

For Immediate Release: 8/28/08 - From USA Softball

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Mendoza Finalist for the WSF Sportswoman of the Year

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. – The Amateur Softball Association is pleased to announce that USA Softball's very own Jessica Mendoza (Camarillo, Calif.) is a finalist for the Women's Sports Foundation Sportswoman of the Year. Vote [TODAY](#) for Mendoza, as she helped lead the USA Softball team to a silver medal finish at the 2008 Olympic Games and has been a major staple through the 2008 season.

Mendoza started in all nine games of the 2008 Olympic Games at left field, hitting .333 (8-for-24). She scored 10 runs with four homeruns. She contributed nine RBI while remaining perfect in the outfield. Her four homeruns help set a new Olympic Record for most homeruns in Olympic games by a team with 15. Mendoza is not only a leader inside the lines but also outside. Just moments after the Gold Medal Game, where the team was dealt a devastating loss Mendoza reached out to the Gold Medalists Japan team and Bronze Medal Australian team. Together they formed the statement '2016' with softballs and joined together chanting "Back Softball, Back Softball", hoping to make a statement for the future of the sport.

Throughout the KFC Bound 4 Beijing Tour, where the team barnstormed the Nation playing exhibition games, Mendoza hit .495 with a team high 89 runs scored with 107 RBI. She was also perfect in left field in 59 games played.

An activist at heart, Mendoza started out the year going on a U.S. Army Goodwill Tour of Afghanistan where she visited troops there. She is also about to embark on a European Tour where she will help assist development in European areas where the sport needs growth as an effort to get softball back in the Olympic Games.

Athletes were considered for the 2008 award based on their athletic achievements between August 1, 2007, and August 24, 2008. Criteria include championships won, records set and awards won. Voting has begun and will conclude **September 2, 2008**. Please vote today at www.womenssportsfoundation.com.

The awards will be presented, at the [Annual Salute to Women in Sports Awards Dinner](#) on October 14, 2008 at the Waldorf=Astoria in New York City.

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 83 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 eight World Championship titles including the last six consecutive as well as claimed two World Cup of Softball titles. For more information about USA Softball, please visit <http://www.usasoftball.com/>.

