

CURRICULUM DE NATASHA WATLEY



Natasha Watley

Height: 5'-10"

Position: Shortstop - L/R

Hometown: Irvine, CA

School: UCLA

Graduation: 2003

Born: November 27, 1981
Canoga Park, CA

A Few Accomplishments

- Two-time World Cup Champion (2006 & 2007)
- Two-time Pan American Gold medalist (2003 & 2007)
- Two-time World Champion (2002 & 2006)
- Olympic Gold medalist (2004)

NATIONAL TEAM EXPERIENCE

2007

- Starting shortstop in all 20 games played during the summer; hit .466 (27-for-58) with a team-tying high two triples and was 6-for-6 in stolen bases
- Gold medalist at Pan American Games
Hit .364 (4-for-11) with a team-tying high five runs scored
- World Cup Champion
Led team with nine hits and was second with an average of .529 (9-for-17)
Scored six runs with two triples and a homerun; tied a team high six runs scored

2006

- Gold medalist at ISF World Championships
Hit .306 (11-for-36) with 12 runs scored and three stolen bases.
- World Cup Champion
Hit .421 (8-for-19) with three triples and six RBI

2005

- Gold medalist at Pan Am qualifier
- Silver medalist at Japan Cup
Hit .250 (4-16) with four stolen bases

2004

- Gold medalist at Olympic Games in Athens, Greece
Hit .400 (12-30) with four RBI and five stolen bases; 12 hits tied a team best

2003

- Gold medalist at Pan American Games
- Hit .292 (7-24) with four RBI and five stolen bases
- Finalist for 'Sportswoman of the Year' Award

2002

- Gold medalist at ISF World Championships

At UCLA

- Four-time First-team NFCA All American
- Led UCLA to Women's College World Series title (2003)
- Won the Honda Broderick Cup as the Nation's Top Collegiate Female Athlete (2003)
- All WCWS Tournament Team (2003)
- Pac-10 Player of the Year (2003)
- Top three finalist for USA Softball National Player of the Year (2002 & 2003)
- First -team All Pac 10 and All- Pacific Region (2002)
- Led Bruins to the NCAA WCWS (2000 & 2002)
- Strung together a 32-game hitting streak, fifth longest run in NCAA history (2001)
- ASA First-team All American with Team Texas in Women's Major National Championship (2000)
- Graduated in 2005

Other

- Member of the PFX Tour (2007)
- Volunteer Assistant Coach at UCLA (2007)
- Member of the Philadelphia Force in the National Pro Fastpitch League (2006)
- Member of the New York/New Jersey Juggernaut in the NPF (2005)
- Personal website is [www. NatashaWatley.com](http://www.NatashaWatley.com)

Olympic return

Natasha Watley will look to represent the United States at the Olympics for the second time in her career this summer in Beijing, where she will play shortstop for the gold medal favorites. The team's dynamic leadoff hitter may be the fastest player in international softball, but can also hit for power. Watley spent the first two weeks of her life on a respirator, and overcame childhood asthma to become a softball superstar.

Awesome in Athens

Watley made her Olympic debut in 2004, hitting .400 (12-for-30) with five stolen bases for the gold medal-winning U.S. team. She also won gold at the 2006 World Championship, hitting .306 (11-for-36) with 12 runs scored and three stolen bases.

Worldly ways

Watley competed at the World Championship for the first time in 2002, and was the team's most dominant offensive player in the tournament. She batted .516 to lead the U.S. to a 10-0 record and a fifth consecutive world title. She scored 10 runs and drove in four more, while stealing five bases in five attempts.



USA Softball : Shortstop Natasha Watley is regarded as the fastest player in international softball.

Watley's weaponry

As a UCLA senior in 2003 she led the Bruins to a national title, hitting .481 with 10 homers, 64 runs scored and 35 stolen bases. A four-year All-American, Watley became the first Bruin with two 100-hit seasons. The California native received the 2003 Honda-Broderick Cup, awarded to the top female collegiate athlete of the year. Watley joins Team USA teammate Lisa Fernandez, also a former Bruin, as the only softball players to earn the honor.

Speedy threat

Speed is Watley's biggest asset. One of the fastest players in international softball, it takes Watley 2.5 seconds to run from home plate to first. With that speed the 26-year-old can beat out most infield grounders, even those back to the pitcher.

Infant illness

Early in her life, Watley struggled with health problems. She spent the first two weeks of her life on a respirator in intensive care, and her parents feared she would not survive. As a child she also suffered from asthma. Growing up, she used to have to go to the emergency room once or twice a year because of asthma attacks, but she grew out of it once she hit high school.

Athletic genes

Athleticism runs in Watley's family. Her father, Edwin, played baseball in high school while her mother, Carolyne, played tennis and ran track. Her second cousins include two former NBA players, Hall of Famer Willis Reed and Notre Dame product Orlando Woolridge.

Wrong-way Watley

Watley took up softball at age 5 after seeing a flyer at school, but wasn't exactly a natural. During her first game she ran to third base instead of first.

