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BALLS *and* STRIKES

2021 // ISSUE III



LYMPIC REWIND

TOKYO OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALISTS



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2021 \ Issue III

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

RODNEY COBB

Greetings USA Softball Council Members, athletes and fans everywhere!

What an exciting past few months it's been for our sport across the globe – From a successful and competitive National Championship season to an Olympic Silver Medal finish for our U.S. Women's National Team, the sport of softball has been at its peak this summer across all levels of play. USA Softball is the pipeline from the grassroots to the Olympic level, and we could very easily be watching future Olympians at our local tournaments and National Championships that take place across the country each year. It is my hope that seeing our U.S. Women's National Team represent our sport at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games sparked a glimmer of hope and determination for all our youth athletes who are dreaming of reaching new heights on the field.

Coming off the 2020 season where only 31% of our National Championships were able to be played due to the impact of COVID-19, the 2021 season saw a total of 66 Champions crowned at USA Softball National Championships across the U.S. I'd like to give a special thank you to all of those who host our National Championships. The work that goes into these prestigious events from all our local associations, host organizing committees, cities, counties and CVB's does not go unnoticed, and we greatly appreciate your dedication and hard work in providing the best experience for our athletes, coaches, umpires and fans in attendance each year. From the Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship, to the All-American Games and various Adult Slow Pitch National Championships, the USA Softball

Hall of Fame Complex has welcomed a variety of tournaments to Oklahoma City throughout the 2021 season and looks to close out the year with Oklahoma's OSSAA High School State Championships.

On the international stage, our USA Softball Women's National Team completed the pre-Olympic "Stand Beside Her" tour, presented by Major League Baseball (MLB) where they traveled to select cities in preparation for the highly anticipated Tokyo Olympic Games. The 15-player roster and three alternate athletes then set out to represent the U.S. and the sport of softball at the highest level after a 13-year hiatus from the Olympic Program. It was an exciting week of softball for young athletes and fans across the globe as the U.S. displayed just how exciting our

sport is while bringing home the Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medal. Thank you to all those who supported our U.S. Olympic Softball Team throughout their journey to Tokyo, whether it be by hosting the team for exhibition games as part of the "Stand Beside Her" tour, giving to the Legacy Club and Endowment Fund or cheering on Team USA from afar.

Additionally, the USA Softball Board of Directors has continued to meet via monthly virtual meetings in effort of continuing the growth of our sport. As most of you are aware, we had a lengthy discussion on whether to have our annual meeting in person or virtually, and it was decided to have the meeting in person. This was a tough decision by the Board as the safety of our guests and members remains a top priority.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT *cont.*

Due to the current condition of COVID-19, we understand that some folks will opt to not attend the in-person annual meeting and we respect your decision. As we prepare for this meeting, we have had a number of Local Association Commissioners submit their retirement notices. We wish them all well in their retirements and are looking forward to the new commissioners coming on board.

This is the first year that all local associations will start their 2022 youth season on September 1, 2021. I know that there will be and have been some issues making this change, and our national staff is available to assist you in getting through this transition. Please understand, our National Office is still short staffed and it may take a day or so for them to respond to you.

I have also heard from a number of you that we have too many requirements to be a part of our game. We require coaches, umpires and any adult that will be on the field with a youth team to clear our background check and to get the SafeSport certification. This seems to be in question due to our competition not following those same requirements, but USA Softball is the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States and with that comes greater responsibility. We should all look at this for what it is – we are trying to protect our youth when playing our game. I would venture to say that if you went before your leagues and let them know to what extent our game goes to protecting their youth, they would be very supportive. I, for one, would hate to see something happen to one of our players when we may have been able to prevent it.

These are just a few of the latest items that have come across my desk, but your Board has been very busy in making decisions that are in the best interest of the organization. Please feel free to reach out to them or me with any questions you may have.

As we wrap up the 2021 year and I finish out my term as President of USA Softball, I look back at the last two years with mixed emotions. I would

have never guessed that we would have had to deal with a world-wide pandemic. It was bad enough for it to affect the 2020 season, but for it to be still having a major impact on our game into 2022 is unprecedented. I had numerous goals that I wanted to accomplish in my 2 years that were simply impossible to get done. When we lost our 2020 season, every effort put forth was trying to figure out how to get through the season and still be financially stable at the end of the year. Credit your national staff, under the leadership of Craig Cress, with coming up with cost savings and grants from the federal government to help keep us solvent. It was a tremendous effort to survive the year, and that effort continues as we cap the 2021 year with similar circumstances.

Even with dealing with COVID-19, we still managed to get some things accomplished.

The National Office has experienced a few staff changes over the last year with the retirement of Mark Loehrs (Chief-Financial-Officer) and John Miller (Chief-Operating-Officer), who decided it was time to move into another part of their lives after many years at USA Softball. Oklahoma City has since welcomed Cheryl Bond as the new CFO, while Rich Cress has assumed the responsibilities of Mr. Miller.

With long-term improvements in mind, USA Softball has begun the process of developing a 3-5-year strategic plan with focus groups and individuals being selected to provide input for the betterment of the organization and the sport of softball. Additionally, the search for a new registration/tournament system has been narrowed to two firms, and recommendation will be sent to the Board of Directors for the final selection of the firm chosen to replace RegisterUSA and TournamentUSA. Once a firm is selected, it will be imperative that all local associations use the system chosen when it is completed.

Due to the virtual nature of the past year, the Board of Directors have continued to meet

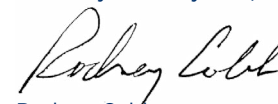
virtually every month. This has resulted in saving over \$15K and has made our organization more responsive and able to make decisions in a more timely manner. I am hopeful these types of Board meetings continue after my term ends. Completed in 2021, the Board now has a formal evaluation process for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) which resulted in a new contract between CEO Cress and USA Softball.

Another improvement I am proud to see through is a review of the Junior Olympic (JO) National Championship structure in effort of receiving recommendations on how to improve it. A few suggestions have been made and will go to the Board for vetting and then to the body to be voted on in October. The plan is to have a single vote that will contain the structure and any code changes to make it happen. It will be a complete package that is either voted up or down.

As you can see, we got quite a bit accomplished despite the pandemic. We are starting to get things moving in the right direction, and I am hopeful we can continue in that direction.

In closing, I would like to say that I was not perfect during my term, but I did the best that I could do with the information and facts that I had. I made decisions that in my mind and heart were in the best interest of USA Softball. I want to say a special thank you to Craig and the national staff – they really are great to work with and I hope that I did not push them too hard. Finally, to the Board, you are truly a great group to work with and you have made some tough decisions that made my job much easier. I look forward to working with you all in the future to continue making our organization the best that it can be.

Sincerely and stay safe,

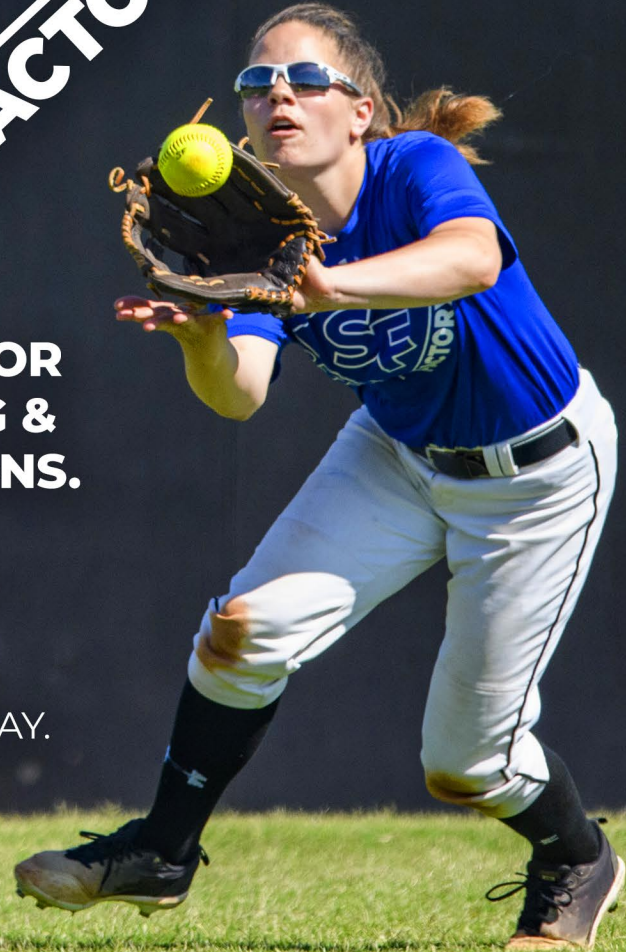


Rodney Cobb
USA Softball President



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U.S. OLYMPIC SOFTBALL TEAM EARNS SILVER AT TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES



Team USA posted a 5-1 record through the Tokyo Olympic Games with an undefeated opening round to advance to their fifth-straight Olympic Gold Medal game. A 2-0 loss to Japan would earn them the second-place Olympic finish, bringing home the second Olympic silver medal in program history. Read more about the Tokyo Olympic Games on page 26.

2021 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON CONCLUDES



A total of 66 National Champions were crowned across the U.S. as the 2021 USA Softball National Championship season has come to an end. Read more about the 2021 summer of softball on page 32.



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NEWS & UPDATES

ALLISON FLAIG JOINS USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF AS CHIEF OF STAFF



USA Softball, the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States, announced the hiring of Allison Flaig (Placentia, Calif.) as the Chief of Staff for the USA Softball National Office. In her position, Flaig will serve as a strategic advisor to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and senior management team while playing a key role in productivity, streamlining strategic initiatives, overseeing

program management, and communicating objectives between departments.

“I am thrilled to be joining USA Softball at an exciting and pivotal time for our sport,” said Flaig. **“Sports have long been a passion of mine, so I’m honored to be a part of an organization that has had a considerable impact on myself and my family over the years and I look forward to working with the National Office staff.”**

DAN BENNETT APPOINTED COMMISSIONER FOR USA SOFTBALL OF PORTLAND

USA Softball, a volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization has appointed Dan Bennett (Boring, Ore.) as Commissioner of USA Softball of Portland. Bennett will assume the role following his stint as Interim Commissioner after the retirement of Commissioner Ron Boley.

“I am honored to continue representing USA Softball and USA Softball of Portland as Commissioner,” said Bennett. **“My fire and passion for this great game has not dimmed and I aim to continue to build and promote USA Softball in the youth, adult, and umpire programs. It has been a great and wonderful ride with USA Softball so far, and I am thankful for the opportunity to continue working in the sport while serving our association.”**



of Portland

MIA RODRIGUES SELECTED AS USA SOFTBALL OF HAWAII COMMISSIONER

USA Softball, a volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization announced that Mia Rodrigues (Mililani Town, Hawaii) has been appointed as Commissioner of USA Softball of Hawaii. Rodrigues will assume the role on Jan. 1 following the retirement of Commissioner Don Meinel.

“I fell in love with softball at five years old and played on my first team when I was eight,” said Rodrigues. **“My life and my family’s lives have been filled with joy, gratitude, and an abundant amount of memories with generations of families who share our devotion to the sport. My experience in coaching and my administrative knowledge add to my passion and commitment to the beautiful game of softball. I look forward to the opportunity to continue promoting the game in Hawaii – and most of all just giving our children and adults somewhere to play and grow.”**



The 2021 USA Softball Annual Council Meeting is right around the corner! Set to be held at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, the 90th Annual Meeting will kick off on Saturday, October 23 with the Hall of Fame Banquet and conclude on Wednesday, October 27 with the Board of Directors Meeting.

