

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 12, 2011

Johnson's Eighth-Inning Double Lifts USA Softball Over Canada, 3-1

OKLAHOMA CITY – It took eight innings for the victory but USA Softball defeated host team Canada, 3-1, last night at the Canadian Open Fastpitch International Championship in Surrey, B.C., thanks to a Molly Johnson (Tucson, Ariz.) double that secured the win. It's another tough day of competition as USA Softball will play a double header against Japan and Venezuela with the first pitch set for 3:00 p.m./CT.

Be sure to catch all the action live at www.canadianopenfastpitch.com as all games are webcast. Box scores, standings and play by play can also be found here.

Canada took an early 1-0 lead in the second when Danielle Lopez doubled to score Jill Russell who singled off of starting U.S. pitcher Whitney Canion (Aledo, Texas). Canion went on to pitch 3.2 innings with four strikeouts and one earned run. The U.S. evened the score in the fourth when leadoff batter Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, Calif.) launched a solo shot, her second homerun of the tournament.

Jordan Taylor (Valencia, Calif.) and Keilani Ricketts (San Jose, Calif.) also shared time in the circle with Taylor coming in at the bottom of the fourth facing three batters with three strikeouts. Ricketts finished the game in the circle striking out six batters and allowing no hits.

In the top of the eighth, Kaitlin Cochran (Yorba Linda, Calif.) was placed on second due to the International Tie Breaker rule. Arioto was intentionally walked and a sac hit by Lauren Gibson (Pasadena, Md.) put two runners into scoring position. Johnson hit a two-run double to score Cochran and Arioto giving the team a 3-1 lead, needing the defense to get three outs in the bottom of the eighth for the win. Ricketts issued three strikeouts in the bottom of the eighth to secure the victory.

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 210,000 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 four World Cup of Softball titles. For more information about USA Softball, please visit <http://www.usasoftball.com/>.

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