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BALLS AND STRIKES

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

First and foremost, I would like to say congratulations to all of those who can now call themselves Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America National Champions. We're very proud of our Junior Olympic (JO) program and all of the talented athletes that participated in those championships that wrapped up around the country last month. Our members worked tirelessly to coordinate and host some phenomenal tournaments this year and the competition was first class. I want to say thank you to all of the tournament directors, staff, umpires and volunteers who made this championship season such a great one.

While the JO portion of National Championships is complete, a number of our adult slow pitch teams are still waiting for their chance to compete for a championship. Good luck to all of those teams who are preparing to compete as well as the folks who will make those events happen.

The ASA Super Slowpitch invitational returned last month for the first time in 10 years and was very successful. The event was held August 23-25 in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn. and the finals were broadcast on the CBS Sports Network. Congratulations to Hortenbach Auto/Easton on taking the title.

The International Olympic Committee voted earlier this month to reinstate wrestling back into the Olympics for 2020 over a combined bid from softball and baseball. While disappointed in the decision, we will continue to strive to build our sport all over the world. Our national teams have remained competitive since being removed from the Olympic programme following the 2008 games and we will continue to be. We are very excited to have our Women's National Team priming for the 2014 International Softball Federation World Championship and, along with our Men's National Team, returning to the Pan American games in 2015. Softball will continue to grow globally and we're excited about our future.

The annual ASA National Convention returns home to Oklahoma City in November. This is always a very exciting time for our association. Rule and code changes will be voted on and implemented and we'll celebrate a new class of Hall of Fame members. I look forward to seeing all of our council members and getting a lot of work accomplished during that time.

As always, thanks to each and every one of you who work so hard to make our association the best around.

E.T. Colvin, President
Amateur Softball Association of America



THE LEAD OFF:

A member of the So Cal Athletics slides into home during the 2013 ASA/USA Girls' Class A 10-Under National Championship



THE LEAD OFF:

USA Softball Women's National Team member Nicole Hudson pushes a patient to home plate at The Children's Place in Oklahoma City



FACES ON THE FIELD

Every year, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America has 365,000 Junior Olympic (JO) athletes playing on more than 78,000 teams while over 1 million adults play on nearly 106,000 teams across the United States. Meet Korina, Lauren, Victoria and Whitney, four of the athletes who play ASA fast pitch.



KORINA ROSARIO, 17
Pensacola, Fla.
West Florida Elite
Girls' 18-Under GOLD Fast Pitch
Pitcher, Outfield

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL

I love the competition and being part of something that is bigger than yourself. The fact that you learn to trust your fellow teammates and work collectively to achieve a goal.

GOAL To continue to always improve my skills and help Florida State University reach the Women's College World Series.

ROLE MODELS My Mother and My Father who have always been there for me. My Dad has been my mentor and coach since I was six years old and started with tee ball while stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLES My Size. I'm 5'4" and 122 pounds. Not your typical D1 Pitcher. I have been underestimated at first but quickly earn the respect of every team and player I have played against.



LAUREN VERGERONT, 12
Polson, Montana
Lady Osprey
Girls' 12-Under Fast Pitch
Pitcher, First Base

HER START I started playing softball when I was 7 years old. My father has been a coach for 20 years and he coached my t-ball team, and then he said lets try softball, I tried it and I ended up loving the game.

GOAL I want to play college softball and if they put softball back into the Olympics then I want to play in the Olympics.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE Learning that there is no "I" in team, that everybody on the softball field is important and how to keep my team motivated when they start feeling like there not doing so well in a game.

BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT Becoming the catcher for the 12-Under team while being significantly younger and smaller than the others and picking runners off 3rd base who take too big of a lead. The better the player the longer the lead they take so I get to compete vs. the best 12 year old players. I feel good every time I help our team by getting a pickoff or stopping a steal.

ROLE MODELS My Dad, Lisa Fernandez, and Jenny Finch



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[Click here for information on how to submit your profile and photo](#)



VICTORIA 'TORI' FURCHES, 14

Rural Hall, North Carolina
Rural Hill Blitz
Girls' 14-Under Fast Pitch
Pitcher

HER START Spring 2009 - I was 7 years old. I tried soccer as my first sport but knew that it wasn't going to be what I loved. My dad played baseball growing up and played slow pitch softball so I thought I would give it a

try. My mom didn't know that Little League also had softball (she thought it was just for baseball) and so she signed me up with the ASA league.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL I like being a part of the team. I have made a lot of friends and we are close like sisters. I like playing a sport that is tough too. We are tough girls.

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT The first season I moved up into the minors from coach pitch I was scared to death of being hit by a ball. I was 8. I didn't swing the bat the entire season until the last inning of my last game. I swung, hit the ball, and still got out at first base. I was upset but I learned that I can do anything on the field if I just believe that I can. I am also a fast runner and am really good at stealing bases!

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE Remembering to throw the ball instead of running a girl down. When it is in my hand I know I have to get the out, so my mind thinks "I" have to get the out. But the ball can travel faster than my feet. And learning how to slide fast but safe to score but not get hurt!



WHITNEY DeGONIA, 15

Diamond, Mo.
Southwest Missouri Fusion
Girls' 16-Under Fast Pitch
Third Base, Shortstop and Outfield

GOAL To be the best I can be & play for a college. I want to earn my way on a college roster and I pray for a scholarship to a good college. My dream is to go to Oklahoma State and be a cowboy doing what I love to do, play ball.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE Gaining confidence. Believing in myself and going after my dream. Letting no one take that from me and playing anywhere on the field

ROLE MODELS Jennie Finch, my trainer Amber Taylor and two club coaches Hailey Turner, Taylor Percie. Also John Meador and my new softball coaches in high school, Kelsey Henson & Terrain Stevens. ●

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NEWS AND NOTES

USA WINS GOLD AT PAN AMERICAN GAMES QUALIFIER

The USA Softball Women's National Team locked up a spot in the 2015 Pan American Games and the 2014 International Softball Federation (ISF) Women's World Championship last month when they took Gold at a qualifier in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Team USA finished the tournament a perfect 9-0 record. As a team, they hit an impressive .378 throughout the week outscoring opponents 84-4. The pitching staff held opponents to a .165 batted average, combining for an ERA of 1.05 while recording six shutout victories.