The 40th annual National Softball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 23 from 5:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at the Oklahoma City Convention Center and will honor a group of nine inductees including Olympians **Natasha Watley** and **Lovieanne Jung**, former Slow Pitch greats **Doug Roberson**, **Carl Rose**, **Cecil Whitehead** and **Curtis Williams**, Men's Fast Pitch All-Americans **Terry Muck** and **Bill Pfeiffer**, and long-time USA Softball leader **Phil Gutierrez**.



CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE 2021 USA SOFTBALL ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

This year's USA Softball Trade Show will take place on Monday, October 25 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Oklahoma City Convention Center Exhibit Halls. Only 25 booth spaces are available. For outside vendors and exhibitors, the Trade Show is a chance to connect with key decision makers and present the product or bidding city to USA Softball Council Members.

If you are interested in learning more about the tradeshow, please contact Ashlea Nash at anash@usasoftball.com or by calling 405.425.3422

USA Softball will be live streaming the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and the Opening and Closing Sessions of the Annual Meeting. All live streams will be provided for free on USASoftball.com.

SEE YOU IN OKC!

START YOUR COACHING JOURNEY

#NFCADay is April 17

Coaches are the lifeline of our sport. Help us celebrate #NFCADay, an annual event focused on recognizing and growing the coaching profession and propelling the sport forward!



Photos by Jade Hewitt/USA Softball

On **April 12-19**, the NFCA is offering **50 percent** off first-time memberships.

Go to [NFCA.org](https://www.nfca.org) and use promo code **NFCADAY2021**.

For ideas and resources to plan your own #NFCADay celebration, visit [NFCA.org/nfca-day](https://www.nfca.org/nfca-day)

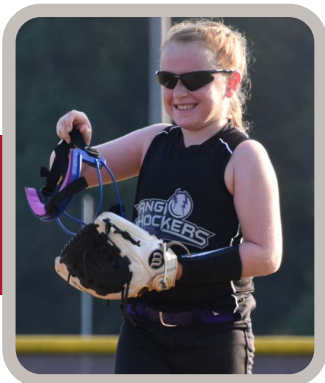
[NFCA.org](https://www.nfca.org)



[NFCAevents.org](https://www.nfca.org/nfca-events)

The National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) is the professional growth organization for fastpitch softball coaches from all competitive levels of play with over 5,500 members.

FACES ON THE FIELD



CAROLINE WITTIE, 10

Hammond, Tangipahoa Parish,
Louisiana
Tangi Shockers 10U
USA Softball of Louisiana

HER START

I started playing softball when I was six years old in a local recreation league.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT PLAYING SOFTBALL

I love throwing inside pitches and making players jump.

HER GOALS

My goals in softball are to become a better pitcher and also hit a ball out of the park.

BEST EXPERIENCE

I was able to pitch against the best team in the state. It was hard but so much fun!

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

I pitched a no-hitter!

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE

I had to play with a strained wrist.

ROLE MODEL IN THE GAME

My role models are Cat Osterman, Sis Bates, and Rachel Garcia.

MORE FROM CAROLINE

I think that I should be profiled in the magazine because I love softball so much! It is fun and I like to be with my friends.

EMMA CASTORRI, 16

Buford, Georgia
USA Softball of Georgia



HER START

I started umpiring tee-ball and youth fast pitch in February 2021.

HER GOALS

My goal when umpiring is to encourage the kids and help them fall in love with the game.

BEST EXPERIENCE

Along with being an umpire, I also love playing the game. The best experience I've had in softball so far is being able to travel the country and play alongside many of my forever friends.

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

My proudest umpiring moment was when I saw the players' parents outside of the softball game and they told me how much their daughters looked up to me and how they loved that I was out there with them.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE

The toughest obstacle I have had to overcome with this sport is my mindset and staying positive even when I struggle.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT UMPIRING FOR USA SOFTBALL

My favorite thing about umpiring for USA Softball is seeing the young kids playing the sport that is my life. Watching and being on the field with the younger girls makes me beyond happy and reminds me of when I was that age.

FACES ON THE FIELD



ADDYSON LYNG, 9

Okeechobee, Florida
Treasure Coast Wildcats Extreme
USA Softball of Florida

HER START

I started playing tee-ball when I turned four and have been playing softball ever since!

FAVORITE THING ABOUT PLAYING SOFTBALL

I love meeting new teammates, growing as a team, knowing our strengths, and making a bond that will last. Friendship is strong within our team and we play year-round so I never have to miss my friends!

HER GOALS

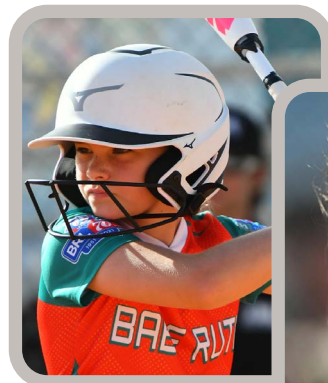
I want to be the best player I can be. I already know which high school and college team I want to play for and I hope I can take my skill past college! Another personal goal of mine is to find my favorite players and ask them to sign a ball for me so that I can see their names every day. It would remind me to never give up on my dreams! There are so many positive role models in the softball world, and I want to make a difference just like them. It takes determination, dedication, and skill and I want every girl who loves this game to be able to play.

BEST EXPERIENCE

I just competed in the nine-day Babe Ruth Softball World Series. We took home the diamond championship, our team had fun and played hard, and we're already challenging ourselves for next year's tournament.

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

When I became a catcher I practiced my technique and pushed myself. During my World Series games, I got multiple outs by catching fly balls behind the plate. It is an exciting feeling to know you're protecting home! I love it when my mom says, "Be a wall Addy Bear!"



TOUGHEST OBSTACLE

So far, my toughest obstacle has been moving to another team that is out-of-town. Where I live, softball starts in March and is over by May, but I want to play all year! Please don't tell me the season is over! My mom drives three hours, four days a week because she loves watching me play as much as I love being on the field.

ROLE MODEL IN THE GAME

I have so many role models! Some of them are Jennie Finch, Cat Osterman, Jessica Mendoza, Monica Abbott, Morganne Flores, and Odicci Alexander. Nothing beats watching a game where they show me exactly who I want to be! I remember hearing in the news one night that softball was going to be in the Olympics, and I was speechless! I told my mom and dad that my ultimate goal would be to make it to the Olympics. Go Team USA!

MORE FROM ADDYSON

I am a young player and have big goals. I want girls everywhere to know they can change the world!

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MOM'S RESPONSE... "MY DAUGHTER IS PLAYING FASTPITCH, SOCCER AND CHEERLEADING... SHE LIKES SOFTBALL, BUT I DON'T 100% KNOW IF SHE IS GOING TO PLAY NEXT SEASON OR NOT BUT I WANT TO GET HER A HIGH QUALITY FASTPITCH BAT SO SHE HAS FUN AND DOES WELL, BUT I DON'T WANT TO PAY TOO MUCH EITHER...."

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LLFP13
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XL EXTRA LARGE SWEETSPOT

PLAYER'S RESPONSE... "I AM PLAYING 8U FOR MY FIRST SEASON AND I REALLY NEED A BAT WITH A LARGE SWEETSPOT TO GIVE MYSELF THE BEST CHANCE OF GETTING SOLID HITS ON BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE PITCHES AS I LEARN HOW TO HIT A FASTPITCH BALL...."



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If there's one thing we love at USA Softball, it's interacting with softball fans from around the world! Are you following along on social media? Share your photos and be sure to tag [@USASoftball](#) with the hashtag [#USASoftball](#) for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue of Balls & Strikes Magazine!



I'm so excited for this opportunity. Region 5 Stars, let's go!! [#USASoftball](#) [#bombnation](#) [#alwaysattacking](#) [#chasingolympicdreams](#)   

[@AMARIADAMSOI](#)



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Grateful to have had the opportunity to play with this talented group of girls in OKC this past weekend. [#usasoftball](#) [#allamericangames](#) [#12ustuds](#)



[@BRYNNENW2026](#)



It was a long, hot, dirty, rain and lightning day, but we pushed through and came out on top [#usasoftball](#) [#playerappreciationtournament](#)

[@ADDIEWOMACK2025](#)



A week full of Softball ahead  season opener is this Saturday! 

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[#mondaymotivation](#)
[#softballers](#)
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[#softballplayer](#)
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[@LUCIELARSEN27](#)



Rockin the '08 [@USASoftballWNT](#) jersey to work today. Thankful for every year this team takes the field and continues to fight for their right to do so. Medal or no medal, silver or gold, they have inspired generations of young female athletes [#USASoftball](#) [#Olympics](#)

[@KROB_2133](#)



SOCIAL MEDIA:

YOU POSTED IT!

If there's one thing we love at USA Softball, it's interacting with softball fans from around the world! Are you following along on social media? Share your photos and be sure to tag [@USASoftball](#) with the hashtag [#USASoftball](#) for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue of Balls & Strikes Magazine!



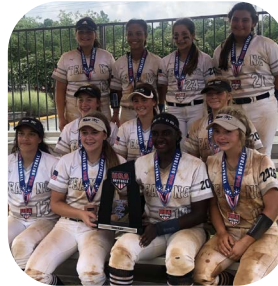
Running towards the weekend like....It's almost Unicorn Season! Let's go girls! Paparazzi is cheering you on!

[@CHASING_JAX_SUN](#)



USA National Championship Tournament July 20-25, 2021. We played hard all week and placed 3rd 🏆 out of 30 teams. So proud of my team and coaches!

[@A_BAILEY0933](#)



This is for you Team USA!! To the 18 women THANK YOU for inspiring us to WORK HARD and DREAM BIG too!! We are proud of you ALL!! You have a whole lot of support from young athletes that you all once were yourselves!! 🥰

[@FOREVERTWINPOWER](#)



Such an unreal moment. So blessed to have had the opportunity to coach at the 12u USA All-American Games

[@GRACEHALLETT_16](#)



Loading...Waiting for the season 2021 NY Gremlins 🟢🟡🙏 #softball #ISC #usasoftball #yumaaaz #fastpitchsoftball

[@EOCHOA8](#)



First tournament of the fall season! We all played our hearts out but came up a little short! I got the MVP award from team 3n2 sticks today! I am so proud of my team! ❤️👉👈👉👈👉👈

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USA SOFTBALL **BLUES ACROSS AMERICA**

Every year, USA Softball registers over 25,000 umpires across the U.S. From the local level to the international stage, USA Softball Umpires are the most proficient and best trained in the world! With the Umpire Awards Program and various local and national clinics throughout the country, it pays to be a USA Softball Umpire! Here, we feature some of the USA Softball blues!



Pam Bobilies (left) has been an umpire with USA Softball of Washington State for 15 years. “I coached my daughter, Erin (right), when she was young and I have watched her grow up in softball,” said Bobilies. “We took the next step and started umpiring together, and one of our first tournaments was on Mother’s Day. Now I have a picture on the wall at home with both of us in umpire gear on the softball field with two of the biggest smiles across our faces.”

