



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Eric Hills
Mizuno USA
770-453-7853
eric.hills@mizunousa.com

MIZUNO SIGNS TEAM USA STAR TAIRIA FLOWERS

Versatile Utility Player Helps Mizuno Solidify Position as Leader in Fastpitch Softball



Norcross, GA (February 27, 2008) Mizuno USA, Inc. has announced today that the company has signed an endorsement deal with Tairia Flowers, member of the USA Women's Softball Team. Flowers' partnership with Mizuno will help the company build upon its leadership position in the fastpitch category. Mizuno has a complete line of high performance fastpitch ball gloves, footwear, fastpitch bats, batting gloves, and performance apparel.

Flowers, born in Tucson, Arizona, played collegiate softball for the UCLA Bruins, competing in four Women's College World Series, and winning a National Championship in her 2003 senior season. Flowers was a NFCA First-team All American in 2003 as well. She was also a teammate of fellow Mizuno Brand Ambassador and Team USA shortstop Natasha Watley at UCLA.

"Signing Tairia Flowers demonstrates Mizuno's commitment to fastpitch softball," said Mizuno Softball Promotions Manager Larry Brushett. "Tairia is one of the most talented and versatile athletes in women's fastpitch softball, and will truly be an outstanding ambassador for Mizuno on and off the field."

Flowers is currently a member of the USA Softball team, which recently celebrated a victory at the Japan Cup, and is now looking forward to defending their three consecutive gold medals at the Olympic Games this summer in Beijing, China. Team USA, including Mizuno Brand Ambassadors Tairia Flowers, Jennie Finch, and Natasha Watley will take part in the Bound 4 Beijing Tour leading up to the 2008 Olympics, during the third week in February. The Tour has events all throughout the United States. For more information on the Bound 4 Beijing Tour, visit www.usasoftball.com.

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 baseball, golf, softball, running, track & field, and volleyball equipment, apparel, and footwear for North America. Mizuno USA, Inc. is based in Norcross, Georgia.

#