Other teams who qualified for the 2014 ISF World Championship, which are scheduled for August 13-23, 2014 in the Netherlands are: Cuba, Canada, Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic.



2013 USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL COACHING SCHOOL

There's one more opportunity for coaches to attend the USA Softball National Coaching schools where they will receive instruction from current and former USA Softball Women's National Team coaches Mike Candrea, Ken Eriksen and Mike White.

[Click here to download an application](#)

NOVEMBER 22 - 24, 2013, LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA

Hosted by the Northern California and Oakland chapters of the ASA, the Livermore, Calif. school is open to the first 250 registering participants. Registration is \$200 per-coach.



2013 ASA CHAMPIONSHIPS SERIES PRESENTED BY WORTH

Tournament	Location	Date or Champion
Men's Class A Slow Pitch National Championship Finals	Ridgeland, Miss.	September 27-29
Men's Class B Slow Pitch National Championship Finals	Andover, Minn.	Heartland Investors
Men's Class C Slow Pitch National Championship Finals	Liberty, Mo.	SYNDICATE/Guardian National/Golds Gym
Men's Class D Slow Pitch National Championship Finals	Ridgeland, Miss.	September 27-29
Women's Open National Championships	Ridgeland, Miss.	September 27-29



BRUCKERT NAMED HEAD COACH FOR THE USA SOFTBALL MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

Denny Bruckert (Gillespie, III.) was recently selected as the head coach of the USA Softball Men's Fast Pitch National Team for the 2013-16 season. Bruckert has previous USA Softball coaching experience, serving as an assistant coach at the 1996 International Softball Federation (ISF) Men's World Championship (fourth place finish) and at the 1999 Pan American Games, where the team earned a silver medal.

"I'm very grateful, excited, humbled and honored to be selected as the head coach for the Men's National Team," said Bruckert. "I'm looking forward to working with the best of the best in men's fast pitch softball and bringing the history and tradition of winning back to the Men's National Team Program. With everyone pulling together, I'm ready to get this program back to the highest level."

Bruckert has over 20 years of coaching experience in men's softball and has coached seven ASA Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship squads.

"We're excited to welcome Denny back to the National Team Program," said ASA and USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda. "He has a long and storied career with ASA/USA Softball, both on an National and International level, which will greatly impact our current and future athletes."



For more news and notes, visit ASASoftball.com and USASoftball.com



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ASA/USA Girls' Class A 10-Under National Championship

Bowling Green, Kentucky – July 28-August 4

Championship:

So Cal Athletics 2020 – 2, Team Mizuno – 1

[Click here for the complete bracket](#)



ASA/USA Girls' Class A 12-Under National Championship

Chattanooga, Tennessee – July 28-August 4

Championship:

Texas Kaos – 9, Power Surge Teal – 1

[Click here for the complete bracket](#)



ASA/USA Girls' Class A 14-Under National Championship

Normal, Illinois – July 28-August 4

Championship:

Texas Impact Gold Elder – 5, Tampa Mustangs TJ – 4

[Click here for the complete bracket](#)



ASA/USA Girls' Class A 16-Under National Championship

Sunnyvale, California – July 28-August 4

Championship:

Atlanta Vipers Berry – 9, Lady Magic Havey – 5

[Click here for the complete bracket](#)



ASA/USA Girls' Class A 18-Under National Championship

Salem, Virginia – July 27-August 4

Championship:

Carolina Cardinals – 4 – Sports Connection – 1

[Click here for the complete bracket](#)



ASA/USA Girls' 18-Under GOLD National Championship

Clearwater, Florida – July 21-27

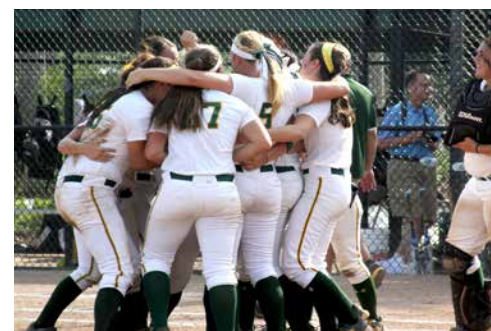
Championship:

Atlanta Vipers Giles – 3, Wagners Gold Dunn – 2

[Click here for the complete bracket](#)

GOLD NAT'L RECAP

Atlanta Vipers GOLD take ASA 18-Under GOLD National Championship



The ASA 18-Under GOLD National Championship title made its way back to Georgia earlier this summer when the Atlanta Vipers GOLD claimed the 2013 title with a 3-2 win over the Wagner's GOLD in the championship game.

"What a great feeling," said Vipers GOLD Head Coach Greg Giles. "I've watched or coached these girls since they were 12 years old. We've finished in the top five the last two years, so this team was seasoned and ready for this. It was our time this year, and I'm so proud of them."

In the circle, Megan Betsa earned the win after entering in the top of the first. She issued 12 strikeouts through 6.2 innings of work, allowing only three hits and no earned runs. For the Wagner's, Aleshia Ocasio took the loss after pitching her second-consecutive game of the day. She gave up three runs off of seven hits while striking out six.

Click [here](#) for the complete order of finish and bracket of the 64-team championship. The 2014 18-Under GOLD National Championship will take place in Oklahoma City at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex.



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USA SOFTBALL WNT VISITS THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

In July while the USA Softball Women's National Team was in Oklahoma City for the World Cup of Softball they took some time to visit The Children's Center and play a little game of t-ball with some of the patients.

The Children's Center is a private, nonprofit pediatric hospital serving children with complex medical and physical disabilities in Bethany, Oklahoma. Ranging in age from birth to 17, patients at The Children's Center receive state-of-the-art medical and respiratory care, rehabilitative & habilitative therapies and education classes.



"I'm a physical education major and had an adaptive PE class and being from Michigan and coming here, seeing what they do here is remarkable," said USA infielder Amanda Chidester. "Having something like this, giving these kids an opportunity is great. They should have places like this in every state."