USA Softball of Kansas City veteran umpire **Dale Parcel** (right) and his son, Ben Parcel (left) have become a powerful duo on the field. Dale has served as a mentor for his son, and Ben is working his way to a successful career as a softball umpire. USA Softball of Kansas City is proud of this father and son team.



As a mainstay with Colorado officiating for many years, **John Metzger** recently returned to the fields after a medical situation kept him away for some time. His solid character makes him popular with players and coaches from all around the state, all of whom are glad to have this USA Softball of Colorado veteran umpire back in action.

Edward Wong is the District UIC for District 9 USA Softball of Northern California. He has been umpiring for over 40 years and works numerous slow pitch and fast pitch tournaments locally and throughout California. Wong has officiated eight National Championships and assisted in two USA National Coaching Schools and many Umpire Clinics. He is a USA Softball Gold Medal recipient and a member of the National Indicator Fraternity.





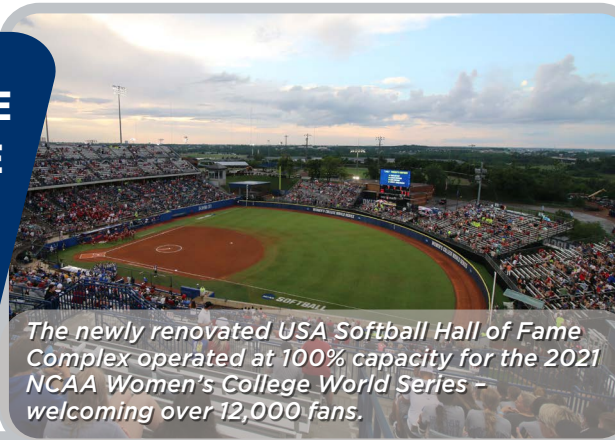
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Legacy Club under the Team USA tab.



SUMMER REWIND

CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR FAVORITE MOMENTS OF THE 2021 SUMMER SEASON OF USA SOFTBALL!



The newly renovated USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex operated at 100% capacity for the 2021 NCAA Women's College World Series – welcoming over 12,000 fans.



Region 10 Stars dominated through single-elimination bracket play with an undefeated 4-0 record to claim the coveted All American Games Championship title.



USA Softball welcomed a list of athletes to the Softball Capital of the World® for the 2021 USA Softball U-18/19 Junior Women's National Team Selection Trials.



The Virginia Unity went undefeated and took home the trophy at the Girls' Class A 14-Under Fast Pitch National Championship in Johnson City, Tenn.



The USA Softball Women's National Team participated in a two-week training camp at the Jackie Robinson Training Center as part of the 2021 Stand Beside Her Tour, presented by Major League Baseball.



Fairview celebrates at the 16-Under Boy's Slow Pitch National Championship after forcing an "if-necessary" game and defeating Eco Seal to claim the title.



Athletes on Florida Gold John chest bump after scoring a big run in the 16-Under GOLD National Championship in Salem, Va.



Girls just want to have fun! Athletes enjoy their time in-between games at the 12-Under All-American Games.

SUMMER REWIND



C&M Transport/Nager Law/Lakes Heating & AC relaxes after an intense walk-off win at the Men's Class C Slow Pitch National Championship.



The sport of softball returned to the Olympic stage for the first time in 13 years with Team USA bringing home the silver medal.



USA Softball Umpires after a long weekend at the field at the Men's Class C Slow Pitch National Championship.



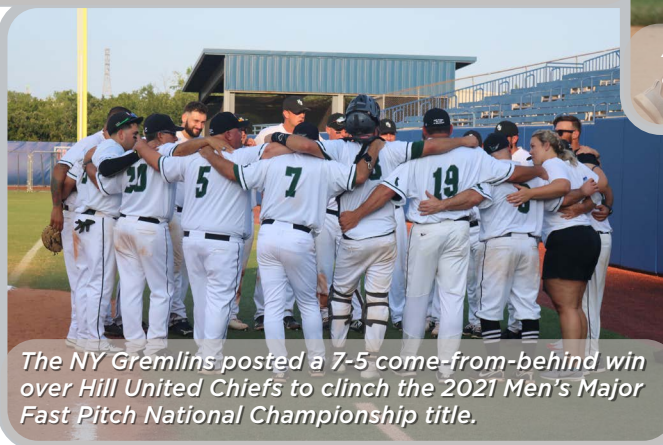
The Miami Marlins welcomed the USA Softball Women's National Team for a Major League Baseball Game with former USA Softball Board of Directors member and current General Manager for the Marlins, Kim Ng, speaking to the athletes in between innings.



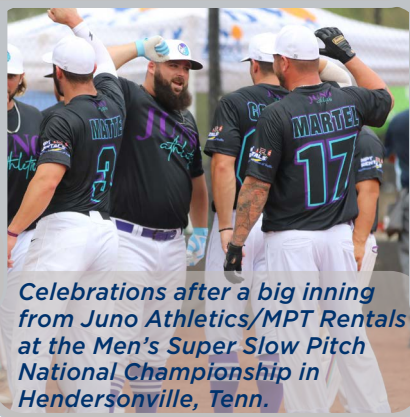
All SMILES for the NJ Gators at the 16-Under GOLD National Championship.



CHAMPS!! The Atlanta Vipers 14U Gold Harris claimed the 14-Under JO Cup Championship title with a 3-0 shutout victory over Florida Impact Gold Ladd 06.



The NY Gremlins posted a 7-5 come-from-behind win over Hill United Chiefs to clinch the 2021 Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship title.



Celebrations after a big inning from Juno Athletics/MPT Rentals at the Men's Super Slow Pitch National Championship in Hendersonville, Tenn.



The city of Iwakuni presented a beautiful art piece to the USA Softball Women's National Team as they concluded their journey to the Tokyo Olympics with a series of exhibition games at Kizuna Stadium in Iwakuni, Japan.

SUMMER REWIND



Stagecoach/Crest Exteriors lifts the trophy high after winning five-straight loser's bracket games and clinching the Men's Class C Slow Pitch National Championship title.



Watch party!! The Softball Capital of the World® hosted a watch party as the USA Softball Women's National Team competed for a Gold Medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.



USA Softball Umpires are smiling and ready to go at the 2021 USA Softball JO Cup in Columbus, Ga.



The USA Softball Women's National Team concluded the pre-Olympic Stand Beside Her Tour, presented by Major League Baseball, in SugarLand, Texas after competing in a series of exhibition games and training sessions throughout the 2021 season.



SELFIE TIME! MPT Rentals/AOB/Juno Athletics celebrates after bringing home the trophy at the Women's Open Slow Pitch National Championship in Hendersonville, Tenn.

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TEAM USA RETURNS TO OLYMPIC STAGE WITH TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC SILVER MEDAL FINISH

A 13-year hiatus – **4,717 days** – from the Olympic stage officially came to an end for the sport of softball as the USA Softball Women’s National Team (WNT) traveled to Tokyo, Japan this summer to represent the Red, White and Blue at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Held July 21-27, Team USA posted a 5-1 record through the Games with an undefeated Opening Round before falling to Japan in the Gold Medal matchup to earn the Tokyo Olympic silver medal.

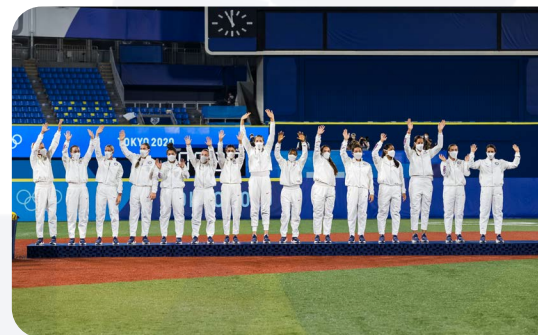
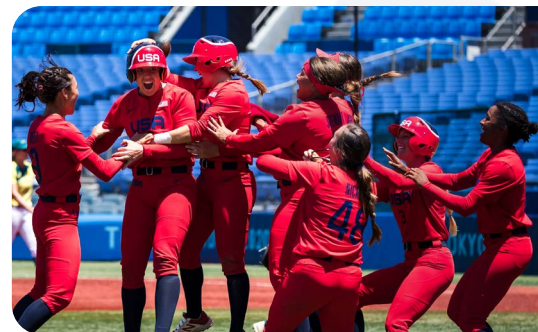


DATE	OPPONENT	HIGHLIGHT
JULY 21	TEAM USA 2 TEAM ITALY 0	Cat Osterman returned to the Olympic stage with a nine-strikeout performance; Michelle Moultrie scored the first U.S. run of the Tokyo Olympics with RBI single. FULL RECAP
JULY 22	TEAM USA 1 TEAM CANADA 0	Monica Abbott tossed a complete game shutout with nine strikeouts while limiting the Canada offense to one hit. FULL RECAP
JULY 24	TEAM USA 2 TEAM MEXICO 0	Cat Osterman and Monica Abbott combined for the shutout win; Osterman retired the last 15 batters she faced in order while Ali Aguilar plated both of Team USA’s runs in the win. FULL RECAP





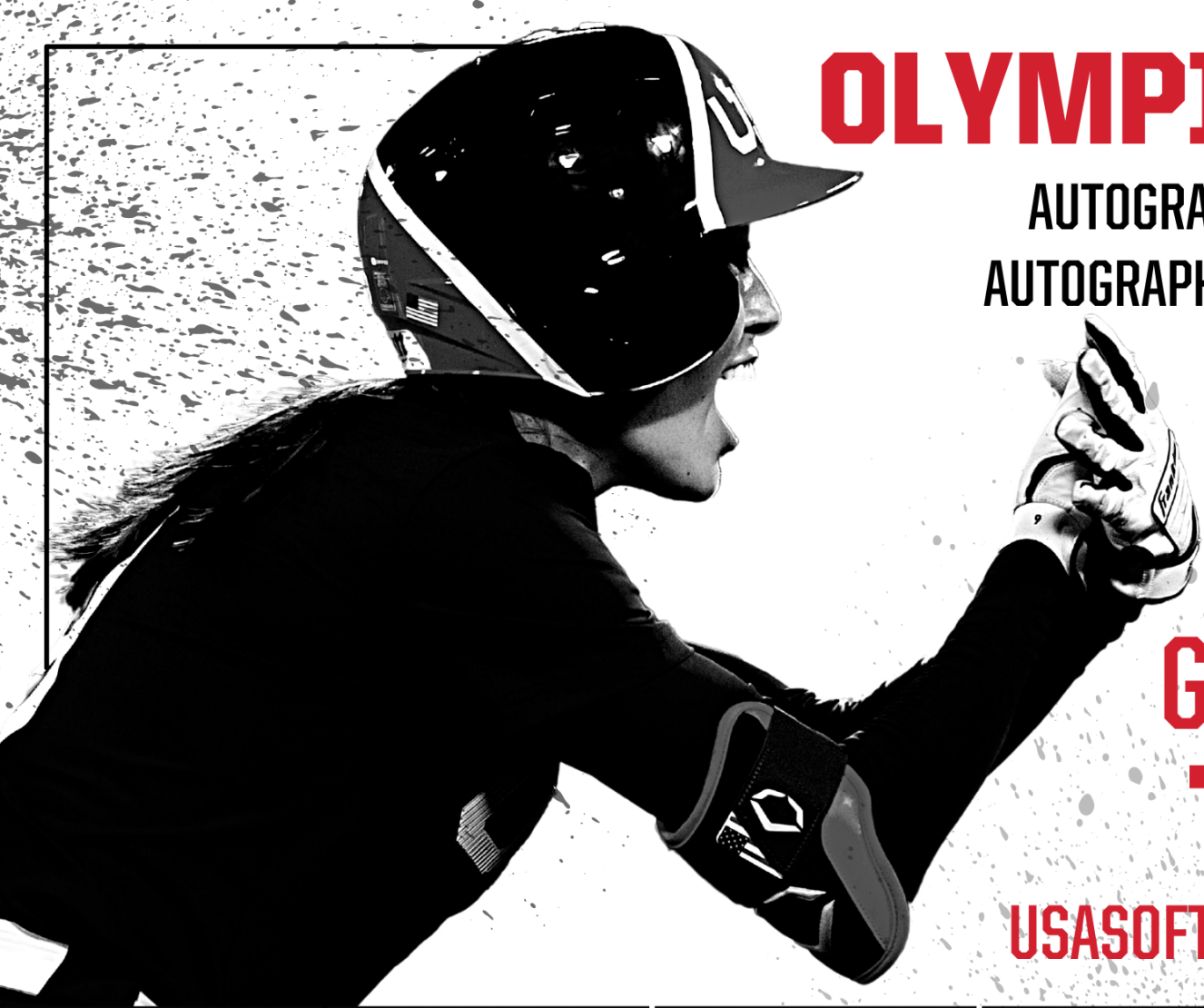
DATE	OPPONENT	HIGHLIGHT
JULY 25	TEAM USA 2 TEAM AUSTRALIA 1	Amanda Chidester secured the win for Team USA with a walk-off double in the bottom of the eight; Monica Abbott dominated in the circle with 13 strikeouts while keeping Australia off the board through seven innings. FULL RECAP *Advanced to fifth-straight Gold Medal Game
JULY 26	TEAM USA 2 TEAM JAPAN 1	Team USA records come-from-behind win with a walk-off home run from Kelsey Stewart in the bottom of the seventh inning. FULL RECAP *Secured spot as home team for Gold Medal game
JULY 27	TEAM USA 0 TEAM JAPAN 2	Team USA earns second Olympic silver medal in program history. FULL RECAP



