

10 August 2011

DUTCH ARE EUROPEAN CHAMPS AGAIN

The Netherlands successfully defended their European Women's Championship title, defeating Italy, 10-2, this past Saturday at the 20-nation fast pitch event. Saskia Kosterink, a member of the 2008 Olympic team and a BackSoftball Athlete Ambassador, led the way with a double and a home run and five runs batted in. Just 24 hours earlier the Dutch had needed an extra inning to defeat Italy, 5-1, after the host country had tied the game in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The top three finishers earned a berth in next year's ISF XIII Women's World Championship, meaning that the Netherlands, Italy, and Great Britain have all clinched a spot at the event next July in Canada. The other participants in last week's European tournament – listed in order of finish – were: Czech Republic, Russia, Spain, France, Austria, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Ukraine, Israel, Poland, Denmark, Croatia, and Switzerland.



*The Netherlands celebrates following their win over Italy.
(Photo by Franco Bagattini)*

2011 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SITE VISIT

ISF Secretary General Ms. Low Beng Choo and ISF Director of Competition Laurie Gouthro are currently doing a site inspection in Cape Town, South Africa, which tied in with the celebration of Women's Day there yesterday. The ISF IX Jr. Women's World Championship (19-and-under, fast pitch) will be played there in December, with the maximum 16 countries participating. A great deal of upgrades have been getting done at Turfhall Softball Stadium, which was part of South Africa's bid some years ago for hosting the 2004 Olympics. The junior world championship website – which includes online media accreditation, ticket information, the list of teams, and much more, can be found at <http://jwwc2011.co.za/>.



ISF Secretary General Low Beng Choo (third from right), ISF VP/Africa Guillo Marapjane (second from left), and 2011 World Championship Organizing Committee Chair Noore Nacerodien (right end) with many community officials in South Africa who are supporting the event.

PRESIDENT TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY GAMES

ISF President Don Porter left the world headquarters today to travel to Shenzhen, China, where the World University Games will begin on Friday with over 12,000 athletes representing 152 countries. An announcement was made three months ago that the III World University Softball Championship had been awarded to Colorado Springs, Colorado (USA), for August 2012. Softball was on the programme of the World University Games in 2007 in Bangkok and is seeking to rejoin the multisport event for the 2013 edition in Russia and/or 2015 in Korea.

While in China the ISF president will also attend the China Softball Association's women's national championship in Wuxi City, near Shanghai.

EBAY AUCTION UNDERWAY

With an opening bid of USD\$9.99, the ISF uploaded another item to eBay yesterday afternoon. Running through Tuesday afternoon (Eastern time) on August 16th on the popular Internet auction site is a listing for a full color promotional poster for Sochi 2014 – the site and year of the next Winter Olympic Games. So far the ISF has sold every item it has listed during its two years on eBay. The current auction listing can be found at <http://bit.ly/qb8kYH> (or go to ebay.com and search on item #270796836154).

