

Why First Year of Retirement So Costly

By Jack Sirard
Softball News Report

Two days after retiring from the newspaper industry back in 2006, my wife and I and our youngest son were off to New York City, celebrating his graduation from the Univer-

sity of California, Davis, and our new life without going to work each day.

We stayed in the Theatre District, took in a few Broadway shows, saw the sights and dined wherever we wanted. Then a few months later,

INSIDE:

Social Security benefits set to increase in 2015.

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after we shipped James off to graduate school in Oregon, we headed off to the Big Island of Hawaii where we repeated

much of our New York experience, sans the shows, but long on the adventures.

It wasn't too long after that that we took our first-ever cruise, checking out the sights in Alaska. We liked it so much

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INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

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Planning? It's a Retirement Home Run

PART 2

Understanding Your Social Security Options

PART 3

Why the First Year of Retirement Is So Costly

PART 4

Tips on What to Do — and How to Give Back to Your Community



US, China, Japan and Taiwan Form Pacific Rim Association

Softball News Report

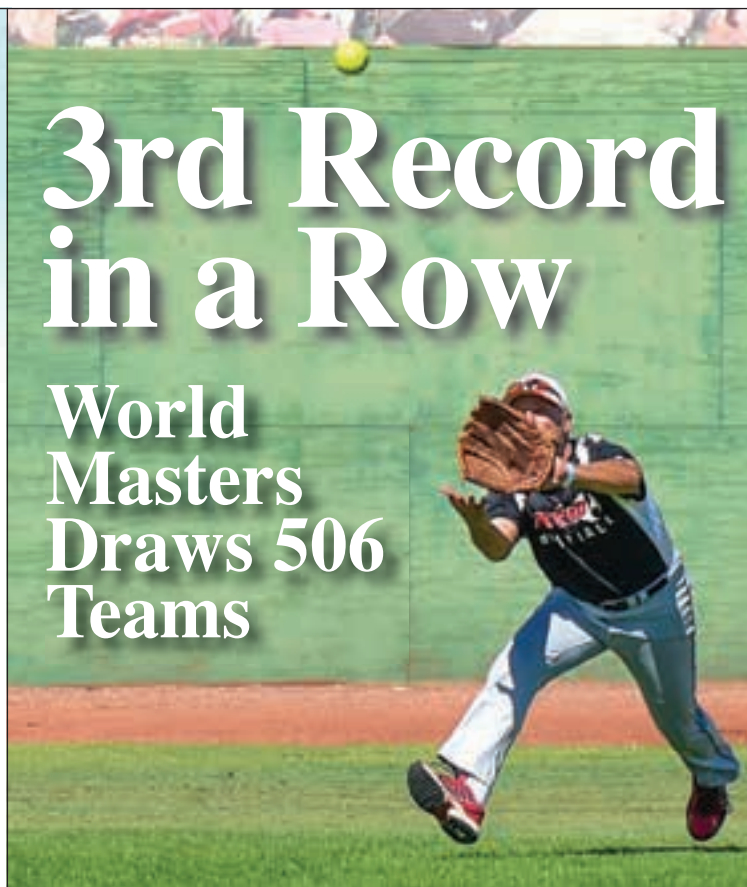
IWATA, JAPAN – Softball representatives from China, Japan, Taiwan and the United States have announced the formation of the Pacific Rim Slowpitch Softball Association during the second annual Pacific Rim Championships held here in early November.

“We are creating the Pacific Rim Slow-Pitch Softball Association to help build the sport throughout the Pacific Rim region,”

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3rd Record in a Row

World Masters Draws 506 Teams



Photos by Jack Eberhard

The 2014 World Masters Championships offered many of the largest divisions in the sport, from 40 Masters to 85s

By Ross McCulligan And Joseph Ruggiero
Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – For the third straight year, the World Masters Championships set the record for the largest senior softball tournament in the country. This year, 506 teams flocked to this gaming mecca to try to etch their mark in softball lore.

The numbers are astonishing. The record-setting tournament included teams from 42 states as well as four from Canada and four from Guam. Teams played more than 1,700 games in 37 divisions, across 13 softball complexes.

More than 90 umpires, 60 tournament officials and 150 field crew workers

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NewsBriefing

CARL'S CORNER

By Carl Gustafson

Why My Wife Wouldn't Go to Rules Meetings

My wife wouldn't go. She scheduled a dental appointment in preference.

A national rules committee session couldn't compete with a turtle race for entertainment value. I suspect that turtles would indeed race—to get away from hearing old people debate rules.

The annual convention was in Tupelo, Mississippi this year.

Hey, I hear you; we couldn't figure it out either. Maybe it was the Elvis Museum? But not even baby Elvis could lure my wife to attend.

As boring as these meetings seem to an outsider, they can ignite the emotions of those who play this game when the results are announced.

That's because you can't please everyone on all sides of any issue. Rule changes that make one group tap dance and play kazoos, might make another mad enough to get out their catapults and siege Sacramento. The rules committee knows this only too well.

It's kind of like Popeye's father singing, "It ain't easy being me," because there's much misperception about how and why rules and policies are decided, and some take it personally.

You might like to know that whatever opinions you hold, were heard and argued on all sides, complete with a nice complement of emotion, sarcasm, recalcitrance, suspicion of motive, and harangues long enough to make the Elvis statue appear animated in comparison.

