

Honus. Interview with Jennie Finch, the legend of softball.

Good morning Jennie. You started playing softball at 5 years old. Why softball and not baseball?

My brothers played baseball and fortunately enough our city/town had softball for girls.

How do you feel when you play softball? What do you like about this sport?

Softball is my passion, I love the game. I'm filled with joy when I'm on the field with my teammates working hard and competing! I

When and why did you decide to play professionally? Did you want to make a living at it when you were young?

It was an honor to have the opportunity to play professionally in the National Pro Fastpitch League. I was elated to be able to play, put on the uniform, and compete beyond college and Internationally. When I was young the opportunity wasn't there, there wasn't a Pro League for women.

You stopped playing fairly early so you could consecrate time to your family. Do you miss competing?

The Lord placed a peace within me. It was time to expand our family and experience new and other challenges/opportunities. I'm blessed to still be able to be connected to the game. I do softball camps and clinics, speaking engagements, and I'm still actively involved in the game.

You're still involved in softball. You've even created an academy and some camps. Is it possible we'll see you one day coaching for the NPF or TeamUSA (or even in another country)?

I would love to, you never know what the future holds. I love to coach and help others, I hope to coach one day when my kids are older.

Incidentally, can we hope to see "Jennie Finch" camps in Europe one day, particularly in France?

This would be amazing! I would love to help grow the game and share our sport. Yes, let's make this happen one day!

As a double gold medalist at the Olympics in Athens, do you think there's a good chance softball and baseball could return to the Olympics?

My heart is hopeful. We are working hard, the World Baseball & Softball Confederation is not giving up. My hope is that Softball will be reinstated for the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Speaking about the Olympics, baseball and softball are now combined within the WBSC. Actually, do you think they've copied your couple's success, a Major Leaguer and a NPF player together?

We need each other. I'm hopeful that the collaboration will benefit our cause. We have a lot of growth to do within the NPF here, we would love to have more support and help from MLB.

Are your children more baseball like Dad or softball like Mom?

My oldest plays baseball. My tow younger ones we'll see what the future holds. Whatever they do I just want them to find their passion and be their best!

Which athletes were and continue to be an inspiration to you?

I looked up to Lisa Fernandez when I was little. Her work ethic and her strive for excellence! It was a dream come true to play beside her and learn from her.

It's amazing to see the growth of women in sport! It's so encouraging to see women competing at the professional level in so many sports!

Considering the popularity of the Internet today, how do you explain the fact that the best female softball players are not, or are little recognized, especially outside the United States? What needs to be done for softball to receive better recognition?

It breaks my heart not to see our sport and it's players get the recognition they/it deserves. My dream is one day it will. We have to keep building, sharing, growing, and working at it worldwide!

Thank Jennie !