

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF ASA/USA SOFTBALL

# BATS AND STARS

JUNE 2016

WELCOME TO THE  
SOFTBALL  
CAPITAL  
OF THE WORLD



THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY  
OF SOFTBALL

[ASAUSAsoftball.com](http://ASAUSAsoftball.com)



# SCIENCE IN EVERY SWING

THE EASTON POWER SENSOR

© MOTION BY BLAST

CAPTURE, ANALYZE, AND IMPROVE YOUR GAME  
WITH THE EASTON POWER SENSOR



ATTACH



CAPTURE



ANALYZE



IMPROVE

LEARN MORE AT

[WWW.EASTON.COM/POWER-SENSOR](http://WWW.EASTON.COM/POWER-SENSOR)



**HIT LAB**  
COLLECTION

TOP COLLEGE PROGRAMS CHOOSE EASTON



Team  
USA

friendly

Take advantage of partner travel discounts.

Fly United

fly the friendly skies<sup>SM</sup>

UNITED



Proud to fly Team USA for over 30 years.

© 2015 United Airlines, Inc. All rights reserved.  
36 USC 220506.

# BALLS AND STRIKES

Official Publication of  
ASA/USA Softball  
June 2016

**Executive Director**

Craig Cress

**Editor**

Codi Warren

**Design**

Old Hat Creative

**Contributors**

ASA/USA President	Austin Lagesse
Warren Jones	
	Katie Willis

The Official Publication of  
The Amateur Softball Association /  
USA Softball

Balls and Strikes Softball Magazine is  
published quarterly by the Amateur Softball Association  
2801 N.E. 50th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
(405) 424-5266

Balls and Strikes Softball®  
is a federally registered trademark of the  
Amateur Softball Association of America  
© Amateur Softball Association 2016

Visit us on the Internet:  
[www.ASAUSAsoftball.com](http://www.ASAUSAsoftball.com)



THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY  
OF SOFTBALL

# THE LINEUP

- 3 Letter from the President**
- 9 Faces on the Field – Get to Know the Athletes of ASA/USA Softball**
- 14 Welcome to the Softball Capital of the World**
- 16 News and Notes**
- 19 Social Media – What the Fans are Saying**
- 26 2016 NCAA Women's College World Series Recap**
- 30 Welcome to Championship Season**
- 34 Additional Athletes Added to USA Softball Women's Rosters**
- 38 The World's Best Return to OKC this July**
- 41 2016 WBSC Junior Men's World Championship Schedule Set**
- 46 Get Softball Secrets With Jennie Finch**
- 52 ASA/USA Softball Partners With Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team**
- 58 From the Vault**
- 59 Balls and Strikes Trivia**



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Hello everyone!**

What a great start to the 2016 season! As many of you get further into your softball-filled summer, here are a few things to look forward to in the coming months.

The international softball world welcomed an announcement by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board to support the inclusion of softball and baseball among a new sports package for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. To have received this support from the IOC Executive Board is an honor and a great endorsement for us to receive. While this is exciting news, please remember that this is another step in the process and that the IOC will vote before the Rio Games in August on whether to include baseball and softball in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

We're also very excited to have partnered with Major League Baseball (MLB) in joining USA Baseball by supporting the "PLAY BALL" initiative (PlayBall.org). Highlighting the many ways that softball and baseball can be played, Play Ball also provides players, parents and coaches with the information and resources to help with proper play and instruction. What better way to celebrate the partnership than by holding a Play Ball event in Oklahoma City! Together with the Oklahoma City Dodgers, an affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers, the MLB and our National Office staff, kids from the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma, the Boys and Girls Club and local youth centers got a firsthand experience of what makes playing baseball and softball so much fun. There were agility drills, base running and even a home run derby.

On the National Team side, we have another busy year for our National Team programs. Members of the Women's National Team (WNT) made their first international trip of the season June 23-26 as the team headed to Tokyo and Sendai, Japan for the USA vs Japan All-Star Series. Both the WNT and Women's Elite Team will return to Oklahoma City for the World Cup of Softball XI July 5-10. From there, the WNT will head to Surrey, B.C., Canada

*Letter continued on next page ▶*

for the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Women's World Championship, slated for July 15-24, where they will look to reclaim the No. 1 spot in the world against reigning world champions Japan. Rounding out the 2016 season for the WNT is the Japan Cup, which will be held September 2-4. The Women's Elite Team will also head to Marietta, Ga. July 22-28 for training in conjunction with the USA Softball JO Cup.

On the men's side, our Junior Men's National Team has begun their season in Normal, Ill. for training camp, followed by additional training in Ashland before heading to Midland, Mich. for the WBSC Junior Men's World Championship. Our Men's Slow Pitch National Team will also be competing this summer as the team returns to U.S. soil for Border Battle VIII and the Slow Pitch Showdown July 4-6. Please visit our national website at [www.ASAUSASoftball.com](http://www.ASAUSASoftball.com) for each team's complete schedule and make plans to come out to support our great athletes in their quest to bring home Gold.

We have a lot of exciting things lined up in the coming months, so be sure to visit [www.ASAUSASoftball.com](http://www.ASAUSASoftball.com) for the latest!



*Warren Jones*

**Warren Jones, President  
ASA/USA Softball**



**EVERY DONOR MAKES A DIFFERENCE.  
BE A PART OF OUR LEGACY!**

TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO JOIN FOR JUST \$100, CONTACT US AT (405) 425-3422, [LEGACYCLUB@SOFTBALL.ORG](mailto:LEGACYCLUB@SOFTBALL.ORG) OR VISIT [USASOFTBALL.COM](http://USASOFTBALL.COM) AND SELECT LEGACY CLUB UNDER THE TEAM USA TAB.



THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY  
OF SOFTBALL



## THE LEAD OFF:

The international softball world welcomed a recent announcement by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for their support of the inclusion of baseball and softball for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Read more about this exciting announcement on page 23.



## THE LEAD OFF:

ASA/USA Softball, Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Oklahoma City Dodgers recently held a "PLAY BALL" event in downtown Oklahoma City in celebration of ASA/USA Softball partnering with MLB in joining USA Baseball for the "PLAY BALL" initiative. Read more about PLAY BALL on page 24.

# USA SOFTBALL MOBILE APP



- ALL THE LATEST IN BREAKING NEWS, RESULTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STORIES
- WATCH LIVE-STREAMING FROM ASA/USA SOFTBALL EVENTS ACROSS THE U.S.
- FIND PHOTO GALLERIES AND ATHLETE PROFILES FOR MEMBERS OF USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL TEAMS
- DISCOVER THE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS OF PLAYING ASA/USA SOFTBALL AND LEARN HOW TO REGISTER
- LOCATE AN ASA/USA SOFTBALL EVENT NEAR YOU
- EXPANSIVE PHOTO GALLERIES
- LINKS TO SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS
- VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE, [SOFTBALLOUTLET.COM](http://SOFTBALLOUTLET.COM)
- DONATION OPPORTUNITIES
- FREE AND AVAILABLE FOR BOTH ANDROID AND APPLE PRODUCTS



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DOWNLOAD THE APP, PLEASE VISIT  
**ASAUSA.SOFTBALL.COM**

# ACES ON THE FIELD

**Every year, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America has 924,000 Junior Olympic (JO) athletes playing on more than 77,000 teams while over 1 million adults play on 88,000 teams across the United States. Meet Avery, Brittney, Tanith and Tess, four athletes who play ASA/USA Softball!**

## AVERY, 11

Pittsfield, Mass. • CT Mirage - 12U • Girls' 12-Under Fast Pitch • Pitcher, First Base, Outfield

### HER START

When I was five years old. I've been swinging at a wiffle ball since I can remember, so as soon as I was old enough, my parents signed me up for softball in our town league.

### TOUGHEST OBSTACLE

In the beginning of 2015 my pitching and travel ball coach decided to stop coaching. We had been planning the travel season together and she was a big reason I fell in love with the game. For a few months I questioned playing travel at all. I had to realize her leaving coaching had nothing to do with me and that I could continue to get better and still love the game with new coaches. I still miss her, but am more in love with the game than ever.

### BEST EXPERIENCE PLAYING

The best experience was last year during a tournament. I made a tough catch in left field to win a very close game and the championship! All my teammates and my coaches ran out to hug and congratulate me.

### GOAL

My goal is to play Division 1 softball, hopefully at the University of Florida, and win the NCAA Women's College World Series. Then I want to play professional in the summers and travel around the country doing clinics in the off-season. After that I want to become a pitching coach for a D1 school.

### FUN FACTS

I just went to my first pro series last weekend and saw the Dallas Charge play the Pennsylvania Rebellion. Watching those players made me want to get better and even play pro!



# FACES ON THE FIELD



## BRITTNEY, 14

*Raytown, Mo.*

*KC Dirt Devils - 14U Shelley*

*Girls' 14-Under Class B Fast Pitch*

*Pitcher, Infield*

### HER START

I began playing softball at the age of 7. My dad wanted me to play a sport and I always said no because it is a guy's sport. I finally agreed to T-ball with a team full of guys and one other girl. Finally I realized there was a thing called softball so I switched over.

### FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL

My favorite thing about playing softball is hitting. My hitting has really picked up in this past year. So it is my favorite part of the game and that's how you score. I also love the competition.

### ROLE MODELS

To be honest, my role models are my dad and my best friend. My dad is a role model because he is the one that pushes me because he knows what I want. He is one of the best coaches I have ever had! Then my best friend, she is another pitcher on our team and an outfielder. She is there whenever I need her and as much as I love her, she is my competition. I try to beat her and win.

### TOUGHEST OBSTACLE

The toughest obstacle that I have had to overcome in this particular sport is probably my knee injury. We had to do an indoor practice and a catcher fell on my knee. It hurt so bad that I was caught limping. One day I got out of the car and I just started balling. It hurt so bad! So we went to the doctors and said it was inflamed so I need a knee support.

# FACES ON THE FIELD

## TANITH, 13

*Kansas City, Mo.*

*KC Dirt Devils - 14U Shelley*

*Girls' 14-Under Class B Fast Pitch*

*Catcher, Infield, Outfield*

### HER START

I started my first season of coach pitch softball in the summer after first grade. I started playing because all of my friends were playing, and then I started to develop an interest in the sport. I've loved the game ever since!

### PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

I don't think I can choose which accomplishment I am the most proud of. When I accomplish something, I know that I am getting better. I don't think that offense is more important than defense, or vice versa. I just know that I help my team every time I succeed and reach a goal.

### FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL

There are so many things that I love about softball. I don't think I can choose!! I love hitting the ball to the fence (I haven't hit a home run yet, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed) and watching all the runs score and cheer while I'm rounding the bases. I love framing that perfect, third strike, last out pitch and watching as my team cheers in triumph and the pitcher's face lights up and boosts the confidence and morale of everyone. The atmosphere of the dugout and the intensity of the game is enough to make anyone want to get up at 4 o'clock in the morning for a long day of softball!!

### BEST ADVICE

Just be thankful that you get to be here, playing the game. There are many people around the world who can't play sports, and would love to be doing what you're doing. Always have good sportsmanship and a good attitude. Most importantly, make sure you're having fun!



# FACES ON THE FIELD

## TESS, 14

*Elsberry, Mo.  
St. Louis Chaos - 01  
Girls' 14-Under Fast Pitch  
Catcher, Third Base*

### HER START

I started playing tee ball when I was 5 years old and also practiced with my older brother's select baseball team.

### BEST EXPERIENCE PLAYING

The best experience I have had in softball was when my team and I took sixth place at nationals and the brothers of the players all painted their chests to spell our team name and cheered us on.

### TOUGHEST OBSTACLE

The toughest obstacle I have had to overcome is getting to and from practices. We live an hour and a half away from our training building and have to drive there four times a week.

### PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

I am most proud of the fact that I was able to change my swing from what it was to what it is now and having success with my new swing. I've hit 5 home runs so far this year.



**Do you want to be profiled in "Balls and Strikes Online Softball Magazine" in the future?**

*Click here for information on how to submit your profile and photo*



## **PROUD TO INSURE EVERY MEDAL WON (OR LOST) BY TEAM USA.**

Our athletes work hard for all that they've earned. And so do you. That's why we insure every medal you've earned in life.

**AUTO | HOME | LIFE**



Proud Partner



*Widely recognized as the **Softball Capital of the World**™, the ASA Hall of Fame Complex is the ultimate destination in the softball world! With four fields and other world-class amenities, the complex has played host to the best softball competition in the world, including USA teams that represent the nation in international competitions.*

#### TOP COMPETITION

#### LOCAL - COLLEGIATE - INTERNATIONAL

#### #TheBestPlayinOKC

Since it was built in 1987, the ASA Hall of Fame Complex has become the "Mecca of Softball™" to some of the most outstanding softball events in the United States, including the NCAA Women's College World Series (WCWS), the World Cup of Softball, Border Battle, the ASA/USA Softball 18U GOLD National Championship and the ASA/USA Softball Slow Pitch Championship Series. Annually, the ASA Hall of Fame Complex plays host to the nation's No. 1 collegiate contest, the NCAA WCWS, which annually draws more than 70,000 spectators from around the nation and has had record

setting crowds since 2010. ASA Hall of Fame Complex has hosted the event since 1990 and is scheduled as the home of the WCWS through 2035.

#### A HISTORY OF WORLD CLASS SOFTBALL

So how did the historic ASA Hall of Fame Complex become the "Softball Capital of the World"™? The ASA Hall of Fame Complex reached this status not only from the NCAA WCWS, but due to the numerous other events, both national and international, with events booked for 30 weekends each year. Together, the events attract more than 150,000 fans a year to the stadium, making it a year-round operation and destination for softball fans and athletes. In addition

to a long history of hosting the best-of-the-best in competition, the ASA Hall of Fame Complex has seen historic performances, with many legends of the game making their mark in the history books of the revered Hall of Fame Stadium. Many softball greats, like slow pitch sluggers Bruce Meade and Brett Helmer, Olympians Jennie Finch, Lisa Fernandez and Laura Berg and legendary NCAA softball coaches Sue Enquist and Mike Candrea, have stepped on these hallowed grounds, creating a legacy that continues to inspire softball players across the globe to this day.

.....  
*Story continued on next page ▶*

## FIVE-STAR FACILITY

With the ability to have four separate games going on at one time, ballpark visitors are able to watch a variety of teams all day long while enjoying the amenities the ASA Hall of Fame Complex has to offer. Sitting on more than 18,000 square feet of land, visitors can watch a game at the stadium and take a short walk over to the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum.

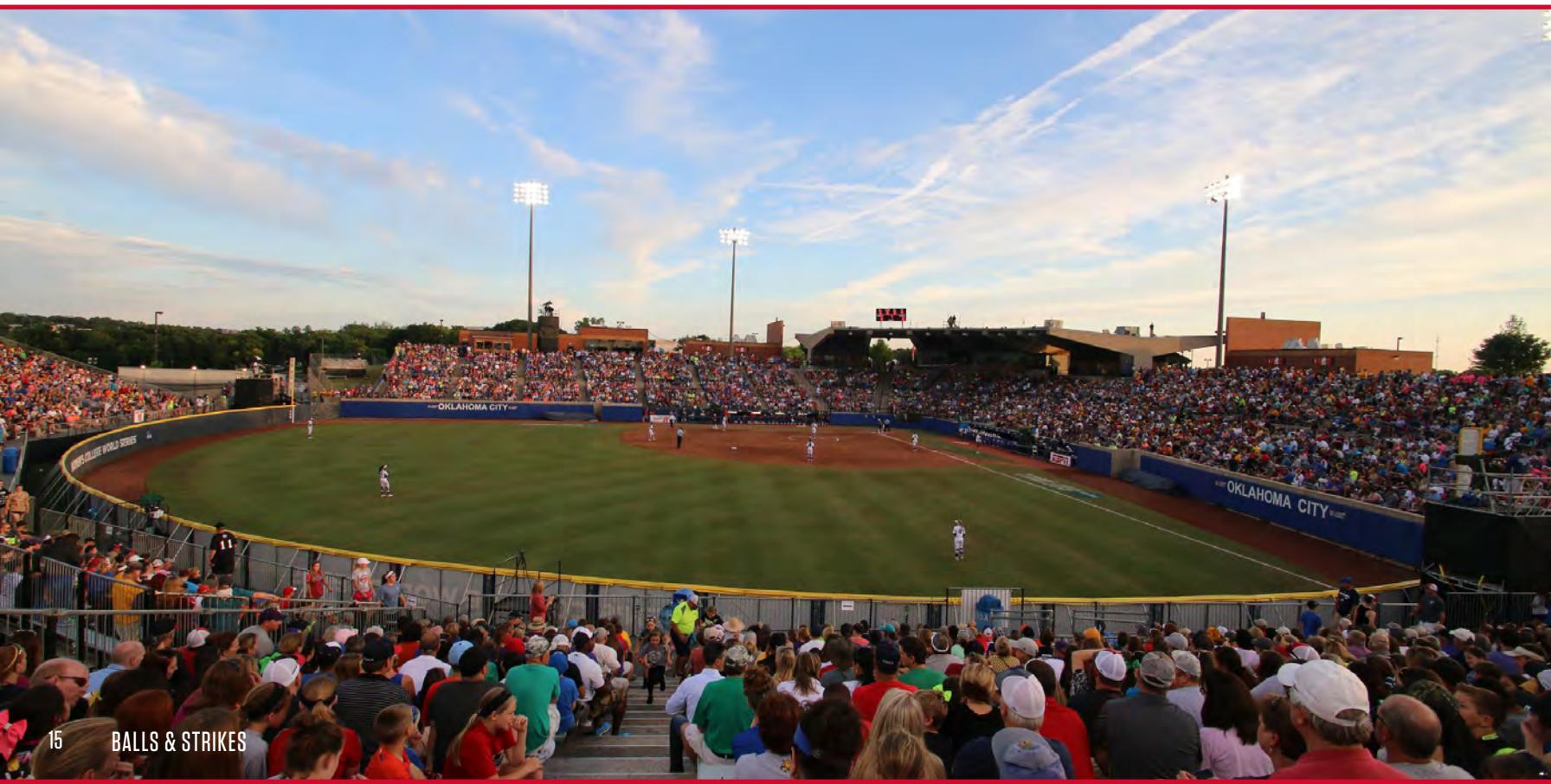
With a variety of fan, athlete and umpire amenities, it's no wonder why every softball participant and enthusiast mark the ASA Hall of Fame Complex as an item on their bucket list. With state-of-the art

features like a digital videoboard, free Wi-Fi, free live streaming and stats from all events, hospitality buildings, team locker rooms and facilities, the ASA Hall of Fame Complex continues to grow and develop additional services and comforts to provide an even better experience for visitors.

## HONORING THE PAST, FORGING THE FUTURE

The ASA National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum is a permanent shrine to former and past players of the sport who have had exceptional careers and have been a major factor in growing the game

of softball. The first floor highlights the colorful history of softball on story boards and panels with cases filled with memorabilia of past Hall of Famers. Visitors are also provided a glimpse of softball's history when it was part of the Olympics. The lower level includes dynamic displays highlighting the NCAA WCWS, the Big 12 Conference and the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Awards. Also on display is a timeline of events, from the game as it was in the early days to the continued growth today.



# NEWS AND NOTES

## MICHIGAN'S SIERRA ROMERO TABBED USA SOFTBALL COLLEGIATE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Sierra Romero, who was a senior on the 2016 Michigan softball team, was named the 2016 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year. A three-time Big Ten Player of the Year, Romero ranked in the Top 10 nationally in several statistical categories. Learn more about Romero on page 28.

### WOMEN'S ELITE TEAM ADDITIONS

Ali Aguilar (Orangevale, Calif.) - Washington - SR  
Allexis Bennett (Corona, Calif.) - UCLA - 2016  
Hannah Flippen (Bonita, Calif.) - Utah - SR  
Delanie Gourley (Lakeside, Calif.) - Florida - SR

Carley Hoover (Clemson, S.C.) - LSU - JR  
Madeline Jelenicki (Santa Clarita, Calif.) - UCLA - JR  
Amanda Lorenz (Moorpark, Calif.) - Florida - SO  
Mysha Sataraka (Honolulu, Hawaii) - UCLA - 2016

### JUNIOR MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM ADDITIONS

Logan Amend (Vassar, Mich.) - Infield  
Jonathan Broadbear (Bloomington, Ill.) - Infield  
Isaac Hormann (Young America, Minn.) - Infield  
Lane Kurtz (Ephrata, Pa.) - Outfield  
Steven Nessler (Mankato, Minn.) - Outfield



For more **NEWS AND NOTES**  
visit [ASAUSAsoftball.com](http://ASAUSAsoftball.com)

## ASA/USA SOFTBALL PARTNERS WITH WOUNDED WARRIOR AMPUTEE SOFTBALL TEAM

Life without a limb is limitless. That message, along with community outreach and education, is a core component of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST), who ASA/USA Softball is proud to partner with. Learn more about the WWAST, and how ASA/USA Softball will be involved on page 52.



