



european  
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# newsletter

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## FROM THE ESF BOARD DESK

# No Games, No Glory ?

*In February 2013, the International Olympic Committee Executive decided to drop wrestling from the program of the Olympic Games. In May, following protests from many countries, based largely on the fact that wrestling was a sport that went all the way back to the Olympics of Ancient Greece, wrestling was put back on the list of sports to be considered for inclusion in the 2020 Games, and in fact was put on the shortlist of three sports – baseball/softball, squash and wrestling – that was voted on by the IOC Congress on September 8.*

*This was in stark contrast to the situation in 2005, when baseball and softball were dropped from the program and applied for reinstatement six months later. The vote to reconsider our sports at that time was a resounding “no”.*

*Although the vote of the IOC did not go in our favor, and although we all supported our collective decisions from Oklahoma City and Houston which bound us together with our sister sport Baseball for the future of our sports and disciplines, the objective still is the same. Build our sport to be what the IOC and the Olympics will want amongst the other sports in the future.*

*The campaign for our return to the Olympic program has been conducted with great enthusiasm and with much effort. Professional Leagues rallied behind the campaign. The facts and figures were waterproof. Unfortunately, it did not help. We did not fail in our bid, we are what the Olympic values require, a sport for all, a sport with an identity that every child in the world can play regardless of age, anatomy or gender, a sport that allows us to dream.*

*So now is the time, to gather around home plate, in the dugout, in the clubhouse, to rebuild, regenerate all our energy in building our Sport into what we all Dream about. It is time, to make the change, to progress to look beyond the fences and see our future from the little boys and girls to the men and the women in all our disciplines.*

*Although there are sounds of hope coming out of Buenos Aires as to Tokyo requesting our sports presence, we should realize that this is not the end, this is just the beginning of a new era and generation which will move us forward, for now, without the Olympics, but with a dream of becoming one of the most popular sports in the World.*

*Babe Ruth said "The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime."*

*It is time to play together and make dreams come true.*



## FROM THE EDITOR

The ESF Newsletters will be published every four weeks and will contain a wide range of information about softball in Europe. If you want to publish an article, message or announcement on a softball topic in the Newsletter (on events, rules, equipment or anything else), please send your copy (in Word), preferably accompanied by pictures, to: [info@europeansoftball.org](mailto:info@europeansoftball.org).



ESF Newsletters will contain information about softball events and activities of the ESF. The information is not advice, and should not be treated as such. If you want to unsubscribe from this Newsletter, please send an e-mail with the subject heading "Unsubscribe" to: [info@europeansoftball.org](mailto:info@europeansoftball.org).

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## COLOFON

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Gabriël Waage  
ESF Vice President  
Tournaments  
Commissioner

## SUCCESSFUL SUMMER FOR ESF TOURNAMENTS

By Gabriël Waage  
ESF Tournaments Commissioner

**The ESF tournament season for 2013 finished at the conclusion of the Men's Super Cup in Italy at the end of August.**  
**In total, nine ESF tournaments were played in 2013: four in the Czech Republic, three in Italy and one each in Denmark and Bulgaria.**  
**In total, 93 teams participated across the nine events.**  
**I want to thank all the organizers who hosted ESF events in 2013 and did an excellent job.**

### Tournament Summaries

Here is a brief rundown on how the different ESF tournaments went: The major event of the summer was the **European Women's Championship (EChW)** that was held in Prague from July 7-13. ESF President André van Overbeek has already mentioned the success of this event in the previous ESF Newsletter. The tournament had excellent media coverage by Czech National TV and on the internet. Every evening, a very large number of spectators found the way into the bleachers and those who couldn't get a seat were lined up along the fences, making it a real celebration of softball. The Dutch confirmed their current domination in Europe and gained their third European title in the row.

Twelve teams participated at the **European Cadette Girls' Championship (EChCG)** in Ostrava from August 5-10, the largest number of teams we have had over the seven times the tournament has been held. Russia, the only country to gain a medal from all of the previous Cadette Championships, took home the gold on this occasion.

