I would like to congratulate all of the 2012 Junior Olympic (JO) National Champions who were crowned last month. The hard work and dedication that these young athletes give to make it to a National Championship is something to be proud of. Even if your team did not claim the National Title, the ASA and I commend you on your efforts. It’s also important for us to thank all of our tournament directors, hosts and staff for the exceptional job they did, not only during but before and after National Championship play. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and I hope that the many, if not all of you qualify for the James Farrell awards at the National Council Meeting in November.

With JO play over, our adult teams will take to the field to compete for their chance to be called an “ASA National Champion.” For those of you who watched the USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch Showdown and Border Battle IV, keep an eye on the ASA Championship Series, which will take place September 28-30 in Oklahoma City. Live stats and streaming will be available, and you may see some familiar faces from both of our Men’s Slow Pitch teams.

To all of our National Championship tournament directors, please be sure to collect and return all necessary forms for your tournament. These documents are very important as our National Office staff uses them for evaluations and the forms also help us see what areas we are excelling or lacking in.

As we near the start of the 81st Annual National Council Meeting in Dallas, Texas I hope you have or plan on making the necessary travel arrangements. Journey House, our travel services provider, can be reached at 1-800-726-0051. If you haven’t sent in your registration form to Debbie Ford yet, please do so as quickly as possible. Don’t forget that all ASA Code and Rule change forms are due by September 21, 2012. These forms can be found on the Portal, along with the logos and other necessary documents you may need for the meeting.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the 2012 season and have already started plans for 2013. I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work this year. ASA continues to provide the best of the best because of the dedication of our staff and volunteers!
A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Codi Warren

Welcome to the August 2012 edition of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America.

Congratulations to all of our athletes who competed at a National Championship this month! Our Marketing/Communications department had a great time following all of the athletes and fans on Facebook and Twitter, and we got to see some great photos from all across the country. Thank you again to everyone involved in these tournaments. We appreciate all of the hard work everyone puts in to make ASA the top softball organization in the country.

Although August was a “catch-up” month for us at the National Office, we still have a number of events going on around the country and at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex! Next month we host the Special Olympics National Invitational and the ASA Championship Series, while our ASA National Championships will come to a conclusion within the next few weeks. It’s an exciting time to be a part of ASA!

Just as a reminder, 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. We are always happy to include news from our local associations and members! Any items not submitted by the deadline may not be included, so please plan ahead.

Thank you all for everything you do!

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USA Softball versus Japan considered Top 10 Greatest Rivalry in Summer Olympics History

The USA Softball Women’s National Team was recently included in a Yahoo Sports article on the Top 10 Greatest Rivalries in the history of the Summer Olympics.

“Although women’s softball is no longer a part of the Olympics, U.S. and Japan went head-to-head in some memorable matchups,” said Yahoo Sports contributor Patrick Hattman. “The U.S. captured the first three golds but Japan finally got its Olympic title in the sport by upsetting the heavily-favored Americans in 2008.”

Despite the sport’s exclusion from the Olympic Games, the USA versus Japan softball rivalry is just as strong as ever. The two teams competed four times in other events over the course of the 2012 season with each team winning twice. In July, the rivals met in the finals of the International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championship in Canada. The gold medal game went 10 innings with Japan narrowly pulling out the 2-1 victory in the end. Click here to read the article.

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Lovianne Jung takes a throw from the outfield during the Gold Medal game at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

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The Inside Pitch
Official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association
2801 Northeast 50th Street • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
Phone (405) 424-5266 • Fax (405) 424-5266
Web site www.asasoftball.com

Editor Codi Warren • E-mail cwarren@softball.org
Assistant Editors Julie Bartel and Steven Embree
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2. **Contact Bollinger Sports—ASA Department**
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3. **Visit the ASA Insurance & Risk Management Website**
   www.BollingerASA.com

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Ind.) - Pocket Radar, Michael Fariello (Broadalbin, N.Y.) - Powerchalk account

These coaches bring the number of awarded ACE coaches to 48. 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 (Spawaway, Wash.), Will Berarducci (Monaca, Penn.), Scott McKay (Dublin, Calif.), Lee Van Hoosen (Omaha, Neb.), Heidi Clayton (Cornelius, Ore.), Bruce Nichols (Syracuse, N.Y.), Beverly Gallegos (Caldwell, Idaho), Jamie Swanson (Reno, Nev.), Michael Scott (Clermont, Fla.), Cynthia Miller (Grants, N.M.), Toby Lemburg (Cody, Wyo.) and Steve Davison (Wichita, Kans.).