The computer age furnished the committee with so many e-mails from softballers all over the country, that when printed out would make Santa jealous. We waded through them all, both naughty and nice. After awhile I begin to hope that Terry Hennessy

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Convention Faces Region, Ball Issues

Softball News Report

TUPELO, MISS. – Senior Softball-USA delegates enacted penalties for icing or altering softballs, approved a new transgender policy and launched a major study into team regions during the SSUSA/ISA Annual Convention here Dec. 2-5.

In other action, the SSUSA Rules Committee also approved 12 defensive players in the new 85 division and defeated a proposal to combine the 70 Major and Major-Plus divisions. The committee appointed a task force to further study the Major-Major Plus merger proposal and to review a recommendation to use screens.

The new penalty for altering softballs – including icing – is the forfeiture of the game. A second offense in the same tournament results in ejection from the tournament and possible suspension.

The committee also made it clear

Florida Legend Giovanini Dies

By Joe Ruggiero

Softball News Report

Louis A. Giovanini, 75, of Venice, Fla., who was a highly talented shortstop and fierce base-hitter, died Nov. 19, at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa.

He played in the first Senior Softball World Series in 1989. The following year, he was instrumental in forming the Florida Legends, which he played on and coached until 2013.

"He was there from the very beginning – a pioneer not only as a player, but also as a promoter of senior softball," said Patrick Bidelman, a lifelong teammate and friend.

Bidelman added that, "In his heyday, Lou possessed a terrific arm with terrifying range. He was always very creative on the field and looking for ways to utilize field position to have an edge on competitors. For at least a decade, we had the best

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Inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame, from left, were Mike Vetovich of Washington, Jerry Jackson, Illinois, and Kevin Evans, representing Top Gun Softball Association, California.

that simply throwing in the wrong ball during a game was not the same as using an altered ball. The penalty for throwing in the wrong ball is an out. A second offense is an inning-ending out.

Reacting to several requests to review the state-and-bordering-state restrictions on team rosters, the committee instructed the SSUSA staff to


complete a study of player density by region and report back within 90 days.

"The original state-and-bordering-state regions were adopted as a compromise with the other national senior softball associations at the 1999 Summit," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer. "Our original regions were designed to

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Convention: 70 Merger Plan Defeated, Study Launched

Continued from Page 3

reflect the number of players in a region and the natural geographic areas that cross several states, as in the Northeast.”

The region compromise was part of a larger agreement designed to ensure roster requirements were the same among all associations.

Today only two associations, SPA and SSUSA, actually check rosters, said Hennessy, so it is a good time to re-evaluate regions.

A proposal to merge the 70 Major and Major-Plus divisions, which included abolishing tracking of player ratings, restricting two states (California and Florida), and keeping the 5-run equalizer when currently rated Major-Plus teams play Major teams was defeated.

However, the committee approved a further study of the ideas proposed.

Donna McGuire, Midwest UIC, was elected 2015-2016 Rules Chair. For a complete summary of Rules Committee action, please go to www.seniorsoftball.com.

In addition during the Convention three people were inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame for 2014: Mike Vetovich of Washington in the Player category, Top Gun Softball Association of California



Elected into the SSUSA Hall of Fame for next year were, from left, Bill Ruth for Lifetime Achievement, Michael Boone, Player and Chuck Towne, manager.

in the Specialty category, and Jerry Jackson in the Director category.

Elected to the 2015 Hall of Fame were Bill Ruth, Lifetime Achievement; Michael Boone, Player category, and Chuck Towne, Manager category. They will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the National Convention next year.

Other SSUSA Awards included: Umpire of

Year: KC Craig, Complex of the Year: Aurora (CO) Sports Complex, Tournament Director of the Year: Dave Dowell, Regional Director of the Year: Shane Verley, Executive Director Award: Josh Randall of Central Screenprint, Award of Excellence: Lee County Sports, Special Appreciation: Bill Allen.

The 2015 Convention site will be announced in January.

Giovanini: Helped Launch Florida Half Century Club

Continued from Page 3

double play combination in softball. Together, the Florida Legends won 107 national championships including the 1991 World Series. Lou was a big part of that. He was an excellent teammate and friend; supportive and friendly.”

“He was a driving force in getting Florida Half Century Softball Association started,” said Mike Cerrea, chairman.



“Lou was a damned good shortstop. He had an arm like a canon and any ball that got near him he sucked up like a vacuum cleaner,” said Bud Wortendyke, treasurer of Florida Half Century Softball Association. “I really appreciated getting to know Lou when I first started out as an umpire. He was professional on and off the ball field and I really appreciated his expertise in the softball arena. As an active member of the board for a considerable amount of time, he was instrumental in getting the association started and getting me more involved in Senior Softball.” Lou retired in 1994 from Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation

where he had been a teacher for 32 years.

Lou also taught and coached at Columbus High School for 10 years before becoming the first baseball and basketball coach at Columbus East High School. He led the 1979, 1987 and 1989 baseball teams and the 1977 basketball team to the state finals.

Inducted into the Senior Softball Hall of Fame, the Florida Half Century Hall of Fame, the Venice Florida Sports Hall of Fame and, most recently, the Indiana High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame, Lou made an indelible impact in the communities he served.