“If you’re a fan of softball in the United States, you have to be very, very proud of the team that went out and competed against Team Japan tonight... These athletes gave their all for their teammates and their country.”

- Coach Eriksen





OLYMPIC ITEMS

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THE OLYMPIC DREAM- A REFLECTION

by Delaney Spaulding



How do I find the words to describe the Olympic Games? It's a feeling. An experience that no words could ever do justice. The yearlong delay and anticipation was worth the wait. I think I can speak for all of us in that we had the time of our lives and our DREAM to compete at the Olympics was fulfilled this summer in Tokyo. I am so proud of us and the determination, fight, and trust we had in each other that led us to win a silver medal!





Reflecting over the 6 years I have been a part of USA Softball; my very best memories are with this family. The accomplishments we achieved on the field together were both challenging and exciting but the countless memories that we had together off the field is what made this program a second family to me. Thank you, USA Softball, for bringing me in fresh out of college and trusting me to represent our beautiful country and our beautiful sport.



Since 2016, it seemed like we did everything on and off the field in preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Games. And we did it. We brought home a silver medal. **Now what?**

Softball fans, although there will be some time before softball will take the Olympic stage again, keep supporting our game. I know USA Softball will be fighting hard for LA2028 and Olympic Games beyond. Keep involved, keep watching our game and keep helping it to grow. Softball will be an Olympic mainstay once again.

Thank you all for the support! We heard you from across the pond and can't express how much you all kept us going to bring home some hardware!



GO EAGLES!

LOVE,

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JO NATIONAL CHAMPS

2021 USA SOFTBALL JO NATIONAL CHAMPIONS ARE CROWNED!

The 2021 USA Softball National Championship season concluded with 66 teams taking home a coveted USA Softball National Championship trophy with 31 of those teams being in the Junior Olympic (JO) division of play.



USA SOFTBALL GIRLS' CLASS A 10-UNDER WEST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mankato, Minnesota | July 22-25

Championship:
Spokane Epic - 8
Sparks-Oliver - 5

[CLICK HERE FOR THE COMPLETE BRACKET](#)

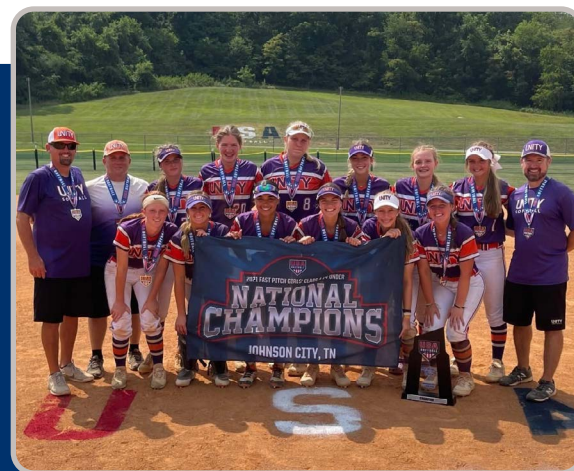


USA SOFTBALL GIRLS' CLASS A 12-UNDER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Richmond, Virginia | July 20-25

Championship:
Sparks 12u Red - 12
SC X-treme 12U Griebe - 3

[CLICK HERE FOR THE COMPLETE BRACKET](#)



USA SOFTBALL GIRLS' CLASS A 14-UNDER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

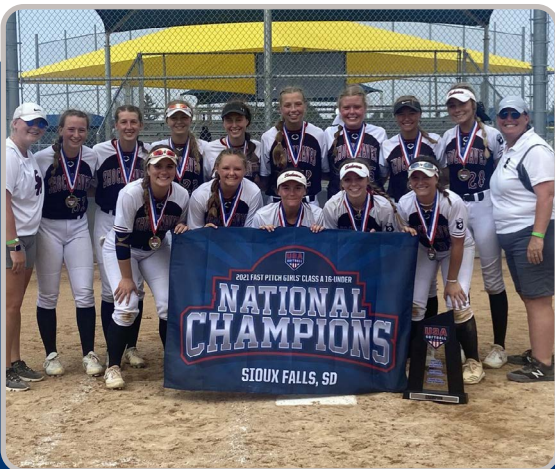
Johnson City, Tennessee | July 19-25

Championship:
Virginia Unity 14u Johnson - 10
Ohio Lasers Teal - 6

[CLICK HERE FOR THE COMPLETE BRACKET](#)



JO NATIONAL CHAMPS



**USA SOFTBALL GIRLS' CLASS A 16-UNDER
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**
Sioux Falls, South Dakota | July 25 - August 1

Championship:
Shockwaves Rayman - 2
MN Magic 16U Gold - 1

[CLICK HERE FOR THE COMPLETE BRACKET](#)

**USA SOFTBALL GIRLS' GOLD 16-UNDER
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**
Salem, Virginia | July 18-24

Championship:
Finesse 16U Dreher/Lesko - 10
Florida Gold John - 2

[CLICK HERE FOR THE COMPLETE BRACKET](#)

**USA SOFTBALL GIRLS' GOLD 18-UNDER
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**
Salem, Virginia | July 18-24

Championship:
Windermere Wildfire 18U-Paulson - 12
Florida Storm-National Shepherd - 11

[CLICK HERE FOR THE COMPLETE BRACKET](#)



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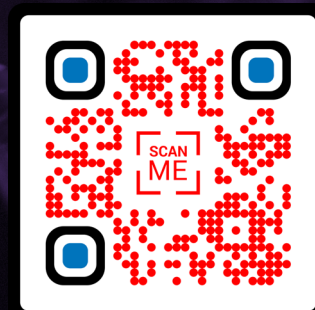


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OREGON TITANS

USA SOFTBALL UMPIRES WORK WITH OREGON TITANS COACHING STAFF TO CREATE AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE AT USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2021 USA Softball 16-Under Girls' Fast Pitch Western National Championship was one to remember for the 16U Oregon Titans volunteer assistant coach, Daniel McCarthy, and the USA Softball of Oregon umpire crew. Coaching alongside his sister, Caroline McCarthy, Daniel has experienced severe hearing loss his entire life and depends heavily on the use of a hearing aid in his left ear for assistance. After entering the tournament with a broken hearing aid, Caroline and Daniel were expectant of the possible communication barrier that may come into play during the games. However, the USA Softball umpire crew went above and beyond to create an experience that Daniel and his sister will forever cherish.

"We entered this tournament with fear that he would be judged or treated differently," said Caroline. "That was not the case. The umpires were professional and treated Daniel with the utmost respect. I cannot express enough how much the Oregon Titans organization, myself, and Daniel appreciate this."

Daniel was born with 65-percent hearing loss in both ears, and over time, has lost hearing in his right ear completely. As a result, Daniel now relies on a hearing aid in his left ear to help him in his daily life. Though Daniel's hearing loss limits him from experiencing the many sounds of the game, he continues his involvement in our sport alongside his sister and the Oregon Titans.

"Softball has always been something that we've bonded over," said Caroline. "It might sound cliché, but I would say that he's my best friend and softball played a huge part in that."

Though Daniel often assists his sister with coaching duties, the decision to help with this particular tournament was last minute as Caroline was desperately in need of an assistant coach for the weekend. For Daniel, the timing wasn't great. The hearing aid he relies on to hear and speak had recently become water damaged,

but without a doubt or even a question, Daniel made the journey from Reno to Medford for a trip that would end up being one that he, and many others, would never forget.

Before the tournament began, Caroline approached the USA Softball Umpire-In-Chief (UIC), Glenn Brown, to advise him of Daniel's broken hearing aid. She asked that the umpires be loud, give eccentric signs, and come to her if there were any issues. She also made sure to address this at the plate meeting before every game.





“We entered this tournament with fear that he would be judged or treated differently,” said Caroline. “That was not the case. The umpires were professional and treated Daniel with the utmost respect. I cannot express enough how much the Oregon Titans organization, myself, and Daniel appreciate this.”

“I’ve never had a coach talk to me before a tournament about a situation like this, but it was great that she did,” said Brown. “It gave us a heads up so we were able to let the umpires know what to expect.”

Daniel and Caroline were blown away at the umpires’ response. Every single umpire was more than understanding and welcoming of the request. Many umpires even took the time to introduce themselves and shake Daniel’s hand, while making a conscious effort to stand directly in front of him when speaking so Daniel could read their lips.

“We would check on the team throughout the tournament and just make sure that there were no issues,” said Brown. “It was really important to our crew that we make sure Daniel could understand what was going on, and really just try to provide a positive and enjoyable tournament for him.”

The umpires at the 16-Under Western Nationals were more than just attentive and respectful of the situation, they were intentional and passionate of Daniel as a person and a coach. It wasn’t just a job or requirement for them; it was a desire to connect and make a difference.

“All the umpires were on board with it, with some of them even asking if they could be scheduled to have the Titans game,” said Brown. “This crew stepped up. It was not just a few of them, it was all of them.”

Just the next weekend at a tournament in Portland, one of the Medford umpires happened to call the Titans’ game again. Immediately, he recognized the team and was so excited to see them. “Now we’ve built that relationship and it just shows you how big and welcoming the softball community is up here,” said Caroline. “It’s almost like a family.”