Stenlose, Denmark successfully hosted the **European Junior Boys' Championship (EChJB)** for the first time from July 8-13. Five teams played for places at the World Junior Championship in 2014. The Czechs dominated the tournament and went undefeated in winning the title. Croatia confirmed its improvement in men's fastpitch and, by taking the bronze medal, qualified for the Worlds along with the Czechs and Denmark.

Great Britain won its ninth consecutive title at the **European Coed Slowpitch Championship (EChCS)** in Pardubice from August 17-20. No one else has ever won this event, but Slovenia is closer and closer!



EChCG 2013 Ostrava - A few impressions

Sportfotografie Dirk Steffen  
[dirksteffen.zenfolio.com](http://dirksteffen.zenfolio.com)



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## Medals Table

In total, 10 sets of medals were given to 12 countries over the course of this summer's ESF tournaments. The table below shows the success of each of the national federations that won at least one medal.

COUNTRY	MEDALS	MEDALS		
		GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Czech Republic	8	2	4	2
Italy	5	2	1	2
Netherlands	5	2	1	2
Great Britain	2	2	0	0
Denmark	2	0	2	0
Croatia	2	0	0	2
Russia	1	1	0	0
Belgium	1	1	0	0
Slovenia	1	0	1	0
Switzerland	1	0	1	0
Germany	1	0	0	1
Spain	1	0	0	1

We'll looking forward to seeing you at the fields in 2014 for all of the ESF tournaments – and for the ISF Women's World Championship, which will be played in Europe for the very first time!



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Collechio, near Parma in Italy, is now the permanent home for the **European Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy (EMRYT)**, designed to give Europe's younger players at Under-13 age level competitive experience. The tournament, which is open to more than one team per country, was played for second time in Collechio from August 14-17. A very friendly atmosphere prevailed during the tournament, which is the most important thing, but the top four teams also played high-level softball. The ESF would like to see more participants at this tournament and will promote it more strongly to federations.

The Eagles from the Czech Republic gained a historic first medal for the country at the most prestigious club event – the **European Women's A Pool Cup (ECWA)**, played from August 19-24 in Prague. And not just a medal, but a gold medal. This tournament has been dominated by Italian and Dutch teams since 1978 (with the sole exception of 2009, when Sharx from Austria won), so it was quite a feat for the Eagles to gain the title of European Cup Champions.

Softball first came to Dupnitsa, Bulgaria in 2008 and the town has hosted an ESF tournament almost every year since. The facilities at Dupnitsa have gotten better step by step, from practically nothing to the excellent complex and infrastructure that is now in place, almost ready to host major events. This year, Dupnitsa was the site for the **European Women's B Pool Cup (ECWB)**, and there was a first-ever European Cup win here as well, for the British team London Angels.

The **European Women's Cup Winners Cup (ECWCW)** was played in Montegrano, Italy from August 19-24. A and B pool teams played together in the competition after a lack of numbers in recent years and this was a good decision. Previous B pool teams faced stronger opposition and those games helped them, while results were reasonably close. So this format will be carried forward on a permanent basis. The only real problem at this tournament was lost balls!

Finally, the **Men's Super Cup (ESCM)** from August 26-31 was played in Italy to showcase men's fastpitch on a high level and promote this format to the Italians – a goal that was 100% achieved. The tournament was played in three different locations, with a great deal of interest from spectators, local authorities and the Italian Federation (FIBS). And the enthusiasm and effort of the organizers was crowned with success, as the Italian team Lupi Roma won the event and brought a first men's fastpitch title to the country.

We'll looking forward to seeing you at the fields in 2014 for all of the ESF tournaments – and for the ISF Women's World Championship, which will be played in Europe for the very first time!



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Peter van der Aart  
President Organization  
Committee WC 2014

## Hot News about the Women's Softball World Championship 2014

The United States, Canada, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the Czech Republic, Italy, Puerto Rico, presumably Chinese Taipei, Japan and China plus Australia, New Zealand, Russia, the Netherlands and two African countries including South Africa.