Cancer Claims Spring Ford's Tom Schadt

Softball News Report

Thomas Schadt, 67, long-time manager of the Spring Ford team from Pennsylvania, died in November after a long battle with cancer.

Schadt played slow-pitch softball for 47 years. In addition to playing, he was coach, manager, sponsor, and administrator. He was a player-representative for the National Senior Softball Summit for a number of years and was inducted into the Pennsylvania State Softball Hall of Fame in 2012.

In 2013, the Limerick Township softball field where he organized teams, kept records

and acted as groundskeeper was renamed “The Thomas K. Schadt Field.”

Schadt attended J.P. McCaskey High School in Lancaster, class of 1964. He graduated from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA in 1968. Tom also earned his Master’s Degree from Millersville University. Tom was a mathematics teacher for the Phoenixville Area School District for 36 years. He retired in 2004.

He was a lifelong member of the Phoenixville Area Education Association, the Pennsylvania State Education Association, and the National Education Association.



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Best Cities For Successful Aging in Midwest

By Joseph Ruggiero
Softball News Report

The top city for in the nation for growing older is Madison, Wisc., according to the Milken Institute's latest ranking of best places for successful aging.

In a report released Nov. 18, the non-partisan think tank measured and ranked the performance of 352 U.S. metropolitan areas by considering a host of factors for quality of life for older adults. These factors include not only health and wellness, crime rates and weather, but also economic and job conditions, housing, transportation and opportunities for social engagement.

According to AARP, a majority

of older Americans want to age at home and not uproot themselves from their communities.

"Our research finds common themes among the top-ranked cities," said Anusuya Chatterjee, Milken Institute senior economist and one of the authors of the report, in a written release. "These include economic strength, abundance of health resources, active lifestyles, opportunities for intellectual stimulation and access to amenities."

When it comes to Madison, the institute cited the city's many cultural amenities, which "attract highbrows and regular folk alike." Additionally, Madison is home to 11 excellent hospitals, as well as an

abundance of recreational and fitness facilities. Despite a high cost of living and too many fast-food restaurants, the report indicates that Madison's low crime rate, high employment growth, and quality education and intellectual engagement at the University of Wisconsin make it a great community for America's aging population.

The Milken Institute's biannual list places emphasis on transportation, wait times at hospitals, and other quality-of-life factors. According to Chatterjee, the idea behind the ranking is not to discover great places to retire, but the cities in which older adults can be engaged both economically and socially as they age.

The Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area that straddles Nebraska and Iowa ranked second, followed by Provo, Utah; Boston and Salt Lake City.

The best smaller metropolitan area, according to the study, is Iowa City, Iowa, followed by Sioux Falls, S.D.; Columbia, Mo.; Bismarck, N.D.; and Rapid City, S.D.

"With the demographic shift proceeding across America, enabling successful aging could not be more important for our future," said Paul Irving, president of the Milken Institute, in a release.

To view the full Milken Institute report, please visit www.milkeninstitute.org.

Pacific Rim: International Championships in Las Vegas

Continued from Page 1

said Terry Hennessy, the American representative and chief executive officer of Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA).

Teams from the four countries played in Beijing last year for an inaugural Pacific Rim Championships and here this year. In 2015, SSUSA will host the Pacific Rim Championships during the World Masters Championships in Las Vegas, which attracted more than 500 teams this year.

This year in Iwata, the U.S. team came in second behind the team from Northern China (8-5) in the rain-shortened tournament.

The tournament uses a safety ball, known as the Joyful ball, which is extremely soft and made for the short fields in Asia.

The MVP for the U.S. team was John Fournier from California, who played shortstop and had the highest batting average. Dale Myers, the U.S. pitcher from Washington State won Best Defense, and Jerry Scanlan of Southern California, one of the few players on any team who hit home runs, was named Best Offense.

The tournament attracted 42 teams.

While the Pacific Rim Association was officially launched this year, the

road to the agreement began in 2000 when Senior Softball-USA responded to an invitation to send senior teams to compete in Japan to help build the sport there. Over the next 14 years, Japan and the U.S. continued to compete in each other's senior championships and later expanded to play in Taiwan and China.

In addition to Hennessy, the association charter representatives include Shouji Matsumoto of Japan Softball, Robert Hsu of Taiwan Softball, and Ye

Zhongsheng of China. Zhaoli Chen, who teaches in Japan and is promoting softball in China, was selected executive director of the new association.

Representatives made it clear that one of the primary goals was to recruit other Pacific Rim countries to join the association.

"The friendships we are forging here are the foundation of international cooperation that provide a beacon of hope for all who witness it," said Hennessy.

NorCal Golden Senior Havrilla, 77, Dies

Softball News Report

A long-time member of Senior Softball, Bob Havrilla died Oct. 17 at the age of 77.

He played on a variety of teams in the Northern California area including the River City Mavericks, Sacramento Gold, Sacramento Pirates and Sacramento Rebels.

Bob was also a well established

member of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento for 26 years. He was awarded the Golden Seniors Award of Merit in 2010, as an exemplary representative of the organization both on and off the field.

He was a beloved member of the Northern California softball community and will be missed by all those who knew him.

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Want Power? Slingshot Your Swing

By Art Eversole
Softball News Report

I would like to suggest not swinging the bat at the ball but instead to “slingshot” the bat to the ball. Sounds rather contrary to rotational mechanics as well as counter intuitive? I would have to agree.