## THE WORLD'S BEST SOFTBALL RETURNS TO OKC THIS JULY!



[Click here to view the game schedule](#)



## CATCH THE FIRST EPISODES OF THE 2016 SEASON OF SOFTBALL 360!

Get caught up with the latest episodes of Softball 360! Swing into the season as we catch up with members of the Women's National Team and Junior Men's National Team in Irvine, Calif. We also preview the 2016 ASA Stadium Power Tour and the ASA Long Haul Bombers. You also won't want to miss "Softball Secrets" with host Jennie Finch!



[Click here to watch the latest episodes!](#)

# RPS Bollinger and ASA ~

## Teaming up together for more than 50 years!



**Let our team help you insure your teams!**

### THREE EASY WAYS TO INSURE SOFTBALL:

1. Contact your ASA Commissioner. Visit [www.ASASoftball.com](http://www.ASASoftball.com) for contact info
2. Contact RPS Bollinger Sports—ASA Department, Ph: 800-446-5311 • [ASA@RPSins.com](mailto:ASA@RPSins.com)
3. Visit the [RPSBollinger.com](http://RPSBollinger.com) website and click Amateur Softball Association

# YOU SAID IT, WE READ IT!

If there's one thing we love at ASA/USA Softball, it's interacting with softball fans from around the world! With a strong following on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, we've collected some of our favorite comments, so check them out below!



**On a photo of the USA Women's National Team at the NCAA Youth Clinic:** *Our girls had a blast today at the clinic and loved getting to learn from coaches and players they have watched on TV. Thanks for passing on your skills and knowledge!*

—Heather and Cliff



**On a photo of the USA Softball Women's National Team's new uniforms:** *I want to wear that uniform someday!*

—@softball.krazee



**On a photo of the new uniforms for the USA Softball Women's National Teams:** *Gold medal uniforms!!! Praise the Lord for the pants!*

—Michelle Henderson



**S/O @RebekahParks29 & @KyleeTwinb21 combined 3 BOMBS @ the @ASAUSASoftball national qualifier #AFDFW #AFSoftball**



**On a photo of USA Softball Women's National Team member Ally Carda and a young fan:** *Sharing the love of the game. Woot woot!*

—Joan Camago



**@ASAUSASoftball Team GA - Erb honors our military with team jerseys we present at seasons end! GO TG!**

—@Christiekraft



**On a photo of the ASA Hall of Fame Complex Grounds Crew at the WCWS:** *NOBODY works harder than these guys during the WCWS. It's not easy to turn that field in 13 minutes!*

—Amy Symons Hughes

**Be sure to "Like" our pages or tweet at us for a chance to see your posts in the next issue!**

# 2016 ASA STADIUM POWER TOUR IN FULL SWING



## TEAMS AND MEMBERS INCLUDE

**Team Monsta** (Ryan Dacko & Tim Martinez)

**Team Louisville Slugger**

(Kevin Kennington & Ryan Harvey)

**Team Miken/Worth** (Denny Crine & BJ Fulk)

**Team Combat** (Flip Washington & Chris Greinert)

**Team DeMarini** (Chris Larsen & Dale Brungardt)

**Team Easton** (Travis Clark & Brian Wegman)

The ASA Stadium Power Tour is off to a great start for the 2016 season as the ASA Long Haul Bombers gear up to showcase their titles of the best home run hitters in the world. Staging one-of-a-kind home run derbies at Major League Baseball (MLB) ballparks and Minor League Baseball (MiLB) venues, the ASA Long Haul Bombers will compete all season long before battling it out for the Manufactures Cup and individual title in the finals in Miami, Fla.

The 2016 ASA Stadium Power Tour consists of six different teams that are comprised of two members each: Team Monsta, Team Louisville Slugger, Team Miken/Worth, Team Combat, Team DeMarini and Team Easton. Teams will compete five times at various locations throughout the year to see who can tally the most points that result from each homerun. Each team will get a total of 150 swings throughout the season, while individuals will receive 75 swings.

The top four individuals in the point standings will advance to the individual finals, while the top two teams advance to the winner take all Manufacture's Cup Final.

## 2016 ASA LONG HAUL BOMBERS STADIUM TOUR SCHEDULE

**April 22:** Cincinnati, Ohio (Great American BallPark)

*Team Combat wins with 13 points*

**May 28:** Atlanta, Ga. (Turner Field) *Team Miken led with 9 points*

**June 8:** San Diego, Calif. (Petco Park)

*Team Miken stole the show with 12 points*

**June 12:** Tampa, Fla. (Tropicana Field)

*Team Louisville Slugger captured the win with 11 points*

**June 16:** Minneapolis, Minn. (Target Field)

**July 1:** Charlotte, N.C. (BB&T Ballpark)

**August 18:** Las Vegas, Nev. (Cashman Field)

**August 24:** St Louis, Mo. (Busch Stadium)

**August 26:** Houston, Texas (Minute Maid Park)

**September 10:** Miami, Fla. (Marlins Park) – Bombers Tour Finals

For complete results from the ASA Stadium Power Tour, visit [Softball360.com](http://Softball360.com)

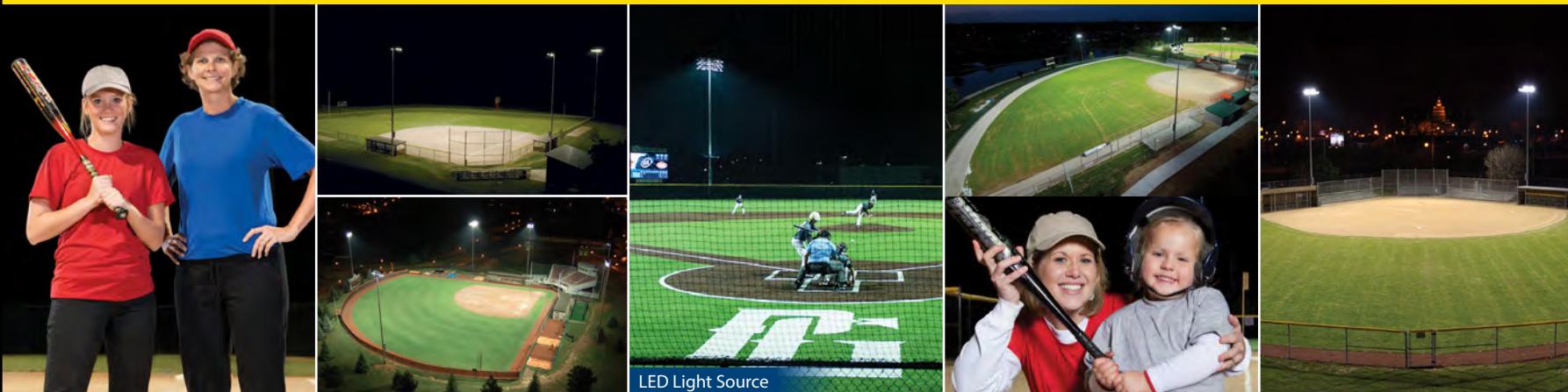
**WORTH**  
fastpitch experts™



**LEGIT POWER.  
LEGIT PERFORMANCE.**

**30 DAY  
PERFORMANCE  
GUARANTEE**

# Solutions For Lighting



For nearly 40 years, Musco has specialized in the design and manufacture of sports and large area lighting. We're committed to providing lighting solutions and services you can rely on.

Musco's solutions—using LED or metal halide—provide superior energy efficiency, environmental light control and cost effectiveness, all supported by our leading product assurance and warranty program.

**For Your Budget...For The Environment**

[www.musco.com](http://www.musco.com)

Official Lighting Supplier of the  
Amateur Softball Association



**We Make It Happen.**



# RETURN OF OLYMPIC SOFTBALL, BASEBALL AT TOKYO 2020 GAMES SUPPORTED BY IOC EXECUTIVE BOARD

The World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) and ASA/USA Softball welcomed an announcement by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board to support the inclusion of softball and baseball among a new sports package for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

"What great news to receive for the international softball and baseball communities," said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress. "To receive support from the IOC Executive Board for softball and baseball's return to the Tokyo 2020 Games is an honor and a great endorsement for us to receive. We look forward to the vote in August during the IOC Session in Rio de Janeiro."

Softball and baseball's global reach, loyal fan-base and positioning across many of the biggest sports markets, including Japan, offers a unique opportunity to further spread and elevate the Olympic brand while connecting with new audiences and more young people, said the WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari. Today's IOC Executive Board recommendation helps to highlight the growing global appeal and popularity of softball and baseball, particularly among young people. Over the last decade, and with the merger of baseball and softball that

established the WBSC in 2013, baseball and softball stakeholders have worked to solidify the gender-balanced global bat-and-ball sport, which now represents 65 million athletes from 213 national federation and associate members in over 140 countries.

"It is an honor for our global sport -- and a great day for our millions of male and female athletes, and fans around the world -- to be represented within this new and innovative youth-focused Olympic sports package," said Fraccari. "On behalf of our sport, we thank IOC President Thomas Bach for his Agenda 2020 vision -- which has sparked this Olympic evolution -- and the entire IOC Executive Board for today's recommendation. The WBSC also reconfirms our deepest gratitude to Tokyo 2020 leadership for placing its trust in our sport. Olympic Baseball and Softball in Japan would be the biggest and most exciting international competition in the history of our sport, and would help the Olympic Games touch the entire host nation and worldwide community."

In four Olympic Games appearances, the USA Softball Women's National Team claimed three gold medals and one silver medal finish while setting numerous international records and are one of only two women's sports

involved in the Olympic movement to capture three consecutive gold medals. In 2012, three-time Olympic gold medalist Lisa Fernandez and the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team were honored for their accolades with induction into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. Members of the 2004 U.S. Olympic Softball Team set 18 Olympic records in Athens. Among the team records set were the most hits (73), highest team batting average (.343) and highest slugging percentage (.559). Fernandez set the individual record for batting average with .545 while Crystl Bustos' 10 RBI and five home runs were also records.