M.ASASoftball.com can do that?!

In June, ASA/USA Softball launched a mobile version of their website, ASASoftball.com. The mobile website, which was created to keep up with the increase in mobile surfing, is targeted to users who are at the softball field and will target relevant material that users may need. Under seven main categories that pertain to ASA Softball, users can quickly access information they may need during, before or after a game. Each month, the Inside Pitch will take an in-depth look at a specific question or search query and where on M.ASASoftball.com you can find the answers.

I just purchased an Easton Stealth FP11ST10. How can I find out if it’s an approved bat?

- To locate a listing of all ASA approved bats, you would first go to “Certified Equipment” on the main home page of M.ASASoftball.com. Once you’ve done that, you would go to “Bats, Approved”. There are a variety of ways in which you can search for approved bats. You can search by Manufacturer (which in this instance would probably be the best since you know Easton manufactured it). You can also search by what type of bat it is, whether its a composite, wood, multi-wall or single-wall aluminum bat. If you choose “Manufacturer”, the site will take you to a listing of all equipment manufacturers who have an ASA certified bat. You would find “Easton” and then look through the list for your bat. In this case, the Easton Stealth FP11ST10 is approved.

Is there a way to see what a particular ASA “non-approved” bat looks like?

- Yes there is. This time, instead of going to “Bats, Approved”, you will want to navigate to the “Bats, Non-Approved” tab. This page will have a photo, along with Manufacturer and the bat model and name.

If you have any questions about M.ASASoftball.com that you would like answered in the next issue of the Inside Pitch, please submit them to Codi Warren by September 15.
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Three cities scheduled to host USA Softball National Coaching Schools presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced that three cities will host USA Softball National Coaching Schools presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance in the coming months. The schools, which feature instruction from current and former USA Softball Women’s National Team coaches, will take place in Reynoldsburg, Ohio Sept. 7-9, 2012, Cypress, Calif. Nov. 30 – Dec. 2, 2012, and Houston, Texas Jan. 4-6, 2013.

To download an application, please click here.

The schools feature first-hand instruction from members of the USA Softball Women’s National Team coaching staff including Head Coach Ken Eriksen (University of South Florida) and assistant Mike White (University of Oregon). Portions of the school will also feature former USA Softball Women’s National Team Head Coach turned USA Softball Director of Coaching Education Mike Candrea (University of Arizona). Candrea led the program to a Gold and Silver Medal at the Olympic Games as well as numerous other medals in international competition before retiring from his USA Softball coaching duties in 2008.

After the opening of the school on Friday, Eriksen will address the audience on the state of USA Softball and his time with the USA Softball Women’s National Team who recently concluded their 2012 season with a silver medal finish at the International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championships in Canada. Other Friday clinics are “Beginning Pitching” with White and “The USA Approach of Hitting” with Candrea.

Saturday and Sunday’s instruction includes classes on both defense and offense as well as base running, hitting, pitching and out fielding. Candrea will also speak on the Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program. The National Coaching School concludes Sunday morning with a question and answer session with the staff.

September 7 – 9, 2012, Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Hosted by the Ohio, Dayton and Cincinnati chapters of the ASA, the Reynoldsburg, Ohio school is open to the first 275 registering participants. Registration is $200 per-coach but those who have their applications postmarked by Aug. 7 will receive an early bird rate of $175. Coaches who register before Aug. 24 will also receive a commemorative polo shirt. The deadline for registration is Friday, Sept. 7.

A special room rate of $109 per-night plus tax is available at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites, 2806 Taylor Rd., in Reynoldsburg but space is limited. To book a room, call 614-861-8888. Mention Ohio ASA/USA Coaching School when booking to receive the special rate.

