Hello and welcome to the September issue of the Inside Pitch. This coming weekend, over 30 teams will compete in Oklahoma City for the 2012 ASA Slow Pitch Championship Series, presented by Worth, and the Men’s Class A Slow Pitch National Championship. Those of you who watched the Men’s Slow Pitch Border Battle in June might recognize a few faces on the teams as many of the participating athletes were members of the Men’s and Future Men’s Slow Pitch National Teams. Four champions will be crowned over the weekend in what is sure to be an exciting and outstanding tournament.

With the conclusion of the Slow Pitch Championship Series comes the end of another summer at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex. Over 40 champions, including ASA athletes, NCAA athletes and our National Teams, have been crowned during the 2012 season and have left their mark on the field where champions are made. Our staff at the National Office did a fantastic job and continue to set the standard of excellence for our numerous events hosted at other venues. Thank you to all of the hosts from all the 2012 events. The feedback we have received regarding the quality of our tournaments, from the staff to the venue, has continued to demonstrate just how excellent a job you all do and your hard work does not go unnoticed.

As we near the Council Meeting, please remember to finalize your plans by contacting Debbie Ford at the National Office and Journey House, ASA’s Travel Service. If you are unable to attend, please be sure to submit a proxy request by November 2.

Thank you all for your continued service!

EIGHT TEAMS HEAD TO OKC FOR ASA SLOW PITCH CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES IN MEN’S C & D

Following an action-packed Labor Day weekend, eight teams have earned their way to Oklahoma City to compete for the title of “National Champion”. Two ASA Slow Pitch Championship Series, presented by Worth, National Champions will be crowned while teams will also compete for the Men’s Class A and Women’s Open Slow Pitch titles September 28-30 at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex.

The teams qualified for the ASA Slow Pitch Championship Series in tournaments held over Labor Day weekend in Sterling, Va., Rapid City, S.D., Spartanburg, S.C., Spokane, Wa., Columbus, Ohio, Hastings, Neb., Montgomery, Ala. and Yuma, Az.

The teams that qualified and will be competing for the National Championship in Oklahoma City are:

(Team, Hometown, Territory)
Men’s Class C Slow Pitch Territory Champions
• Friendly Transmission/Sl - Sutherlin, Va., Eastern
• Heartland Investors – Bismarck, N.D., Northern
• KY Steel/TKO – Cadiz, Ky., Southern
• Classic Glass/Easton/DSS - Sacramento, Calif., Western

Men’s Class D Slow Pitch Territory Champions
• Torco Supply – Danielsville, Pa., Eastern
• Tabu - Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Northern
• Titans – Murfreesboro, Tenn., Southern
• Galindo – Orange County, Calif., Western

‘THE ROAD TO OKC’ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Hello and welcome to the September 2012 edition of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America. Congratulations to this month’s newly crowned National Champions! We are down to one final weekend of Championship play, and what an exciting weekend it will be! We have over 30 teams coming in from across the country vying for the chance to be named an ASA National Champion. We at ASA wish all of the athletes competing the best of luck.

I also want to take the time to thank those athletes, coaches and umpires who participated in any ASA event this year. It’s also important to thank those people behind the scenes: from our tournament directors and field crew to our concession workers. You guys help to make 2012 another successful season for ASA.

Next month, our attention will shift towards the 81st Council Meeting in Dallas, Texas. This year will be my first time to attend a Council Meeting, and I am really looking forward to getting the chance to meet our council members. I am also looking forward to the National Softball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, where we will induct six new members. If you are interested in attending, please contact Debbie Ford at debbie@softball.org.

If there is anything you would like to see in the Inside Pitch, please let me know. I am always looking for content and new ideas. Talk to you next month!

USA Softball auction for Susan G. Komen for the Cure®

ASA/USA Softball continued its fundraising efforts for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Central and Western Oklahoma affiliate Sept. 16-26 with the fifth annual “Pink Auction”. During the 10-day auction, fans had the opportunity to bid through eBay on over 20 autographed items from the 2012 USA Softball Women’s National Team “Pink Out” game July 30 at the 2012 World Cup of Softball, presented by Lumber Liquidators, in Oklahoma City.