However, casting, or pushing the bat off the rear shoulder to accelerate the bat in striking the ball is ineffective for reliable hitting.

Casting (a golfing term) is common amongst seniors, but is a fixable problem. Casting results in early unhinging of the wrists producing a sweeping of the bat out-front of the body coming off the rear shoulder, resulting in bat deceleration and destroying all-important bat-lag which produces bat-speed and power.

Hitters who cast the bat frequently make contact with the ball at the end-cap area from sweeping the bat around the ball from outside-in.

Remember as kids that old Y-shaped stick with an elastic rubber band strip that stores energy between the prongs for projecting stones and other small missiles when released.

The batter’s arms represent the prongs and the bat-barrel is the projectile to fling. This approach of delivering the bat to the ball permits the bat to continue to accelerate to the ball maximizing bat-speed and the squaring of the barrel to the ball for ideal contact with the sweet spot.

A flat-faced contact with ball allows the bat to have a more resounding trampoline response for greater ball-exit-speed. The hitter’s body mechanics supplies the energy to be transferred during the bat-slingshot. When the bat-barrel is launched from a lag position to contact with the ball it only takes a millisecond and can’t be seen by the naked eye.

A real world sports analogy to the bat-slingshot technique is a maneuver found in auto racing referred to as drafting. The race car accelerates or slingshots past the car in front by taking advantage of stored aerodynamic forces from staying back behind the lead car.



So, how does a batter invoke the bat-slingshot mechanic?

The following (8) steps outline the slingshot technique:

- 1) Begin by pushing the bat into the launch position behind your head; at the same time touching the front shoulder to your chin and coiling your body building up potential energy.
- 2) Begin the swing by unwinding and turning the hips and shoulders (i.e. rotational mechanics) toward the pitcher and transferring your weight to your front side; hands are moved out in front of your body with bat-barrel lagging behind in good position to strike the ball; rear elbow is tucked down in the “slot” next to your ribs.
- 3) With the hands out in front of your plant-leg the bat-barrel should be grazing your rear shoulder (or come very close to touching it) with the knob of the bat pushing toward the pitcher; the slingshot position should feel like you’re pulling on a rope that is trailing behind you.
- 4) Keep your hands inside the incoming pitch while rolling the bottom hand to a palm-up position through the ball producing a slingshot action; the hands only turn a few inches but the bat-barrel has to travel much further to catch-up to the hands and that creates the lightning fast bat-speed.
- 5) At the

same time top hand is pushing in behind the lead hand assisting the rolling of the wrists making the bat move from the lag position to contact point completing the slingshot action.

6) Releasing the top hand immediately after contact allows for full extension of arms providing maximum leverage.

7) End your swing with a fluid follow-through taking the bat full-circle around and behind your body,

8) Lastly, your back foot must move forward toward the front plant-leg to insure a complete body weight transfer to your front side getting off your back foot.

A drill to perform for the slingshot mechanic is to stand a little more than a bat’s length from the field fence and swing the bat. If you hit the fence you’re casting.

See the photos supporting this article for a visual representation of the mechanics described above.

Happy hitting...

Art Eversole is a SSUSA News Contributor)



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Opinions & Letters

Two Teams Set a Fine Example

For more than two decades there has been a culture in slow-pitch softball of teams striving to play in the lowest skill level possible to ensure that they will win.

That culture is the epitome of bad sportsmanship and fosters an array of bad behavior designed to land teams in a division in which they can beat up on other teams.

So it is indeed heartening when managers and teams embrace the challenge of playing against strong competition.

Of the scores of rating notices SSUSA sent out last month, two teams responded in a very honorable manner:

Ray Kozusko's Texas Legends team was moved from AAA to Major. His response: "Been expecting this email from you. Even though we lost three games in Las Vegas, we had enough good luck to sneak through and win that sucker. We humbly and proudly accept the new rating of Major."

Brian Brown's Boombah Voodoo team was raised from Major to Major-Plus. His response: "We are honored to move up to Major-Plus and look forward to the challenge. We want to play the best ball around and this is the division we want to be in."

The real quest in sports, whether it is Little League baseball or Senior Softball, is to be the best you can possibly be – and that means competing at the highest possible level so that victory has value.

We congratulate these two teams for their honorable stands and recommend other teams take note.



Sue Ballenger

Healthful Tips on Preventing Cancer For the New Year

We talk about routine health care being the best way to prevent getting cancer. The price men pay for ignoring routine checkups and a healthy diet is a great risk for poor health. Some will avoid tests at all costs "but if it's the difference between being dead and being alive" annual checkups are not to be ignored.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer other than non-melanoma skin cancer in men. Prostate cancer is also the second cause of death among men, behind lung cancer. Most men will not die of prostate cancer. Their survival rate approaches 100 percent.

Here's how to improve your odds of living a healthy life:

FOLLOW THE RAINBOW: Increasing colorful fruits and vegetable to your diet may reduce your risk of cancer.

GO NUTS: Nuts, olive oil and whole grains pack satisfaction as well

CAN-SIRS CORNER

By Pete Davignon

as nutrition.

HANG UP THE CAR KEYS: Spur yourself to walk as much as possible. Reducing your driving by a mile would have the same effect as cutting as much as 100 calories each day from your diet. Walking each day is an easy way to lose weight and improve health.