November 30 – December 2, 2012, Cypress, California

Hosted by the Southern California chapter of the ASA, the Cypress, Calif. school is open to the first 275 registering participants. Registration is $225 per-coach but those who have their applications postmarked by Nov. 1 will receive an early bird rate of $200. Coaches who register before Oct. 15 will also receive a commemorative polo shirt.

A special room rate of $89 per-night plus tax is available at the Courtyard by Marriott, 5865 Katella Ave. in Cypress but space is limited. To book a room, call 800-321-2211. Mention USA-ASA National Coaching School when booking to receive the special rate.

January 4-6, 2013, Houston, Texas

Hosted by the Houston and Texas chapters of the ASA, the Houston, Texas school is open to the first 250 registering participants. Registration is $200 per-coach but those who have their applications postmarked by Nov. 1 will receive an early bird rate of $175. Coaches who register before Dec. 1 will also receive a commemorative polo shirt.

A special room rate of $89 per-night plus tax is available at the Hilton Houston North, 12400 Greenspoint Drive in Houston but space is limited. To book a room, call 281-875-2222. Mention ASA/USA Coaching School when booking to receive the special rate.

For more information on the 2012 USA Softball National Coaching Schools presented by Liberty Mutual, visit http://www.usasoftball.com.
There's an insurance company that understands the value of those lessons.

Far from the stadium lights and the roar of the crowd come the moments when youth sports matters. These opportunities help form bonds that enrich the game and enhance the lives and life skills of young players. That's why Liberty Mutual 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.

Memorable youth sports moments are waiting for you. Visit ResponsibleSports.com/Softball today.
The Responsible Sports Community Grant program presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance is here! Registration for the Fall 2012 season opened August 1st and continues through November 30th, 2012. Don’t delay signing up your softball team or league today to ensure as much time as possible before November 30th to rally support for your team with family, friends and neighbors!

Since ASA Softball and Liberty Mutual Insurance partnered together, 8 softball teams/leagues have been awarded a $2,500 grant. Your team could be next!

To get started go to: ResponsibleSports.com/Grant

Whether your team/league registered for a previous grant period, or is registering for the first time today, be ready when the fall grant period opens on September 1st to motivate your parents, coaches, friends and neighbors. With their help your team/league can earn enough points to win a grant by taking a few minutes to complete a 10 question quiz. It’s that easy!

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!

In the museum we have a wall dedicated to trading pins, but who can remember spending countless hours trading, collecting and organizing them? Well I, Codi Warren, was one of these pins enthusiasts. My mother recently brought me two binders full of trading pins that I had collected during my playing days. It’s so funny to me to look back at them now and see just how many ASA and USA Softball pins I had collected! I even showed Nancy Teehee, a member of the RegisterASA department, some pins that I had collected from teams that she had coached! It’s fun to take a step back into my past and see how much ASA influenced my youth. Never in a million years did I think that I would someday work for the organization that made me the athlete that I was! To the left, you can see one page from a binder of the pins that I collected, while below that Nancy and I took a picture with our team pins. Directly below us, Nancy and I posed with a Team USA pin from the 2000 Olympic Games and an ASA Junior Olympic Fast Pitch pin from 1999.
Congratulations to our 2012 ASA National Champions!
Southern California ASA awards scholarships

The SO Cal ASA awarded $47,000 in scholarships at the SO Cal ASA Scholarship Luncheon at Marie Callender’s Restaurant on August 18. These scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who played recreational and travel softball.

SO Cal ASA stresses “student athlete” and these awards are given directly to their higher education of choice. This scholarship program has grown since it first began in 1995 when a $500.00 scholarship was awarded. This year’s total in scholarships was the largest amount awarded to date.

Registrations OPEN for the 2012 ASA Annual Meeting Trade Show

Registration is now open for the ASA Trade show, which will again be held in conjunction with the ASA Council Meeting, scheduled for Nov. 10-16 in Dallas, Texas. This year, the Trade Show is on Saturday, November 10 from 5:30-8:30 p.m., with all three hours open to ASA Council Members and other meeting attendees, at the Hilton Anatole Trinity Ballroom. Exhibitors can set up starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Only 80 booth spaces are available for the Trade Show and non-commercial (cities, visitor bureaus, etc.) and commercial preferred (companies, manufactures, etc.) booths will be intermingled. Only once you have submitted the registration (e-mail copies are initially accepted but a hardcopy original with a signature must be received at the National Office) and payment has cleared will you be considered an official exhibitor. Booth assignments will be made in the order payments are received and not all requests can be met. If you would like to be placed next to a specific non-commercial or commercial vendor, both your registration form and theirs must specify that.