A final vote on the composition of the sport program for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games will be taken at the IOC Session in Rio de Janeiro in August, and, if approved, would constitute "the most comprehensive evolution of the Olympic program in modern history," the IOC stated.

For more information on the USA Softball National Teams, visit [www.ASAUSAsoftball.com](http://www.ASAUSAsoftball.com)

# LET'S PLAY BALL! ASA/USA SOFTBALL PARTNERS WITH MLB AND USA BASEBALL



ASA/USA Softball recently announced their partnership with Major League Baseball (MLB) in joining USA Baseball by supporting the "PLAY BALL" initiative (PlayBall.org). The initiative, which was launched in June 2015, encourages widespread participation in all forms of softball and baseball activities among all age groups, especially youth.

"We are thrilled to partner with MLB and USA Baseball for the Play Ball initiative," said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress. "This partnership allows us to continue in our mission to grow the game and provide opportunities for youth to get involved in our great sport at any level. We've had the opportunity to participate in Play Ball events throughout the year, and to see the excitement and joy that picking up a bat and ball brings to the kids that attend speaks volumes about our game. We're excited to spread that excitement, and grow the game all the way to the grassroots level."

PLAY BALL highlights the many ways baseball and softball can be played, whether at Championship or recreational play or something as simple as playing catch or a game of wiffle ball. The initiative also provides players,

parents and coaches with the information and resources to help with proper play and instruction. Through a partnership with ASA/USA Softball and USA Baseball, PLAY BALL brings awareness and accessibility to the program's initiatives through special events and promotional opportunities. ASA/USA Softball will also help promote PLAY BALL throughout the 70 local associations across the U.S. as well as assist MLB and its baseball clubs in conducting Softball Series events through various local associations.

PlayBall.org is the PLAY BALL initiative's online home and is accessible via [MLB.com](http://MLB.com), [USABaseball.com](http://USABaseball.com), [USASoftball.com](http://USASoftball.com) and other partner websites. PlayBall.org features youth-oriented content, including baseball trivia and quizzes, and video highlights from MLB games, social media content, photos and a "PlayBall Near You" interactive map that locates local community leagues. The site also features access to video podcasts and highlights from MLB Network's new youth-focused show "Play Ball," which features interviews and on-field demonstrations with top players throughout the league, including Nolan Arenado, Curtis Granderson, Matt

Kemp, Francisco Lindor and Evan Longoria. "Play Ball" airs on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. ET.

PlayBall.org also links to [USABaseball.com](http://USABaseball.com), which provides players, parents and coaches with the information and resources to help with proper play and instruction, including education videos featuring Hall of Famer and MLB Network analyst John Smoltz, Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon, and Kansas City Royals Senior Vice President of Baseball Operations and General Manager Dayton Moore, among others. Health and safety information, including through the Pitch Smart and Play Sun Smart programs, also is available.

"Major League Baseball is pleased to continue strengthening our ties with the governing bodies of our sport with this partnership with USA Softball," said Tony Reagins, Senior Vice President, Major League Baseball. "The growth of softball is important to the future prosperity of our sport, and their support of PLAY BALL is a welcome and natural collaboration of this relationship."

*For more information, visit [PlayBall.org](http://PlayBall.org)*

# NIKE SOFTBALL C A M P S

ARIZONA CALIFORNIA COLORADO CONNECTICUT  
FLORIDA GEORGIA IDAHO ILLINOIS  
MARYLAND MASSACHUSETTS MICHIGAN  
NEW YORK NORTH CAROLINA OKLAHOMA  
OREGON PENNSYLVANIA TEXAS WISCONSIN



Check Out  
TOP96  
Prospect  
Camps

**CLICK ON THIS AD  
FOR MORE CAMP DETAILS**

**1-800-NIKE-CAMP (645-3226) | [www.USSportsCamps.com/ASA](http://www.USSportsCamps.com/ASA)**

NIKE and the Swoosh Design are trademarks of Nike, Inc. and its affiliates and are used under license. NIKE is the title sponsor of the camps and has no control over the operation of the camps or the acts or omissions of US Sports Camps.

# 2016 NCAA WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES RECAP



# 2016 NCAA WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES RECAP



Florida State 4



Georgia 5



UCLA 3



Auburn 10

Georgia 3

Auburn 8

Auburn

Florida State 8

Florida State 1

Florida State 7

UCLA 4

Michigan 0



Oklahoma 3

Oklahoma 7

## Championship Finals

(Best 2-of-3)

June 6 Gm 1 - 3-2 Oklahoma

June 7 Gm 2 - 11-7 Auburn

June 8 Gm 3 - 2-1 Oklahoma



Alabama 0

Oklahoma 7



LSU 0

Michigan 5

Oklahoma



Michigan 2

Alabama 4

LSU 4

LSU 3

LSU 6

Georgia 1



Oklahoma

*Third title in  
program history  
(2000, 2013,  
2016)*

# SIERRA ROMERO SELECTED FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS USA SOFTBALL COLLEGIATE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Sierra Romero (Murrieta, Calif.) was selected as the 2016 USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year. Romero, an infielder, helped lead Michigan to its 12th NCAA Women's College World Series (WCWS) appearance and helped the Wolverines make back-to-back appearances in Oklahoma City. This marks the first time an athlete from Michigan has won the prestigious award and is the first honor for an athlete from the Big Ten Conference.

"It's an unreal feeling to win the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award," said Romero. "I'm glad that my team is here to celebrate it with me. It would not be the same if I was here without them."

The 2016 Big Ten Player of the Year, Romero ranks in the Top 10 in the country with a .465 batting average, 19 home runs and a .585 on-base percentage while ranking in the Top 5 in the nation with 77 RBI and a .916 slugging percentage. Earning a unanimous selection to the All-Big Ten first team each year in her career, Romero became just the second player in conference history to garner three Big Ten Conference Player of the Year honors.

A three-time NFCA All-American, Romero already owns the NCAA career records in runs (300) and grand slams (11) and has 301 career hits and 304 career RBI, becoming the first member of the 300-300-300 club.

In her four seasons at Michigan, Romero has compiled a .444 batting average, crushing out 82 home runs for a career slugging percentage of .889 while compiling a .586 on-base percentage over four years. Headlining a successful senior class, Romero has helped guide the Wolverines to three trips to the NCAA WCWS and four Big Ten titles.

"It's such a great honor and a great reflection of Sierra Romero," said Michigan Head Coach Carol Hutchins. "She's one of the greatest players to ever play the game and really one of the finest people to ever play the game. We're so happy for her and really proud of her."

The other two finalists for the 2016 award were 2016 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Player of the Year Kasey Cooper (Auburn) and First-Team All-SEC honoree Aleshia Ocasio (Florida).

Romero now joins the ranks of past winners of the award, which include UCLA's Stacey Nuveman, Florida State's Jessica Van der Linden, three-time winner from Texas Cat Osterman, Tennessee's Monica Abbott, Virginia Tech's Angela Tincher, two-time winner Washington's Danielle Lawrie, Stanford's Ashley Hansen, back-to-back winner Oklahoma's Keilani Ricketts, Lacey Waldrop from Florida State and 2015 winner Lauren Haeger of Florida.



Michigan Head Coach Carol Hutchins, Sierra Romero, ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress. Photo credit: Richard T. Clifton

## PAST USA SOFTBALL COLLEGIATE PLAYER OF THE YEAR WINNERS

2002	Stacey Nuveman
2003	Cat Osterman
2004	Jessica Van der Linden
2005	Cat Osterman
2006	Cat Osterman
2007	Monica Abbott
2008	Angela Tincher
2009	Danielle Lawrie
2010	Danielle Lawrie
2011	Ashley Hansen
2012	Keilani Ricketts
2013	Keilani Ricketts
2014	Lacey Waldrop
2015	Lauren Haeger
2016	Sierra Romero

# 2016 OFFICIAL RULES OF SOFTBALL APP



**CLICK HERE  
TO GET  
YOURS NOW!**



# WELCOME TO CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

*Finally, after months and months of preparation, Championship Season is upon us. Before you hit the road this summer, we thought we'd give you a guide to all things championship play! From official rules to certified equipment, get the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions in ASA/USA Softball!*



## **Q. My team hasn't qualified yet, so how can I find a qualifier?**

A. ASA/USA national qualifiers are held in the girls' fast pitch division and are used to qualify teams for ASA/USA National Championship Finals. You can find a list of national qualifiers for regional tournament and national championships at ASAUSAsoftball.com.

## **Q. How can I check on rules to be used for championship play?**

A. The "Official Rules of Softball", the participant manual that governs Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America/USA Softball play, is just one of the many benefits of registering to play ASA/USA Softball. For information on receiving a participant manual, contact your local association commissioner. You can also download the Official Rules of Softball on the App Store and Google Play!

## **Q. How do I know if my bat is approved for ASA play?**

A. On our national website, we maintain a section called "Certified Equipment", which has the most up to date information on approved bats. Only items that are certified equipment can be used in ASA/USA Softball play. Remember that equipment may be subject to testing at games and tournaments, and could be ruled invalid for use, even if it is a certified bat. Should you have concerns with equipment testing, contact the Umpire-In-Chief of the event as soon as possible.

## **Q. What is the best bat to use for ASA Softball?**

A. ASA/USA Softball does not offer recommendations on equipment, other than enforcing the use of "Certified Equipment".

For a list of bats that are approved for ASA play, click "Certified Equipment" at ASAUSAsoftball.com.

## **Q. Do I need to be ACE-certified to coach my Junior Olympic (JO) youth team?**

A. The national office requires that one JO coach present in the dugout during national championship play must be certified through the ACE (Achieve, Certify, Educate) Coaching Certification program. Additionally, all JO team personnel in the dugout must have passed a background check. Local associations may have stricter requirements for JO coaches. Contact your local association commissioner for the most accurate information regarding JO coaching requirements in your area.

## **Q. Can we get discounts when traveling for tournaments?**

A. In addition to the discounts that you may receive by using tournament partners, Hilton Hotels offers discounts to ASA/USA Softball teams when booked through <http://teamusa.hhonors.com/29/>. Hilton also donates a portion of the proceeds from bookings to USA Softball.

ASA/USA Softball has national discounts available to all ASA members at Enterprise and Hertz. Visit ASAUSAsoftball.com to find the discount codes when booking your rental car!