MIND THE MOMENT: Spend some quiet time. Ease anxiety and stress by taking a few moments each day to meditate and reflect. A little relaxation can reduce stress caused by your everyday tasks. Sit back and take a few deep breaths and relax.

TAKE CARE: We are all well informed about cancer by TV and print media. We hear about friends and neighbors being diagnosed with

cancer. The best way for us to prevent becoming a cancer victim is to regiment ourselves to keep a healthy diet and get plenty of exercise. Playing a lot of softball is good exercise.

Those of us who are cancer survivors or have a family member with cancer are available to openly discuss cancer matters with anyone who would like to learn more about cancer and prevention.

CAN-Sirs has spent the last five years working on reminding senior softball player and others about awareness and prevention of cancer. We entered teams in many senior tournaments in California and other states during this time.

We have held CAN-Sirs benefit tournaments in Elk Grove, Calif., starting with 18 teams and last year had more than 40 teams entered. This benefit tournament is the major fund raiser to offset the costs of operating the cancer program. This year the

CAN-Sirs Benefit Tournament will be held in Elk Grove on May 16-17. We welcome all senior teams to participate.

We expanded our awareness and prevention program into tournaments in two new states. Two teams from the Oshkosh Ambassadors Senior Softball group entered a senior tournament as CAN-Sirs teams. The teams were managed by Mike and Linda Muehrer from Oshkosh, Wisc.. The RECNAC CAN-Sirs from Augusta, Ga., played in the ASA Nationals in Burlington, N.C. The team was managed by Terry Leiden.

CAN-Sirs staff thanks all senior softball players and friends for their support this past year. Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

More information is available at can-sirs.org. Email us at can-sirs@att.net. Donations may be mailed to:

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Baby Boomers' Guide to a Long Softball Life

Baby Boomers, the set of individuals born between 1946 and 1964, are nonconformists who have been shaping and reshaping our perception of how things should be since the generation was defined.

And today, when it comes to what health and fitness looks like for individuals 50+ years of age it's no different.

Members of this generation are living longer and healthier lives. In fact individuals 65+ years of age make up the fastest growing segment of our population. Of course modern medicine plays a role in this phenomenon but moreover it's the changing ideas about how we can spend our golden years that is driving the trend.

There are several parts to maintaining a healthy, active life.



Stretching Limits

By Lisa Cachia

First, keep moving!

Staying physically active doesn't have to be overly intense, painful or extremely time consuming. By planning for and dedicating about one hour of time to exercise almost every day the body stays in good general condition.

When thinking about how to get that exercise I suggest keeping it

simple. Go for a walk, ride a bike, take a swim or hit the gym where there are more options like cardiovascular exercise equipment or age appropriate classes available.

Second, strength training is an important part of the process.

At the gym there are many machines or free weights available and classes to meet our strength training needs. If the gym is not the place for you, then incorporating some body weight exercises like push ups (full or modified), crunches of various types, squats, leg lifts, lunges and maybe a few exercises utilizing dumbbells at home is the solution.

Remember to take a few minutes or do all your cardiovascular exercise for the day before strength training. Warm muscles are more flexible and ready to work thus minimizing the risk of injury.

Senior softball players also need to stay connected to their sport particularly during the off-season. By making some of your weekly workouts specific to softball movements you'll be more ready mentally and physically to play in the spring.

Visiting the batting cages, a simple game of catch with the kids or fetch with the dog can keep some of those skills sharpened. And if you play softball you've got to run a little. Warm up slow then start folding in a few short sprints (15 – 30 seconds) to keep the muscles ready for base running.

You may also consider a softball training camp. What a fun opportunity that would be to get together with peers and work on maintaining or improving sport specific skills!

In addition, taking a few minutes at the end of each workout to stretch large muscle groups and breathe deeply can round out our activity program, help us to relax and keep us injury free. Yoga can be an excellent option for everyone as it incorporates both strengthening, using only one's body weight, flexibility and relaxation techniques into one activity.

But please warm up first!

If you are unsure about where to begin or how to take it to the next level consider speaking with a Certified Personal Trainer experienced in working with older persons to discuss ideas and options.

Scientific data has shown that maintaining a healthy body weight and remaining active physically, mentally and socially are the key ingredients for a vibrant life as we age.

And while this is certainly true it is equally important recognize and honor the real changes that occur in our aging bodies. Warm up and *especially* recovery time increases. There is also an unavoidable threshold beyond which we must yield and accept our body's demand to slow down despite what our ego wants.

The good news is by taking a mindful, proactive approach to maintaining health we can keep playing for a long, long time.

If you are just beginning a new or more advance exercise program please consult your physician for a physical examination prior to your first work out.

Lisa Cachia is an ACSM Certified Personal Trainer/Group Exercise Instructor. You can reach her at benefitness@comcast.net

Carl's Corner: Rules

Continued from Page 3

would read the letters with different voices, like my Dad did for Winnie-the-Pooh characters, but he never got in that spirit, so they sounded the same. The rules committee has umpires, managers, tournament directors, administrators—all have played lots of softball, at every competitive level and age group. Some of the old umpires are used to contention and are saltier than a biscuit at the Cowboy Poets convention in Elko, Nevada.