The cost per-space is $500 for non-commercial and $650 for commercial preferred. Each booth space measures 10 feet by 10 feet, is carpeted and includes one (1) six-foot table (draped three sides), two (2) chairs, one (1) wastebasket, one (1) identification sign and side and back wall drapes. The color scheme is red, white and blue.

Any additional features, including shipping and storage, are available at a cost through our decorator Global Experience Specialist (GES). For more information, please contact AFTER September 1, 2012.

GES National Servicenter
Phone (in USA): 800.475.2098
FAX (in USA): 866.329.1437

Booths are not allowed to have outside drinks and food – must be purchased through the Hilton Anatole. If you would like to have drinks or food at your booth, please specify on your registration packet, and we will provide you with the contact information to set that up.

In Dallas, name tags and other registration materials can be picked up on Friday night as well as Saturday morning, with times and locations to be secured closer to the date of the show. Booths can be set up from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. During that time, the ASA National Office is happy to provide some complimentary refreshments.

The address to return the hardcopies of the Registration Form and Exhibitor agreement is:
Amateur Softball Association
Attention Julie Bartel
2801 N.E. 50th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Or submit by fax to (405) 424-3855
If you have any additional questions, please contact Julie Bartel as soon as possible at (405) 425-3463 or at jbartel@softball.org. She will also be on-site in Dallas.
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USA Women’s Water Polo team supports USA Softball in London

The USA Women’s Water Polo team contacted ASA/USA Softball earlier this summer to express their concern for softball’s exclusion from the 2012 Olympic Games. During their time at the Olympic Games, they sent us these photos of their team supporting USA Softball at the London Games. In the photos, members of the water polo team are wearing USA Softball batting jersey’s and posing “softball style” in the Athlete Village. Although softball is not being included in the 2012 Summer games, it has definitely not been forgotten by many. The impact our teams have had over the years has certainly left a legacy and impression on athletes all over the world. The USA Women’s Water Polo Team eventually went on to win their first ever Olympic gold medal after defeating Spain 8-5 in the Gold Medal Game.

Meanwhile, softball fans around the world took to ASA/USA Softball’s Facebook and Twitter pages to show their support for softball’s reinstatement into the Olympic Games. Brittany Martin wrote “...We need to help get softball back into the Olympics. They do not realize how many little girls dreams they have crushed (including mine) to play softball on that stage.” Judo Olympian Travis Stevens tweeted “Wish [USA Softball] was here with us,” while Olympic Gold Medalist Heather Petrie tweeted a picture of her USA Softball batting jersey in her suitcase stating “Packing for London and a piece of USA Softball is on top of the list! You girls are in our hearts!”

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will decide on the sports for the Games in 2020 at the 125th IOC Session in Argentina in September of 2013. The city selected for the 2020 Olympic Games will also be decided during this session.

The sports up for possible reinstatement for the 2020 Games are: baseball, karate, roller sports, softball, sports climbing, squash, wakeboard and wushu. Only one sport will be added.
2012 USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL COACHING SCHOOL

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INSTRUCTORS INCLUDE
Mike Candrea
USA Softball Director of Coaching Education and University of Arizona Head Coach

Ken Eriksen
USA Softball Women’s National Team Head Coach and University of South Florida Head Coach

Mike White
USA Softball Women’s National Team Assistant Coach and University of Oregon Head Coach

DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION AT USASOFTBALL.COM
USA Softball announces the final roster for the 2012 USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team. The 17-member team will hit the road in November when they travel to Parana, Argentina to compete in the IX International Softball Federation (ISF) Junior Men’s World Championships (Under-19).

“We’re very excited about this group of young men,” said Head Coach Tim Lyon. “We feel this is the best Junior Men’s team that we’ve put together and we’re really looking forward to the opportunity to go to Parana and compete for the World Championship.”