Behold the scenario for an exceptional ten days of top fastpitch softball during the Women's World Championship in Haarlem, Netherlands next year!

The **14th ISF Women's World Championship**, the first ever to take place in Europe, will be held from 15-24 August 2014. It will be a great opportunity for fans from around the world to see great players and great matches up close -- and perhaps to see and experience a bit of the Netherlands as well.

The organization of the World Championships is in full swing. Many participating countries have agreed to come during the week prior to the tournament to the Netherlands, Italy or the Czech Republic to have their training camp and play exhibition games against European national or club teams.

More information on this will follow as soon as possible.

If there are other countries, venues or clubs that want to host a training camp for World Championship teams, they should contact: [info@wcsoftball2014.com](mailto:info@wcsoftball2014.com).

### Come to the Netherlands

What could be better than to enjoy softball at the highest level in the world and have a pleasant stay in the Netherlands at the same time? There is so much to see and do! The organization is working hard on ideas for fans to combine a unique sporting experience with a unique holiday experience.

If you would like to be kept informed about what's on offer, email your contact details to: [info@wcsoftball2014.com](mailto:info@wcsoftball2014.com).



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## Groups

Attractive prices for accommodation and tickets will be available, especially for groups of 15 people or more. The longer your stay, the more attractive the rates will be. Are you interested? If so, email your contact details to:

[info@wcsoftball2014.com](mailto:info@wcsoftball2014.com). We will keep you informed about the possibilities.

## Compact games

Coming to the Netherlands? Please do bring your bike! All accommodation offered by the organization (including camping) will be within cycling distance of the softball park. Or, bikes will be available for rent per day. Next time, we will provide more information about campsites and hotels. But if you want some specific information, please email: [info@wcsoftball2014.com](mailto:info@wcsoftball2014.com)



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## SOFTBALL IN THE PRESS...

here you find attached the Parma Newspaper "Gazzetta di Parma" page dedicated to 2nd EMRYT.

Unfortunately is in Italian but we hope that you'll be pleased to save it as a tournament souvenir

Sincerely  
Collecchio Baseball Softball Club  
Titto

# Le azzurrissime del softball



## A Collecchio Italia 1 in trionfo nel Romeo Trophy

### Il papà del soft

«E' troppo bello vedere giocare queste bambine»

Massimo Romeo

### COLLECCHIO

Andrea Ponticelli

Il Collecchio l'immagine finale del «Romeo Trophy» è un concentrato di simpatia e tenerezza. Appena fuori dal campo piccolo delle azzurrine e le Czech Stars ballano tutte insieme sulla musica proposta dai gemelli Cristofori, giocatori del Collecchio baseball e brevi anche come degli. «Guardate», mi incita Massimo Romeo, felice perché il suo torneo ha riscosso ancora una volta un buon esito dal «epilone» nella giornata finale. Lui ne ha visti di mondiali, di europei, di rassegne giovanili: «è sempre troppo bello vedere tutte queste bambine che giocano, ridono, scherzano, socializzano, si inventano le lingue per capirsi». E facevano anche a gara per averlo con loro nelle foto: il sorridente riconoscimento a un dirigente «che ci ha regalato - è Massimo Fochi che parla - questa festa del softball senza la sua tenacia non sarebbe mai nata. Io ero scettico, quando una decina di anni fa insisteva per creare un campionato europeo. Ragazze: ora riconosco, e lo faccio con grande piacere, che aveva e ha ragione lui».