Being a family member of Team USA has its benefits! Take advantage of partnership travel discounts when flying United Airlines!

When using Journey House Travel (800-726-0051) for bookings, additional discounts may be available.



# HOW TO QUALIFY FOR AN ASA/USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Annually, ASA/USA Softball conducts over 90 National Championships in each of its major disciplines of the sport - slow, fast and modified pitch. Since each competitor must earn their berth into an ASA/USA Softball National through a network of qualifying tournaments conducted throughout the season, the champion goes home as the unchallenged best team in the nation for their respected division each year.

Qualifying for ASA/USA Softball National Championships begin at the local level with league championships, state championships and eventually national qualifiers. Each year over 30,000 players qualify to compete in an ASA National Championship. Cities from across America annually bid for these celebrated events, largely because of the economic impact they will make on their communities.



**POCKET**  
**RADAR**™

**BALL COACH**™

*Pro-Level Speed Training Tool  
& Radar Gun*

**Special ASA Price: \$269.99**

**BUY NOW**

Regular Price: \$299.99

**30 Day Risk Free Trial**

[BallCoachRadar.com/ASA](http://BallCoachRadar.com/ASA)

888.381.2672

**CLICK HERE  
TO SEE IT IN ACTION**

**PROUD SPONSOR OF**



Find us on:  
facebook



Follow us on  
Twitter



FOLLOW US ON  
Instagram

# OPPORTUNITY IS EVERYTHING



SOFTBALL  
FACTORY™

It starts here.

THE UNDER ARMOUR  
SOFTBALL FACTORY  
NATIONAL TRYOUT IS  
COMING TO A TOWN  
NEAR YOU.

OFFICIAL SCOUTING PARTNER OF



THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY  
OF SOFTBALL

**Life Changing Experience:** We are on a mission to help every softball player in America know where she stands and how she can reach her full potential.

**Professional Evaluation:** Our ratings are the Gold Standard trusted by college coaches nationwide. Plus, participating in a tryout may lead to being selected for an Under Armour Softball Factory Team or Training Program.

**Proven Results:** Our players participate on college teams in the best conferences in the country, including the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac 12 and SEC. Put our experience to work for you.

IT'S THE PROVEN COMBINATION OF HONEST EVALUATION & QUALIFIED COACHES THAT HELPS US BUILD GREATNESS IN YOUNG ATHLETES NATIONWIDE.

@SOFTBALLFACTORY



**SOFTBALLFACTORY.COM**  
OR 1 855 822 5115 TO FIND AN EVENT NEAR YOU

# ADDITIONAL ATHLETES ADDED TO 2016 USA SOFTBALL ROSTERS

Heading into the 2016 international calendar, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA)/USA Softball announced additions to two USA Softball National Teams that will compete this summer both in the U.S. and abroad. A member of the 2015 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Junior Women's World Championship (JWWC) Gold Medalist team, Paige Halstead (Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.) will now join the 2016 USA Softball Women's National Team (WNT) roster, while an additional eight athletes have been added to the USA Softball Women's Elite Team roster.

Representing the U.S. this summer as a member of the USA Softball WNT, Halstead had a stellar breakout season in her first year at UCLA, having been honored to the First Team All-Pac-12 Conference All-Freshman Team. Halstead has previous international experience, as she competed at the World Cup of Softball X and WBSC JWWC last summer. Halstead finished the 2015 summer with a .273 (6-for-22) batting average, seven RBI and seven runs scored. Halstead and the USA Softball WNT will compete later this summer in the World Cup of Softball XI, a Japan vs. USA All-Star Series, the XV WBSC Women's World Championship in Surrey, B.C., Canada and the Japan Cup.

Representing the U.S. for the first time in their career, the additional eight athletes to the USA Softball Women's Elite Team roster, will participate in a series of exhibition games against the USA Softball WNT in addition to the World Cup of Softball XI. The Women's Elite Team will also participate in exhibition games at the USA Softball Junior Olympic Cup in Marietta, Ga.

For updates on the USA Softball Women's National Team and events throughout the 2016 season visit [www.ASAUSAsoftball.com](http://www.ASAUSAsoftball.com).



Paige Halstead will represent the U.S. this summer as a member of the USA Softball Women's National Team.

## Additions to the USA Softball Women's Elite Team Roster:

**Ali Aguilar (Orangevale, Calif.) - Washington - SR**

**Allexis Bennett (Corona, Calif.) - UCLA - 2016**

**Hannah Flippin (Bonita, Calif.) - Utah - SR**

**Delanie Gourley (Lakeside, Calif.) - Florida - SR**

**Carley Hoover (Clemson, S.C.) - LSU - JR**

**Madeline Jelenicki (Santa Clarita, Calif.) - UCLA - JR**

**Amanda Lorenz (Moorpark, Calif.) - Florida - SO**

**Mysha Sataraka (Honolulu, Hawaii) - UCLA - 2016**

# WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM HEADS TO SURREY FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) recently released the full competition schedule for the 2016 Women's World Championship where the USA Softball Women's National Team (WNT) will travel to Surrey, British Columbia, Canada and compete from July 15-24. They will look to improve upon a silver medal finish at the 2014 World Championship in Haarlem, Netherlands.

Competing in Pool B, Team USA will take the field against Israel in its opening match at 3:30 p.m. PT. The Red, White and Blue are also scheduled to play Austria and Brazil as part of preliminary round-robin action before heading into the playoff rounds. Teams will be allocated to one-of-eight sections of four in a second round-robin playoff based of their finish in the preliminary round-robin. The top two teams from each section will then advance to the championship double page system. Teams finishing third and fourth in pool play will be placed in a placement pool and play in a double page systems to determine position 9-16. Remaining teams in each pool advance to a double page placement pool for position 17-31.

Led by head coach Ken Eriksen, the roster for the 2016 USA Softball Women's National Team was announced in January following a Women's National Team Selection Camp in Irvine, Calif. The WNT heads north having won silver in their last two appearances (2012, 2014) and accumulated nine total Women's World Championship wins. Boasting with championship experience as part of previous WNT are Valerie Arioto, Amanda Chidester, Michelle Moultrie and Jaclyn Traina who were a part of the 2012 and 2014 teams, as well as Raven Chavanne, Haylie McCleney, Jessica Moore, Sara Nevins and Kelsey Stewart who competed in 2014.

Tickets for the 2016 WBSC Women's World Championship are available online. General seating tournament and day passes can be purchased by visiting [Surrey2016.com/tickets](http://Surrey2016.com/tickets).

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PT)
July 15	ISRAEL	3:30 PM
July 16	AUSTRIA	12:30 PM
July 17	BRAZIL	8:00 PM
July 18-24	PLAYOFFS	TBD



JACLYN TRAINA

**SURREY**  
**2016** WBSC XV WOMEN'S WORLD SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



# COMPLETE PRACTICE **TRAVEL SCREEN®**



**The 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 25 lbs.
- Frame is made of stable  $\frac{5}{8}$ " fiberglass bungee poles.
- Base is made of sturdy 1" steel tubing.
- Black nylon netting.
- Less than 2 minutes to set up.



At Just 25 lbs. the JUGS Travel Screen® is perfect to take with you either by air or land.

**\$179**

**For more information, call 1-800-547-6843,  
or visit us online at [jugssports.com](http://jugssports.com)**



# ASA/USA SOFTBALL UMPIRES EARN CHANCE TO REPRESENT THEIR COUNTRY



DennisAndersenPhotography.com

Twenty-two umpires have been appointed to the umpiring staff for the World Cup of Softball XI and Border Battle VIII, with twelve umpires to represent ASA/USA Softball. The events will be held at the historic ASA Hall of Fame Complex – OGE Energy Field – INTEGRIS Field. Getting the chance to represent the U.S. for the World Cup of Softball XI are Don Alexander (Prospect, Ore.), Tim Ellis (Grand Prairie, Texas), Bubba Ewald (Ft. Worth, Texas), Jason Gehoski (Midland, Mich.), Steve McCown (Wylie, Texas), Erin Peterson (Seattle, Wash.) and Mindy Villa (Temecula, Calif.).

Umpires selected to officiate in Border Battle VIII are: Dallas Apfelbacher (Mendota Height, Minn.), Darryl Brunson (Harker Heights, Texas), Justin Lauby (Tempe, Ariz.), Dave Reno (Milford, Conn.) and Rick Robertson (New Port Richey, Fla.).

## WORLD CUP OF SOFTBALL XI UMPIRES

Kyira Cox - Australia  
Amanda Hoiuson - Australia  
Sandra Allan - Canada  
Annie Michaud - Canada  
Zdenek Zidek - Czech Republic  
Kazuhiko Otomo - Japan  
Saeko Suda - Japan  
Rodrigo Lugo - Mexico  
Raul Salazar - Mexico  
**Don Alexander - USA**  
**Tim Ellis - USA**  
**Bubba Ewald - USA**  
**Jason Gehoski - USA**  
**Steve McCown - USA**  
**Erin Peterson - USA**  
**Mindy Villa - USA**

## BORDER BATTLE VIII UMPIRES

Clark Jason - Canada  
**Dallas Apfelbacher - USA**  
**Darryl Brunson - USA**  
**Justin Lauby - USA**  
**Dave Reno - USA**  
**Rick Robertson - USA**



# THE WORLD'S BEST RETURN TO OKC THIS JULY!

Over 60 softball games will be played July 4-10 at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex – OGE Energy Field – INTEGRIS Field as the World Cup of Softball XI and Border Battle VIII return to OKC. Featuring eight of the top 10 Women's National Teams in the world, the World Cup of Softball, a sanctioned World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Softball Division event, and Border Battle return to Oklahoma City for the first time since 2013.

The World Cup of Softball XI features No. 1 Japan, No. 2 USA, No. 3 Australia, No. 4 Canada, No. 6 China, No. 7 Netherlands, No. 8 New Zealand and No. 10 Czech Republic. Also slated to compete are No. 11 Puerto Rico, No. 14 Mexico, No. 23 Philippines and the USA

Softball Women's Elite Team. Rankings are calculated by the WBSC world ranking system, which tracks the performance of each country's national team over a three-year period.

The 2016 Women's National Team and Elite Team rosters were named in January as 18 athletes have been selected to represent the Red, White and Blue on the Women's National Team and an additional 20 have been named to the Women's Elite Team. For complete schedules and rosters for both the Women's National Team and Women's Elite Team, please [click here](#).

