Tenn.), Bobby Landrum (Claremore, Okla.), Jayme Barnhart (Lisbon, Iowa), Barbara Withers (Spanaway, Wash.) and Will Berarducci (Monaca, Penn.).
Top 25 Finalists for the 2012 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year announced

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced the Top 25 Finalists for the 2012 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year, which will be announced at the opening of the 2012 NCAA Women's College World Series (WCWS) in Oklahoma City. This award, which is considered the most prestigious honor in Division I women's collegiate softball, is designed to recognize outstanding athletic achievement by female collegiate softball players across the country. Among the selected 25 student-athletes is Ashley Hansen, the 2011 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year, as well as Katelyn Boyd and Chelsea Thomas, who were the other two finalists for last year's award.


This year’s Top 25 is comprised of 12 seniors, seven juniors, five sophomores, and one freshman. The student-athletes selected represent 17 NCAA Division I universities and eight athletic conferences. While California and Oklahoma lead the way among universities with three athlete representatives each, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee and Washington each have two members among the Top 25 Finalists.

Just before the start of post-season play, a list of 10 finalists will be announced on May 9. The three finalists will be announced May 23, while the winner of the 2012 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Award will be revealed on May 29 prior to the start of the NCAA WCWS in Oklahoma City.

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.

2012 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Top 25 Finalists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (School)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valerie Arioto (California)</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Utility</td>
<td>Pleasanton, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexy Bennett (Texas)</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>Kingwood, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katelyn Boyd (Arizona State)</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Shortstop</td>
<td>Phoenix, Ariz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayla Braud (Alabama)</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
<td>Eugene, Ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Chamberlain (Oklahoma)</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>Trabuco Canyon, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachele Fico (LSU)</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>Oxford, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Hansen (Stanford)</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>Chandler, Ariz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jolene Henderson (California)</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Pitcher/First base</td>
<td>Elk Grove, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaitlin Inglesby (Washington)</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Pitcher/First</td>
<td>Portland, Ore.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base – Portland, Ore.
- Ashley McClain (FIU) – Senior – Outfield/Pitcher – Brandon, Fla.
- Michelle Moultrie (Florida) – Senior – Center field – Jacksonville, Fla.
- Sara Nevins (South Florida) – Sophomore – Pitcher – Pinellas Park, Fla.
- Sara Plourde (UMass) – Senior – Pitcher – Bristol, Conn.
- Jamia Reid (California) – Senior – Outfield – Buena Park, Calif.
- Ellen Renfroe (Tennessee) – Sophomore – Pitcher – Jackson, Tenn.
- Keilani Ricketts (Oklahoma) – Junior – Pitcher – San Jose, Calif.
- Hannah Rogers (Florida) – Sophomore – Pitcher – Lake Wales, Fla.
- Jordan Rutkowski (Valparaiso) – Senior – Catcher/Outfield – Alden, N.Y.
- Chelsea Thomas (Missouri) – Redshirt Junior – Pitcher – Pleasantville, Iowa
- Delaney Willard (BYU) – Senior – Outfield – Camarillo, Calif.
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Product Description

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♦ Quick, easy transfer from field to field
♦ Security for fields and events
♦ High durability
♦ High impact design
♦ Stores easily

Product Features

♦ Heavy-duty portable chainlink fence panels: 6ft H x 10ft L / Weight: 175 lbs. (also available in 5'H x 10'1'L)
♦ Constructed of durable galvanized steel with 8-gauge coated chainlink fence material.
♦ Connectors secure panels together to form one continuous fence.
♦ Legs collapse for easy storage.

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.

“Fencing Without Boundaries”