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Contact: Eric Hills  
Mizuno USA, Inc.  
770-453-7853  
[eric.hills@mizunousa.com](mailto:eric.hills@mizunousa.com)

## **MIZUNO SIGNS UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SOFTBALL TO EQUIPMENT CONTRACT**

Norcross, GA-(January 5, 2009)-Mizuno USA Inc., announced today that the company has reached an agreement with the University of Washington Huskies to become an “Official Corporate Sponsor of the Women’s Softball Program.” Washington’s softball team will be equipped in Mizuno, utilizing the company’s bats, ball gloves, bat bags, and protective gear in 2009.

Washington finished the 2008 season with a 30-25-1 overall record and a 7-14 record in the Pacific-10 Conference. The Huskies reached the NCAA Regional Tournament in 2008 for the 15<sup>th</sup> time in school history. Washington has appeared in eight different Women’s College World Series, twice finishing as the National Runner Up in 1996 and 1999. Heather Tarr enters her fifth season as the Head Coach of the Huskies.

“Mizuno is very excited to begin a partnership with a premier academic and athletic softball program in the University of Washington Huskies,” said Larry Brushett, Softball Promotions Manager, Mizuno USA. “We have a storied history of supporting fastpitch softball, and many of the games best players, at all levels of play; rely on the quality and craftsmanship of our products to help them perform at their very best. We look forward to helping the Huskies reach their goal of continuing to be one the best teams in NCAA softball.”

Committed to the sport of softball around the world, Mizuno supports athletes by providing the highest quality equipment, footwear, and apparel. As an Official Supplier of Team USA, Mizuno is proud to support the growth of Fastpitch Softball. With superstar Brand Ambassadors like Jennie Finch, Natasha Watley, and Tairia Flowers, Mizuno has quickly become the industry leader in design, technology, and performance for Women’s Fastpitch.

*Mizuno USA, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mizuno Corporation, one of the largest specialty sporting goods manufacturers in the world. Mizuno USA, Inc. manufactures and distributes golf, baseball, softball, running, track & field, and volleyball equipment, apparel, and footwear for North America. Mizuno USA, Inc. is based in Norcross, Georgia.*

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