

For Immediate Release: 7/23/2010

## **Stage is set for second Border Battle; USA and Canada teams go undefeated in exhibition play**

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. --- The stage is set—the USA National Team vs. Team Canada on Saturday afternoon in the second Border Battle nationally televised (3 p.m.) on ESPN.

Each team will go in Saturday's Border Battle, which was won by the USA last year, following the final exhibition games Saturday at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium undefeated. Canada increased its record to 3-0 with a 20-5 run-rule (five innings) win over Fence Brokers of Bryant, Ark. Friday evening.

Fence Brokers, which played its worst game of the season according to manager Mike Wilson, played much better in the nightcap dropping a 28-19 decision to the USA National Team, who is now 2-0.

The two games were like night and day for Wilson's team and he didn't spare any words in commenting about the two games. "In game one we didn't hit and we left eight runners on base. When you score only five runs it doesn't matter who plays defense. We had two starters missing but that wasn't the reason we lost," said Wilson.

Besides collecting only 10 hits in the game, F-B collected only three homers to seven for Canada. Two of the homers were hit by former Super/Major level standout John Glidewell in the first and third innings. That was the only scoring for the Brokers who trailed 17-2 after three innings and didn't score in the second and fifth innings.

Canada, meanwhile, collected 20 hits and scored four times in the first, 10 in the second, and three each in the third and fifth innings in getting its second run-rule game of the exhibitions. Second baseman Jeff Gare paced the winners' offense driving in four runs in a perfect evening (four-for-four). Todd Cadenhead's (Vaughn, ON) solo homer in the fifth inning ended the game on the run-rule (15 after five innings).

In the second game, Wilson said his team was more relaxed. "We were prepared and embarrassed by the first game. We showed up better."

Fence Brokers scored as many runs in the first inning as it did in five innings in losing the first and led the USA 5-3. Each team went scoreless in the second inning and the Fence Brokers didn't score in the top of the third inning. The USA, however, unloaded for eight runs in the bottom of the third to take an 11-5 lead before the Arkansas team took a one-run lead, 12-11, into the bottom of the fourth inning. The Brokers scored seven times in the top of the fourth highlighted by Tim Howard's grand slam homer.

The USA came back with only three runs in the bottom half of the fourth and the Brokers added to their lead with a six-run fifth inning on six hits including three homers. Through four innings the USA had hit only three homers and it's important to save roundtrippers at this level of slow pitch because a team wants to have runners on base to score runs in bunches en route to even a win.

That's exactly what the USA did in the bottom of the sixth inning, scoring 10 times to turn a four-run deficit into a six run lead (24-18). The USA hit five of its nine homers in the inning, collecting nine of its 30 hits. J. D. Genter paced the USA offense with a perfect evening (5-for-5) driving in three runs.

The USA added four more runs in the bottom of the sixth as the Fence Brokers tallied only once in the top of the sixth and went scoreless in the seventh inning.

Although pleased with the win, USA Head Coach Steve Shortland said the USA is still trying to find its groove. "Talent isn't the issue," said Shortland. "We are getting comfortable, but we are just scratching the surface for this team, which has a lot of potential. We are hoping that it all comes together tomorrow."

If it does, the USA will walk away with another Border Battle Championship. If this year's game is half as good as last year's then the fans at the Hall of Fame Stadium and those watching on ESPN will be in for a treat watching men's slow pitch softball at its best.

### **About ASA**

The Amateur Softball Association, founded in 1933, is the National Governing Body of softball in the United States and a member of the United States Olympic Committee. The ASA has become one of the nation's largest sports organizations and now sanctions competition in every state through a network of 76 local associations. The ASA has grown from a few hundred teams in the early days to over 240,000 teams today, representing a membership of more than three million. For more information on the ASA, visit <http://www.asasoftball.com/>.

### **About USA Softball**

USA Softball is the brand created, operated and owned by the ASA that links the USA Men's, Women's, Junior Boys' and Junior Girls' National Team programs together. USA Softball is responsible for training, equipping and promoting these four National Teams to compete in international and domestic competitions. The USA Softball Women's National Team is one of the only two women's sports involved in the Olympic movement to capture three consecutive gold medals at the Olympic Games since 1996. The U.S. women have also won nine World Championship titles including the last seven consecutive as well as claimed three World Cup of Softball titles. For more information about USA Softball, please visit <http://www.usasoftball.com/>.