In addition to Daniel’s involvement as a coach, he’s also spent many years as an umpire, which allows him to see the game from all different angles.

“As a former umpire, I’m aware that there is a massive communication bridge that has to happen between umpires and everybody else,” he added. “It’s all about being mindful. It’s not necessarily the accommodations, it’s more just having respect for communication in general. The tournament is unbelievably and dramatically smoother when the umpires care. Enforcing all the rules is important but it’s more about making sure that patience is present and that you are being mindful towards everybody around you. And that’s what those umpires did.”

To Daniel, it’s not about his hearing loss or the obstacles he faces every day. It’s about respect. It’s about intentional communication. It’s about people. Everyone has their own struggles, but when you care about someone and something, it shows in your actions. Your performance increases, joy is more evident, and everyone around you becomes better for it. “All you have to do is simply be more mindful,” said Daniel, “and choose to care just a little bit more”.

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GOLD RECAP

TWO CHAMPIONS CROWNED AT 2021 USA SOFTBALL GOLD NATIONALS



2021 USA Softball 16-Under GOLD National Champions: Finesse 16U Dreher/ Lesko

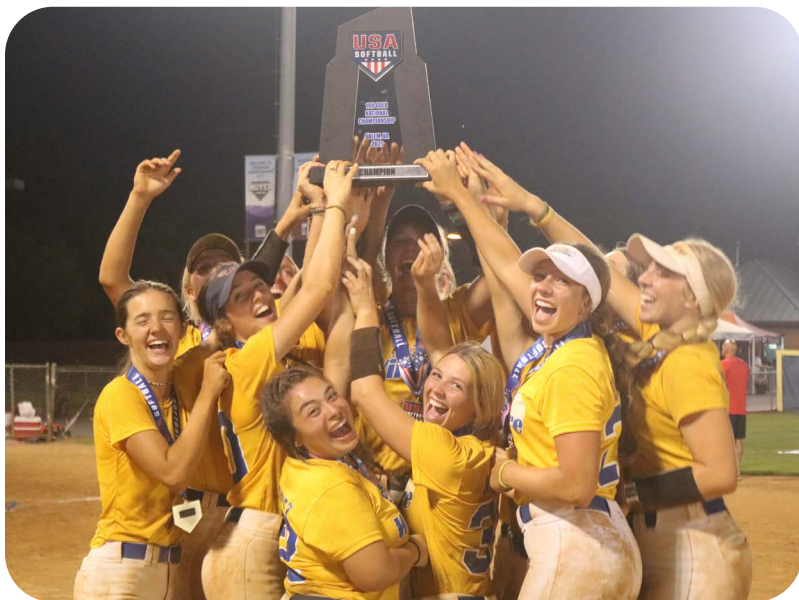
Finesse 16U Dreher/Lesko claimed the Championship title after posting a perfect 8-0 record throughout the tournament. Finesse sailed through pool play before continuing their hot streak in bracket play outscoring their opponents 22-9 en route to the Championship game.

Making their way through the loser's bracket was Florida Gold John who took on Finesse in the final matchup. Finesse came out hot, tacking on five runs in the first inning. Brenna Farmer (Finesse 16U Dreher/ Lesko) sent a grand slam deep over the center field fence, supplying her team with insurance runs early-on. Finesse held on to their lead and continued to add on throughout the entire game finishing with a 10-2 run-rule victory after the fifth inning. Totaling 62 hits in the tournament, 10 of Finesse's hits came in the Championship game. Kelsey Nader (Finesse 16U Dreher/ Lesko) accounts for 13 of those hits as she posted an impressive .565 batting average during GOLD Nationals. With solid defense and contagious hitting, it was a great team win for Finesse 16U Dreher/ Lesko, the 16U 2021 USA Softball GOLD National Champions.

FUN FACT



AN INCREDIBLE 267 HOME RUNS WERE HIT IN THIS YEAR'S USA SOFTBALL GOLD NATIONALS!



2021 USA Softball 18-Under GOLD National Champions: Windermere Wildfire 18U - Paulson

Windermere Wildfire 18U - Paulson put on an unbelievable show in the 18-Under bracket on the final day of the tournament. Clawing their way out of the loser's bracket, Windermere Wildfire arrived in the Championship game on a three-game winning streak and went on to win the 3 p.m. Championship contest as well to force an "if-necessary" game. Windermere Wildfire 18U - Paulson showcased their grit and resilience throughout the entire day, playing a total of five games and capturing the 18U 2021 USA Softball GOLD National Championship title.

Taking on Windermere Wildfire 18U - Paulson in the 18U Championship matchup was Florida Storm-National Shepherd. The offense was relatively quiet on both sides of the field as Windermere Wildfire took the game 1-0 in a close defensive battle. Cat Buckner (Windermere Wildfire 18U - Paulson) efficiently shut out Florida Storm-National Shepherd, only letting up five hits in seven innings of work. Dylan Anthony (Windermere Wildfire 18U - Paulson)

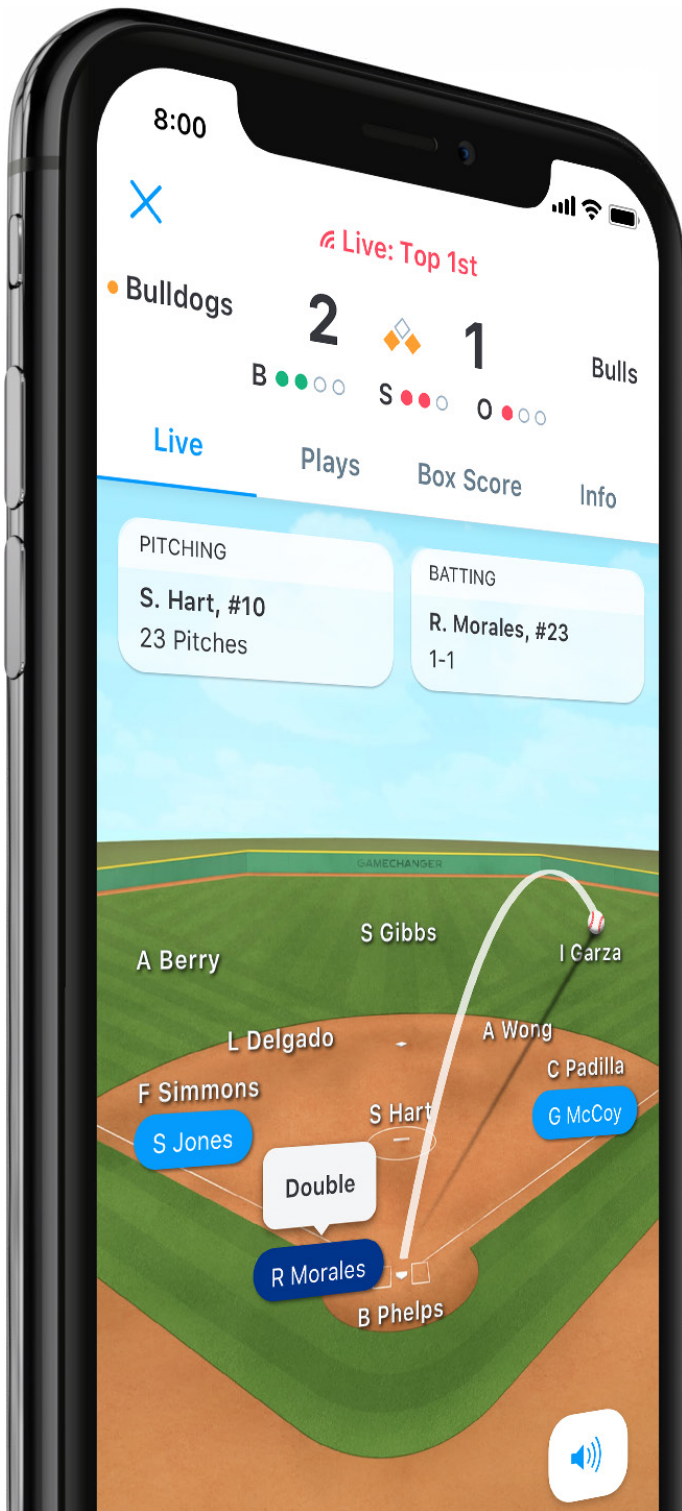


sparked a rally for Windermere Wildfire in the second inning by smacking a hard-shot triple to center field. Lexi Scalzo (Windermere Wildfire 18U - Paulson) followed with a clutch sac fly to left field to bring Anthony in and score the only run of the game allowing Windermere Wildfire to pull ahead and force the "if-necessary" game.

The bats came alive in the final contest with the box score totaling 23 runs on 27 hits. The score pinballed throughout the game as both teams played their hearts out and kept their foot on the gas. The deciding runs came in the sixth inning after a double from Scalzo (Windermere Wildfire 18U - Paulson) gave her team the lead they needed to come out on top as the 18-Under 2021 USA Softball GOLD National Champions.



Junior Olympic athletes sent the USA Softball Women's National Team good luck from GOLD Nationals as they began their journey at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics!



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JO CUP RECAP

LOOKING BACK AT THE 2021 USA SOFTBALL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CUP
COLUMBUS, GA. | JUNE 19-25

Sixty-three teams across three divisions took the field at the 2021 USA Softball Junior Olympic (JO) Cup this year in Columbus, Ga. After six days of competition, three teams proudly lifted the trophy as they were crowned Champions of the 14-Under, 16-Under, and 18-Under USA Softball JO Cup.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL RECAP](#)



14-UNDER JO CUP CHAMPION:
ATLANTA VIPERS 14U HARRIS



16-UNDER JO CUP CHAMPION:
HOTSHOTS PREMIER 2022 ALABAMA

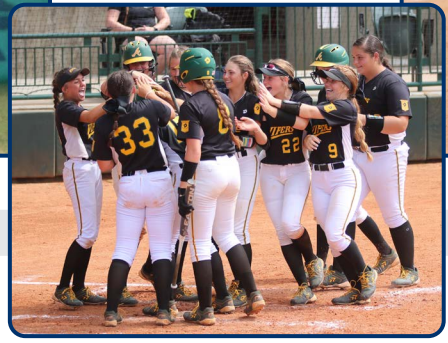


18-UNDER JO CUP CHAMPION:
LLG DPS CORN

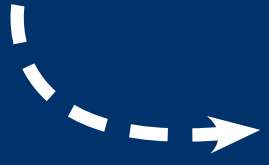


JO CUP RECAP

The 2021 USA Softball JO Cup took place at South Commons Complex, most notably known as the site where the Red, White and Blue claimed the first-ever Olympic softball Gold Medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.



TAKE A LOOK
INSIDE THE
CHAMPIONSHIP
ACTION



CHECK OUT
ALL THE
TEAMS THAT
PARTICIPATED
IN THE 2021
USA SOFTBALL
JO CUP





KELSEY STEWART
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NATIONAL TEAMS UPDATE

IWAKUNI, JAPAN HOSTS USA SOFTBALL WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM AHEAD OF TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES

Coming off the conclusion of the pre-Olympic “Stand Beside Her” tour, presented by Major League Baseball (MLB), the USA Softball Women’s National Team (WNT) was welcomed to Iwakuni, Japan for their final two weeks of training ahead of the Tokyo Olympic Games. Thanks to the hospitality and efforts made by the City of Iwakuni and Marine Corp Air Station (MCAS) Iwakuni, the Red, White and Blue had the opportunity to train and compete in a series of doubleheaders against Japan professional softball teams July 8-13 before traveling to Tokyo, Japan.