La festa di Massimo Romeo, dunque, ma anche la festa di tutte queste ragazze. Magari giocano ancora con le bambole; a Collecchio sono diventate indipendenti di emozioni. Come ha detto il sindaco bianchi, orgoglioso «perché queste manifestazioni ci fanno sentire noi collechiesi sempre più internazionali», sono fantastiche

### Classifiche

1. Italy 1
2. Czech Stars (CZE)
3. Italy 2
4. Moscovia Marino (RUS)
5. Slovakia
6. Moscovia Mini (RUS)
7. London Cubs (GBR)
8. Great Britain

«perché si impegnano per lo sport e quindi per il loro futuro». La festa anche del Collecchio, una società così avveza ad organizzare questi tornei che vorrebbe addirittura aumentare il numero delle squadre partecipanti. Lo auspica il presidente Levati: «questo torneo, con solo ottosquadre, è durato quattro giorni. Noi lo possiamo gestire in due giorni. Se consideri che in quattro giorni furono giocate 28 squadre al Bruni e al Piccolo Collecchio».

La festa del softball, «la vittoria del progetto Verde Rosa e di conseguenza la vittoria di tutto uno staff che da anni lavora per questa iniziativa».

Parole di Carlo Ferrari, il manager parmigiano che ha allestito l'Italia 1, vincitrice del torneo grazie al successo per 1-0 ottenuto nella finalissima contro le Czech Stars, nato perché «noi e le ragazze abbiamo appreso in ogni partita cinque concetti base: concentrazione, coraggio, determinazione, responsabilità, comicità». L'ennesima soddisfazione di un allenatore per 10 anni all'Old Parma, da tre anni a Sala: un maestro del softball giovanile capace di vincere per quattro volte il torneo delle Regioni e di partecipare per altrettante edizioni alle World Series negli Usa. Ed ora questo successo a Collecchio, nato grazie a ragazze così amiche fra di loro da farsi rieggero con questa vittoria quello che scriveva Hélder Pessoa Câmara, arcivescovo di Recife scomparso nel '99: «un sogno sognato da soli è solo un sogno, un sogno sognato da tanti può essere realtà».

### UNA FOLTA RAPPRESENTANZA CON IL MANAGER CARLO FERRARI



Le parmigiane al torneo. In piedi da sinistra: Carlo Ferrari (man.), Daria Marchi, Giada Capelli, Giorgia Ori, Sasyvimon Calzetti, Alice Voltari, Rosanna Sacconi, Alessia Melegari, Angelica Mezzetta. In ginocchio: Benedetta Mori, Alessia Colonna, Giulia Azzali, Margherita Altieri.

## Dodici parmigiane in campo: felici Sala, Old e Collecchio

Il Folta la rappresentanza di giocatrici parmigiane al «Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy», a conferma del valore raggiunto in questi anni dal nostro softball giovanile. Parecchie giocatrici fanno parte ormai in pianta stabile del progetto «Verde Rosa», creato dalla Federazione per valorizzare le giovani più promettenti. Ben 12 ragazze del Parmense hanno giocato a Collecchio: tre nell'Italia 1, quattro nell'Italia 2 e cinque - tutte collechiesi - hanno rinforzato la squadra inglese delle London Cubs, piazzatasi settima. Nell'Italia 1, guidata dal manager parmigiano Carlo Ferrari, Alessia Colonna della Sala, Alessia Melegari del Collecchio, e Benedetta Mori dell'Old Parma hanno fornito un contributo importante per il successo finale, ottenuto battendo nella partita decisiva la Czech Stars. Nell'Italia 2, terza in classifica, ben tre ragazze della Sala: Daria Marchi, Angelica Mezzetta, Alice Voltari. Con loro Giada Capelli, dell'Old Parma. Infine le cinque collechiesi, diventate «inglesine» per questo torneo, nel quadro di un proficuo rapporto di collaborazione tra la società locale e le London Cubs: Margherita Alfieri, Giulia Azzali, Sasyvimon Calzetti, Giorgia Ori e Rosanna Sacconi. ♦

### LE PREMIATE



Da sinistra: Kristina Bohunicka, della Slovacchia, premiata come miglior battitrice da Massimo Fochi; Adela Linkova, della Czech Stars, premiata come miglior lanciatrice da Andrea Longagnani, manager del Labadini Collecchio; Gabriela Sibá, della Czech Stars, premiata come giocatrice più utile da Anna Maria Pains, presidente dei classificatori.

### LA FESTA



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