Items included autographed, game-worn helmets and jerseys as well as a poster autographed by the entire 2012 USA Softball Women’s National Team that won the World Cup. The Netherlands, who played the U.S. during the “Pink Out” game, also donated their pink uniforms for the auction. Each winning bidder not only received their one-of-a-kind item, they also received a pink rally towel donated by World Cup sponsor Chesapeake Energy Corporation.

Since the inception of the “Pink Out” auction in 2008, ASA/USA Softball has raised $56,900 for Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Central and Western Oklahoma affiliate through the auctioning of game-worn USA Softball jerseys as well as bats, cleats, helmets and other softball apparel. ASA/USA Softball raised $25,000 in 2008, $12,500 in 2009, $13,000 in 2010 and $6,400 in 2011 while also creating additional awareness for the foundation by wearing specially made pink USA Softball jerseys on international television broadcasts.

Note: Per NCAA rules, items worn by and only signed by athletes with remaining college eligibility could not be auctioned off at this time. These items will be auctioned at a later date once the athletes have exhausted their college eligibility. All auction items that include the entire 2012 USA Softball team’s autographs do include the autographs of the current college athletes.
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.
Teams participating in the ASA Slow Pitch Championship Series, presented by Worth, received air fare to Oklahoma City for up to 15 athletes and eight hotel rooms as part of their prize pack for winning their respective territory tournaments and qualifying for OKC. Also participating in Oklahoma City during the weekend of the ASA Slow Pitch Championship Series is the Men's Class A and Women's Open Slow Pitch National Championship. Tournament play begins September 28 with the new National Champions being crowned on September 30. Winners of all the Men's Class C and D and Women's Open will also receive a custom Worth prize pack, which includes a sling bag, t-shirt, hat and a Worth 454 bat which will be awarded and released in January, 2013.

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.

How can I find out where the 2013 Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship is?

- On the homepage, you will go to Tournaments. Once there, you’ll see several options, including ASA Nationals, Qualifiers and GOLD Nationals. Since you want the Men's Major, you'd go to ASA Nationals. Next, you'll click on Men's Nationals and then Fast Pitch. At the top of your screen, you'll see a toggle bar where you can select your year. Simply move the toggle to 2013, then click Change Year. After that, your phone will show a listing of all of the Men's Fast Pitch Nationals for 2013. You'll see that the 2013 Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship will be held in South Bend, Indiana August 1 - 4.

How can I find out who the Tournament Director is for the 2013 Girls' Class A 10-Under Western National Championship which will be held in Medford, Oreg.? 

- Good question! You’d find this information much like the answer above. Instead of clicking on Men's Nationals, you will want to navigate to Girls Nationals and then Fast Pitch. You’ll have to change your toggle bar on the top again to 2013, and then find the National Championship you’re looking for. By clicking on that, I can see that the Tournament Director will be Rich Rosenthal, and I have all of his contact information provided for me.

Can I see who won the National Championship for 2007 Men’s Senior 50 AA Slow Pitch?

- You sure can! You’ll start out the same as the two answers above, only you’ll want to click on Senior Nationals and then Slow Pitch. Move your toggle bar back to 2007, and then touch Change Year. Then you’ll click on the tournament, and you will see that State College from Saxton, Penn. won that tournament with a 2-0 record.

For more information, please visit ASASoftball.com.

Can I see if a bat I purchased can be used at a National Championship?

- Definitely. You’d go to Certified Equipment on the home page, and then click on Bats, Approved. You can search by Manufacturer and bat composition. Just look for your bat on any of those approved lists.

Have a questions about M.ASASoftball.com that you want answered? Submit your questions to Codi Warren at cwarren@softball.org by the 15th of every month and it can be featured in the next issue of the Inside Pitch.
Let our team help you insure your teams!

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

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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California Yard Sharks claim second consecutive Bright Light Award presented by Musco

ASA/USA Softball awarded the Yard Sharks 18-Under A team of Carmichael, Calif., coached by Joe Price its second consecutive Bright Light Award presented by ASA and Musco Lighting. Created in 2011, the award honors an ASA registered Junior Olympic (JO) team that has shown a commitment to its community through service and volunteerism.

“It’s really great to have teams like the Yard Sharks who are so involved in their communities in our association,” said ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “Winning this award for the second consecutive year, the Yard Sharks have shown that they are truly committed to their volunteer efforts. This is an organization that actively seeks opportunities to give back throughout their summer season. They are an outstanding group of young athletes and are very deserving of this honor.”

The award as well as a Bright Light Award banner will be presented to the Yard Sharks on Nov. 11 during the opening session of the 81st ASA National Council Meeting in Dallas, Texas. Additionally, as the recipient of the 2012 Bright Light Award, the Yard Sharks will receive a $2,000 credit to use toward tournament fees for any 2013 ASA sanctioned events in the United States and 20 Bright Light Award T-shirts for athletes, coaches and staff.

The Yard Sharks participated in many philanthropic events in 2012 including raising over $2,000 for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® in May. In January and February, the team worked with the Carmichael Softball League instructing young athletes and providing demonstrations on hitting, fielding, pitching and base running. The Yard Sharks also facilitated an ice cream social for the Carmichael Softball League to help athletes, coaches and parents bond.

In August the Yard Sharks were assisted with Special Olympics Northern California softball tournament, marking the seventh consecutive year the team has assisted with their local Special Olympics softball program. Among the duties that Yard Sharks performed at the tournament were field preparation, assisting as bat girls and scorekeeping. The Yard Sharks were also involved with the awards ceremony as well as skill assessments for the event.

Applications for the 2013 Bright Light Award presented by ASA and Musco Lighting will be accepted starting next spring. Additional information will be available at http://www.asasoftball.com.

Don’t forget!

The deadline to register for the 2012 Trade Show, which will be held during the 81st Annual Council Meeting, is October 1. Please contact Julie Bartel for more information.

All proxy requests for the Council Meeting in Dallas are due by November 2. The form to submit can be found on the portal under “Annual Meeting”.

The deadline for registrations for teams counting towards at-large tournament berths is October 15.

The deadline to submit all 2012 Local Association Champions is November 15. These will be included in the 2013 ASA Official Guide and Rule Book, so those received after November 15 will not be included. The form for this can also be found on the portal under “Tournaments”. Please contact Stephanie Brown for more information.

Host an Aquafina MLB Pitch, Hit & Run (PHR) Event

The Aquafina Major League Baseball (MLB) Pitch, Hit & Run (PHR) is now accepting applications to host a 2013 local competition. Visit www.mlb.com/phr/ for more information.

Top competitors in each market advance to MLB ballsparks and the top 24 kids each year earn a FREE trip to the MLB All-Star Game!
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Responsibility. What’s your policy?

This Fall 15 teams will earn a $2,500 grant. Go to ResponsibleSports.com/Softball to learn more.
It is that time of year again! The Fall Community Grant period has begun! Join the race by checking to see if your organization is registered. Not registered? Visit the Fall Community Grant details page for more information.

Once registered, rally parents and coaches to read the Responsible Sports Parenting Guide or Responsible Sports Coaching Guide, take the quiz and credit the quiz to your organization. One credited quiz equals one point. To earn one of the fifteen grants your organization needs to be one of the top five in total points in their division by November 30th.

This is a great opportunity for your organization to earn money. Use it to purchase equipment, fix up fields, travel funds, player scholarship etc. Get started 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!