The eighth-annual men's Border Battle slow pitch game will also return to Oklahoma City for the first time since 2013

Story continued on next page ▶



***Click here to view the entire game schedule for World Cup of Softball XI***



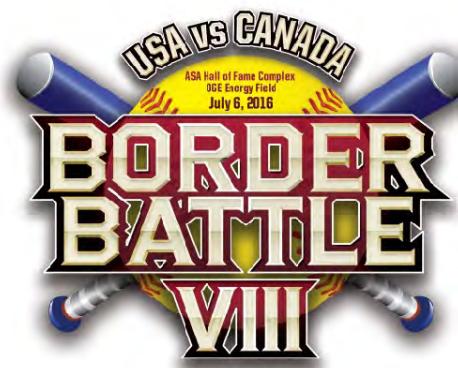
***Click here to purchase your tickets to see the world's best softball***

on Wednesday, July 6 when the USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team takes the field against Canada in Border Battle VIII. Team USA captured their sixth Border Battle win in 2015 with a 22-7 win over Canada in Midland, Mich. In addition to the Border Battle, the USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team and the USA Softball Men's Futures Slow Pitch National Team will also be competing in the Slow Pitch Showdown on July 5.

The 2016 USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team and USA Softball Men's Futures Slow Pitch National Team were announced in March, and rosters can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

All-session Gold Pass tickets, which are \$175 for reserved seating, and general admission tickets, which are \$60, can be purchased by phone at 800-654-8337 or online at [ASAUSAsoftball.com](http://ASAUSAsoftball.com). Single session Gold Pass and general admission tickets are also on sale at [ASAUSAsoftball.com](http://ASAUSAsoftball.com).

For complete coverage of World Cup XI and Border Battle VIII, including bios, rosters, live stats, streaming and results log on to [www.ASAUSAsoftball.com](http://www.ASAUSAsoftball.com).



***Click here to view the entire game schedule for Border Battle VIII***



# Are You Wearing the Best?

**Softball's Fastest Growing Batters Helmets**

**schutt**



**TPU TECHNOLOGY**  
AiR Maxx T 5.6 / 4.2



**D3O TECHNOLOGY**  
AiR 5.6 / 4.2

**5 consecutive years of double digit growth. Powered by unmatched innovation and technology.**

*[schuttsports.com](http://schuttsports.com)*



The World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) has announced the official game schedule for the 11th edition of the WBSC Junior Men's Softball World Championship, to be held July 24-30 in Midland, Mich. Held at historic Emerson Park and Currie Stadium, 13 nations from all five regions (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania) will compete for the highest prize in junior men's international softball.

The international youth softball flagship event will feature 52 total games, beginning with a 36-game round-robin, followed by 10 playoff games (double page playoff system). Six placement games will also be staged to determine the final standings. All 13 nations will be in action on opening day, with world-ranked No. 7 United States and the African nation of Botswana officially starting off the world championship tournament on July 24 at 9:30 a.m. ET.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 6:30 p.m. ET at the main competition field, which will be followed by host Team USA facing off against the two-time defending champions, Argentina. The gold medal world championship final will be contested at Currie Stadium at 7:00 p.m. ET on July 30, while the bronze medal match will be staged at 1:30 p.m. ET.

## SCHEDULE SET FOR 2016 WBSC JUNIOR MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



Photos by Dennis Anderson Photography

The 13 national teams competing have been delegated to their respective pools and will begin the World Championship tournament with a single round-robin. The top four teams from each pool will then advance into a double-page playoff system. Competing on home soil, Team USA hopes to make gains on their fifth place finishes in 2012 and 2014. Argentina will head to Midland as the two-time defending world champions, winning gold medals in Parana, Argentina in 2012 and Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada in 2014. Currently ranked No.1 in the world for men, New Zealand captured the silver medal in 2014. Asia powerhouse Japan claimed the silver medal in Parana and the bronze medal in Whitehorse.

All-session tickets are now on sale for the week-long international event and begin at just \$25 for youth (12-18) and \$100 for adults. Youth under the age of 12 will receive free admission. Single-session tickets will go on sale at a later date.



Team USA returns four veterans in Zane Chason, Bryce DuCharme, Peyton Hall and Justin Perez.



*For more information,  
including local attractions,  
visit [2016JMWC.com](http://2016JMWC.com)*

# ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

We asked members of the Junior Men's National Team what are some of their favorite things...and this is how they responded!



ZANE  
CHASON



MICHAEL  
DOUDS



BRADY  
PARKER



TAYLOR  
WELDIN

## PETS

Dog named Sasha

Dog named Gracie

Kota, Abby, Casey

Minature Chinese  
Shar Pei



## LAST MOVIE YOU WATCHED

The Intern



Friday  
Night  
Lights



The  
Jungle  
Book

We Are The Millers

## FAVORITE MEAL OR SNACK

Steak dinner and  
apples & peanut  
butter



Cat Osterman

Steak and grilled  
shrimp

Ben Petrick



"A good  
steak!"



Tri tip and  
baked  
potato

## ROLE MODEL

Adam  
Folkard



My dad



THE ALL NEW 2016 CF8 -10 AND -11  
NOW AVAILABLE FOR CUSTOMIZATION.

CUSTOMIZE YOURS >

YOUR YOUR  
BAT. WAY.

DEMARINICUSTOMBATS.COM

DEMARI  
CF8



# GAMECHANGER



**Your team keeps score,  
we'll do the math.**

-  Parents & fans follow live
-  Stats & spray charts
-  Email & SMS alerts
-  Recap stories

Sign up at [GC.com/create](http://GC.com/create)

# Check out this summer's styles on SoftballOutlet.com

SoftballOutlet.com has what you need to support your team!



*Support Team USA this summer at the ballpark or on the road! Check out the selection of USA Softball apparel to show the world what team you cheer for!*



*RED, WHITE, BLUE, GREY or PINK -  
there are plenty of colors to choose from!*



## SOFTBALL SECRETS WITH JENNIE FINCH

*Looking for an extra edge to help your softball game? Two-time Olympian Jennie Finch shares her softball secrets! Check out the videos below!*





The Official Supplier of ASA & USA Softball

**S<sup>®</sup>stabilizer**  
THE ORIGINAL NATURAL BINDER

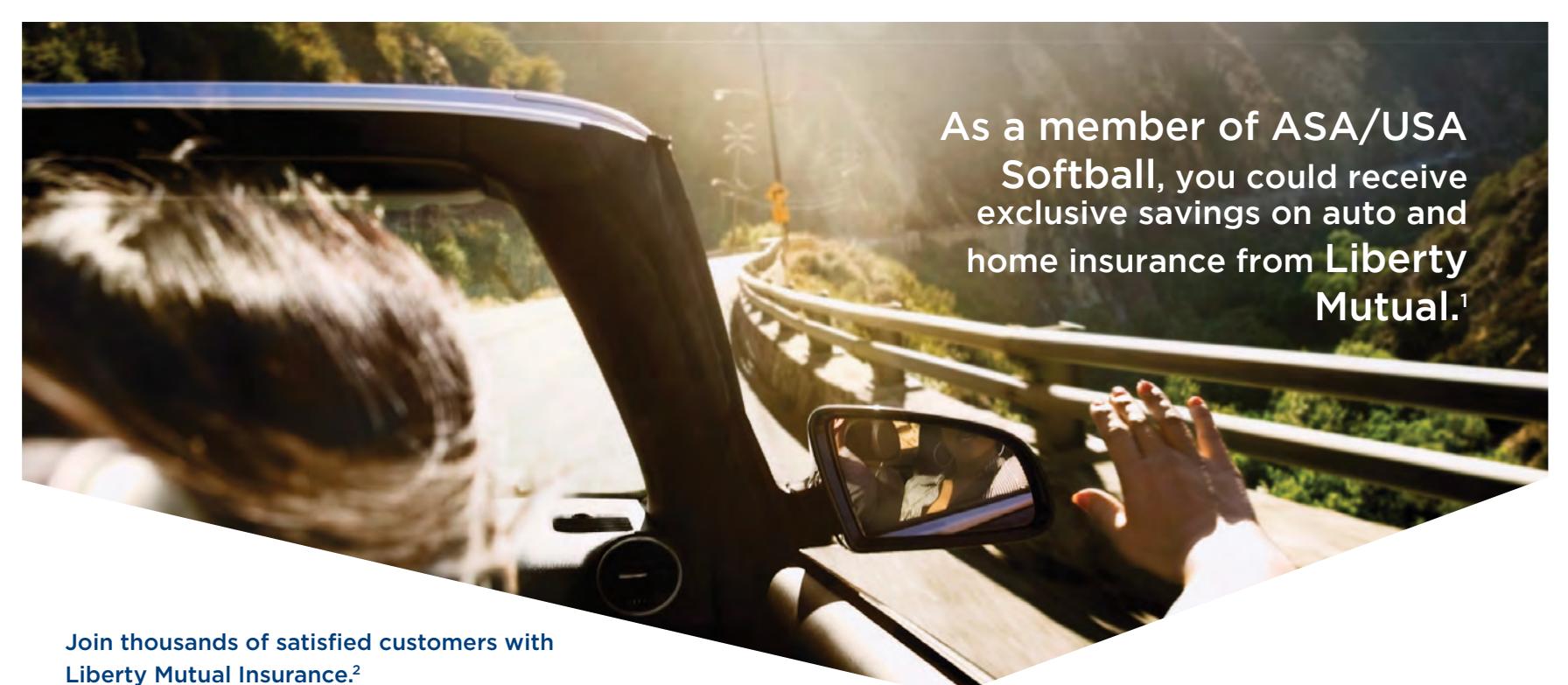
## **INFIELD CONDITIONS: STABILIZED**

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



**FACEBOOK.COM/STABILIZER SOLUTIONS 800.336.2468 STABILIZER SOLUTIONS.COM**

©2013 Stabilizer Solutions, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



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

Join thousands of satisfied customers with Liberty Mutual Insurance.<sup>2</sup>



**Discounted Rates**—You could save up to \$427.96 a year<sup>3</sup> on auto insurance and receive additional discounts on home insurance.