The committee begins with the premise that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it," and then argues like a gallery of kibitzers at a chess tournament. In the end they all believe they did the best they could to make the most players happy while preserving the integrity of the game.

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Teams From 6 States, Canada Vie For North Titles

By Joseph Ruggiero
Softball News Report

LANSING, MICH. – Forty-one teams returned here to compete for the Northern Championships and a berth in the Tournament of Champions in Florida. In its 8th year running, the Northern Championships fielded teams from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada.

Tournament Director Tim McElroy said the tournament “didn’t miss a beat” despite rain earlier in the week and well into the manager’s meeting the night before play began.

McElroy emphasized that the maintenance staff at the both East Lansing Sports Complex and Lake Alliance Sports Complex “were spectacular and took care of the fields despite the bad weather.”

Aided by the Greater Housing Sports Authority (GHSA), McElroy remarked that representatives were on-site throughout the tournament to “help out and to answer player’s questions about restaurants and hotels in the surrounding area.” McElroy explained that players greatly appreciated GHSA’s assistance.

Featuring 10 divisions, the Northern Championships hosted talented teams with the 50/55 Platinum division leading off with some strong performances by DLB Softball and Doug & Don’s.

With five teams competing, Doug & Don’s was the first team to fall to the mighty bats of DLB Softball 20-17. Mowing down the competitors in the elimination bracket, Doug & Don’s defeated CPOA/CLE 25-16 and Big Ten 22-10 to gain a spot in the semifinals.

Meanwhile DLB Softball outmuscled Big Ten 25-17 to face off again with Doug & Don’s. In a close offensive fight, DLB prevailed over Doug & Don’s 21-18 to earn the division title.

The 50 AAA division showcased a crowded field of eight teams, but PDC quickly reduced the competition going undefeated into the championship game.

Beating a stout Pony Express squad in a close match up 17-16, they went on to stomp Lansing 14-6.



Pony Express took their first loss in stride to climb out of the elimination bracket by disposing of Fly Time 22-6 and JJ Financial 30-21. Facing a formidable Lansing team, Pony Express triumphed 20-17 to face off against PDC in the finals.

PDC proved victorious in a lopsided offensive victory 26-16 to seize the division title.

Despite some talented competition, Kinnco swept the 55 Major division. Surviving against Banker Mann 21-18 in their first match-up, they decisively sealed the title by defeating Banker Mann again 14-11.

With only four teams competing in the 55 AAA division, Milwaukee Merchants proved they were the team to beat. They beat MI Smash 19-16 and Old Stars 15-13 to reach the finals with ease.

MI Smash however faced seemingly insurmountable odds in the elimination bracket needing to

win four straight games to clinch the division title. After narrowly defeating BSN/DeClaire 17-16 and showing up the Old Stars 13-6, MI Smash almost pulled it off only to lose to Milwaukee Merchants in the final game 15-14.

Only two teams faced off for the 60 Major division title. In some exciting back and forth championship bracket play, CC Bobcats and Motown/Shon’s Corner forced an “If” game to determine the champion.

With Motown/Shon’s Corner winning their first match 11-5, CC Bobcats responded with an 18-14 victory. Building on their win, CC Bobcats went on to take the division title by outscoring Motown/Shon’s Corner 12-9.

Roc City 55 easily swept Shannon 22-9 and 15-11 respectively to earn the 55/60 AA division title.

Six teams faced off in the 60 AAA division with Pepco/CSFS and Chicago Prime vying for supremacy. Pepco/SFS seemed the likely champion as the top seed easily defeating Blue Chips 25-10.

Chicago Prime had other plans however, upsetting Pepco/CSFS 16-15. Falling to the elimination bracket, Pepco/SFS managed an easy win against Silver Stix 17-2 to make it to the finals. Firing all offensive cylinders, Pepco/CSFS topped Chicago Prim 18-13 to force an “If” game. Unable to defend Pepco/CSFS’s impressive offensive performance,

Chicago Prime fell 26-11 for the title.

The 65 Major division showcased two outstanding performances by DeClaire Knee & Ortho. and Michigan Express. The Express remained triumphant however, beating DeClair Knee & Ortho 16-10 in their first match up to gain the advantage.

With the pressure on, DeClaire Knee & Ortho started swinging, but were ultimately outgunned by the Express 16-15.

The 70/75 Silver division saw Columbus Silver Stix sweep the division. Powering over Silver Foxes 19-1 and Pfeiffer Gray 19-11, they reached the finals in good position.

Despite Pfeiffer Gray putting up a good fight, Silver Stix took the division title in a 22-16 win.

With several one-run games, the 65 AAA division featured some fierce ball play. Doc Martens kicked it off, overwhelming Strikers 23-9 and Michigan Lakers 19-14.

The Windsor Chiefs however, coming off a big win against Rush Truck 20-19, stopped Doc Martens in their tracks 23-20. Not undone by the loss,

Doc Martens persevered over Pepco NE/OH 13-9 only to lose to the Windsor Chiefs 13-7 who took the division title.

For complete game results, please visit Senior Softball USA’s Northern Championships’ tournament page at: www.seniorsoftball.com.