Although she had a relatively short fast pitch career-10 years, no one can say that Donna Lopiano didn’t make the most of it. During that time, she earned All-America honors nine times and MVP accolades three times—1966, 1971 and 1972. In addition, she led the 1972 Women’s Fast Pitch National Tourney in batting with a .429 batting average for the Raybestos Brakettes. Twice she led the Brakettes in hitting, 1970 (.316) and 1972 (.367) and once held the team record for most homers in a season, eight. On the mound, she won 183 games and lost only 18 for a winning percentage of .910, the highest for a pitcher with 150 or more wins. She hurled 817 innings, struck out 1,633 batters and walked only 384. In national championship play, she had a 15-2 record and was a member of six national championship teams and four runners-up. Besides playing in national championships, she also played in the first ISF Women’s World Fast Pitch Championship in Melbourne, Australia in 1965, batting .345 for the Brakettes. An excellent student as an undergraduate, Lopiano has a Ph.D (1974) and Master’s degree (1969) from USC and a B.S. degree from Connecticut State College(1968). She served as the Director of Women’s Athletics at the University of Texas at Austin from 1975 to 1992 and as Chief Executive Officer of the Women’s Sports Foundation from 1992 to 2007.
Keilani Ricketts named Sportswoman of the Year award finalist

USA Softball Women’s National Team pitcher Keilani Ricketts (San Jose, Calif.) has been selected as a finalist for the Women’s Sports Foundation’s Sportswomen of the Year award in the team sport category as announced by the Women’s Sports Foundation. Ricketts was selected based on her achievements between August 1, 2011 and August 12, 2012.

Ricketts was a member of both the 2011 USA Softball Women’s National Team that won gold at the Pan American Games and the 2012 USA Softball Women’s National Team that took silver at the International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championship this past July. Ricketts, who is entering her senior season at the University of Oklahoma (OU), also led the Sooners to the finals of the 2012 NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) last Spring where she was named to the All-Tournament Team. For her achievements throughout the season Ricketts was named the 2012 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year as well as the 2012 Honda Softball Player of the Year.

Ricketts finished her 2012 USA Softball campaign with a 0.73 ERA and a perfect 9-0 record. In the 2012 ISF World Championship, she was the team leader in pitching for games won with four and strikeouts with 25. Ricketts also led Team USA to the gold medal in the 2012 World Cup of Softball where she allowed just one run in 9.2 innings pitched.

Ricketts finished her junior season at OU with 37 wins in 49 appearances. She struck out 432 of the 1,051 batters that she faced during the season allowing less than one run per game. The Sooner pitcher also hit 17 home runs and had a team-best .407 batting average. Her .553 on-base percentage was enough to rank her 10th in the country and her .825 slugging percentage put her at 19th overall in the NCAA.

The Sportswoman of the Year award winners will be determined by a combination of a public vote (50%) and the Women’s Sports Foundation’s Awards Committee’s vote (50%). The winners will be the two athletes – one individual sport finalist and one team sport finalist – who receive the highest combined share of a public vote and the Awards Committee vote. Beginning September 1 fans can visit www.womenssportsfoundation.org to cast their vote for the Sportswoman of the Year award. Fan voting will conclude on September 9.

This year’s finalists will be invited to attend the Annual Salute to Women in Sports Awards Gala on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City, where the winners will be announced and accept their awards.

Past USA Softball Women’s National Team members who have won the Women’s Sports Foundation Sportswomen of the Year award include Lisa Fernandez (1994), Cat Osterman (2005), Monica Abbott (2007), and Jessica Mendoza (2008).

Men’s Fast Pitch National Team roster for 2013 ISF World Championships

ASA/USA Softball recently announced the roster for the 2013 USA Softball Men’s National Team that will compete next March in Auckland, New Zealand for the International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championship. In all, 29 athletes tried out in the USA Men’s National Team Selection Camp held in late July in Ashland, Ohio. Seventeen members were selected to fill the roster.

The 17 athletes who have been selected to the 2013 USA Softball Men’s National Team are:

- Derrick Zechman (Watsontown, Pa.)
- Frank DeGroot Jr. (Ringwood, N.J.)
- Roman Foore (Rosemount, Minn.)
- Jaime Cruz Garcia Jr. (Kansas City, Kan.)
- Josh Johnson (Brooklyn, Wis.)
- Trevor Kelly (Marshall, Mich.)
- Eddy Ketelhut (Frankenmuth, Mich.)
- Adam LaLonde (Ashland, Ky.)
- Dave Lohman (Lindenhurst, N.Y.)
- Matt Palazzo (Des Moines, Iowa)
- Travis Price (Orange, Calif.)
- Robert Rostenhausler (Tucson, Ariz.)
- Todd Schultz (Williamston, Mich.)
- Marcus Tan (Umon City, Calif.)
- Chase Turner (San Jose, Calif.)
- Tommy Crouch (Dekalb, Ill.)
- Gerald Muizelaar (Grand Forks, N.D.)
- *Kevin Castillo (Long Beach, Calif.)
- *Matt Ratliff (American Fork, Utah)
- *Alternates

Members of the 2013 Men’s National Team will participate in an invitational tournament in Orlando, Fla. January 16-20 before heading off to Auckland, New Zealand for the ISF World Championship, March 1-10, 2013. This will be the third time that New Zealand has hosted the Men’s Softball World Championship (1976, 2004). The United States will be looking for their sixth World Championship title.
ASA across the country
A look at the faces of ASA Softball
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.

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Xtreme/Combat wins 2012 ASA Men’s B Slow Pitch National Championship

Xtreme/Combat of Brooklyn Park, Minn. outscored BBS/Miken 17-14 in the finals to take home the title at the ASA Men’s B National Championship presented by Worth at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium. Xtreme/Combat went through the bracket undefeated with their own Dustin Fulton (Maple Grove, Minn.) earning the MVP title.

Xtreme/Combat jumped out to an early 8-1 lead in the first inning off of five hits and three defensive errors. They picked up one more run in the second but BBS/Miken, who defeated C-Town/Demarini 21-11 to advance to the Championship Game, bounced back in the third inning with six runs off six hits and one error.

Xtreme/Combat came back with four runs of their own in the bottom of the fourth off of fives hits that included a three-run homer from the tournament’s home run champion Dustin Palm (Champlin, Minn.). Palm finished the tournament with seven home runs.

Each team picked up four hits in the fifth inning but Xtreme/Combat was able to convert four runners while BBS/Miken could only score three and they trailed 17-10 entering the sixth innings.

No runs were scored in the sixth and BBS/Miken found themselves with one last chance to rally down by seven entering the seventh inning. They were able to score four runs off of five hits but it wasn’t enough and Xtreme/Combat secured the ASA National Championship.

Fulton batted .842 in the tournament to earn the Batting Title. The outfielder also hit four home runs, 16 RBI and scored 10 runs of his own. For his accomplishments in the two-day event, Fulton was awarded the Tournament MVP award.

You can catch both Xtreme/Combat and BBS/Miken in action September 28-30 at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex. Live stats and streaming from the Stadium field only will be available throughout the weekend. Streaming and live stats will also be available for the ASA Slow Pitch Championship Series, presented by Worth. Visit ASASoftball.com for more info!
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Mike White
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Thirty-three teams from across the United States as well as teams from Canada, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico took to the fields of the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City and Bickham Field in Edmond for the 2012 Special Olympics North America Softball Invitational Tournament. Three days of competition were held, with the medal rounds being held at ASA on Sunday, September 23.

The event kicked off with the official Opening Ceremony at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium on Friday, featuring a parade of athletes, as well as a series of special guests including Master of Ceremonies and USA Softball’s Olympic Gold Medalist Amanda Freed, and Gymnastics legend and Olympic Gold Medalist Bart Conner. Conner, who serves as Vice-Chair of Special Olympics’ global Board of Directors, paid tribute to Special Olympics Founder, the late Eunice Kennedy Shriver, in honor of September 22 being global Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day. The night was capped off by the passing of the Special Olympics torch, lighting of the cauldron and a fireworks celebration.

Participating teams represented 16 states including Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Canada (Ontario). Both traditional Special Olympics teams and Unified Sports teams (people with and without intellectual disabilities playing on the same team) in four divisions (levels based on skill, with “1” being highest) were represented at the tournament.

In the traditional team competition (teams comprised entirely of Special Olympics athletes), first-time tournament attendees, the Dominican Republic, took the gold in Division 1; the Illinois All-Stars earned the gold for Division 2; the Arizona Wildcats won gold in Division 3; and the Texas Saints earned the gold for Division 4.

In the Unified Sports team competition (teams comprised of athletes and partners without intellectual disabilities), first-time tournament attendees, Puerto Rico, took the gold in Division 1; the Georgia Elite earned the gold for Division 2; the Oklahoma Broncos won gold in Division 3; and the Nebraska Sharks earned the gold for Division 4.

2004 USA Olympic softball Gold Medalist and longtime Special Olympics supporter Amanda Freed was in attendance throughout the weekend. Freed shared why Special Olympics resonates with her: “It’s inspiring to see them compete because they represent what sports meant for me at its most authentic level – when it’s just fun, when you go out there with your friends and compete hard, but above all, have a great time,” adding, “I know how hard they’ve trained to get here and it’s great to see them have the opportunity to showcase their talents.”

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 Special Olympics Oklahoma, Moose International, ASA/USA Softball, the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Coca-Cola.

Full results, photos, news and on demand video of select games from the Special Olympics North America Softball Invitational Tournament are available at www.specialolympics.org/sonasit.
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The New Mexico ASA held the “Don’t Let Cancer Steal Second Base” tournament at Maag Park earlier this month with over 20 teams participating. These players “pinked” out Maag Park to help raise awareness and money for breast cancer research.

Victory out of Las Cruces, N.M. took home the 10U title while Lookout of El Paso, Texas took home the silver. In the 12U division, NVS from Las Cruces took home the gold and S.W.A.T. from El Paso claimed second.

“The city of Las Cruces holds a ‘Tough Enough to Wear Pink’ month with New Mexico State University, Cowboys for Cancer and a lot of schools and businesses in Las Cruces to raise funds for this very worthy cause,” said Alice Cox, New Mexico ASA Commissioner. “To date, Las Cruces has raised over $2 million for breast cancer research. The campaign and money our city has raised is the largest of its kind.”

ASA umpires and the Moose Fraternity raise funds to aid Maryland Special Olympics program

During the Special Olympics North America Softball Invitational Tournament, an unfortunate event resulted in the loss of a team from Maryland’s travel bag, which included a wallet and cell phone. After news of this reached the ASA umpires and Moose Organization, a collection was taken up to aid this team with their travel expenses on their journey back to Maryland. Over $750 was collected by the umpires and Moose Lodge staff during the banquet Saturday evening.

“We were in total shock over the outpouring of support from everyone,” said Patricia Miles, coach of the Maryland Prince George’s County Softball Team. “It really makes us realize there is so much good in this world. The ASA umpires and the Moose Organization are made up of the kindest and most thoughtful people.”

On their journey home, Patricia and her husband were informed that their bag had been found. Fortunately, all of the contents, including the cell phone, were still inside.
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ASA serves as a major backer when the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) conducted its annual Sports Officiating Summit July 29-31 at the Marriott Downtown Waterfront in Portland, Ore.

Kevin Ryan, supervisor of umpires for ASA, was on hand during the Summit. Ryan led a session for umpires, assigners, local association officers and state association leaders in a softball-specific breakout session during the Summit. The session was sponsored by ASA. Those individuals reviewed a PowerPoint presentation and video on how composite bats are manufactured and altered. Ryan distributed a handful of bats that have been altered in different ways which led to great discussion and teaching. Ryan also revealed ASA’s new logo for slow pitch beginning in 2013 and talked about differences in high COR (coefficient of restitution), low compression softballs.

Ryan also participated in the Officiating Development Alliance meeting on Aug. 1 at the Marriott.

Barry Mano, president of NASO, expressed gratitude for ASA’s support and participation in the Summit.

“For the fourth year in a row, we asked important officiating organizations in respective sports to take the lead in presenting the Summit sport breakout sessions,” Mano said. “The groundwork we laid in 2009 with four associations sponsoring sessions blossomed into all seven sessions being sponsored in each of the last three years.

Mano said ASA’s presence on site added to the prestige of the event. “The Summit is the ‘industry event of the year’ for officiating. To be able to count ASA among the supporters and participants in the Summit simply puts an exclamation point on that statement,” he said. “The problems and issues that officials in every sport face are common, and the Summit, with the support of ASA, helped not only explore those issues, but work for solutions.”

Kevin Ryan speaking at the NASO summit, which was held July 29-31 in Portland, Ore.

ASA Men’s 60-and-Over Fastpitch Nationals held in Prescott, Ariz.

Seven teams competed in the inaugural ASA Men’s 60-and-Over Fastpitch National Championships September 21-23 at Ken Lindley and Bill Vallely fields in Prescott, Ariz. Until this year, ASA did not offer Men’s Fast Pitch National Championships to ages 50-plus.

“Prescott’s always been pretty well known about running men’s fastpitch, so the National Office decided to have the tournament here in Prescott,” said Don Fishel, Arizona ASA Commissioner. “Now that it’s 60-and-over, you’ve got people who can just keep playing, and we should see some pitchers here that used to be pretty recognized back 20 or 30 years ago.”

The Arizona Stars (Tumacacori, Ariz.) took home the inaugural title after defeating the Airtronics (San Jose, Calif.) 6-3 in the Championship Game. The complete order of finish was:

1st place: Arizona Stars (Tumacacori, Ariz.) 4-0
2nd place: Airtronics (San Jose, Calif.) 3-2
3rd place: Frank Rogers (Colorado Springs, Colo.) 3-2
4th place: Prescott Patriots (Prescott, Ariz.) 2-2
5th place: Yavapai Casino (Prescott, Ariz.) 1-2
5th place: Northwest All-Stars (Seattle, Wash.) 1-2
7th place: Arizona Turquoise Kings (Gilbert, Ariz.) 0-2

ASA supports successful NASO summit
DETERMINATION RINGS WITH EVERY HIT
The Botetourt Sports Complex in Botetourt County, Va., has been selected as the 2012 ASA Complex of the Year presented by Stabilizer Solutions, Inc. In addition to receiving the award at ASA's 81st National Council Meeting in Dallas, Texas, the Botetourt Sports Complex (160 Preston Parkway) will also receive approximately $2,000 in field maintenance products from Stabilizer Solutions.

“Being named ‘Complex of the Year’ by the world leader in softball is an unbelievable honor,” said Jim Farmer, Manager of the Botetourt Sports Complex. “Our staff takes tremendous pride in making sure the facility is in top condition for our guests every single week. We count it a privilege to partner with ASA to provide first class tournaments. Thank you for this recognition.”


Last month, the Botetourt Sports Complex hosted the 2012 ASA Fast Pitch Girls’ Class A 14-Under and 18-Under Eastern National Championships. The 2013 ASA Girls’ Class A 18U Fast Pitch Eastern National Championships and the ASA Men’s Class D Slow Pitch East National Championship are slated to be held in Salem, Va. and Botetourt County.

Later this year, the Botetourt Complex will host two ASA Junior Olympic (JO) College Showcases. In addition to hosting ASA softball events, the Botetourt Complex hosts a variety of other youth, high school, college and adult action. September 29-30, the Botetourt Sports Complex will also host their annual Military Appreciation Tournament, which features five NCAA universities. This past year, the complex was the site of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Women’s Softball Championship and the Three Rivers District High School Softball Tournament.

“The good people at the Botetourt Sports Complex are exactly the kind of people we had in mind when developing our maintenance saving products,” said Jon Hubbs, President of Stabilizer Solutions, Inc. “They get everything thrown their way; from little league to adult, baseball to softball, and regular season play to championship play. Managing fields on a multi-field complex like this can be a nightmare, but when everything goes right, it is a thing of beauty. Congratulations on this well deserved award.”

The Botetourt Sports Complex features four championship level fields, which are built around a three-story central tower. The bottom floor houses concessions and restrooms, and the second story features a hospitality and umpire changing room with a TV. The PA and scorekeeping stations are located on the top floor of the tower, with each field having on-field communication capabilities with the third floor. Each field has its own individual PA capabilities, CD players and two bullpen warm-up areas. Other features of the complex include: high-speed, wireless internet, six vendor areas with electric subpanels, dugouts with restrooms and water fountains and a playground with a gazebo seating area. The fields are equipped with a 50/30 lighting system, electronic scoreboards and permanent spectator seating with the option for additional portable grandstands.

In addition to hosting softball, the facility also hosts baseball games throughout the year. The Botetourt Complex also features a half-mile circular paved pathway which encircles the complex perimeter with unobstructed views of the playing fields. The complex is facilitated by one full-time maintenance supervisor, three part-time maintenance workers and three seasonal helpers. For more information on the Botetourt Complex visit www.botetourt.org/sportscomplex.
Bay Area Merchants claim 2012 Men’s Masters 50-Over National Championship

The Bay Area Merchants (Hayward, Calif.) went 4-1 en route to the 2012 ASA Men's Masters 50-Over Fast Pitch National Championship title. After falling to the Prescott Patriots (Memphis, Tenn.) 1-0 in the Championship game, the Merchants rebounded in the "if-necessary" game, outscoring the Patriots 4-3 to earn the title of ASA National Champion. The National Championship, which was held in Hayward, Calif. September 7-9, featured five teams from California, while Tennessee and Washington were represented by one team apiece.

Heading into Championship Sunday with a perfect 3-0 record, the Bay Area Merchants were kept off the board for the first time in the tournament at the hands of the Prescott Patriots. Until that point in the tournament, the Merchants had outscored their opponents 18-6. The Patriots earned their spot in the Championship Game after fighting their way through the loser's bracket. After falling to the Airtronics (San Jose, Calif.) in their second game of the tournament, the Patriots won five consecutive games before falling to the Merchants in the "if-necessary" game.

Following the Championship Game, All-Americans and individual honors were announced. Four teams placed athletes on the All-American team with the Prescott Patriots and Bay Area Merchants leading the way with six All-Americans apiece. Savala Painter's John Givens (Long Beach, Calif.) won the tournament's only individual award, receiving the Batting Champion title after a standout offensive performance throughout the course of the weekend.

Connecticut ASA announces newest members for Hall of Fame

by the Trumbull Times

Players Bob Bellemore and Elaine Gratrix, along with umpire Peter Miller, will be honored at the CASA Hall of Fame awards dinner, Sunday, Sept. 30 at Costa Azzurra Restaurant in Milford at 4 p.m. For ticket information on the dinner contact Ed Austin at 203-874-4036.

In a span of 25 years, Gratrix, a Trumbull native now the head softball coach at Norwalk High, compiled a remarkable pitching record in college, ASA, and professional softball in Italy. After an outstanding career at Muhlenberg College, where she stills holds virtually every softball pitching record and is a member of the school's Hall of Fame, Gratrix had two stints with the Danbury Debs, one of the state's top Class A teams in the late 80s and early 90s.

She completed her career playing for the Devils in the Danbury Women's Softball League from 2000-08 with a 57-4 record and an ERA of 0.27.

In between the two Danbury stops she played professional softball in Italy for three seasons.

Bellemore had a distinguished softball career for more than 20 years, highlighted by a five-year stint with the Raybestos Cardinals.

During those five seasons he played on national championship teams in 1969, 1970 and 1972.

He was a third-baseman with a reputation as an outstanding defensive player, and a top-notch lead-off hitter who always found a way to get on base.

Now residing in Westerly, R.I., Bellemore played for a number of other powerhouse teams throughout New England and from 1964-1984 he played in a national tournament every year with just two exceptions.

Miller's impressive resume is indicative of his long and successful career as an ASA umpire in fast pitch, slow pitch and modified games.

He was a member of the Waterbury-Naugatuck Umpires' Association from 1986 to 2008, serving as president from 2002-04. He organized the Meriden ASA Umpires group in 2009.

He was appointed CASA Umpire in Chief in 2007, a position he still holds.


In 2005, Miller, who resides in Meriden, was inducted into the ASA National Umpire Fraternity.
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—Ron Radigonda, Executive Director of ASA

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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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