[Click here to see highlights from Team USA's day at The Children's Center](#)



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Bright Light Award



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Team Mizuno Impulse (The Colony, Texas), coached by Junior Torres, is the recipient of the 2013 Bright Light Award presented by ASA/USA Softball 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.



"Team Mizuno Impulse has made great efforts to better their communities all year long," said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda. "Their involvement in a variety of volunteer projects speaks volumes about their commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. Their dedication to shaping a better future is phenomenal and we are honored to have such an outstanding group of athletes representing our organization."

The award as well as a Bright Light Award banner will be presented to Team Mizuno on November 10 during the opening session of the 82nd ASA/USA National Council Meeting in Oklahoma City, Okla. Additionally, as the recipient of the 2013 Bright Light Award, Team Mizuno will receive a \$2,000 credit to use toward tournament fees for any 2014 ASA/USA sanctioned events in the United States and 20 Bright Light Award T-shirts for athletes, coaches and staff.

With a team motto of "Change a player, change a family and change the community", Team Mizuno has done just that through their contributions to a number of causes and needs within their community. In February and March, their team worked with Habitat for Humanity with the building of a home in Plano, Texas. The team also aided the Denton County Friends of the Family Shelter in the collection of personal items for the Denton County Friends of the Family Shelter and worked with Love for Kids. A Dallas/Fort Worth based charity, team members interacted and mentored young children. Following the tragic West, Texas Explosion in April, Team Mizuno staff and athletes organized a prayer vigil and collection of water, supplies and funds for the victims and their families.



Initiated in 2011 by Musco Lighting, the Yard Sharks 18-Under A team (Carmichael, Calif.) coached by Joe Price have won the previous two Bright Light Awards. Applications for the 2014 Bright Light Award presented by ASA/USA Softball and Musco Lighting will be accepted starting next spring. Additional information will be available at <http://www.asasoftball.com>

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ASA HEADS HOME FOR THE 82ND ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America will converge in Oklahoma City, its National Headquarters, on November 9-16 when it hosts its 82nd Annual Council Meeting at the Renaissance Hotel.

During the week long event, administrators, players and tournament hosts from around the country participate in a series of meetings to evaluate the needs of the association along with proposed rule and code changes for all divisions of ASA softball. In addition to the business side of the organization, the ASA also presents several awards during the Annual Council Meetings, including the James I. Moyer Sports Complex of the Year Award, the Bright Light Award presented by ASA and Musco Lighting, Years of Service and the James Farrell Certificates and Awards of Excellence for excellence in conducting ASA National Championships.

The ASA National Council is comprised of about 300 voting members from all aspects of the sport. The National Council, which consists of ASA Commissioners or Commissioner Emeritus, Executive Director Emeritus, Council Member Emeritus, Regional Player Representatives, At-Large Player Representatives, Regional Junior Olympic Commissioners, Regional Umpire-In-Chiefs, Allied Members, Elite Athlete Reps, and Past Presidents, are charged with making decisions on legislative changes, rule changes and is solely responsible for awarding National Championships to host cities across the country.

On Sunday, November 10 the 33rd Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet will be held in the Grand Ballroom. Members of the 2013 ASA Hall of Fame class include: Margie Wright (Clovis, Calif), Randy Melvin (Dowagiac, Mich.) Laura Berg (Santa Fe Springs, Calif.), Lisa Fernandez (Long Beach, Calif.)

and Shirley Simmons Snell (Shreveport, La.). In addition to honoring the Class of 2013, the Hall of Fame Class of 2014 will be announced.

More than 80 exhibitors from throughout the United States are expected to attend the annual ASA Trade Show, which will be held Wednesday evening. The show will feature exhibits from cities bidding on the ASA National Championships, equipment manufacturers, softball suppliers and the ASA National Office staff with more than 1,000 council members, association delegates and visitors passing through.

The Wilson Sporting Goods Tournament Awards Luncheon will be held on Wednesday while the 5th annual "Fun Walk", organized by Joey Rich, will be on Thursday morning.

For further information on the 2013 ASA Annual Council Meeting, please visit ASASoftball.com. Photos and live updates from OKC will be posted on the ASA and USA Softball Facebook and Twitter pages.



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IOC SELECTS WRESTLING FOR 2020 OLYMPICS PROGRAMME; BASEBALL/SOFTBALL CONTINUE TO WAIT

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) met in early September in Buenos Aires to determine which sports would make up the 2020 Olympic Programme. With a majority of the votes, wrestling was selected, beating out squash and a combined bid from baseball and softball, to join the 25 core sports already included on the bill for the 2020 Games.

"We're obviously disappointed to not be selected for the Olympic programme for 2020," said Amateur Softball Association and USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda. "We feel that our sport resonates globally and deserves to be in the Olympic



Games. Softball provides more women around the world an opportunity to participate in sport and those women deserve the right to an Olympic dream. It's our hope that going forward the IOC will look further into the opportunity to include our sport in the Tokyo Games, where the sport is already extremely popular and competitive."

One day prior to the vote to add the final sport to the programme, the IOC selected Tokyo, Japan as the host city of the 2020 Games. With the popularity of the sports in Japan, the selection of Tokyo gave baseball/softball advocates hope going into the vote but those hopes were dashed as the final tallies were announced.

Softball spent four "quads" as an Olympic sport debuting in the 1996 Atlanta Games with the final Olympic softball competitions taking place in Beijing in 2008. Softball and baseball were ousted from the 2012 Olympics following a vote from the IOC in 2005 in which softball, needing a simple majority of votes (53), received just 52. The decision to extend the two sport's exclusion came in 2009 when the IOC's executive board chose not to include them on a short-list of sports for the 2016 programme opting instead for golf and rugby.



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JAPAN TAKES GOLD

AT THE 2013 GENERAL TIRE WORLD CUP OF SOFTBALL



Japan jumped out to an early 5-0 lead to down the United States 6-3 in the championship game of the 2013 General Tire World Cup of Softball this past July. The win marked Japan's first Gold at the event since 2005.

Kana Nakano earned the win in the circle in relief. Nakano pitched the game's final five innings for Japan after replacing Nana Okamura. Nakano gave up two runs on five hits and three walks. Starter Nana Okamura lasted two innings, allowing one run on three hits and one walk.