Twenty-one young men from across the United States traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah in June and Midland, Mich. in July to participate in selection camps hoping to earn their way onto the final Junior Men’s roster. The 17 athletes who have been selected to the 2012 USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team are the following:

Jerlin Rutt (Bernville, Pa)
Zach Lach (Frankenuth, Mich.)
Austin Tuttle (Payson, Utah)
Dakota Wells (San Luis Obispo, Calif.)
Jonathan Lynch (Cape Girardeau, Mo.)
Jake Dalton (Lake Crystal, Minn.)
Junior Centeno (Salem, Utah)
Tyler Johnson (Union, Mo.)
Justin Wurtz (New Haven, Mo.)
Dylan Elmer (Machesney Park, Ill.)
Michael Lewis (Amboy Minn.)
Nick Serrato (Corona, Calif.)
Jack Rutt (Ephrata, Pa.)
Spencer Vackel (Lake Crystal, Minn.)
Mauro Olivarría (San Diego, Calif.)
Brent Meshke (Lake Crystal, Minn.)
Addison Beutler (West Valley, Utah)

The IX ISF Junior Men’s World Championship is scheduled for November 1-10. Fifteen countries including, Argentina, Australia, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, USA and Venezuela, will compete in the tournament, the most to ever in a Junior Men’s. Australia is the reigning four time defending champions, having defeated Canada 2-1 in eight innings in 2008. The USA Junior Men’s National Team will be looking for their first ISF World Championship title.

Applications being accepted for ASA/USA Softball National Team Selection Committees for 2013-2016

ATTENTION ASA/USA Softball COUNCIL MEMBERS

Applications for the ASA/USA Softball National Team Selection Committees for both the Men and Women for 2013-2016 are now being accepted.

ASA Code Part 7, Article 701 A addresses the qualifications for committee membership:

The Men’s National Team Selection Committee and the Women’s National Team Selection Committee shall each be comprised of five (5) members consisting of at least one (1) athlete representative who meets the requirements of the United States Olympic Committee, the head coach of the National Team to be selected and three (3) members who are either members of the ASA or allied members of the ASA.

Please send letter of application and resume via e-mail to: risham@softball.org or by mail to:
Ronnie Isham
Director of National Teams
USA Softball
2801 N.E. 50th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

[Click here for the application for the Women’s National Team Selection Committee]
[Click here for the application for the Men’s National Team Selection Committee]
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In less than one month, 33 teams from across the United States as well as teams from Canada, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico will descend on the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City for the 2012 Special Olympics North America Softball Invitational Tournament. With over 400 athletes in attendance, competition will kick off at both the ASA Hall of Fame Complex and Bickham Park in Edmond, Okla. on Friday, September 21 with the medal rounds concluding at ASA on Sunday, September 23.

Qualified teams represent 16 states including Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Vermont and three countries as mentioned above. All athletes will arrive to OKC on Thursday and celebrate on Friday night with Opening Ceremony beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex. A special parade of athletes is planned for the Opening Ceremony as well as a series of speakers including Master of Ceremonies and USA Softball’s Olympic Gold Medalist Amanda Freed (Cypress, Calif.). The passing of the Special Olympics torch, lighting of the cauldron and a firework celebration will conclude the evening.

“Softball emphasizes team work, physical fitness and strategic thinking - benefits and skills found on the playing field that people with intellectual disabilities can use to become active, contributing members of their communities,” said Bob Gobrecht, President and Managing Director of Special Olympics North America, “We see continued growth in softball, with more than 78,000 Special Olympics athletes participating in the sport globally.”

Both traditional Special Olympics teams and Unified Sports teams (people with and without intellectual disabilities playing on the same team) will be represented throughout the weekend and medals will be awarded for each division. Each of the 33 competing teams qualified for the September event through a series of tournaments throughout the summer. The Tournament is made possible by Moose International, ASA Softball, Special Olympics Oklahoma, the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Coca-Cola.

Scores, updates, and photos from the Special Olympics North America Softball Invitational Tournament will be available through www.asasoftball.com. The Opening Ceremony as well all games throughout the weekend are free and open to the public. You can also receive updates via the Special Olympics North America’s Facebook and Twitter pages.
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Oregon State University Director of Athletics Bob De Carolis announced August 27 the hiring of Laura Berg as the new head softball coach. She becomes the eighth head coach in the program’s history. In addition, assistant coach Geoff Hirai has been promoted to associate head coach. Both served as assistants on last year’s staff.