**Exceptional Service**—Whether you're in an accident or just need some advice, know we'll always be on call for you.



**Superior Benefits**—Enjoy a number of superior benefits, such as 24-Hour Claims Assistance, Accident Forgiveness<sup>4</sup>, Roadside Assistance<sup>5</sup> and Better Car Replacement.<sup>™6</sup>

For a free quote, call 800-524-9400 or visit [libertymutual.com/usasoftball](http://libertymutual.com/usasoftball)

Client # 122324

This organization receives financial support for offering this auto and home benefits program.

<sup>1</sup> Discounts and savings are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify.

<sup>2</sup> Based on Liberty Mutual Insurance Company's 2013 Customer Satisfaction Survey in which more than 85% of policyholders reported their interaction with Liberty Mutual service representatives to be "among the best experiences" and "better than average." <sup>3</sup> Figure reflects average national savings for customers who switched to Liberty Mutual's group auto and home program. Based on data collected between 9/1/12 and 8/31/13. Individual premiums and savings will vary. <sup>4</sup> For qualifying customers only. Accident Forgiveness is subject to terms and conditions of Liberty Mutual's underwriting guidelines. Not available in CA and may vary by state. <sup>5</sup> With the purchase of optional Towing & Labor coverage. Applies to mechanical breakdowns and disablements only. Towing related to accidents would be covered under your Collision or Other Than Collision coverage. <sup>6</sup> Optional coverage. Applies to a covered total loss. Deductible applies. Does not apply to leased vehicles and motorcycles. Not available in NC.

Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

©2015 Liberty Mutual Insurance





# CATCH UP ON THE 2016 SEASON OF SOFTBALL 360

*Swing into a new season on Softball 360! Fans of the game will not want to miss a second of the 2016 season! Hosted by two-time Olympian Jennie Finch, Episodes 1-3 are now available for you to view online. From USA Softball stars, to the crew in blue, we've got all the bases covered!*

## EPISODE BREAKDOWNS

### EPISODE ONE

Swing into a new season of Softball 360! We catch up with Team USA in Irvine, Calif. The ASA Stadium Power Tour kicks off in Cincinnati as Team Combat steals the show!

### EPISODE TWO

It's time for Round 1 of the ASA Stadium Power Tour at Great American Ballpark, home of the Cincinnati Reds. Get a lesson on leadership from Team USA Head Coach Ken Eriksen, as Coach E shares the secrets to the art of team building. Venus Taylor previews the NCAA Women's College World Series as eight squads battle for National Championship and the fans celebrate by tailgating.

### EPISODE THREE

Episode three features a preview of the 2016 World Cup of Softball XI in Oklahoma City. The top women's international teams from around the world gather in OKC as Venus Taylor reviews the annual event. We visit the ASA Stadium Power Tour, as Team DeMarini looks to reclaim the ASA Stadium Power Tour title.



NEW

# SWEET SPOT? TRY SWEET BARREL

Introducing the **NIGHTHAWK & SILHOUETTE** Fastpitch Bats

Nighthawk **2-PIECE LINK CONSTRUCTION**  
significantly reduces vibrations to hands

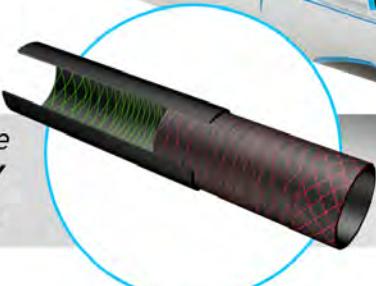


**NIGHTHAWK**

**SILHOUETTE**

Nighthawk & Silhouette  
**X-ZONE TECHNOLOGY**

Sweet Spot Along Whole Barrel





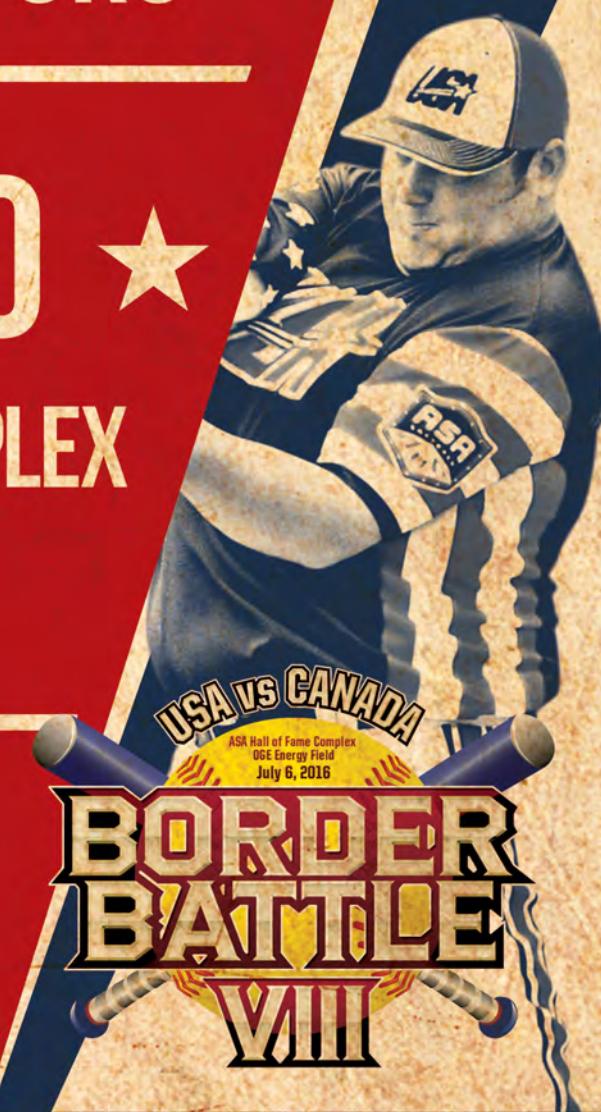
# WORLD CUP XI AND BORDER BATTLE VIII RETURN TO OKC

★ JULY 4-10 ★

ASA HALL OF FAME COMPLEX  
OGE ENERGY FIELD  
INTEGRIS FIELD



TICKETS:  
[SOFTBALLOUTLET.COM](http://SOFTBALLOUTLET.COM)  
1-800-654-8337





## ASA/USA SOFTBALL PARTNERS WITH WOUNDED WARRIOR AMPUTEE SOFTBALL TEAM

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA)/USA Softball recently announced a partnership with the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST).

“ASA/USA Softball has a long history of supporting our military members and veterans while honoring the sacrifices they have given and continue to give,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress. “In partnering with the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, we are excited to further our support while helping bring awareness to their team and program. It’s truly an honor to call the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team a partner, and we’re looking forward to spreading their inspirational message throughout the U.S. and the world.”

Comprised of competitive, athletic veterans and active duty soldiers who have lost limbs, the WWAST travel the country playing able-bodied

teams in competitive, celebrity and exhibition softball games. Bringing a special side of softball, courage and inspiration, the team includes individuals with a variety of amputations whose mission is “To inspire and educate others while enhancing the health and welfare of Wounded Warrior Amputees.”

“The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team is proud to have ASA/USA Softball as a partner,” said Dennis Wince, WWAST Executive Director. “As the strongest softball organization in the country, ASA/USA Softball will help the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team continue to grow and attract new fans across the country.”

In addition to their on-field competitions, the WWAST is also heavily involved in community outreach and education. While enhancing the health and welfare of Wounded Warrior amputees who play on the team, the

WWAST also holds Kids Camps, which provide the opportunity to inspire and educate children who attend the camps. The team also partners with the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund, which assists with the college education for children of fallen veterans.

“As a player and Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, I can say we are excited to partner with ASA/USA Softball and to participate in additional ASA/USA Softball events,” said Josh Wege. “ASA/USA Softball is the standard of excellence in softball and their values of teamwork, fair play, common good, and promotion/education align with those of our team.”

Above all, the WWAST supports and honors soldiers and veterans sacrifices, while showing other amputees and fans watching that life without a limb is limitless.



## KIDS CAMP HOSTED BY WOUNDED WARRIOR AMPUTEE SOFTBALL

The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team hosted their annual Kids Camp on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, VA from June 13-18. The Kids Camp provided an opportunity to inspire and educate the kids who attend the camp as well as anyone who had the opportunity to attend the event. This year's Kids Camp brought together 24 children with an amputation or who are missing a limb with all expenses paid for the child and an adult including travel, meals and lodging. The kids not only honed their softball skills while being mentored by the players of the WWAST all week, but they also got the chance to do some fun things in the Washington D.C. area to include a tour of the United States Capitol Building and a visit to the National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center. The week culminated on Friday evening with the "big game" where the 12 kids from the "Red Rangers" played against 12 kids from the "Blue Dynamite". Afterwards, the WWAST showed their skills against a local celebrity team. In the end there were only winners when everyone came out of this game a better player and a true warrior.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 24-26: Bismarck, ND for the Sam McQuade Sr./Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament**

**July 1-3: Sherwood, AR for the Busch Classic**

**July 15-17: Elmira, NY**

**July 29-31: Binghamton, NY**



---

**CUSTOMIZE YOUR PLAYER.**

**CUSTOMIZE YOUR TEAM.**

**CUSTOMIZE THE SPORT.**

---

**NIKETEAM.NIKE.COM**

ENGINEERED TO THE EXACT  
SPECIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP  
ATHLETES

**JUST DO IT.**

# SETUP YOUR TEAM OR LEAGUE WITH LEAGUER

A New York, N.Y.-based company, Leaguer has joined the ASA/USA Softball family as the Official League and Club Website Management System of ASA/USA Softball.

Leaguer's partnership with ASA/USA Softball marks its significant foray into America's softball community, joining a membership of over 2.2 million athletes playing both slow pitch and fast pitch softball. One of the nation's largest sports organizations, ASA/USA Softball serves as the National Governing Body for softball to the United States Olympic Committee and the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC). ASA/USA Softball also conducts over 100 national championships each year and registers over 165,000 teams annually. On an annual basis, ASA/USA Softball also conducts over 80,000 background checks on coaches and personnel who surround the game while certifying over 25,000 ACE (Achieve, Certify, Educate) coaches.

Leaguer is emerging as a leader in league management software and mobile applications that provides customers a platform for registration, payment and online schedules. Leaguer will provide ASA/USA Softball members with discounted websites, mobile apps, hosting and online player registration. ASA/USA Softball members will also have additional opportunities for referee modules, custom site graphics, designs and custom-branded mobile apps.



# LEAGUER

***"We are excited to be the Official League and Club Website Management System of ASA/USA Softball. We are committed to providing ASA/USA Softball with the best web and mobile applications to allow teams, parents and umpires to focus on the game, while organizations focus on growing their sport."***

**-Leaguer CEO and Founder, Carmen Bellavia**

# LEAGUER



## THE OFFICIAL LEAGUE AND CLUB WEBSITE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF ASA/USA SOFTBALL

### FEATURES

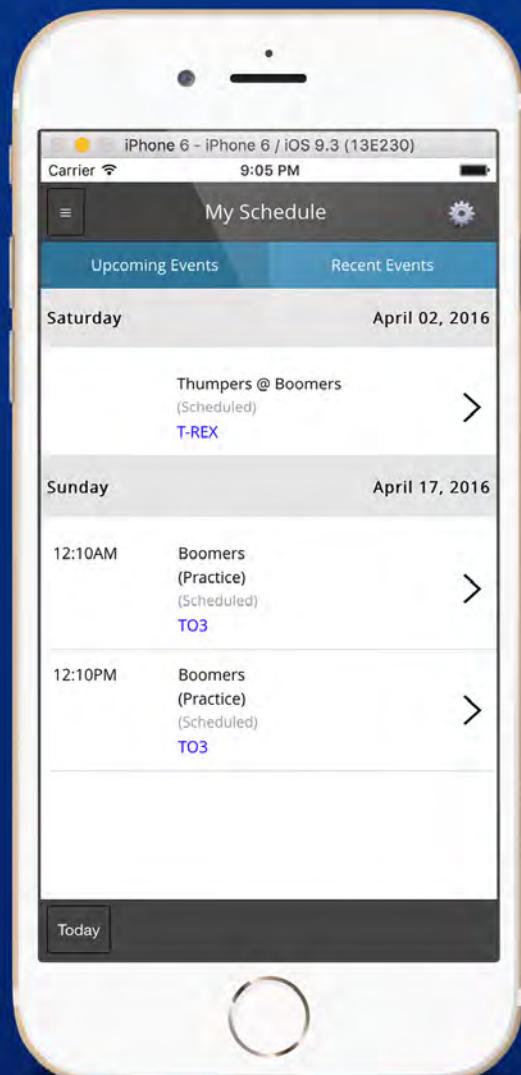
- ▶ FREE WEBSITE AND MOBILE APP
- ▶ LEAGUE, SCHEDULE AND TEAM MANAGEMENT
- ▶ INTELLIGENT ONLINE REGISTRATION
- ▶ AUTOMATED TEXT MESSAGE ALERTS
- ▶ SECURE ONLINE PAYMENTS

### SCHEDULE YOUR DEMO TODAY

**1.805.2LEAGUE(1.805.253.2483)**

[sales@leaguer.org](mailto:sales@leaguer.org)

[WWW.LEAGUER.ORG](http://WWW.LEAGUER.ORG)

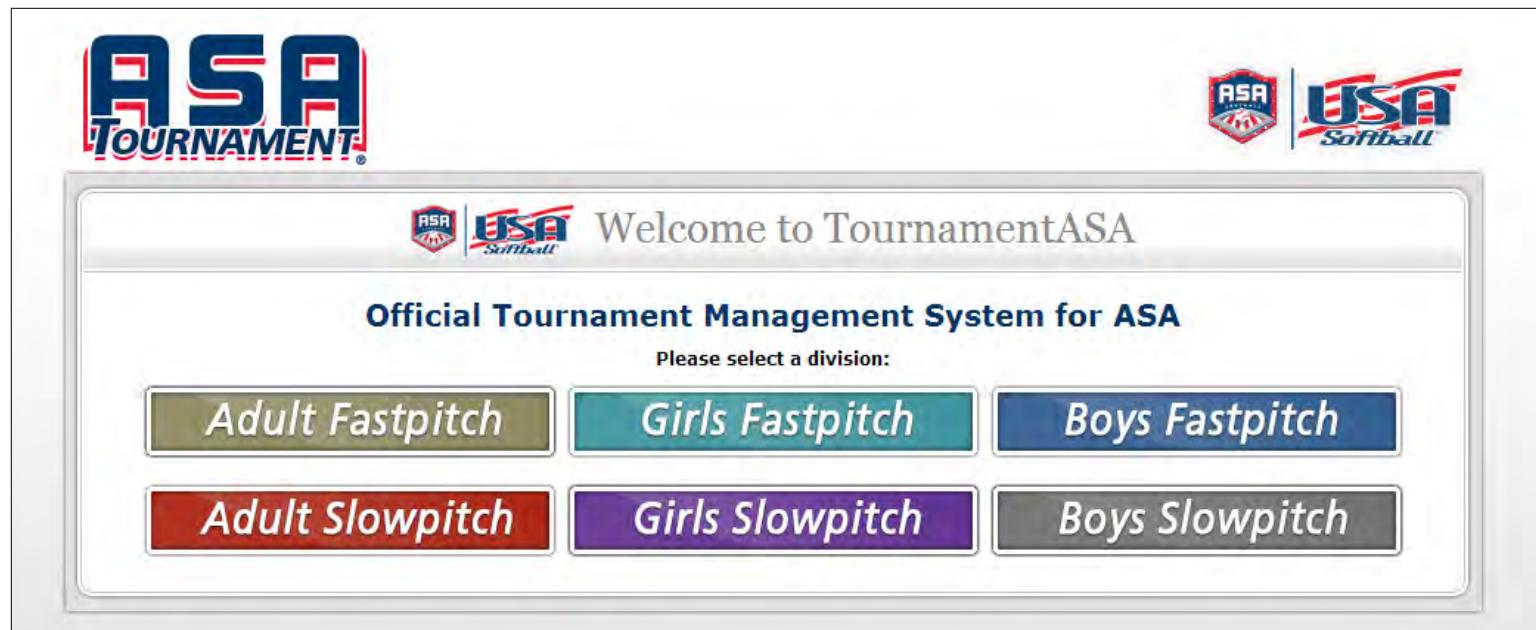


# TOURNAMENTASA.COM

1 Website! 1 Association!  
100's of tournament listings!

We're making it easier for ASA teams in your area to find your tournaments.

Launched in 2010, TournamentASA.com is an ASA exclusive, tournament management system designed to promote your ASA tournament, register teams and manage your online bracket from the first pitch to the last out. Coaches and managers can't get enough of the special features that are included on the site! Tools such as our Power Rankings, opponent overview and tournament history, all based off teams past games, give coaches a better understanding of the competition they are scheduled to face.

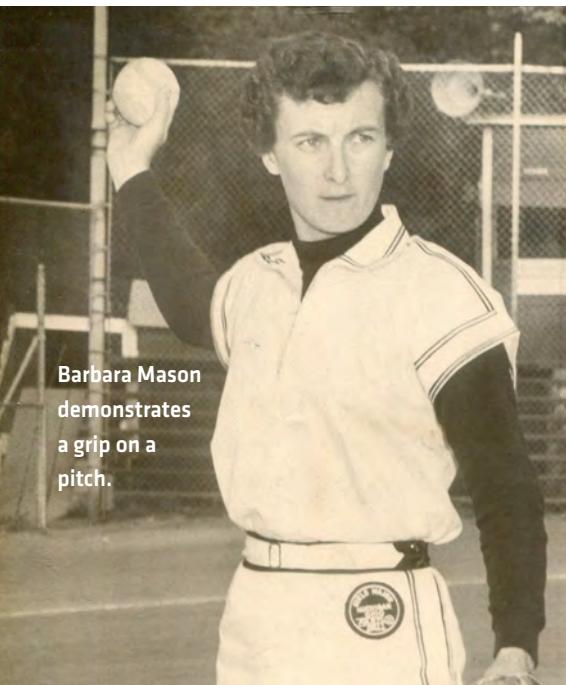


The screenshot shows the homepage of TournamentASA.com. At the top, there are logos for ASA Tournament, ASA, and USA Softball. The main heading is "Welcome to TournamentASA" with the subtitle "Official Tournament Management System for ASA". Below this, a message says "Please select a division:" followed by six buttons arranged in a 2x3 grid: "Adult Fastpitch" (green), "Girls Fastpitch" (teal), "Boys Fastpitch" (blue), "Adult Slowpitch" (red), "Girls Slowpitch" (purple), and "Boys Slowpitch" (gray).

Scan the code from your smart phone to visit  
TournamentASA!



# FROM THE VAULT



Barbara Mason demonstrates a grip on a pitch.



A photo of the 1965 Men's Major Fast Pitch All-Americans.



Fans take in a game in Tucson, Ariz. in 1969.



An athlete rounds the bases at a men's fast pitch game in San Antonio.



A man makes the final preparations on a float for the Corpus Christi Express softball team.

# BALLS AND STRIKES TRIVIA

*How well did you pay attention to this edition of Balls and Strikes? Submit your answers to these five questions to [promotions@softball.org](mailto:promotions@softball.org) with the subject “Balls and Strikes Trivia” and you could win a Softball Prize Pack from ASA/USA Softball.*

- 1** *Name one of the ASA Long Haul Bombers for the 2016 season.*
- 2** *Who won the 2016 NCAA WCWS?*
- 3** *Name one travel benefit for registering to play ASA/USA Softball.*
- 4** *Name three umpires for the World Cup of Softball or Border Battle.*
- 5** *How many episodes are available to watch online for Softball 360?*



GIVING IT

110%

CAN SAVE YOU UP TO 15%.



---

SAVE UP TO 15% AT ANY HOTEL IN THE HILTON HHONORS™ PORTFOLIO.

---

Your dream is our dream. As a proud sponsor of USA Softball and Team USA™, Hilton HHonors is helping you save up to 15% on your stay at any of our 10 distinct hotel brands. So no matter where your journey takes you, we have destinations in 90 countries ready to cheer you on. **Come dream with us.**

---



<<< BOOK NOW AT [HHonors.com/Softball](http://HHonors.com/Softball) >>>



CONRAD  
HOTELS & RESORTS™



Offer subject to availability and exclusively available online through HHonors.com/TeamUSAstays and HHonors.com/Softball. Exclusive NGB Discount is off of the Best Available Rate. Offer cannot be combined with other discounts. Not valid for group bookings. Each hotel has policies addressing deposits, cancellations and blackout dates that may apply. Other restrictions may apply, please see individual hotel website for additional information. ©2013 Hilton Worldwide, 36 USC 220506