Jessica Moore went 3.2 innings, giving up six runs on 10 hits and two walks in the loss. Sara Nevins pitched the final 3.1 innings, holding Japan to just two hits and one walk. She struck out six.

"The effort, hustle and fight from our girls was incredible," said USA Head Coach Ken Eriksen. "We still have some adjustments to make, but I'm excited for our future. Fortunately for us we got to play two games against Japan and get that experience that we needed."

Despite entering the third-place game with a 1-3 record, Australia took the bronze in the tournament when they defeated Canada 4-3 on the final day of action. Stacey McManus, who led the Aussies throughout the World Cup, finished with a .417 batting average and six RBI in the event.



USA MEN'S SLOW PITCH NATIONAL TEAM SWEEPS BORDER BATTLE V AND SLOW PITCH SHOWDOWN

A 25-10 win over Team Canada and a 32-16 win over the USA Futures Slow Pitch National Team secured bragging rights for the USA Men's Slow Pitch National Team as they swept the Border Battle V and Slow Pitch Showdown earlier this summer. The Border Battle win gave Team USA a 4-1 record in the annual event that dates back to 2009. The National Team found their first victory in the Slow Pitch Showdown as the Future's Team won the inaugural event 38-37 in 2012.

The Red, White and Blue collected their 25 runs over Canada via 25 hits. The long ball was heavily utilized by the U.S. as Bryson Baker, Johnny McCraw, Travis Clark, Brian Wegman, Brett Helmer, Kevin Filby and Lee Powers each collected one home run while Robert Blackburn knocked out two.

In the Slow Pitch Showdown, Brian Wegman racked up six RBI on four hits for the Men's National team. He homered once in the second and twice in the fifth innings. For the Futures



team, Scott Zaciewski led the team with four RBI, going 2-for-3 with one home run.

It was an offensive game as the squads combined for 48 runs off of 48 hits. The Futures team accounted for 17 hits, including 16 RBI. The Men's National Team collected their 32 runs off of 31 hits, punching in 31 RBI.

Both contests aired on ESPN.



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University of the Incarnate Word, TX
DePauw University, IN
The BallPark, Arlington Hts., IL
Extra Innings Academy, IL
Concordia University, WI
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Davenport University, MI
Defiance College, OH

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Vernon Verona High School, NY
The Lawrenceville School, NJ
New Jersey Jackals, NJ
Salisbury University, MD
Greensboro College, NC
Charlotte Latin School, NC
Columbus State, GA
Southeastern University, FL

HEARTLAND INVESTORS CLINCH ASA MEN'S B NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Heartland Investors of North Dakota secured the ASA Men's Class B National Championship by going 6-1 over the weekend and defeating Precision 23-2 in the "if necessary" game.

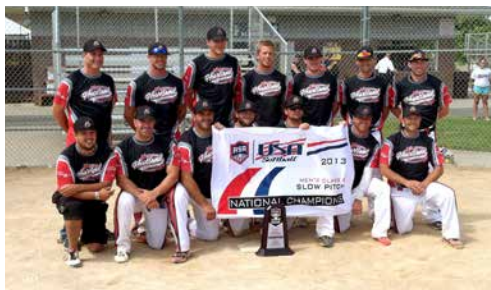
[Click here to see the bracket](#)

Heartland Investors skated through the winner's bracket going undefeated before meeting up with Precision in the finals. Having just defeated Above All Landscaping/ACS/GWS in the third-place game, Precision needed to beat Heartland Investors twice to claim the title. Game one of the finals went Precision's way as they came out on top 29-22 but Heartland Investors proved to be too much in the "if" game winning by a final of 23-2.

ASA Men's Class B All-American First Team		
POS.	PLAYER	TEAM NAME
IF	Jason Salz	Heartland Investors
IF	Seth Burgmeier	Precision
IF	Jeff Keske	Precision
IF	Chris Montenegro	Above All Landscaping
IF	Joe Cornell	Heartland Investors
OF	Brad Jaeger	Heartland Investors
OF	Mike Feldman	Heartland Investors
OF	Keith Laski	Precision
OF	Mark Harvanko	Advanced Sportswear/ Longhorns
UTILITY	Mike Jacobson	Precision
UTILITY	Chris Byrns	Rip City/Iron Hawk
UTILITY	Jason Hoynowski	Above All Landscaping
UTILITY	Shaun Beutner	Rip City/Iron Hawk
UTILITY	OJ Dechristafano	Above All Landscaping
UTILITY	Blaine Horsager	Heartland Investors

ASA Men's Class B All-American Second Team		
POS.	PLAYER	TEAM NAME
IF	Carlos Vasquez	Famous/Premier
IF	Dameon Smith	Classic Glass
IF	Shane Piatz	Heartland Investors
IF	Joey Bulens	Rip City/Iron Hawk
IF	Chris Geron	Precision
OF	Tyler Merkel	Heartland Investors
OF	Eliseo Aguilar	Famous/Premier
OF	Nick Price	Classic Glass
OF	Brian Porter	Precision
UTILITY	Jason Romero	Classic Glass
UTILITY	Noah Wethington	Rip City/Iron Hawk
UTILITY	Patrick Riporti	Above All Landscaping
UTILITY	Billy Aker	Above All Landscaping
UTILITY	Tim King	MIC/Bud
P	Brandon Jonas	Precision

Other Awards			
POS.	PLAYER	HOMETOWN	TEAM NAME
MVP	Joe Cornell	Mandan, ND	Heartland Investors
Batting Champion	Tim King	Lester Prairie, MN	MIC/Bud (15-16 .938)
HR Champion	Seth Burgmeier	Milwaukee, WI	Precision 7 Home Runs
HR Champion	Wayde Whelan	Minnnetonka, MN	MIC/Bud 7 Home Runs