“In the world of softball, this is a home run for Oregon State,” De Carolis said. “Coach Berg is an accomplished player and coach at the highest levels of the sport. I’m very impressed with her approach to the game and I look forward to many great seasons for our program with her at the helm.”

Spending the 2012 season working primarily with the Beavers’ slappers and outfielders, Berg helped the team reach its first NCAA Regional since 2007. The Beavers’ renaissance included the team returning to the national polls for the first time since 2008, defeating a total of 10 ranked opponents and claiming a number of defining wins, including an extra-innings upset of No. 3 Arizona State and a road victory over No. 14 UCLA in April. OSU defeated its opponent by at least 10 runs on five occasions and scored more than 10 runs eight times, the second-highest totals in those respective categories in the 38-year history of the program.

“I accepted the position at Oregon State because of the history of the program and the tradition,” Berg said. “It’s a winning program and everybody here bleeds Orange and Black.”

Berg previously had two stints as an assistant coach at her alma mater, Fresno State, from 2000-03 and 2005-06, stepping down to train with the U.S. Women’s National Team in the interim. During the summer of 2012, Berg also served as an assistant coach for the U.S. Women’s National Team in its run at the ISF XIII World Women’s Championships in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

Berg is one of the most decorated American softball players in history. Joining the national team as a center fielder in 1994, she owns three Olympic golds (1996, 2000, 2004) and one silver (2008). Her eighth inning at-bat drove in the gold medal-winning run in the United States’ 2-1 victory over Japan at the 2000 Sidney Games. She has won 11 total medals while competing in the Olympic Games, ISF Women’s World Championship and the Pan American Games.

A 1998 graduate of Fresno State, Berg’s name is littered throughout the NCAA, WAC and school record books. She ranks second all-time in career hits in NCAA history (396), 12th in runs (245), and 23rd in triples (25). Berg finished her career with a .414 batting average and as the WAC and school leader in career hits, runs, triples and stolen bases.

Berg was a four-time All-American whose collegiate career was highlighted by a NCAA Championship title in 1998. She led her squad to three Women’s College World Series appearances, two Western Athletic Conference crowns and helped Fresno State to a 206-60 (.774) record in her four-year career.
DETERMINATION RINGS WITH EVERY HIT
How To Save Installation Time and Cost

By Musco Lighting

Cost savings projections that can be generated from factors such as quality equipment design, durable materials and reduced energy consumption should be carefully evaluated when selecting a sports lighting system. The analysis of those projections will become even more important as you consider one of the most simple, yet critical, questions posed during the purchasing process: “How will you install it?”

With an energy-efficient system that is engineered for fast, trouble-free assembly and easy installation – even for volunteers – you’ll have an answer for that question before it’s even asked.

Fewer luminaires means less poletop assembly

Differences in reflector system efficiencies and aiming design can vary, meaning one manufacturer may require fewer luminaires – up to 40 percent – to achieve the same amount of light on the field.

From an installation standpoint, fewer luminaires means electrical contractors or other paid installers will accumulate less assembly time mounting a system’s reflectors. At an average $100 hourly labor rate, depending on the area of the country, the reduced installation time to install fewer luminaires can translate into significant dollar savings.

Additional savings can be realized from luminaire systems that are delivered on-site as whole units; completely pre-assembled and pre-aimed. Look for integrated electrical connections with the crossarm to make attachment easy and less time consuming. Avoid luminaires that require on-site assembly by the installer.

Al Jacks, Adlite Electric, has worked on many sports-lighting projects through the years. From that experience, he estimated Musco’s Light-Structure Green™ system would take about 12 hours to assemble and install for the softball complex in Aurora, IL. He rented a crane for two days to complete the 18-pole and 84-luminaire project.

Once the bases were set and the pole sections and luminaires were distributed to each location, it took just 5-1/2 hours to mount the reflectors on the crossarms, erect, and orient all 18 poles — averaging about 20 minutes per pole. Consequently, the crane was sent back early, saving the customer approximately $3,000 to $4,000.