Coach Eriksen presenting the MCAS with an autographed U.S. Olympic Softball jersey.



“We are so fortunate to have great relationships with the City of Iwakuni, the people of Iwakuni, and with the Marine Corp Air Station Iwakuni,” said Women’s National Team Head Coach, Ken Eriksen. “They have provided us with many opportunities to train while we have been in Japan over the last 3 years, including our preparations for the 2018 World Championships where we qualified for the Tokyo Olympics. We enjoyed being back and were grateful for the opportunity to see our friends prior to the Olympic Games.”



The MCAS presenting USA Softball with a framed United States and U.S. Marine Corps Flag that was flown on a mission.



NATIONAL TEAMS UPDATE

**USA SOFTBALL JUNIOR WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM SET
TO COMPETE IN 2021 JUNIOR PAN AMERICAN GAMES
AND WBSC U-18 WOMEN'S SOFTBALL WORLD CUP**



[**CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 2021 U-18 JUNIOR WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER**](#)

Led by Head Coach Kyla Holas and Assistant Coaches Suzy Brazney (Huntington Beach, Calif.) and Lisa Navas (Tarpon Springs, Fla.), the Red, White and Blue will compete for the gold medal at the inaugural Junior Pan American Games in Barranquilla, Colombia before heading to Lima, Peru where they will look to claim a fourth-consecutive WBSC Junior Women's World Championship title, having won the previous three World Championships in 2015, 2017 and 2019.



**INAUGURAL JUNIOR
PAN AMERICAN GAMES**

NOV. 25 - DEC. 5

BARRANQUILLA, COLOMBIA

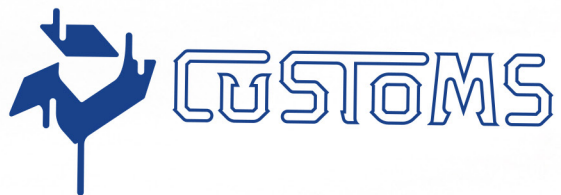


**WBSC
U-18 WOMEN'S
SOFTBALL
WORLD CUP**

**WBSC JUNIOR WOMEN'S
WORLD CUP**

DEC. 5-12

LIMA, PERU



AMANDA CHIDESTER
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THE JOURNEY TO TOKYO- A REFLECTION

by Ally Carda



The Olympics was something that all of us as young softball players dreamed about. It was the best athletes on the highest stage for the entire world to watch. As we all know, the Tokyo 2020 Olympics looked a little different than any other Olympics had before due to the Pandemic that struck the world. Would the Olympics even happen? Would they get postponed? Cancelled? So many voices coming from every direction discussing the doubts and fears about what was going to happen next. The 18 of us, however, knew we needed to keep our head down and continue to work hard and have faith. There wasn't another option but to do so.





Fast forward – the Olympics were a go. Yes, it looked different. No fans, no family, no going to watch other events or exploring Tokyo. But it made our team stronger and more resilient. Again, we had no other option but to quiet the distractions and enjoy where we were; together. We spent every minute of the day together that month before the Tokyo games started. Preparing both mentally and physically for what would be the biggest “tournament” of our lives.

Fast forward again – training was over and it was time to let loose. I remember the first time we walked onto the field for our first “official practice” in Yokohama. Specifically, I remember standing in the middle of the field, the Olympic Rings painted in center field, “Tokyo 2020” branding everywhere around the stadium, and seats extending as high as what felt like the redwood forest. It was incredible. We all took a moment to just let it soak in. We laughed, smiled, shared stories and walked the field together. All feeling the same gratitude for where we were and that we were there together.



Fast forward to the Games. To be honest, it was a grind. To anyone who thinks you get to the Olympics (or any other big championship game) and everything just comes together and feels perfect, you are mistaken. Every game, every pitch and every inning was a grind. But just like the months before, we stuck together. Before, during, and after each game we were committed to our goal of winning gold. Grind, compete, and outlast every opponent. That was our motto.





Fast forward to the gold medal game vs. Japan. We played them the day before and won in walk off fashion. Again, a grind. But now we had a new day and a new opportunity to compete. It didn't matter what happened the day before. Every pitch was a fight, and our motto stayed the same; outlast. There wasn't a moment during that game where we didn't think we would score the run, get the hit, or get the outs we needed to win. We believed in each other every pitch. But sometimes, you come up short of your goal. It's life and it happens.

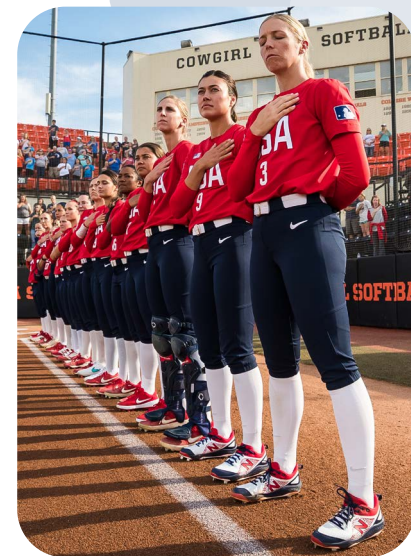


Writing this almost 2 months after the games finished, I have had time to reflect. I probably wouldn't have the same words writing this once the game finished, because we are competitors and want to win at everything. That's what makes us Olympians. But looking back, I am so grateful for every single experience I have had with my teammates and coaches. We overcame more than we realized. We trained for an extra year, through COVID, putting off an extra year of our life to make our dream of becoming an Olympian come true. We fought through the grind together. With lots of ups and downs, we helped each other come out stronger, both mentally and physically. We challenged each other. Supported each other. And

most importantly loved each other, no matter what, through it all.

We may not have achieved our goal of winning gold, but we are Olympians. We won a Silver Medal at the Olympics and that is something I am very proud of. It is special

and humbling to be able to represent something bigger than ourselves. We were able to represent The United States of America, while playing the sport we love, and hopefully inspiring young athletes everywhere to dream big. Softball's Olympic Journey is not over. We will be back! But until then, thank you Softball and the Olympics for giving me more than I knew was possible.



Ally Carda #3



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2021 HALL OF FAME COMPLEX EVENTS

The newly renovated USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex welcomed a full slate of events back to Oklahoma City this summer after a 2020 season that brought many unknowns and cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From the NCAA Women's College

World Series to the Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship – players, fans, umpires, and coaches from all across the nation made their way the Softball Capital of the World® for a chance to compete for their respective trophies.

CHECK OUT WHAT HAPPENED THIS SUMMER!



NCAA WCWS (JUNE 3-10)



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**MEN'S MAJOR FAST PITCH
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP (AUG. 6-8)**

**ALLIANCE FASTPITCH
CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (JULY 24-31)**



**USA SOFTBALL ALL-AMERICAN
GAMES (AUG. 12-15)**



**RE-WATCH GAMES
AT USASOFTBALL.COM**



2021 HALL OF FAME COMPLEX EVENTS

RE-WATCH GAMES
AT USASOFTBALL.COM



MEN'S CLASS C SLOW PITCH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (AUG. 27-29)

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AT USASOFTBALL.COM



MEN'S CLASS A SLOW PITCH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (SEPT. 5-6)

**ON DECK AT THE
SOFTBALL CAPITAL OF
THE WORLD®**

- OSSAA FAST PITCH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP (B-3A) (OCT. 7-9)
- OSSAA FAST PITCH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP (4A-6A) (OCT. 14-16)

MEN'S CLASS B SLOW PITCH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (SEPT. 3-4)



RE-WATCH GAMES
AT USASOFTBALL.COM

JENNIE FINCH CLASSIC (SEPT. 17-19)



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MEN'S MAJOR FP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

NY GREMLINS CLAIM THEIR SIXTH MEN'S MAJOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

After three days of fierce competition, the NY Gremlins claimed the 2021 USA Softball Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship title with a 7-5 come-from-behind victory over the Hill United Chiefs. Dominating through bracket play, the Gremlins outscored their five opponents 30-9 while posting an undefeated record in route to their sixth Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship contest after finishing in second place last year.

After coming off a 10-run win to advance to the Championship game, the Chiefs stayed hot with three home runs in the first two innings to give them an early 4-0 lead. The Gremlins got on the board in the bottom of the third but a pitching change would bring in Devon McCullough for the Chiefs who forced two pop outs to retire the Gremlins and hold the score 4-1, Chiefs. That lead didn't hold long though, as a pair of walks and string of hits allowed the Gremlins to tie the game in the bottom of the fourth. Brad Ezekiel

broke the tie in the fifth inning with his second home run of the game to put the Chiefs ahead 5-4. It looked as if the Chiefs would come out with the win until Ladislao Malarczuk drove a ball to left field and sped around the bases for a three-run inside-the-park home run to give the Gremlins a 7-5 lead heading into the seventh inning. The Gremlins shut down the Chiefs in the final three outs of the games with Andrew Kirkpatrick fanning his twenty-second batter of the tournament to seal the win and earn the Gremlins the 2021 USA Softball Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship title.



RUNNER-UP: HILL UNITED CHIEFS

2021 MEN'S MAJOR FP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ALL-AMERICANS

- Ladislao Malarczuk (NY Gremlins) – IF
- Blaine Milheim (Kegel Black Knights) – IF
- Steve Mullaley (Hill United Chiefs) – IF
- Erick Ochoa (NY Gremlins) – IF
- Yusef Davis (San Antonio Glowworm) – OF
- Alan Parker (Kegel Black Knights) – OF
- Kristopher Waluska (San Antonio Glowworm) – OF
- Andrew Kirkpatrick (NY Gremlins) – P
- Pablo Migilavacca (Hills United Chiefs) – P
- Rob Schwyer (Kegel Black Knights) – P
- Bruno Motroni (Hills United Chiefs) – C
- Shea Bryant (Kegel Black Knights) – UTL
- Jerome Raemaki (NY Gremlins) – UTL
- Matthew Roy (NY Gremlins) – UTL



CHAMPIONS: NY GREMLINS

2021 Men's Major FP National Championship MVP: **Ladislao Malarczuk (NY Gremlins)**

2021 Men's Major FP National Championship Batting Champion: **Ladislao Malarczuk (NY Gremlins) - 0.769**

2021 Men's Major FP National Championship HR Champion: **Shea Bryant (Kegel Black Knights) / Brad Ezekiel (Hill United Chiefs)**

ALL-AMERICAN GAMES

REGION 10 STARS EARNS COVETED ALL-AMERICAN GAMES CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE WITH 2-0 SHUTOUT WIN OVER REGION 5

“We set our goal at the beginning that we’re here to win one game at a time. We won each game, and we came into the Championship Game with that same mindset – to win this game, and that’s what we did,” said Region 10 Stars Head Coach, Deb Hartwig. “This tournament is a fantastic experience for everyone involved. The parents, the players, the coaches, the fans, everyone here at this tournament – it’s just such a great thing to be a part of.”

Region 10 Stars made their way to the Championship Game by scoring a total of 14 runs on 31 hits through single-elimination bracket play. The Stars came out swinging with 12 hits in their first game of the day, defeating Region 3 Stripes 4-1 before taking down Region 2 Stars 5-3 in their second contest. In the semi-final matchup, Region 10 Stars met Region 10 Freedom and came out on top with a 3-1 victory to send them to the Championship Game.