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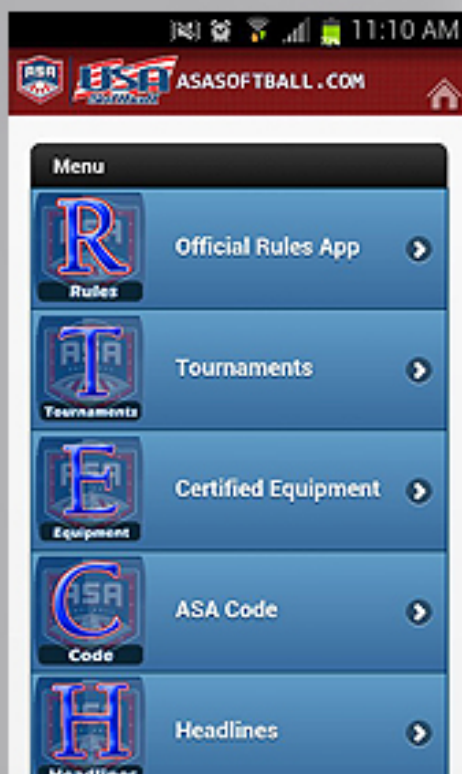
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USA SOFTBALL AUCTION FOR SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE® RUNS THROUGH OCT. 16

For the sixth consecutive year, ASA/USA Softball is raising money for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Central and Western Oklahoma affiliate through it's "Pink Out" eBay auctions.

In July during the General Tire World Cup of Softball, the USA Softball Women's National Team donned pink uniforms and helmets in a "Pink Out" game versus Puerto Rico to honor breast cancer survivors and create awareness for breast cancer research. Those items were signed and will now be auctioned to the highest bidders on eBay. Fans have the opportunity to bid on these items from Oct. 7 at noon CT until Oct. 16 at noon CT.

In 2012 the auction raised \$4,000 for the Susan G. Komen foundation bringing USA Softball's four-year donation total to \$60,900.

Visit www.USASoftball.com for links to bid on USA Softball items including jerseys, helmets and posters autographed by the entire 2013 USA Softball Women's National Team that completed in the 2013 General Tire World Cup of Softball. Only items listed by Softball Outlet are a part of the benefit auction for Susan G. Komen for the Cure® of Central and Western Oklahoma.



The 2013 USA Softball Team after their "Pink Out" game versus Puerto Rico at the 2013 General Tire World Cup of Softball

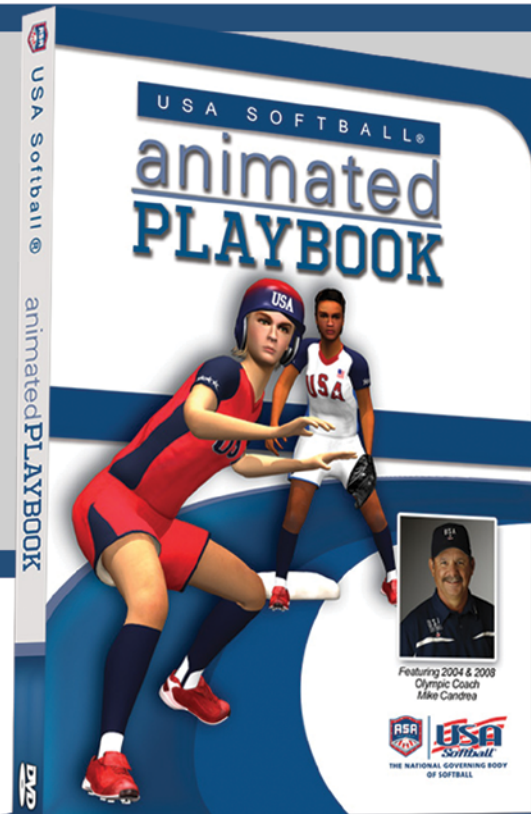


Game worn Valerie Arioto autographed jersey



Raven Chavanne during the 2013 "Pink Out" game

Note: Due to NCAA amateurism and eligibility rules, uniforms of players who are still participating in collegiate softball will not be included in the 2013 auction.



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– **Mike Candrea**,
two-time U.S. Olympic
Team Head Coach

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SOFTBALL CLEARS THE FINAL HURDLE

ASA/USA Softball Celebrates 80 years of history

From its humble beginnings, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball has become one of the nation's leading sports organizations. As the association celebrates its past 80 years in 2013, numerous individuals have helped make ASA/USA Softball the nation's foremost softball organization. Here, we salute those who played a vital role in the first three decades of ASA/USA Softball's history.

The 1990s

Milestones: The ASA Hall of Fame Stadium hosted the NCAA Women's College World Series (WCWS) for the first time in 1990. USA won the first ever Olympic Gold Medal for softball at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Ga., while ASA/USA Softball headed into the digital age with the launching of their first website in 1997.

Great Players of the Era: Pitcher and third baseman Lisa Fernandez led the California Commotion to four consecutive Women's Major Fast Pitch (WMFP) National Championships (1996-99). Lefty Michele Smith won four Bertha Tickey Awards as the Outstanding Pitcher in the WMFP National Championship (1993-95). Dick Androff batted .700 or higher eight season in a row for Steele's and Ritch's Superior.

Teams to Remember:

The California Commotion won four consecutive WMFP titles (1996-99) while the California Rebels won three (1993-95). National Health Care Discount and the Decatur Pride each won back-to-back Men's Major Fast Pitch titles in 1992-93 and 1994-95, respectively.



Lisa Fernandez



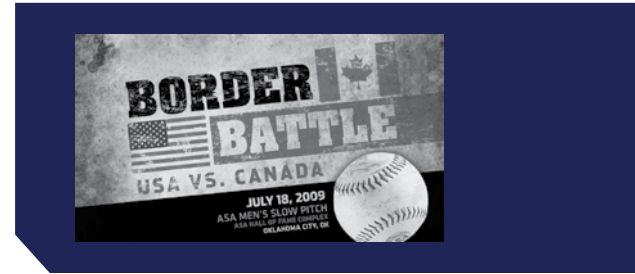
Michele Smith



WCWS



Long Haul Trucking



Laura Berg dives for a fly ball.

The 2000s

Milestones: ASA/USA Softball made history by hosting the inaugural Border Battle which featured the top men's slow pitch players from the U.S. and Canada in 2009. Team USA captured a comeback 30-23 win in an ESPN televised matchup that earned highlights on Sportscenter. Softball players and fans throughout the world were devastated in 2005 when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted softball out of the Olympic Games, effective in 2012. A push was made to get the sport back in, but votes in 2009 and 2013 kept softball out of the Olympics.

