



Bound 4 Beijing Tour in full swing

PALM SPRINGS, CA – In Team USA's second stop during the Bound 4 Beijing Tour, the 2008 U.S. Women's Olympic Softball Team went 5-0 during the Palm Springs

Classic Tournament Feb. 21-24 against college teams.

The women's national team was definitely preparing for the Olympics as they impressed fans by outscoring teams 49-0 and only allowing two hits in 31 innings. Though, it may have come to more of a surprise if the Olympic team were beaten by one of the universities.

Team USA competed against and ambushed (defeated is an understatement)

the University of Pacific (8-0), the Palm Springs All-star Team (9-0), Florida Atlantic University (9-0), Fordham University (8-0) and University of Hawaii (15-0).



Jessica Mendoza led the team in hitting with an incredible .750 average, including three home runs, three doubles and nine runs scored. This will be Mendoza's second tour to the Olympic Games. This will also be Cat Osterman's second time to the Olympic Games but her first time as a recent graduate from the Univer-

sity of Texas. Osterman also had a stunning performance at the Palm Springs Classic by not allowing any hits or walks. She led Team USA with 19 strikeouts in eight innings pitched.

Lisa Fernandez, arguably one of the best softball players ever, also had a good performance at the tournament in Palm Springs; especially since she is returning from a three-year leave after having a baby. She helped lead the team to their perfect tournament performance as a starting pitcher in some games and helped increase the ridiculous 15-0 score in the Hawaii game with her grand slam. Fernandez is a three-time Olympic Gold Medalist and a four-time World Champion.

Team USA made their first stop of the Bound 4 Beijing Tour just two days before the Palm Springs Classic on Feb. 19 in Tucson, AZ. Their next stops are in Florida.



Top Left: Cat Osterman led Team USA with 19 strikeouts in eight innings pitched. Top Right: Lisa Fernandez returns to form after three years off. Bottom Right: Andrea Duran is ready at third base. Bottom Left: Lauren Lappin, from Anaheim, CA, squares to bunt. Photos by Tom Smedes.