Northern All Tournament Players Listed

2014 Northern Championships All Tournament Players selected:

Men’s 50/55 Platinum - **Doug & Don’s Auto Care:** Sammy Greskowiak, Ed Lehnertz, Bobbie Stone

Men’s 55 Major – **Kinnco Services:** Terry Lee, John Kotzelnick, George Roberts, Bill Osborn Jr, Ron Fewins

Men’s 55 AAA – **Milwaukee Merchants:** Bill Bishop, Ed Rampacek, Bill Scasny, Brad Stallings, Dan Ciano

Men’s 55/60 AA – **Roc City 55:** Dave Hanna, Tony Delvecchio, Steve Keating, Tom Cavallieve, Dave Zona; **Shannon Fence:** Vic St Hilaire, Spark Sankal, Jeff Baker

Men’s 60 AAA – **Minutemen/Pepco/SFS:** Al Attewell, Ron Sevffert, Phil Biondo, Dennis Forman, Rich Butler; **Chicago Prime:** Hal Adkins, Bill Sheridan, Gary Reid

Men’s 65 Major – **Michigan Express:** Ed Sparkman, Gary Nicolay, Joe Miscavish, Jim Kahn,

Jim Morgan

Men’s 65 AAA – **Windsor Chiefs:** Ernie Holden, Bob Poulin, John McLaughlin, Wayne Dupuis, Mike Markham; **Doc Martens Ropes Courses:** Jim Vetter, Wilber Uhl, Gerry Lyster

Men’s 70/75 Silver – **Columbus Silver Sticks:** Don Cohron, Daryl McClearn, Joe Andrew, Jim Ogilvie, Dave Adwell; **Pfeiffer Gray Sox:** Dennis Schrier, Chuck Lindstrom, Dick Fox; Indiana Silver Foxes: Walter Pluchinsky, Jerry Shively



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SIZE: 13.5" Right
WEB: Single Post
Double Bar
BACK: Open Back

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BACK: Open Back

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SOFTBALL
SIZE: 14" Full Right
WEB: Checkerboard
Modified Trap
BACK: Open Back

IDEAL FOR INFILDER/OUTFIELD PLAY



DL XL

ITEM #44-006
PATTER/SHAPE:
SOFTBALL
SIZE: XL REG
WEB: Double Bar
Double Post
BACK: Open Back

ITEM #44-007FR
PATTERN/SHAPE:
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SIZE: XL Full Right
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Great Fields, Sun Draw 175 Teams to Phoenix

By Dave Dowell
Softball News Report

PHOENIX – The 13th annual SSUSA Winter World Championships here established a tournament record for attendance as 175 teams competed in the Western start to the 2015 SSUSA tournament season.

All of the outstanding Phoenix facilities were in play and the eight-field Big League Dreams Sports Park in Gilbert was pressed into service as the tournament hit the ground running for 135 teams in the first session.

Phoenix has always been an almost perfect tournament host city. The fields are scenic and well maintained, and the weather in November is just about perfect every year. This year was no exception.

The Senior Women filled Mountain Vista Park with spirited and competitive play in divisions ranging from 50+ through 70+. By Sunday afternoon, champions had been crowned and even those who didn't win were celebrating in a marvelous show of sportsmanship.

In the 50+ Women, Sudden Impact (CA) overcome a shaky first round loss as the top seed to make it all the way back with wins over the High Desert Diamonds (NM) in the Championship (10-7) and "If" (24-12) games to claim the title.

The 55+ Women also needed an "If" game as Got Runs 55 (AZ) prevailed over Twisted (14-7) after the teams had split the first two games of their Best 2 of 3.

Keeping the pattern of close competition going, the 60+ Women also needed an "If" game in an All-California final as the California Spirit 60 defeated California Express/Timberworks (20-7) after those two teams had split the winner's bracket final (Spirit by 15-11) and Championship game (Express by 19-13).

Only the 65/70+ Women played out according to form as the Fun Bunch Plus (MO) completed an unbeaten weekend from the No. seed to a championship game win (18-5) over the New Kids on the Block (CA).

In the Men's 50/55-Platinum Division, the two Major Plus teams took the top spots, with Arizona Elite 50 closing out Grant's Posse 55 by a 20-18 score.

El Paso Spurs (TX) were declared 50-Major Champions by virtue of their third place finish in the bracket, making them the highest finish by a Major

team.

The 17-team 50-AAA bracket began at Big League Dreams Friday before shifting to Papago Park for the weekend. By late Sunday, the JJ Financial Eagles (MI) had avenged a winner's bracket semi-final loss to the Phoenix Bulldawgs (21-12) by sweeping the Championship game (26-23) and "If" game (9-5) to complete the comeback.

The Manifest 50's (TX) swept the Best 2 of 3 with Arizona Assault on Saturday (20-12 and 19-18) to capture the 50-AA trophy.

In the Men's 55+, the seven-team 55-Major title went to Doubleplay/Monarch (CA) with their 28-8 win over SoCal 55's (CA) in the title game.

The 19-team 55-AAA was the largest bracket in the tournament, with Integrity Builders (NE) making the long trip pay off with a 19-11

Championship game win over the Arizona Legends.

The 55-AA title went to another of the very few unbeaten teams for the weekend as Pastimers (WA) capped their perfect run with a 26-20 win over the Scrap Iron Coyotes 55 (CO) in the final.

Champions in the Men's 60+ included Chain Link (AZ) over the Rogue 60's (AZ) in the 60-Major Plus with an 18-13 Championship game win, Top Gun III (CA) over the Drillers (TX) in the 60-Major, 17-12 in the final, Ambush (AZ) over Arizona Old School 60 in the 60-AAA, 22-18 to

wrap it up, and Stagecoach Saloon (OR) in the "If" game over Grant County Merchants (NM). Those two had previously split the winner's bracket final and Championship game.

The Men's and Women's 40-Masters brought 31 more teams to the Valley of the Sun for the weekend.

Men's 40-Masters champions were Kraze (CA) in the 40-Major+ with their 24-23 win in the "If" game over Reno Elite (NV) after they had split the winner's bracket final and Championship game and AG Painting (AZ) over GTS (ID) in the 40-Major by a score of 16-12 in the Championship game.

Women's 40-Masters champions were the TKP/Hunters (CA) over Tharaldson Softball (NV), 15-12 in the 40-Major Championship game, Saints 40 (AZ) over Kiss Our Stix (CA), 11-8 in the 40-AAA finale, and Vintage (CA) by sweeping two from Kat's Bats (NF) in the 40-AA Best 2 of 3 Championship, 21-5 and 23-5.

Following the extremely full weekend, the second session began on Monday with a much more relaxed pace as 40 teams began play in the Men's 65+ and older divisions. In the non-competition highlight of the session, Norm Huletz of Seattle was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame in a stirring and emotional induction ceremony at Rose Mofford Park on Monday morning.

Men's 65+ Division winners were 15 Hit-men (AZ) over Full Circle (CA) by sweeping their 65-Major Plus Best 2 of 3 series, 19-16 and 16-15; Marauders (CA) over the Enviro-Vac Marauders (BC) 16-15 in the 65-Major Championship;

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Northwest's Tom Foley Dies at 80

By Ross McCulligan
Softball News Report

Longtime senior softball player Thomas Foley lost his courageous battle with both ALS and cancer on Nov. 11 in Seattle, Wash., with his family by his side.

He had a long career in senior softball playing for various teams in the Pacific Northwest including, WE Ruth Realty, Joeseppi's, First American Title and Northwest 80's.

"Every team should have a Tom Foley," remarked Joseph Stortini, his former manager with Joeseppi's. "We



Tom Foley played with several well-known teams in the Northwest.

all knew he played in pain sometimes but he never once complained about it. He had a great positive attitude and always had something kind to say to everyone. We'll miss him."

Tom moved to Washington at a young age and studied at Seattle University earning degrees in electri-

cal engineering. He enjoyed a 34-year career as an engineering manager with Boeing in addition to serving in the United States Navy Reserve from 1952-1960.

He believed in civic duty and being involved in one's community. As such, he was a generous volunteer, donating his time to various community organizations such as Pacific Northwest Masters Swimming, Seattle Triton Aquatics Club, Southwest Community Center Advisory Council and the Puget Sound Keepers Alliance.

Winter Worlds All Tournament Players Selected

2014 Winter World Championships (2015 roster event) All Tournament Players

Women's 40 Major – **TKP/Hunter:** Elena Song, Kelli Horton, Carolyn Norman, Cindy Coleman, Lisa Bull

Women's 40 AAA – **Kiss our Stix:** Laura Bernadino, Patti Albrecht, Stacey Senft; **SoCal Toxic:** Melanie Grieco, Debbie Baye

Women's 40 AA – **Vintage:** Shalaine Aguayo, Linde Hotchkiss, Renee Worley, Gretchen Peterson, Patty Felker; **Kat's Bats:** Paula Snelgrove, Leah Maddicks, Donna Wilson, Sherry MacDonald

Women's 50 – **Sudden Impact:** Iris Davis-Brunfield, Nancy Lopez, Cynthia Smith, Karlene Schuler, Renee Bland

Women's 55 – **Got Runs:** Sharon McCloskey, Missy Hagen, Alyson Stephens, Donna Williams, Debbie Seguin

Women's 60 – **Cal Express:** Debbie Scarpatti, Fran DePuy; **Fun Bunch:** Carolyn Cottrell, Vivian Jones

Women's 65/70 – **Fun Bunch:** Arlene Gomez, Marsha Moore, Pat Stephenson, Chris Wallace, Cyndi Kelly; **New Kids on the Block:** Jan Anderson, Sue Westlake, Sharon Hessler

Men's 40 MajorPlus – **Reno Elite:** Brian Williford, Blake Gundmundson, Ray Roberts

Men's 40 Major – **AG Painting:** Carl Blank, Michael Nieuwenhuis, David DeWitt, Brad Petersen, Chad Shultz; **GTS:** Chris Hoshaw, Pat Paschal, Tristan Fike

Men's 50/55 Platinum – **Arizona Elite:** Rod Gibson, Jerry Garnett, Curtis Horger, Dominick Calise, Willy Goolsby; **El Paso Spurs:** Eric Stephens, Manny Gutierrez, Andy Tarin, Mike Lewis, Anthony Gutierrez; **Grant's Posse:** Jose Cotto, Mike Babb, Keith Erikson

Men's 50 AAA – **Phoenix Bulldawg:** Gunner Wilcutt, Dave Niles, Kenny Vaught

Men's 50 AA – **Manifest:** Pete Garcia,

Jerry Perez, