A note from Amateur Softball Association
President E.T. Colvin

Happy New Year!

I hope each of our Umpire-in-Chiefs (UIC) have scheduled their trip for the UIC Clinic in Oklahoma City Feb. 7-10. Kevin Ryan and his staff have developed a great agenda, and the topics that will be discussed will be a great learning experience for all.

For those of you who have started registering teams and individuals through RegisterASA, I hope that everything is going smoothly. The RegisterASA staff has worked diligently to improve the system and have taken your suggestions and feedback and applied some great changes that we think you will really enjoy.

With the start of the new year, I want to encourage everyone to go out and recruit new leagues and teams. With the dedication that our organization has, I know we can rise up and meet this challenge.

Keep up the good work.

Thank you again for all you do to help make the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) the best it can be.

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- Page 23 | Wish for Wendy charity softball tournament a huge success

ASA of Pennsylvania
Adds Training Center to Hall of Fame

The ASA of PA Hall of Fame and Training Center (311 Race St Sunbury, PA) hosted a ribbon cutting on January 19, 2013. Participating in the ribbon cutting were Andrew S. Loechner, ASA of PA State Commissioner, Dean Amick ASA of PA President, David L. Persing ASA of PA State Deputy Commissioner and HOF and TC Director, Kathleen L. Persing ASA of PA HOF and TC Administrator and Lynda Schlegel-Culver House of Representatives. Over 200 people attended the Open House/Ribbon cutting ceremonies including local and state elected officials, ASA of PA Hall of Famers, ASA of PA personnel and city residents.

As part of the celebrations Crystl Bustos USA Olympic two time Gold Medalist put on a softball clinic for girls 10-18 and the Susquehanna University softball team. Crystl put on a great clinic and the girls were very impressed and hope to take their clinic experience into the 2013 season.

The 50’ x 160’ expansion was made possible by a grant from the Degenstein Foundation Sunbury PA who has and continues to be a great supporter of ASA youth.
Eight things we bet you didn’t know about ASA/USA Softball

To celebrate 80 years, ASA/USA Softball will feature a monthly segment in The Inside Pitch in which we give eight fun facts that you may or may not have known about our association. Do you have any interesting stories or moments from ASA’s history? Send them to Codi Warren, and you could be featured in the next issue of The Inside Pitch!

1. Matt Urban, a member of the National Softball Hall of Fame, received the Congressional Medal of Honor and a total of 29 medals for bravery. He is considered to be the most decorated combat soldier for the U.S. during World War II!
2. Early ASA National Championships were called World Tournaments. They also did not have entry fees, although teams were required to ensure that any dues to the state or metropolitan associations were paid in full.
3. Hall of Fame member Lou Hamilton was the first female ASA Commissioner.
5. 1948 marked the first year that the men’s and women’s National Championships were held in separate venues.
6. The first female umpire, Madeline Lorton, umpired 35 games in her first season in 1950.
7. 1956 marked the first year that Regional Umpire clinics were held.
8. ASA was first exposed to national TV in 1959 when NBC aired the finals of the women’s National Championships.

A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Codi Warren

Hello and welcome to the January 2013 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) and USA Softball.

Has your association set any resolutions or goals for the 2013 year? Perhaps you want to create a newsletter, or maybe you would like to create a Facebook or Twitter account. There are a number of steps you can take to help make our organization better. It can be something as small as keeping your information as up-to-date as possible or overhauling a website that is not user-friendly. Regardless of the size of your changes, the effects will help ensure a better program for our athletes, coaches, leagues and umpires.

If you have any ideas, or need help brainstorming, please don’t hesitate to ask our Marketing/Communications Department. Julie, Steven and I have some great opportunities and ideas to help you to spread the word about ASA/USA Softball.

At ASA, we pride ourselves on being the best of the best. This can only be achieved through the hard work and dedication that each of our members and the National Office staff put in. Keep up the hard work, and remind our membership why they choose to be a part of the No. 1 softball organization in the country.

To celebrate 80 years, ASA/USA Softball will feature a monthly segment in The Inside Pitch in which we give eight fun facts that you may or may not have known about our association. Do you have any interesting stories or moments from ASA’s history? Send them to Codi Warren, and you could be featured in the next issue of The Inside Pitch!

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programs in the City of Sunbury and surrounding communities.

With the expansion and upgrades to the original training center there are seven batting cages, designated areas for pitchers, additional training equipment, registration desk, meeting/media room, two new bathrooms and a kitchen/concession area. Track lighting was added to the Hall of Fame.

New equipment was made possible with a grant from the Sunbury/Northumberland Trust.

As a result of the training center expansion ASA of PA will be hosting umpire clinics, coaches clinics, pitching and hitting clinics as well as hitting leagues. The HOF and TC recently hosted the ASA of PA Central Area meeting.

The ASA of PA HOF and TC is committed to community service and for the third year has been the distribution center for the Salvation Army Christmas give-away to needy families.

Stop by the Hall of Fame and Training Center when you visit PA and enjoy a trip through PA softball history.
...AND NOW, THANKS TO HER, SO DO LOTS OF OTHER PEOPLE.

Through Kim Swafford’s leadership and direction with the Amateur Softball Association of America, Chattanooga has attracted youth softball tournaments and national showcases resulting in millions of dollars injected into our local economy annually. Kim is one of several local Chattanoogans involved in capitalizing on the vision of the city to build world-class facilities and offer top-notch support services through the Parks & Recreation department.

What impact could you have?

To get assistance in bringing meetings or sporting events to Chattanooga visit chattanoogameetings.com or email tim@chattanoogacvb.com
USA Softball held training camp for junior men’s pitchers and catchers

Sixteen athletes in the USA Softball Junior Men’s Fast Pitch National Team program participated in a training camp January 25-27 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif. The camp, which was designed to strengthen prospective Junior Men’s Fast Pitch National Team pitchers and catchers, ran under the direction of Junior Men’s Fast Pitch National Team Head Coach Tim Lyon (South Jordan, Utah) and assistant coaches Gary Mullican (Yorba Linda, Calif.), Kyle Magnusson (Cedar City, Utah) and Scott Standerfer (Charleston, Ill.).

Athletes who attended the training camp hailed from ten states (Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah). The camp attendees were:

- Jason Aquilar (Humble, Texas)
- Wesley Anderson (Heyworth, Ill.)
- Faron Apauty Jr. (Anadarko, Okla.)
- Anthony Areoso III (Stoneham, Mass.)
- Ryan Barnes (Lehi, Utah)
- Tyler Bouley (Champlin, Minn.)
- Daniel Centeno Jr. (Salem, Utah)
- Zane Chason (Grand Ridge, Fla.)
- Taylor Dykgraaf-Meyer (Wayland, Mich.)
- Kyle Gnatowski (Saginaw, Mich.)
- Collin Hopkins (Decatur, Ill.)
- Jeffrey Lewis (Amboy, Minn.)
- Craig Lewis (Winston, Mo.)
- Jordan Lichnovsky (Vassar, Mich.)
- Markos Sedillos (Las Cruces, N.M.)
- Parker Wood (West Valley City, Utah)

The Junior Men’s National Team Program is fresh off their fifth-place finish at the ISF Junior Men’s World Championship, which was held in November in Parana, Argentina. The squad went 5-3, which marks the first winning record for the Junior Men’s Program since 1985. The next international competition for the Junior Men’s Fast Pitch Team will be in July of 2014 when they compete in the 10th International Softball Federation (ISF) Junior Men’s World Championship in White Horse, Yukon, Canada.

Jim McGee appointed Commissioner for Arkansas ASA

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA), a volunteer driven, not-for-profit organization, and USA Softball announced today that Jim McGee (Little Rock, Ark.) has been appointed the commissioner for Arkansas ASA. The change, effective immediately, took place following the retirement of former Arkansas ASA Commissioner Don McGee.

McGee, who served as the State Deputy Commissioner from 2005 to 2012, has handled numerous responsibilities during his years with the Arkansas ASA. In addition to his Deputy Commissioner position, McGee has served as the Umpire-in-Chief for the Arkansas ASA, and is the webmaster for the association’s website, http://www.arasa.org/. McGee also manages the social media pages for the Arkansas ASA.

“I am excited to serve as the Arkansas ASA Commissioner,” McGee stated. “I feel that my years of involvement with Arkansas ASA as a coach, umpire, Umpire-in-Chief and State Deputy Commissioner can provide value to the state organization and ASA as a whole.”

McGee currently works for Amgen as a Senior Biopharmaceutical Representative. He graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Marketing.

80th Anniversary banners for sale

ASA/USA Softball is celebrating 80 years in 2013! Help celebrate with these 80th Anniversary Banners today! These are vinyl, and have grommets. The cost is $50, plus UPS S&H. To purchase, please contact Julie Bartel.
Tickets on Sale Now
All-Session Tickets Start at $100*

NCAA.COM/WCWS or 866/208-0048

MAY 30 - JUNE 5 | OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
ASA/USA Softball is celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2013 with a year full of giveaways and promotions. Prior to the founding of ASA/USA Softball in 1933, softball had been in a state of confusion with no single set of rules established to govern the sport. The establishment of ASA/USA Softball by founders Leo Fischer and Michael Pauley helped organize softball at the national level, and today, ASA/USA Softball has become one of the nation’s largest sports organizations with sanctioned competition in every state through a network of 76 local associations.

ASA/USA Softball has had a remarkable run as a successful non-profit association over the past 80 years. The growth and development of the game has come from the efforts and dedication of thousands of volunteers that foster the game of softball in their local communities and are affiliated with ASA/USA Softball through their local associations. ASA/USA Softball’s National Headquarters and the ASA Hall of Fame Complex have become the Mecca of softball worldwide, playing host to the NCAA Division I Women’s College World Series (WCWS) and International Softball Federation (ISF) events annually.

“ASA/USA Softball has built a solid reputation and has been extremely successful over the past 80 providing quality programming and education in all facets of the game of softball,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “Millions of individuals both male and female ages 6 to 80 participate annually in ASA leagues and tournaments. ASA has been at the core of providing recreation to elite level competition to hundreds of millions Americans since its founding in 1933. Little did our founders know how many individuals would have their quality of life improved through the great game of softball and the efforts of the organization they founded, The Amateur Softball Association of America.”

Since its founding, ASA/USA Softball has grown into the nation’s foremost softball organization and leader in equipment standards and certification. ASA/USA Softball offers the best of the best in competition for all ages and annually hosts over 100 National Championships throughout the country. ASA/USA Softball is also responsible for the selection, training, equipping and promotion of all USA Softball National Team programs and has been the National Governing Body (NGB) of Softball in the U.S., as appointed by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), since 1978. With five National Team programs that regularly compete in both international and domestic competitions, USA Softball has made a name for itself as the most decorated program in softball history. The Women’s National Team program has captured nine World Championship titles, three Olympic Gold Medals and six World Cup of Softball titles, while the Men’s Fast Pitch National Team has nabbed four World Championship titles.

“Playing ASA Softball was definitely one of the highlights of my softball career and was without a doubt, the foundation of my future successes,” said two-time Olympic Gold Medalist and ASA Hall of Fame member Michele Smith. “ASA Women’s Major Fastpitch softball was some of the most challenging and competitive ball I’ve ever played, therefore helping me become the athlete I was capable of being. The sport has grown and the ASA has helped to facilitate that growth through all levels of the game over the past 80 years. One of the capstones as I look back was being honored and inducted into the ASA Hall of Fame. To be named with the greats and historians of our sport is one of the greatest honors of my entire career.”

To mark its anniversary, ASA/USA Softball recently unveiled a commemorative logo (see attached). ASA/USA Softball will also enact a year-long celebration, including features in the “Inside Pitch” and “Balls and Strikes Online Magazine,” giveaways and promotions through social media. ASA/USA Softball will cap off its 80th Anniversary in November at the 82nd Annual Council Meeting in Oklahoma City with a variety of special events.

“ASA Softball is the best of the best,” said Jason Epps, assistant coach for the Texas Impact Gold 14U. “From the fields, umpires, level of competition, all the way around, there is no comparison.”
You're not just buying lights. You're buying an affordable system that reduces energy and maintenance costs year after year. That means while decreasing wasted energy, you'll save money and help protect the environment for her future.

To learn more visit: [www.musco.com/generations](http://www.musco.com/generations)
Four new fast pitch softball players were inducted into the Greater San Joaquin Hall of Fame on Saturday, January 12, at the Grape Festival Grounds in Lodi, Ca. Approximately 175 people attended the event which also recognized 2012 National Champions, City of Turlock-James Farrell Award, National Tournament Umpires and the retirement of JO Commissioner, Don Smiley.

ASA Commissioner Matt Pfeifer served as the Master of Ceremonies for this event. “It gives me great pleasure to see the past inductees and all the older ball players get together once a year and relive their softball days,” said Pfeifer. “Although the chance to induct new deserving people into the Hall of Fame is special, the social aspect is what really gives me joy.”

Air Tronics, a Men’s Masters Fast Pitch Team, was presented with National Championship plaques for winning the Men’s 50 & Over Fast Pitch National Tournament in 2011. This gives this team a total of 13 National Championships dating back to 1992.

Thirteen umpires were recognized for their selection for a National Championships in 2012. One such umpire, Sharon Gregory (Modesto, Calif.), was given a special award as she was selected to umpire at the Special Olympics National Invitational, which held in Oklahoma City.

The City of Turlock was awarded the James Farrell Award. This comes from the ASA National Office in Oklahoma City for one of the highest rated National Tournaments in 2012. With a score of 99 out of 100, the City of Turlock was one of a few cities across the country that received this award. They hosted the Girls 16 & 18-Under Fast Pitch Western Nationals in July 2012.

Later in the evening, the banquet honored the retirement of JO Commissioner for the last 23 years, Don Smiley. Smiley was awarded a bronze softball glove, after which he gave a heartfelt speech.

After these festivities, the Hall of Fame Banquet began. Read more about the 2013 Hall of Fame inductees below:

Pete Duenas - Pete played in 19 ASA National Championships and four Olympic Festivals. Pete was a seven-time ASA National Champion, eight-time All-American and was named the Most Valuable Player in the 1986 “B” ASA National Championships. Pete has also played with the Masters teams that have won multiple National Championships.

Ron Vollstedt - In 1967 at the age of 19, Ron began his softball career with the Mayfair Merchants, a team compiled of Hall of Fame players such as Forney Bassham, Pete Turner Sr., Brent Grimm, and fellow first-year player Mike Singer. After returning from the military, he played for Cal Paint for several years, during which time he won the prestigious Nor Cal league batting title after hitting .421 in 1974. Ron was part of a successful team finishing third in the Nor Cal Regionals. He played several more years, mostly with Cal Paint, and participated in nine Regional Tournaments, five District Championships and received many All-Tournament selections.

Jeff Harris - Jeff played 16 years of ASA Fast Pitch Softball. In those 16 years he was named an All-American four times and won two National Championships and one State Championship.

Mike Nevin - Mike “Bones” Nevin has had an outstanding softball career both as a player and as a sponsor. He started his softball career with Chuck Burgers in Hayward in 1970. He was transferred to the Modesto area and played with the Dave Abel Insurance teams and with the California Kings for seven years. He also played two years with Guanella Brothers. In 1992 he joined the Stockton-Nor Cal Merchants Masters team and continues to play with them presently. Mike has won one Major National Championship (1984) and 12 Masters National Championships, whether as a sponsor or player.

Mike was an All American five times in the Major Division, once in the “A” Division and nine times in the Masters Divisions.

The Greater San Joaquin Softball Association is looking for nominations for its 2014 class. Nominations are due December 10, 2013, and nomination forms can be obtained as well as pictures from this year’s ceremony by going to our web site at www.gsjsa.net.
Kids today are visual learners and without a doubt, the USA Softball Animated Playbook will be a great resource to teach young players the responsibilities involved in playing defense. Defense is a big factor in winning and hopefully everyone can enjoy learning defensive play on their own computer. The Animated Playbook will be a resource for every player learning the game of softball.

— Mike Candrea,
Two-time U.S. Olympic Team Head Coach

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America is proud to introduce this instructional DVD aimed at coaches of all levels.

Learn the finer points of team play as taught by two-time U.S. Olympic Team Head Coach Mike Candrea.

For more information, visit SoftballOutlet.com or call (800) 654-8337.
ASA/USA Softball is now seeking applicants for four internship positions as an Event Management Interns. The Event Management Interns will be responsible for assisting the Membership Department in all matters relating to ASA/USA Softball events. The focus will be on the NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS), the ASA/USA Softball Junior Olympic (JO) Hall of Fame Tournaments, and all other events as assigned.

The position of Event Management Intern reports to the Assistant Director of Membership and requires a 40-hour work week, with several weekends. The positions will begin in May and end in August. Interested applicants should send a resume, a cover letter explaining why they wish to fill the position and two letters of recommendation. Applicants will be accepted until March 15, after which they will be screened and a select number will be interviewed. The Event Management Interns positions will be based in Oklahoma City.

Applications should be mailed or emailed to the following address:

ASA National Office
c/o Chris Sebren, ASA/USA Softball Assistant Director of Membership
Event Management Intern Position
2801 NE 50th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
csebren@softball.org

Duties and Responsibilities (not limited to but include):

• NCAA WCWS - assist with all on-site aspects of the event, including facility management and game day operations
• Coordinate ASA/USA Softball Hall of Fame Junior Olympic Tournaments
  1. Responsible for working directly with ASA Event Coordinator to secure the 26 participating teams in each tournament
  2. Work directly with the teams prior to and during the tournaments
  3. Responsible for the tournament brackets and tournament administration
  4. Must work the five weekends of the JO Hall of Fame Tournaments (June-July 2013)
• Assist with all aspects of tournament reporting for ASA National Championship events
• Other duties as assigned during internship

• Event Management experience desired
• Must be 18 years of age or older
• Must have valid driver’s license
• Strong customer service skills
• Knowledge/experience of ASA/USA Softball
• Computer skills (Excel, Word, PowerPoint)
• Ability to be self starter as well as work in team environment to assist the Membership Services Department in providing quality customer service

ASA/USA Softball internships are paid positions. Positions do not include any benefits (i.e. medical/dental insurance, tuition reimbursement, retirement plans, etc…)

The statements herein are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of personnel so classified.
THE PREVIEW
ASA HALL OF FAME COMPLEX
FEATURED
OU OSU N UH
SATURDAY
MARCH 2, 2013
ASA HALL OF FAME COMPLEX - OKC
11:00 A.M. OKLAHOMA STATE vs. HOUSTON
1:30 P.M. OKLAHOMA STATE vs. NEBRASKA
4:00 P.M. OKLAHOMA vs. HOUSTON
6:30 P.M. OKLAHOMA vs. NEBRASKA
TICKETS: $10 GENERAL ADMISSION
TO PURCHASE CALL 1-800-654-8337 OR WWW.SOFTBALLOUTLET.COM
PAPER DRIVE
BENEFITING NORTH HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY
FANS BRING A REAM OF WHITE COPY PAPER AND RECEIVE A VOUCHER FOR A FREE HOT DOG AND A 32 OZ. SOUVENIR DRINK.
LIMIT ONE PER PERSON AND NO REFILLS.
Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif.) was named the 2012 USA Softball Female Athlete of the Year while Dennis Rulli (Moorpark, Calif.) was selected as the Male Athlete of the Year, ASA/USA Softball recently announced. Jerlin Rutt (Bernville, Pa.) was also selected as the Athlete of the Year from the Junior Men's National Team program.

Second-year infielder Arioto followed up her senior season at California with an outstanding summer playing for Team USA. The 23-year-old saw action in 24 of the team’s 25 games and helped lead the Red, White and Blue to a World Cup Championship and Silver medal finishes in the Canadian Open Championship and International Softball Federation (ISF) Women’s World Championship. Arioto was named the Batting MVP of the Canadian Open Championship after finishing the event with five home runs and 13 RBI.

“I’m so honored to be named 2012 USA Softball Female Athlete of the Year,” said Arioto. “The support I’ve received from my family, my Team USA family and my Cal family has been tremendous and I wouldn’t be where I am without their help.”

Arioto batted .462 on the year with 11 home runs, 37 RBI and 27 runs. She had an on-base percentage of .611 with a 1.115 slugging percentage. The slugger finished the 2012 campaign leading Team USA in six offensive statistical categories including: runs scored, RBI, home runs, slugging percentage, on-base percentage and walks.

In his third stint with the USA Men’s Slow Pitch National Team, Dennis Rulli helped the Americans extend their Border Battle record to 3-1 over the Canadians with a 32-21 win in 2012. The infielder finished the game going four-for-five with two home runs, four RBI and three runs scored.

“It’s a tremendous honor to be named the USA Softball Male Athlete of the Year for 2012,” said Rulli. “Without supportive teammates, sponsors and family I would have never had this opportunity. After 24 years of playing slow pitch, it’s still a very exciting and humbling sport and I’m very thankful to the ASA and USA Softball for such an unforgettable experience playing for Team USA.”

In four games with the USA Slow Pitch Team in 2012 Rulli went 14-of-18 from the plate for a .778 batting average and scored 13 runs. The California native hit five home runs and two doubles while picking up 10 RBI.

Last November, Jerlin Rutt led the 2012 USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team to its best finish at an ISF World Championship in 27 years. The squad went 5-3 to take fifth place overall in the event. Rutt finished with a 4-2 record and a 2.52 ERA from the circle.

“I had a wonderful experience playing with the USA Junior Men’s National Team this past year,” said Rutt. “I’m honored to be named the Junior Men’s Player of the Year but the success that we had in Argentina was a team effort. I want to thank my family and teammates for the support that have given me.”

The right hander from Pennsylvania struck out 38 batters in 33.1 innings pitched during the tournament. He threw complete games in five of his six outings and run-ruled opponents in three of the contests. Rutt’s most impressive game came in a pool-play matchup with a powerful New Zealand team. Jerlin began the game with three-consecutive shutout innings, giving the American bats time to take a three-run advantage. New Zealand managed to put four runs on the board in the latter innings of the game but Team USA got two more runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to take the win and guarantee themselves a first-round bye in the playoffs.
Prince County inducts eight members into Hall of Fame

The Prince William County Softball Hall of Fame inducted eight new members at its banquet on January 12. The Induction Banquet was held at the Nokesville Fire Hall near the Valley View Softball Complex. The eight new members bring the total Hall of Famers to 65. On hand for the occasion were Henry Pollard, Central VA Commissioner, RB Thomas, Jr., Northern VA District Commissioner, Greg Thomas, Deputy District Commissioner and Lester Leonard, retired District Commissioner. Over 150 attendees were in attendance to honor the new inductees. Bios for the inductees can be viewed on the Prince William County Softball Hall of Fame Website at www.pwcsoftballhalloffame.com.

Seven inducted into Memphis ASA Hall of Fame

The Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame held its 43rd annual induction banquet on December 3, 2012. The following Inductees were selected for the game of softball:
- Gerald Nichols - Game official
- Tommy Edwards - Game official
- Tommy Cox - Men's Fast Pitch
- Steve Ganong - Men's Fast Pitch
- Glenn Moore - Men's Fast Pitch
- John Hanson - Men's Slow Pitch
- Robert Reed - Men's Slow Pitch

Alabama ASA Hall of Fame inducts eight

The Alabama ASA held their 21st annual Hall of Fame Ceremony to honor eight individuals who have brought attention to the great game of softball. The following were inducted into the AASA Hall of Fame:
- Bruce Evans - Meritorious Service
- Bert Hankins - Coach
- Randy Haynes - Men's Slow Pitch
- Jerry Johnson - Umpire
- Bobby Jones - Men's Fast Pitch
- James “Sandy” Jones - Men's Slow Pitch
- Hershel Lake - Men's Fast Pitch
- O'Neil Robinson - Commissioner

For more information on the AASA Hall of Fame, click here.
Get your club or organization started at: ResponsibleSports.com/Grant

The Responsible Sports Community Grants program is a competition-based fundraising program that is designed to reward youth softball clubs and organizations with one of fifteen $2,500 grants. All you have to do is complete the online course and quiz. Credit your favorite organization and then connect with your family and friends to rally their support.

The top 15 organizations with the most quizzes at the end of the grant period will earn a $2,500 grant.

Fundamentals eNewsletter
The Responsible Sports Fundamentals eNewsletter delivers the latest news in responsible sport parenting and coaching once a month right to your inbox. You will receive in every Fundamentals:

• An engaging feature article on youth sports topics
• Access to the latest athlete podcasts and videos
• Key dates and events

Sign up today to receive our newsletters! ResponsibleSports.com/Fundamentals

Check out our Ask the Sports Experts forum and submit a question today!
Like us on Facebook Facebook.com/ResponsibleSports
Tryouts Tips: A Responsible Sports Playbook

With softball tryouts right around the corner it is essential to create a positive tryout experience. Athletic tryouts help to prepare us for challenges and obstacles we may face in our adult life. A positive tryout experience can be created despite not making the final cut.

Tryouts can be nerve-racking time in a youth’s life. Being one of the dozens of players competing for a limited number of open spots can be difficult and stressful. However, proper preparation can give any athlete a better shot at making the final cut.

Some key tips to follow when tryouts roll around for players:
- Set Attainable Goals Prior To Tryouts
- Focus
- Put Forth Your Best Effort
- Seek Feedback From Coaches
- Have Fun!

Learn more about Responsible Sport Parenting.

Some key tips to follow when tryouts roll around for coaches:
- Encourage All Athletes During Tryouts
- Communicate What Type Of Players You Are Looking For During Tryouts
- Be Fair When Selecting Players For Your Team
- Offer Feedback To Both Players That Did and Did Not Make the Final Cut

Learn more about Responsible Coaching.

For more tips and resources, visit the Liberty Mutual Insurance Responsible Sports website. Or join us on Facebook to share your thoughts, participate in our Ask the Expert forum, or respond to our weekly Scenario Question polls.

Good luck this season from your friends at Liberty Mutual Insurance and our Responsible Coaching.

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!
The NEW JUGS 7-foot Complete Practice Travel Screen™ features a huge 6.5' x 6.5' Hitting Sock!

- Comes complete with 30” nylon travel bag and flip-over strike zone.
- Will not tip over in windy conditions.
- Designed for use with regulation size baseballs and softballs.
- Weighs just 17 lbs.
- Frame is made of stable 5/8” fiberglass bungee poles.
- Base is made of sturdy 1” steel tubing.
- Black nylon netting.
- Less than 2 minutes to set up.

At just 17 lbs. the JUGS Travel Screen is perfect to take with you either by air or land.

For more information, call 1-800-547-6843, or visit us online at jugssports.com
Ron Burke, the former longtime Spokane ASA Junior Olympic Commissioner, died on Friday, December 21, in a Spokane hospital. He was 73 and had been in ill health the last few years. It was those health issues that led Burke to retire as Spokane JO commissioner before the start of the 2012 season. He had served 29 years under three Spokane ASA commissioners. He also served as the ASA Northwest Region 15 Junior Olympic Commissioner on three occasions.

“He’s been there since 1983,” said current Spokane commissioner Fuzzy Buckenberger at the time of Burke’s retirement. “He’s made our JO program successful. He worked hard and went above-and-beyond, and personally, he’s a very special and real good friend.”

Tributes to Burke have come from the ASA community locally and nationally.

“I am saddened by the passing of Ron. He was one of the best in ASA. Completely dedicated to the game and was always supportive,” wrote Ron Radigonda, Executive Director of the ASA/USA Softball.

“In all of my years as a parent of a player, a coach, an umpire, and now as a commissioner, I’ve never known anyone that could match Ron’s love of the game,” said Seattle ASA Commissioner Mike Rabin. “He was truly one of the good guys.”

“His passion for kids playing softball is second to none,” said Malcolm Boyles, ASA Deputy Supervisor of Umpires for the Western Territory. “He did a lot for Spokane softball,” said Region 15 Umpire in Chief “Wild Bill” Silves.

“Ron was a large man, but his kindness and dedication to what he was involved in was even larger,” wrote Bill Parks, the Idaho At-Large Player Representative and former Region 15 Director. “The tape will not measure all he has done for his loved ones and friends.”

“For many of the 12 years I was Regional Director, Ron was the JO Commissioner I worked with. What a delight he was. … I know he’s in a better place now but the ones he left behind will always miss him for his kindness, character, integrity and smiling friendship,” said Mike Wells, Oregon ASA commissioner.

“We had our annual council meeting in Mobile, Ala. (in November 2004). I had rented a compact car and there were a group of us that were going to find a casino and then also go to Gulf Shores to look at the (recent hurricane) devastation,” wrote Wells. “We had Ron Booley, Fuzzy and Steve Anthony in the back, and poor Ron was packed into the front seat, on the passenger side, with his knees up to his chin. He never complained … He was a true friend to all of us and I know how much he enjoyed the game of softball. We all looked to him for guidance and positive reinforcement. I always laughed when Ron and I talked. With his height, he said, ‘I am always going to be looked up too’. As we get older, friends start to disappear, the memories in the heart increase, and we know that we are being looked down upon with care and smiles.

“Our softball family keeps us going, and it is those heroes, like Ron, that helped us get to where we are today.”

“Ron was a genuine gentleman with a quiet manner and positive attitude,” said Carol English-Hawley, Washington ASA commissioner. “He will be missed by many and certainly all of us in the Northwest Region.”

Randy Harnasch, the Spokane UIC, wrote to members of the Spokane Softball Umpires Association in announcing Burke’s death: “As many of you know, Ron was in ill health … Over the years Ron has served Spokane ASA and our umpire association with professionalism and always a smile. We will miss his help and enthusiasm very much. … Spokane ASA and Region 15 will miss him greatly.”

Burke, a retired mechanical engineer, got into ASA softball as a coach when daughter Sherri was 6. A high point of his coaching, he would happily point out, came a few years later when he and Buckenberger put together a girls slowpitch team – the “Teddy Bears” they were called – when girls slowpitch was in its infant stages in the Inland Northwest.

The Teddy Bears played for three years, Buckenberger noted, earning a top-three finish in a regional tournament in Montana and a top-10 finish in the 16-U national tournament in nearby Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. A few years later, Burke and Buckenberger branched out, taking an adult team to an ASA Coed National in Coeur d’Alene.

Burke was so proud of the Teddy Bears that he continued their heritage long after his coaching days ended. He had a team emblem placed on the hard hat he wore to inspect job sites while fulfilling his mechanical engineering responsibilities.

Basketball was another of Burke’s passions. A 1957 All-City selection his senior year at Rogers High School in Spokane, “Large Ron” as he was called in The Spokesman-Review newspaper, averaged 12.0 points per game and finished sixth in league scoring. He also played AAU and adult recreation ball in Spokane well into his adult years.

He took off his softball coaching hat when the current Spokane commissioner’s father, Clarence Buckenberger Sr. (then-SASA commissioner) appointed Burke to the JO position. Burke also served under John Tuft and Buckenberger Jr. After his retirement, Burke served a 30th year on the Spokane ASA board as Deputy JO Commissioner in 2012.

“There was a lot of stress sometimes,” Burke said of being JO commissioner, “but I enjoyed it.”

“Put his heart and soul into making the Spokane and Region 15 JO program one of the best in the nation,” wrote Steve Anthony, the Idaho Commissioner and Region 15 Director. “When teams went to Spokane they always knew they were going to have a very positive experience. Ron will be missed by all his friends in the Northwest. As all of us in Region 15 know, Ron’s favorite greeting was ‘Good Morning,’ regardless of the time of day. Well Ron, ‘Good Morning’ my friend, your smile and positive attitude will be missed.”

Ron is survived by his wife of 54 years, Marie; four children, Kathleen (Cass) Lehinger, Lori Stinson, Doug Burke and Sherri (Allen) Byrd; seven grandchildren, Karissa, Jessica, Brienne, Kara, Dallas, Garrett and Colby; and two great-grandchildren, Margeaux and Braden.
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The USA Men's Fast Pitch National Team entered the 28-team bracket portion of the International Sports Group Union (ISGU) tournament looking to pick up three wins and advance to the semifinals. Bracket play started well as the Americans scored five runs in the first three innings on their way to defeating Barraquitas 9-3 in game one. However, in their second game Team USA struggled to get much going offensively and fell to Excellent Car Service by a final of 3-1.

“We didn’t make it as far as we had hoped in the tournament,” said USA Head Coach Pete Turner. “We would have liked to be playing on the last day. But the fact remains that we came here to get better and prepare for March’s ISF World Championships and I think we were able to lay a solid foundation to build on as we prepare for that event in just over a month.”

**USA 9, Barraquitas 3**

In game one, the eighth seeded American's took the field with the tournament's twentieth seed Barraquitas. Pitching dominated the opening inning of the game as both teams went three up, three down in their first at-bats. As the visiting team on the scoreboard, Team USA came alive in the top of the second with three runs off two hits and two walks. The rally was capped off by a Todd Schultz (Williamston, Mich.) single that scored two.

In the bottom half of the inning, Travis Price (Orange, Calif.) and the American defense gave one run back as they allowed three hits in the inning but at the end of the second Team USA still held a 3-1 lead.

Three walked to start the next USA at-bat loaded the bases and prompted a pitching change for Barraquitas but despite the fresh arm, Josh Johnson (Brooklyn, Wis.) and Dave Lohman (Lindenhurst, N.Y.) hit back-to-back run scoring sacrifice-flies to extend the team's lead to 5-1.

Barraquitas picked up another run in the bottom of the third off of two hits but soon after the bats went cold for both teams. The 5-2 score held steady until the sixth inning when the home team cut slightly into the American lead with their third run.

Looking to pad their lead in the top of the seventh, Team USA responded with a bit of a hitting clinic that saw three singles and two doubles resulting in four more USA runs. The lead was extended to 9-3. Gerald Muizelaar (Grand Forks, N.D.), who had entered the circle to relieve Price in the fifth, pitched a 1, 2, 3 inning in the bottom to secure the win for the USA Men.

**Excellent Car Service 3, USA 1**

With the opening round win, Team USA went on to face Excellent Car Service, who had already defeated El Dorado 9-0 in round one. The offense that had earlier in the day produced nine runs on eight hits struggled to get much going in game two. Jaime Cruz Garcia Jr. (Kansas City, Kan.) opened the game with a single but was caught stealing later in the inning. That out started a streak of 12 USA batters who failed to reach base through the first four innings of the game.

Despite the lack of offense, Muizelaar, who started the game at pitcher, managed to keep Excellent Car Service's bats fairly quiet until the third inning. Two hits and a USA error allowed two runs to cross for the American opponents in the third. The 2-0 score held for two innings before the visiting team added a third run off of three hits in the top of the fifth.

Team USA scored their only run of the game in the bottom of the sixth when Adam LaLonde (Ashland, Ky.) lead off with a single and Garcia Jr. drove him in with a hit later in the inning. Another Team USA single from Matt Palazzo (Des Moines, Iowa) gave them two runners on base but a strikeout and fly out left the runners stranded.

In the end, the USA Men's National Team couldn't find enough offense to overcome the deficit as they fell by a final of 3-1, eliminating them from the tournament.

The Americans will now turn their focus towards to ISF World Championships scheduled for March 1-10 in New Zealand. Team USA will practice as a team for the final time on American soil before traveling overseas in late February for the 10-day tournament. The Red, White and Blue are slated to open pool play against defending Champion Australia. You can follow all of the National Team's games in the ISF World Championship at [www.USAsoftball.com](http://www.USAsoftball.com).
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ASA/USA Softball loses softball legend

Sam J. Lombardo (Sterling Heights, Mich.), age 92, passed away on January 9, 2013. Lombardo was a member of Metro Detroit’s inaugural Hall of Fame class in 1982. Lombardo, a fast and slow pitch player, played in 20 world/national tournaments and was a member of three national championship teams, Briggs Beautyware (1937), East Side Sports (1958), and Burch Gage in 1964. He led the National Fastball League in hitting in 1947 with a .347 average. He was selected as an ASA All-American in 1961 and 1964.

“He was a remarkable person both on and off the field who will be missed by the entire softball community not only in Detroit and Michigan, but throughout the country,” said Stu Alderman, Metro Detroit ASA Commissioner. “Sam was a star in both slow pitch and fast pitch who was well respected by all players, managers, and softball fans.”

Sam had a 39-year career in fast pitch softball. He played in eight national championships with Briggs. Sam also played in three national championships while playing for the Zollner Pistons out of Ft. Wayne, Ind., where he became the Pistons top hitter for six years. In October, 1981, Sam was inducted into the Michigan Hall of Fame. Ten years later, he was inducted into the National Softball Hall of Fame. Lombardo was the loving husband of the late Mary Lombardo, dear father of Fran (George) Parker and Frank (Sharon) Lombardo, dearest grandfather of Paul (Lauren) Lombardo, Brian Lombardo, and Eric Lombardo. Sam is survived by his siblings Margaret (Dick) McRae, Lena (Joe) Carlo and sister in law Patricia Lombardo. Sam was predeceased by his brother Roy.

Wish for Wendy charity tournament a huge success

On Saturday, November 10th 2012, the 13th annual Wish for Wendy charity slow-pitch softball tournament to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation was held at North Park in Alpharetta, Ga. Teams from all over the state of Georgia raised funds and competed for the title of Wish for Wendy Champion.