Pole construction speeds up site work

Pole construction is a considerable feature to be evaluated in a sports-lighting system not only for durability purposes, but for extra installation savings. The most common types of poles used today are concrete and steel. Concrete poles, while durable, are expensive and time consuming to install. Steel is easier to install, but not as durable.

The combination of concrete and steel allows steel pole shafts to be slip-fit onto precast concrete bases that are set directly into the ground and backfilled with concrete. Poles can normally be set onto pre-stressed, direct-buried bases within 24 hours. This eliminates the extra expense associated with designing and fabricating on-site built foundations. Some manufacturers will even ship poles and bases in sections, making them more lightweight and easier to handle for faster installation.

Easy enough for volunteer labor

With so many different factors to consider in the purchasing process, it’s easy to overlook the installation labor issue. Seek out systems that are simple and fail-safe for volunteer installation.

Some systems are designed and manufactured so that major components are pre-assembled with mechanisms that easily slide or bolt together. Since some products are factory-wired, aimed, and tested before they ever arrive on your site, volunteers won’t be overwhelmed with complex elements or a major time commitment.

Musco’s Light-Structure Green is an innovative sports-lighting system designed and manufactured from foundation to poletop in 5 Easy Pieces™. The system was developed with simplicity in mind starting with precast concrete bases, galvanized steel poles, pole-mounted electrical components enclosures, pre-assembled and pre-aimed luminaires, and wire harnesses.

When Dolores County High School officials decided to install a Light-Structure Green system, they chose to use volunteers to help reduce their project costs including $60-$70 hourly contractor labor rates. Dwayne Garber, crew chief for Empire Electric, was skeptical that a simple installation could be achieved with volunteers who hadn’t had experience with installations.

Garber was surprised when the installation time was cut in half, including the time to set the poles in place. The volunteers assembled the system and did clean up. “Having the volunteers do those things helped a lot. It probably saved us at least three hours,” Garber said. “It’s a fail-safe system, so it makes a lot of sense to use volunteers to do that,” Garber added.

When you’re considering a sports lighting system, cost-savings projections should always include assembly and installation efficiencies. Click here for more information regarding installation with a cost-effective solution.

Flowers named head coach for 2013 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball announced the selection of Tairia Flowers (Tucson, Ariz./ head coach at Cal State Northridge) as the head coach of the USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team that will compete in Brampton, Ontario, Canada July 1-7, 2013 for the ISF (International Softball Federation) Junior Women’s World Championship (19-Under).

“I’m very excited to stay in the USA program,” said Flowers. “I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to play on the Junior Women’s National Team. The coaches and those involved in the program have had a huge impact on my life and I hope to share the knowledge that I’ve learned with the new USA softball generation.

Flowers, who was an outstanding collegiate player during her years at UCLA and an Olympic gold and silver medal winner for Team USA, recently finished her second season as an assistant coach with the USA Softball Women’s National Team. Flowers was a member of coaching staffs that lead Team USA to the 2011 Pan American Games gold medal in Guadalajara, Mexico and a silver medal at the 2012 ISF Women’s World Championship this past July in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

As a player on the USA Women’s National Team, Flowers helped the United States to a perfect record and the gold medal in the Athens Olympics in 2004, and to a silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. She also won gold medals at the 2002 and 2006 ISF Women’s World Championships, the 2003 and 2007 Pan-American Games, and the 2001 U.S. Cup.

Flowers recently completed her second full season as the head coach at Cal State Northridge. Prior to her duties at Northridge, she spent four seasons (2007-10) as an assistant coach at Long Beach State. She is married to Cal State University Northridge women’s basketball head coach Jason Flowers. The couple has two children, daughter Jasmine and son Jayce.

“All of us at ASA/USA Softball are thrilled that Tairia will be at the helm of our Junior Women’s National Team at the ISF World Championships in 2013,” said ASA and USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “Her skills as a coach and a former player will translate into improving the skills of our current players and her team-first attitude will impart positive energy with our players as they start their careers with Team USA.”
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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.

—Don Radigonda, Executive Director of ASA
Product Description

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Product Features

♦ Heavy-duty portable chainlink fence panels: 6ft H x 10ft L / Weight: 175 lbs. (also available in 5'H x 10'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.

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