Great Players of the Era: Brett Helmer is one of the most powerful hitters to play the slow pitch game, earning multiple first-team All-American honors and Home Run Champion titles. Helmer is also a consistent member on the USA Men's Slow Pitch National Team. Future Hall of Famer Laura Berg is the most decorated USA Softball player with four Olympic Medals, three of which are Gold, and a 14-year career wearing Red, White and Blue. Berg will forever be remembered as the greatest outfielder to ever play the game. During the 2004 Olympic Games, Berg started in eight of nine games and hit .368 with seven hits and four runs with a perfect fielding percentage. Kyle Magnusson was a staple for the Men's Fast Pitch National Team since the 2000 season, playing on several World Championship teams. He helped lead the 2002 U.S. squad to a silver medal finish at the Pan American Games and a fourth place finish at the 2009 ISF World Championships. Magnusson also won five Men's Major Fast Pitch All-American titles.

Teams to Remember: Long Haul Trucking will go down as one of the most dominant forces in Men's Slow Pitch, winning seven National Championships in three different categories with an overall record of 35-6 in National Championship play. They finished the 2000s with four Men's Class A titles (2006-9). The USA Women's National Team had a spectacular run during the decade with two Olympic Gold Medals, one Silver Medal and more than 20 Gold Medal finishes in other International events. The 2004 team was undefeated at the Olympic Games, going 9-0, outscoring opponents 51-1 and gracing the cover of Sports Illustrated as "The Real Dream Team."

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NURSE SAVES VALPARAISO UMPIRE AT SOFTBALL NATIONALS

Story courtesy of the Times Media Company of Northwest Indiana
Written by John Burbridge

"It was almost like a Bayer commercial," Paula Liles said of the incident. For Fred Maxey, it was a too real life-or-death drama.

Maxey, 53, of Valparaiso, was umpiring the bases Aug. 2 at the ASA/USA 14-and-under Softball Nationals held in Normal, Ill., before fate introduced him to Liles, an ICU medical surgical nurse from Bremen, Ga.

"My daughter's team had just lost," Liles said of Gabby, who plays for the Georgia Force, "but we were sticking around to watch a friend of Gabby's who plays on another team (the East Cobb, Ga. Bullets)."

Maxey was working the game involving the Bullets when he started experiencing shortness of breath. Soon, Maxey was down on his knees.

"I first saw him waving his arms, and I could see he was having some heart problems," said Liles, who quickly took charge of the situation.

Maxey has had a history of coronary problems, and twice survived heart attacks. He has a pacemaker and a defibrillator installed in his chest. During the game, his defibrillator was going off.

"The people at the park were quick to act, and God bless them," Liles said, "but they were bringing out a (external) defibrillator, and with someone with one already in his chest, that's not going to do any good, and may even mess things up worse."

Maxey was having a hard time communicating, but was able to convey to Liles that his defibrillator was going off. "That's when I asked if anyone had any aspirin," Liles said of a remedy for a situation she often encounters. "I had him chew on the aspirin.

"We were later told that the aspirin likely saved his life," Liles said -- aspirin dissolves clots in blood vessels that occur when an internal defibrillator malfunctions. "So whoever handed me the aspirin is the real hero." For Maxey, the real hero was Liles.

"She was an angel sent by God ... I'm not kidding," said Maxey, who was treated and released later that weekend. "She was not even supposed to be at that game. You could say it was luck that her daughter's friend was playing, but it's more than just luck.

"I would have died right there if they would have tried to use that defibrillator on me without her intervening."

Before emergency medical technicians arrived, Liles wrote down the medications Maxey was taking as well as his medical history. "She didn't have a pad of paper to write on, so she wrote all this on her arm," Maxey said. "She took complete control of the situation and saved my life."

Liles is a managing nurse at the Tanner Medical Center in Villa Rica, Ga. She also is an advanced cardiac life support instructor. Liles got into the health profession in part because of her family's long history with cancer.

"You can say it's a calling from God," she said. "We're always on duty, even outside the hospital."

Like Maxey, who the week before turned down a request from The Times to do a feature on him working his seventh ASA national ... "Focus should be on the kids, not on me," he said ... Liles is modest about doing something that comes natural for her.

"My hometown newspaper (Times-Georgian) got a hold of me, and I've been getting a lot of emails and phone calls from my friends," said Liles, who was particularly touched when Maxey called to thank her.

"You have to be a very good umpire to work an ASA national," said Liles, who played on two Alabama state championship teams, and a Top 10 national team in her youth.

"Softball has always been in my blood," she said. "I played until I was pregnant with my first child."

Though she has since retired from playing, Liles proved she can still come through in the clutch."



Registered nurse Paula Liles, right, poses for a photo with daughter Gabby after Gabby's team, the Georgia Force 98, earned a berth to the ASA/USA 14-and-under Nationals held in Normal, Ill. Though Gabby's team lost, she and her mother stuck around to watch a friend's game, enabling Paula to be present to save the life of Valparaiso man Fred Maxey, who fell ill while umpiring the game.

2013 SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTH AMERICA SOFTBALL INVITATIONAL A SUCCESS

Twenty-three teams from across the United States as well as teams from Canada, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Puerto Rico competed at the 2013 Special Olympics North America Softball Invitational. More than 360 athletes and 96 coaches participated in the competition, which began on Friday, August 23 and continued through medal rounds on Sunday, August 25.

The 2013 Special Olympics North America Softball Invitational showcased teams from 14 states including Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia as well as the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Ontario and Puerto Rico. Both traditional Special Olympics teams and Special Olympics Unified Sports teams (people with and without intellectual disabilities playing on the same team) took part.

The tournament featured an array of special events including an Opening Ceremony, attending a Trenton Thunder baseball game, a Fanfest area, a demonstration of the burgeoning Special Olympics sport of baseball, and special guest USA Softball Olympic Gold Medalist Amanda Freed.