Meeting the Stars in the final game of the night was Region 5 Freedom who held an undefeated 3-0 record through bracket play. The Region 5 team outscored their opponents 22-3 throughout their first three games while limiting their opponents to seven hits compared to their impressive total of 35. Region 5 Stars started the day strong, scoring six runs in each of their first two games, defeating Region 1 Freedom 6-1 and Region 3 Stars 6-0. The Freedom offense exploded in their third game of the day with 10 runs on 14 hits to come out on top 10-2 against Region 5 Stars, advancing them to the winner-take-all game against Region 10 Stars.



The Championship contest was a tight defensive battle between the Stars and the Freedom. Lilly Hauser got the start in the circle for Region 10 Stars, striking out three batters in her five innings of work. On the opposing side, Madelyn Doty and Abby Atkinson split time in the circle and combined for eight strikeouts for Region 5 Freedom. The game remained scoreless through the first five innings before Region 10 Stars managed to take advantage of a defensive miscue by Region 5 Freedom to give them a two-run edge. That lead would hold through the final three outs of the game as the Stars issued 1-2-3 in the top of the seventh to seal the 2-0 Championship victory. Lilly Hauser led the Stars offense with two hits while Taylor Johns, Jerrell Mailo, Kiele Ho-Ching and Dailynn Battee each recorded one hit a piece in the win.





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SLOW PITCH NATIONALS RECAP

SLOW PITCH NATIONALS ROUND OUT THE 2021 CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON



MEN'S SUPER SLOW HENDERSONVILLE, TENN. | AUG. 20

The Men's Super Slow Pitch division kicked off the USA Softball Slow Pitch National Championship season in Hendersonville, Tenn. on August 20. Five teams competed in the double-elimination tournament with Thunder/SIS/Chosen/All American/Menosse/RDD/S&S coming out on top. Thunder won three straight games to defeat Monsta Black Sheep/Texas5/Monsta Athletics 27-12 in the Championship contest to claim their fourth-consecutive USA Softball Men's Super Slow Pitch National Championship title.

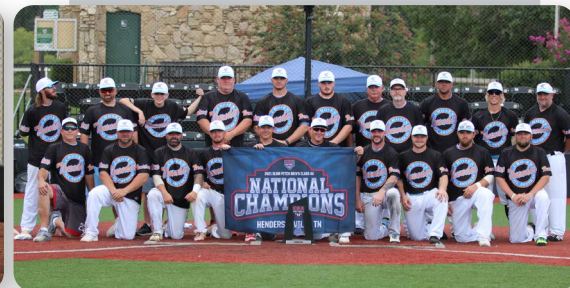
[CLICK HERE FOR FULL RECAP AND LIST OF ALL-AMERICANS](#)



WOMEN'S OPEN HENDERSONVILLE, TENN. | AUG. 21-22

The action in Hendersonville continued with the Women's Open Slow Pitch National Championship where 14 teams took the field August 21-22. MPT Rentals/AOB/Juno Athletics claimed the 2021 Women's Open Slow Pitch National Championship title after posting an undefeated 4-0 record through the tournament, capping out the weekend with a 14-1 (five innings) Championship win over Smash It Sports/Derby Girls/Easton.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL RECAP AND LIST OF ALL-AMERICANS](#)



MEN'S CLASS AA HENDERSONVILLE, TENN. | AUG. 21-22

Concluding the weekend in Hendersonville was the Men's Class AA Slow Pitch National Championship where eight teams duked it out for the coveted National Championship title. Thunder/Chosen/All American Restoration entered the Championship game against Juno Athletics/MPT Rentals needing to win in order to force an "if-necessary" game and complete their quest for the title. This proved to be no issue for the Thunder as they pulled off back-to-back wins against Juno Athletics to bring home the trophy.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL RECAP AND LIST OF ALL-AMERICANS](#)

SLOW PITCH NATIONALS RECAP



CHECK OUT SOME OF THE BEST MOMENTS FROM THE 2021 SLOW PITCH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

MEN'S SUPER SLOW
WOMEN'S OPEN
MEN'S CLASS AA



MEN'S CLASS C



MEN'S CLASS A&B



MEN'S CLASS C
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. | AUG. 27-29

The Softball Capital of the World® hosted the Men's Class C Slow Pitch National Championship as Stagecoach/Crest Exteriors claimed the title after forcing an "if-necessary" game to defeat Trinity/Big Dawg Sublimation 18-10 in the final contest. Stagecoach finished the tournament with an 8-1 record, their only loss coming from a winner's bracket matchup against Northwoods Elite. Sent to the loser's bracket on Day Two, Stagecoach clinched five-straight crucial victories to earn them the trophy and the Championship title.



MEN'S CLASS B
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. | SEPT. 3-4

The Men's Class B Slow Pitch National Championship kicked off Labor Day weekend in OKC as 21 teams competed for the trophy. After posting an undefeated 5-0 record through bracket play, Chosen/Thunder suffered their first loss of the weekend in the Championship contest as the Silverbacks pulled out the 19-17 win to force the "if-necessary" game. The Thunder offense proved superior though with a dominating performance to cap the tournament with a 25-5 (five-innings) Championship victory.



MEN'S CLASS A
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. | SEPT. 5-6

Closing out the USA Softball National Championship season was the Men's Class A division where 18 teams looked to claim the title. Thunder/Chosen came out on top with a 41-33 Championship victory over Kut4 Sports/OI Livingston/D2E. Thunder posted an undefeated 5-0 record en route to the Championship hardware while scoring 30 or more runs in each of their contests with a combined total of 49 home runs on the weekend.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL RECAP AND LIST OF ALL-AMERICANS](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL RECAP AND LIST OF ALL-AMERICANS](#)

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(ICE-DBL-KNEE USA SB)

- ICE20 Compression Wrap for right or left knee
- Two 11" Refillable ICE20 Bags
- Durable mesh carry bag



USA Double Shoulder

(ICE-DBL-SHOULDER USA SB)

- ICE20 Compression Wrap for right or left shoulder
- Two 11" Refillable ICE20 Bags
- Durable mesh carry bag



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CLASS OF 2020 HOF SPOTLIGHT

USA Softball will officially enshrine the National Softball Hall of Fame Class of 2020 legends at the newly opened Oklahoma City Convention Center located east of beautiful Scissortail Park. Set to be held Saturday, Oct. 23, the 40th Annual National Softball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will begin with a happy hour reception followed by dinner and banquet at 6 p.m. CT. For those not able to attend, the program will be live streamed through USASoftball.com.



National Softball
Hall of Fame
OKLAHOMA CITY



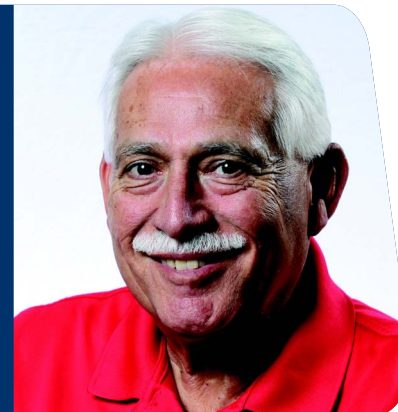
The National Softball Hall of Fame has honored over 400 individuals, welcoming a new group of softball greats annually. The National Softball Hall of Fame is the ultimate goal for any player, coach, umpire or administrator who aspire to greatness in the sport.

NATIONAL SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME

Class of 2020

PHIL GUTIERREZ – MERITORIOUS SERVICE

A career that spanned 44 years with USA Softball, Phil Gutierrez has played a significant role on numerous lives through the sport of softball. Gutierrez began his career with USA Softball as an umpire in 1975, finding success at the high school, collegiate and ASA National level. His passion continued beyond the field with the appointment to Commissioner of Southern California in 2007 where he led SoCal to become the top association annually for team, individual and umpire registrations. In 2011, Gutierrez was elected as President of USA Softball, representing USA Softball at International Softball Federation (ISF) meetings and events.



LOVIEANNE JUNG – FAST PITCH PLAYER

An Olympic Gold and Silver Medalist as well as a two-time Pan American Games Gold Medalist and World Champion, Lovieanne Jung was one of the best and smartest infielders to ever play the game. As an eight-year team member of the United States Women's National Team, Jung served as 'quarterback' of the U.S. defense, calling all coverages, and positioning the defense for opposing offenses. Her tremendous skill set combined with her knowledge of the sport allowed her to be the most proactive player on the field, always seeing things before they occurred in the game.



CLASS OF 2020 HOF SPOTLIGHT

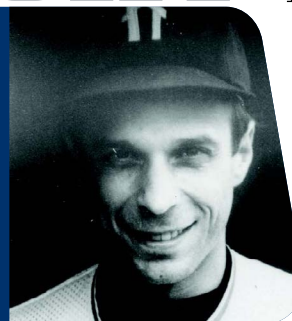


National Softball
Hall of Fame
OKLAHOMA CITY



TERRY MUCK – FAST PITCH PLAYER

Terry Muck was the premiere middle infielder of his time with a range that allowed few balls through the infield. Known for his small size and impressive speed, Muck encompassed the perfect attributes for a leadoff hitter while providing power that allowed him to occasionally shift to 3-hole in the Home Savings lineup. Aside from his outstanding skill as a softball player, Muck was better known as an outstanding individual with great integrity and character.



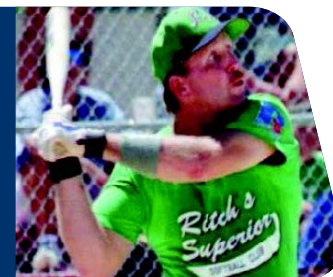
BILL PFEIFFER – FAST PITCH PLAYER

A 15-year member of the Home Savings team in Aurora, Illinois, Bill Pfeiffer helped lead his squad to 13 ASA National Championship appearances. Pfeiffer was also a member of the USA Softball Men's National team that earned a Silver Medal at the first-ever Pan American Games in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Following his retirement from softball, Pfeiffer took his same diligence he showcased on the field in becoming a Co-Founder of the Aurora Fast Pitch Softball Association. Pfeiffer continues to serve as a member of the Association in hopes to keep the game alive and well in the Chicago Metro area.



DOUG ROBERSION – SLOW PITCH PLAYER

One of the best outfielders of all time, Doug Roberson is considered to have had one of the strongest arms ever seen in slow pitch softball. Known as an absolute powerhouse on both sides of the field, Roberson slugged over 2,000 homeruns in his 14-year playing career, totaling a season high of 672 in his 1987 season. While his accomplishments speak for themselves, many refer to Roberson as a true ambassador of the game.



CARL ROSE – SLOW PITCH PLAYER

With a playing career that spanned over 15 years, Carl Rose collected 20 All-World Selections with two National MVP awards and one Defensive MVP award. Aside from his dominance on the field, Rose was an unselfish teammate that was well-known and well-liked on and off the field. Following his storied slow pitch softball career, Rose's legendary power at the plate landed him a signature bat, the Carl Rose Lighthouse Bat -- a Worth best seller. Rose will posthumously be honored following his passing in July 2020.



