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JAPAN'S SOFTBALL GOLD MEDALISTS TAKE OLYMPIC CAMPAIGN TO PRO BASEBALL GAMES

20,000 flyers calling for reinstatement of baseball/softball to the Olympic Games were handed to baseball fans who came to see the game between Yomiuri Giants and Chunichi Dragons in Maebashi, Gunma on June 21. Members of the hometown softball team, Renesas Electronics, including Beijing Olympic Gold Medalist Pitcher Yukiko Ueno and Senior Advisor Taeko Utsugi (ISF Vice President-Asia) handed out flyers and were joined by players of both the Giants and Dragons. The leafleting campaign will gain momentum in future baseball and softball tournaments as a part of PLAY BALL 2020, and will encourage fans to vote on social media. Baseball Federation of Japan has printed 500,000 flyers for distribution at these events.



Taeko Utsugi (center) and Yukiko Ueno (second from right) hand out flyers for the Play Ball campaign in Maebashi, Gunma, Japan.

ISF SECRETARY GENERAL RE-ELECTION TO NOC POSITION



ISF Secretary-General Ms. Low Beng Choo was re-elected as vice president of the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) during the Council's General Assembly meeting on June 23. Ms. Low received the second largest vote count of the five vice presidents elected.

Also re-elected was Prince Tunku Imran as president of the OCM. His Highness is also an IOC member and president of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

PAKISTAN NATIONAL FEDERATIONS WORK TOGETHER TO ADVANCE PLAYBALL CAMPAIGN

The Softball Federation of Pakistan (SFP) and the Baseball Federation of Pakistan (BFP) have joined hands in a bid to see baseball-softball added back into the 2020 Olympic Games. On June 29, both federations will hold several events, including seminars, workshops and social media activities to promote the WBSC's Play Ball campaign.

BSF HOSTS SLOW PITCH COACHES

Steve Shortland, head coach of the USA Men's Slowpitch Team and Cheryl Trapnell, former All-Armed Forces Women's Slowpitch Head Coach, are currently holding coaching clinics around the United Kingdom. The tour, supported by the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) and the British Softball Federation, started June 20 in London. The topics

covered included pre-game warm-up drills, outfield cut-off drills, double play techniques and how to make more effective use of the catcher in slowpitch, along with pitching and batting strategy, ideas for line-up optimization and game strategy at



tournaments. They also worked with members of the Great Britain Slowpitch Team in preparation for the upcoming European Slowpitch Championships in the Czech Republic.

2nd EAST ASIAN SOFTBALL CUP

The Japan Softball Association will host the 2nd East Asian Cup in Ibigawa, Japan from July 4-7. The five team tournament will feature four countries from the East Asian region: China, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Japan (national), and Japan Univ. national team. Softball fans from around the world can watch all the action with every game available free through live webstreaming by ustream. To access the games, visit www.softball.or.jp/eac2013.

FIRE/POLICE DEPARTMENTS PLAY SOFTBALL TO SUPPORT FIRE VICTIMS

After the Black Forest Fire and the Waldo Canyon Fire around Colorado Springs, CO (USA) caused widespread damage, the Colorado Springs Fire Department played the city's police department in the first-ever "Heroes Classic" to generate funds for fire victims. Before the main event last Saturday, former MLB players took part in a baseball clinic for youngsters followed by signing autographs for nearly an hour.

Home of the United States Olympic Committee, the area has been affected greatly by wild fires with over 900 homes destroyed in the Black Forest fire alone. Saturday night, several thousand people filled Security Services Field, the home of the Colorado Springs Sky Sox minor league baseball team. In addition to the donations, the game meant something else for people in the Colorado Springs community – allowing a few hours to laugh and have fun. In the end, the fire department won the lopsided softball game 10-0.



Baseball Hall of Famer Dave Henderson, left, bats for the police department team during the Heroes Classic Celebrity softball game, at the Security Service Field. (Photo by Junfu Han. The Gazette)

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