The Special Olympics North America Softball Invitational, presented by Moose International, was hosted by the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games, in conjunction with Special Olympics North America, in advance of the 2014 USA Games being held in Mercer County, New Jersey, June 14-21, 2014.

Results, photos, and videos from the Special Olympics North America Softball Invitational Tournament are available at www.2014specialolympics.org.



ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics is an international organization that changes lives through the power of sport by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect worldwide. Founded in 1968 by

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics movement has grown from a few hundred athletes to more than 4 million athletes in over 170 countries in all regions of the world, providing year-round sports training, athletic competition and other related programs. Special Olympics provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy and friendship. Visit Special Olympics at www.specialolympics.org.





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ASA TOURNAMENT

ASA USA Softball

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Pitch Hit & Run™

Laura Farnsworth, 14, of Frankenmuth, MI is the 2013 MLB Pitch, Hit & Run (PHR) National Champion in the 13/14 girls softball division. PHR is the official skills competition of MLB, designed for youth ages 7-14 to showcase their baseball and softball skills. Farnsworth competed locally in Frankenmuth, attended the Team Championship at Comerica Park and was 1 of 12 girls to advance to the 2013 PHR National Finals in New York held at the MLB All-Star Game. Farnsworth took some time to answer a few questions about her experience with Pitch, Hit & Run!

BIO INFO

Age: 14 | **Height:** 5'7" | **ASA Team/League:** Cardinal Heat (Travel)

Stats: 1.57 ERA, 178 Strike outs, 34 walks, .378 Batting average, 12 home runs

How did you find out about the Pitch, Hit & Run competition/who encouraged you to try PHR?

The city of Frankenmuth's Parks and Recreation sent a flyer to my school. When I saw the flier I knew I wanted to do it. I asked my parents if we could go and they said yes. They always encourage me to try every opportunity that is available and this was a positive opportunity.

What was your favorite element about PHR: Pitching, Hitting or Running? Did you practice a lot?

Pitching is my favorite. I work very hard all year round to train for the spring season with my pitching coach. I spend four days a week in the off season pitching along with two other sports and dance.

What do you remember about the first time you stepped on to a Major League Field at the Team Championship (Comerica Park)?

It was epic!!! I learned to relax and zone before a competition, so I was mostly zoning and picturing what I was going to do. I had some of my family show up to support me and we took pictures all over the park. It was just so cool to be playing where the Tigers play, it pumped me up more. I will never forget that day.

Looking back at your PHR National Finals experience during All-Star Week, what was your favorite memory?

There were so many unbelievable memories from All-Star Week, but I must say my favorite memory at the PHR National Finals was seeing all these baseball players like Alex Gordon, Prince Fielder and Justin Verlander.

What was it like when you got home after the All-Star Game with peers, classmates, teammates, reporters, etc.?

It was amazing, we had so many calls and emails from everyone. Before nationals I was in a few newspapers and brought out the Great Lake Loons (Class A affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers) game and I was wished good luck the day before I left. Every weekend after I had somewhere cool to go and smile and wave. I was in a few newspapers and on local TV after nationals. The Loons asked me to come and be congratulated on the field before the game. Then the Tigers called and asked me to come and throw out the first pitch at a game! Everywhere I go, someone will stop me and tell me good job. It has been nonstop since nationals in New York.

What advice would you give to young girls planning to compete in their local PHR competition?

Practice! I was blessed that I had access to fields, good equipment and coaches that could help me.

Pitching: Make sure you look at the target and focus.

Hitting: Place the ball on the tee so you don't hit the seams, measure the tee height with your bat so on the day of the competition you can have the same height, and remember first hit is for nerves, second one is for real, and the third one is for show.

Running: Don't get hit in the ankle a week before nationals like I did. I was a second slower because of it. Stay healthy, lol!

Who are your softball idols?

Jenny Finch, if you're a pitcher you have to love Jenny. Also, Jessica Mendoza from Team USA and Amanda Chidester from the University of Michigan

What are your goals for the next couple years?

To become a state champion in varsity softball, play in a world series with my Travel team, figure out where I want to go for college and start working towards getting into the schools I would like to attend. I was told during PHR that Big Goals = Big Rewards so I am now thinking bigger I want to play for Team USA one day.

For more information on the program and to get involved in PHR for 2014, visit www.mlb.com/phr or check us out on Facebook at: facebook.com/pitchhitrun



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- **Local Competitions:** Administrative kits distributed to Local hosts in February with events being hosted in March, April or early May.
- **Sectional Competitions:** Local winners advance to Sectional Competitions in late May.
- **Team Championships:** Hosted in all 30 Major League Ballparks. Qualifiers compete in a pre-game competition and recognition ceremony.
- **National Finals:** The top participants nationwide take part in the National Finals competition as a part of MLB All-Star Week in July.

STEPS TO HOSTING A PHR LOCAL COMPETITION

- **Register to Host:** Visit www.mlb.com/phr and register your free event.
- **Receive Support Materials:** Receive a free administrative kit, which will include a handbook, strike zone banner, registration forms, posters, participation cards, awards, etc.
- **Event Day:** Host your 1-day competition with a handful of volunteers and pass along awards and advancement information to the winners (provided by PHR Headquarters).
- **Report Results:** Submit results online and mail in registration forms (pre-paid postage provided).

ASA COACHES ENJOY GOOD FEEDBACK ON TOUR OF THE UK

Top ASA Slow Pitch coaches Steve Shortland and Cheryl Trapnell recently toured the UK delivering sessions to team coaches from nine different leagues, working with teams on strategy at two weekend tournaments, introducing the idea of 'diagnostics' to critique the strength and weaknesses of your own and other teams and also spending time with players from the Great Britain Slow Pitch Team.

The tour was supported by the ASA and the BSF, and came about through a development agreement between the ASA and the European Softball Federation.

Here is a selection of feedback from the leagues that Steve and Cheryl visited during the second and third weeks of the tour.



SOLENT SOFTBALL LEAGUE

There were lots of little tips to take back to our team, especially covering bases.

First rate session. Covered everything for all levels really well in the time allocated.

MANCHESTER SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Great knowledge source. Easy info to share with team. Everyone friendly and approachable.