CLASS OF 2020 HOF SPOTLIGHT



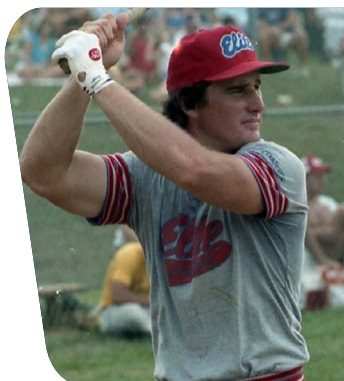
National Softball
Hall of Fame

OKLAHOMA CITY



NATASHA WATLEY – FAST PITCH PLAYER

A career with the United States Women’s National Team that spanned 9 years, Natasha Watley became an immediate gamechanger for Team USA. With the ability to hit for power and average while also using her speed in the short game, Watley was the true definition of a triple threat, making her one of the most feared hitters for any defense. After retiring from the sport in 2010, Watley has continued to be an inspiration and leader in her work with the Natasha Watley Foundation (NWF) bringing her knowledge, passion, and hope to the next generation of young ladies.



CECIL WHITEHEAD – SLOW PITCH PLAYER

With a playing career that spanned 14 years, Cecil Whitehead is known to be one of the top five outfielders of all time. A six-time All-American, Whitehead was a member of two Super National Championships, two Major National Championships and four Super National Runner-ups. Many consider Whitehead to be in the Top 5 of all-time greatest slow pitch softball players in the history of the sport.

CURTIS WILLIAMS – SLOW PITCH PLAYER

Curtis Williams played the highest classification of softball for over 30 years, earning his first All-American award in 1977 and his last in 2000, the longest span between such awards in softball history. A 13-time All-American selection, Williams was a member of 10 National Championship teams throughout his storied playing career. His continued dominance in the game helped earn him 20 All-World selections with three National Defensive MVP awards.





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PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS



CHECK OUT THE LATEST PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS

FEBRUARY 2021

In this edition, Kevin Ryan talks about how we have been carefully navigating the world of COVID-19 and hope to prepare for the 2021 National Championship season. He mentions the success of the first ever Biennial Virtual UIC Clinic, as well as the virtual National Umpire Schools and the dates for those still to come.

[Click here to read the February 2021 Plays & Clarifications](#)

MARCH 2021

Kevin Ryan provides National Umpire School updates and discusses the 2021 Fast Pitch Camp in October, umpire manual, All-American Games, National Championships, and the umpire exam in this edition of Plays & Clarifications.

[Click here to read the March 2021 Plays & Clarifications](#)

APRIL 2021

Is a player allowed to wear their hat backwards when also wearing a defensive mask? This question, along with information about the Junior Olympic (JO) summer season and the 2021 Fast Pitch Camp is covered in April.

[Click here to read the April 2021 Plays & Clarifications](#)

MAY 2021

In the May edition, Kevin Ryan mentions the 2021 Fast Pitch Camp and gives tips on umpire mechanics and how to properly read a play. He also responds to a question about the umpire manual and gives clarification on two different plays.

[Click here to read the May 2021 Plays & Clarifications](#)

JUNE 2021

Baserunning plays can be tricky, but Kevin Ryan provides insight on what to call in certain situations. He also gives updates on the 2021 Fast Pitch Camp in October and looks forward to the JO Cup coming up the end of June.

[Click here to read the June 2021 Plays & Clarifications](#)

JULY 2021

With the 2021 National Championship season arriving, Kevin Ryan gives clarification on three different plays - including the Time Limit Rule - as well as a reminder about the 2021 Fast Pitch Camp coming up in October.

[Click here to read the July 2021 Plays & Clarifications](#)

AUGUST 2021

This month, Kevin Ryan provides an answer to a question regarding a double steal and obstruction at second base. He also gives a shoutout to all the umpires who worked events during the brutally hot summer.

[Click here to read the August 2021 Plays & Clarifications](#)

SEPTEMBER 2021

In the September edition, Kevin Ryan sums up the 2021 National Championship season and looks to the future while talking about evaluations and 2022 National Umpire Schools. He informs readers of the cancellation of the Fast Pitch Camp in October and gives clarification on an obstruction call.

[Click here to read the September 2021 Plays & Clarifications](#)



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USA PATRIOTS

USA PATRIOTS BRING AMPUTEE KIDS AND VETERANS TOGETHER FOR 2021 KIDS CAMP

With a mission of Serving Beyond the Uniform® while showing the world that Life Without Limbs is Limitless®, the USA Patriots – America’s Amputee Softball Team – has gone above and beyond to shine light on the power of inclusivity through the sport of softball. USA Patriots consists of a team of veterans who travel the country playing against able-bodied athletes in an effort to inspire, encourage, and promote healing on and off the field. The organization has grown immensely over the years, including the addition of Kids Camp, which allows kids from across the world to come together for a week of softball with mentors and peers who can relate to living life without limbs.

USA Patriots President and team member, Josh Wege, says the purpose of Kids Camp is to provide the kids involved with an experience that allows them to grow more comfortable in who they are. A retired Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marines Corps, Wege lost both his legs while on his first tour of duty in Afghanistan and has found participating in slow pitch softball with the Patriots to be a therapeutic activity that he wants others to experience.

“We aim to provide an exciting and inclusive experience for our campers,” said Wege. “A lot of these kids have been picked on and excluded throughout their childhood. Even mom and dad can’t really understand what that’s like, because usually they’re able-bodied persons themselves. So, we try to pop that bubble that’s been put around them and just treat them like a kid for a change.”

Kids Camp was created when veterans on the USA Patriots team realized they could serve beyond the military uniform and impact a larger group of people, especially kids who were in a similar situation as them – and what better to do that than by using the sport of softball? Our sport offers so much to everyone who



USA PATRIOTS

participates, but what often goes unnoticed is the human connections and relationships that are formed. With all that in mind, USA Patriots has grown to provide a life-changing experience for the veterans, campers and parents involved at each annual Kids Camp.

“Obviously we use the game softball,” said Wege. “But at this level, it’s more than that. It’s really just about them gaining confidence in who they are.”

Kids Camp is supported by the Kids Camp Annual Fund which aims to raise \$180,000 annually. The fund is used to bring 20 children to camp each year for an all-expenses paid experience. This year’s camp in Fond du Lac, Wisc. was the eighth annual Kids Camp put on by USA Patriots. Rotating to different sites around the country, the team has traveled to Florida, California, Kentucky, New Hampshire, and Washington, D.C. – giving kids across the nation the opportunity to participate.

The week-long camp features four days of practice with skills sessions and drills to allow campers to interact with each other and USA Patriots mentors, followed by a banquet dinner on Friday night and an intersquad on Saturday. With the hope of providing a memorable experience for the campers, the intersquad aims to have a “major league feel” with the kids wearing custom jerseys and hearing their names announced on the loud speaker.

“At the beginning, they kind of act like they don’t want to be there – they’re shy,” said Wege. “But by the end of the week, they don’t want to leave. You see them become confident in who they are. They’re not ashamed anymore.”

An example of one of those kids is 2021 camper, Chase Merriweather. At the age of three, Chase went into septic shock, leading to amputations below the elbow on both of his arms and below the knee on both of his legs. After getting comfortable with his first set of prosthetic legs at the age of four, he started playing baseball and



eventually became involved in football, sled hockey, basketball, and track. “Nothing really slowed him down,” said his mother, Chisa. “He pretty much wants to try it all!”

At this year’s Kids Camp, Chase – now 11 years old – instantly connected with one of the USA Patriots players who had the same level of amputation as him. The two bonded and shared different techniques and tips that grew Chase’s confidence on the field, while allowing him to connect with someone he could truly relate to. In addition to connecting with the USA Patriots player, Chase also spent a lot of time connecting with the other campers. He traded contact information with all the kids and was quick to start a group chat once camp ended so they could stay in contact.

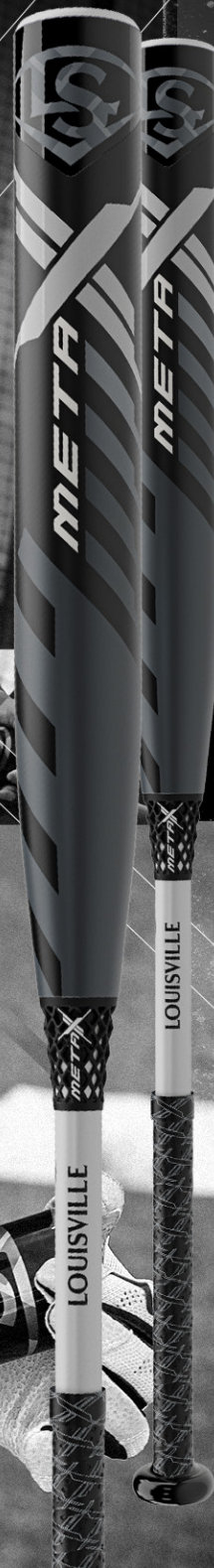
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USA PATRIOTS

According to Wege and USA Patriots, that's what Kids Camp is all about – to get kids out there connecting with others, while growing in confidence on and off the field. “It was an absolutely amazing experience, and they really made the kids feel like superstars,” said Chisa.

Nine-year-old Ruth Evelyn also attended Kids Camp this year and left with an experience she will remember forever. A bilateral amputee, Ruth was provided a chest rig created by the USA Patriots to assist her with hitting the ball. The rig sat across her chest and was strapped on her with a MOLLE hardness and a battle belt, allowing her to use her hips and still hit the ball. Ruth left Kids Camp on cloud nine, begging her mom to let her join a team thanks to the effort and ingenuity of USA Patriots.



“For the USA Patriots players, it's like recharging your batteries,” said Wege. “It motivates you and gives you purpose, which is what these guys want.”

Army veteran and USA Patriots team member, Saul Bosquez, is another example of a Hero on the field who aims to help amputees feel comfortable and powerful in their bodies. Bosquez lost his leg after being injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq and uses his determination and competitive spirit to encourage kids that they, too, can get back on their feet.

“There is so much you can do,” said Bosquez. “You can play sports; you can do all the things that all the other kids are doing. You have to overcome more things than the average person does, but it doesn't make you different – it makes you special. That's how we try to empower the kids and I love seeing them get out of their shells and come out stronger by the end of it.”

“There is so much you can do. You can play sports; you can do all the things that all the other kids are doing. You have to overcome more things than the average person does, but it doesn't make you different – it makes you special.”



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FROM THE VAULT & TRIVIA: OLYMPIC REVIEW



1996 OLYMPIC GAMES
ATLANTA, GA.



2000 OLYMPIC GAMES
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



2004 OLYMPIC GAMES
ATHENS, GREECE



2008 OLYMPIC GAMES
BEIJING, CHINA



2020 OLYMPIC GAMES
TOKYO, JAPAN

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE USA SOFTBALL WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM?

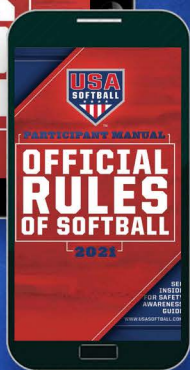
1. Who did the U.S. defeat in the 1996 Olympic Gold Medal Game?
2. How many teams did the U.S. shutout in the 2000 Olympic Games?
3. Which USA WNT Member had the most stolen bases in the 2004 Olympic Games?
4. How many strikeouts did Cat Osterman have in the 2008 Olympic Games?
5. In the eighth inning walk-off win over Australia in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, who had the game-winning hit that clinched the 2-1 victory?

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