For the 7th year, James Edlen served as the UIC and Tournament Director, with Matt Aycock and Justin Rempe serving as Asst. UICs and grill-masters. Members of Gwinnett Umpires Association, Chattahoochie Umpires, and NGWUA answered the call for volunteer umpires and spent the day at North Park calling games and enjoying fellowship. Many of the umpires donated additional monies, bid on silent auction items, and even performed manual tasks during their off games! The tournament had outstanding weather for the event, which only added to the enjoyment of the event by all.

The following individuals donated their time and considerable skills as umpires or volunteers for the tournament, please congratulate them in your own way:

Matthew Aycock, Joe Bagwell, Bobby Blackford, Harris Borum, James Chapman, Bob Crowley, Ross Evart, Scott Harbin, Powell Hazzard, Shane Head, Rick Hearn, Bill Hamilton, Allen Holloway, Mike Kline, Brett Mason, Mike Moran, Brendan Moriarty, Brian Murphy, Robert Patton, Robert Poff, Justin Rempe, Dave Smith, Dennis Stanford, Randall West

Dennis Stanford of Chattahoochie Officials was able to secure five dozen softballs for use during the tournament, adding to those donated by GUA and Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation. Monetary donations from a few sources also provided lunches for all of the volunteer umpires and scorekeepers. For the first time, each of the volunteer umpires was given a custom-designed jacket embroidered with the Georgia ASA and Wish for Wendy logos. Privately raised funds allowed for these gifts. Dave Lloyd of NMUA joined the event for part of the day as well, lending his particular brand of insight.
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ASA/USA Softball out and about in January

ASA/USA Softball was present in a lot of states during the month of January. From the USA Softball National Coaching Schools, presented by Liberty Mutual, to the inaugural Florida ASA Coaching Clinic, members and staff participated in educational and recreational events and helped spread the word about all that our organization has to offer. Check out these photos from the events!

RIGHT: The new “Play ASA” feather flags in action during the ISGU tournament in Altamonte Springs, Fla. BELOW: Two-time Olympic Head Coach Mike Candrea, Houston ASA Commissioner Stoney Burke, Director of National Teams Ronnie Isham, Women’s National Team Asst. Coach Mike White and Head Coach Ken Eriksen at the National Coaching Clinic in Houston, Texas.

ABOVE: Members of the Men’s FP National Team get in some practice before the ISGU tournament in Altamonte Springs, Fla. LEFT: WNT and the University of South Florida Head Coach Ken Eriksen gives a speech before the inaugural Florida ASA Coaching Clinic in Tampa, Fla.
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New certification marks and test standards for slow pitch bats

ASA/USA Softball has begun implementing a new Certification Mark and Test Standard for all bats used for slow pitch softball. These changes, effective January 1, affected slow pitch ONLY for 2013 and beyond. Read more about the certification marks and test standard for each division of ASA/USA Softball below.

**SLOW PITCH for 2013 and BEYOND for ASA/USA Softball**

There WERE changes for Certification Mark and Test Standard for all bats used in the game of ASA/USA Slow Pitch Softball for the 2013 season and beyond. A new Certification Mark will be used on all future bat models manufactured for the game of Slow Pitch for 2013 and beyond. The new certification mark will look like the image to the right (ASA Shield). The current 2000 and 2004 Certification Marks will continue to be valid Marks for the existing Slow Pitch bats, while any new models produced by the manufacturers will display the new Certification Mark. All bats currently listed on the approved bat lists will remain legal for ASA/USA Softball play. ASA/USA Softball will continue to perform random testing of all approved models to verify conformance of the approved bat performance standard and any model found out of compliance could be added to the non-approved list. All models currently listed on the non-approved list will not be allowed in ASA/USA Softball play.

**FAST PITCH for 2013 and BEYOND for ASA/USA Softball**

There will NOT be any changes for Certification Mark and Test Standard for all bats used in the game of ASA/USA Fast Pitch Softball for the 2013 season. The current 2000 and 2004 Certification Marks will continue to be the appropriate Marks for Fast Pitch, and any new models produced by the manufacturers will continue to display the 2004 Certification Mark.

For more information on Certified Equipment, [click here.](#)

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David LeMarbre appointed Commissioner for the Tennessee ASA

ASA/USA Softball appointed David LeMarbre (Hendersonville, Tenn.) as the commissioner for the Tennessee ASA. LeMarbre steps into the position following the resignation of former Tennessee ASA Commissioner James Ellis.

LeMarbre has held a variety of positions within the Tennessee ASA. He has served as the Umpire-in-Chief for District 15 since 1980 and he has been the Commissioner for District 15 since 1992. He also held the title of Deputy State Commissioner and State President for the Tennessee ASA. An ASA umpire since 1980, LeMarbre has umpired in four ASA National Championship Tournaments and is a member of the National Indicator Fraternity and a Gold Level member in the ASA Umpire Medals program.

“I’ve been involved with ASA/USA Softball for over 25 years, during which time the organization has flourished,” said LeMarbre. “I’m looking forward to continuing the tradition of ASA/USA Softball in the Tennessee ASA. With our dedicated staff, the Tennessee ASA strives to increase team and individual registrations over the next couple of years so that our local teams can enjoy the many benefits of ASA/USA Softball.”

LeMarbre is the Director of the City of Hendersonville Parks and Recreation Department. He graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 1975 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Education, Business and Sociology. He received his Master’s Degree from Western Kentucky University in Recreation Administration.

For more information about the Tennessee ASA, please visit [Tennesseasea.clubspaces.com](http://Tennesseasea.clubspaces.com).
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♦ 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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