Many quick wins, with things easy to try.

Liked it that lots of topics were covered. But summary notes would be handy as I might forget stuff. Good group size.

Very informative. A lot of information that can be taken back to the team. Everything explained then shown clearly.

Great fun. Good knowledge – hope the coaches will return next year.

Interesting perspectives, different to previous sessions.

The coaches had a wealth of knowledge and great credibility in the UK. Many thanks for bringing these guys over to Manchester!

CENTRAL SCOTLAND SOFTBALL LEAGUE

I thought generally it was really good. They were both open and prepared to answer all sorts of questions, no matter how stupid they may have seemed. The only bits that I didn't really understand were some of the jargon / technical terminology.

The batting clinic was extremely useful as this is very hard to teach to others so it was good to break down the swing and look at key areas. The coaches were great at answering questions and giving examples / demonstrations of what they were discussing.

Best bit: 'Hitting 101'. This was the part of the clinic I got the most out of. Really came away with a lot of good ideas on how to coach new players.

WINDSOR & OXFORD SOFTBALL LEAGUES (COMBINED SESSION)

Good session, a good mix of coaching tips for all levels. Great team, excellent advice, very easy to understand.

Great session. Useful details, especially pitching / batting tips. Useful drills.

Love to have them come back for more advanced coaching, maybe to bigger clubs.

Great session, the co-ed differences were especially useful.

Ideal session as it just highlights that what we are doing is the right thing.

EAST MIDLANDS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Well worth the time invested.

Excellent! But printed material to take away would help.

Really informative. Would have preferred more drills but appreciate time pressures. Great session.

Very enjoyable and will be able to enhance future coaching sessions.

Great session! Engaged novice captain / coaches alike.

Very useful and informative, especially ways to warm up for games and the infield / outfield drill to involve the whole field in one drill.

Very detailed and a lot to take in but well worth it. Will do my best to educate the team.

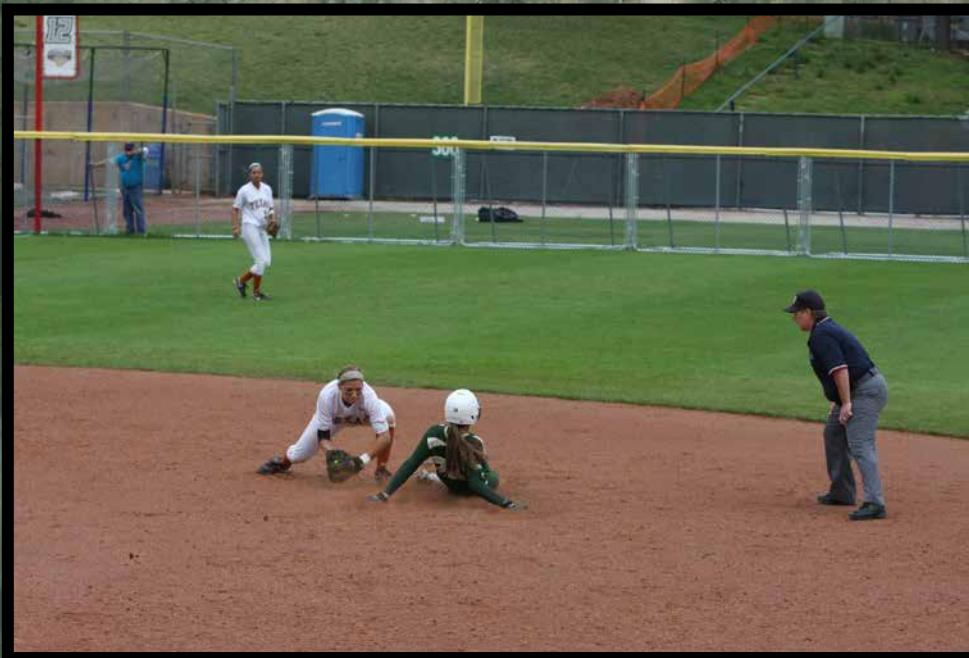
It was a fantastic session, thanks. I took quite a lot from it. More work on 'communication' would be good as that was very interesting.

Just like you taught us, guys, I'm going to keep it simple.... Thank you and you were awesome ... enjoyed it stacks.

.....
Story courtesy of britishsoftball.org

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Fencing Without Boundaries



Dan Gentry (916) 715-6287 dgentry@sportafence.com
Joan Drayton (916) 706-1113 jdrayton@sportafence.com

FROM THE VAULT



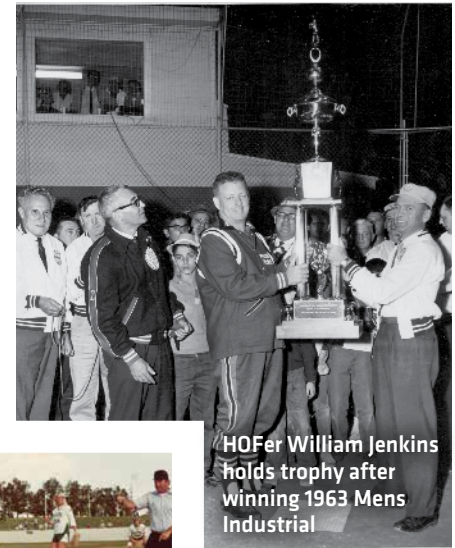
Original welcome sign for National Softball HOF



1971 WFP at Verner Stadium



1987 Centennial Torch Run



HOFer William Jenkins holds trophy after winning 1963 Mens Industrial



1978 National Sports Festival

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How well did you pay attention to this edition of Balls and Strikes? Submit your answers to these five questions to promotions@softball.org with the subject "Balls and Strikes Trivia" and you could win a Softball Prize Pack from ASA/USA Softball.

1

What five teams qualified for the 2014 ISF Women's FP World Championship earlier this summer?

2

Where will the 2013 ASA National Council meeting be held?

3

Who won the 2013 ASA Men's Class B Slow Pitch National Championship?

4

At which ASA tournament did a nurse rescue an umpire who was suffering heart issues?

5

Name one of the two ASA Slow Pitch coaches who visit the UK over the summer.

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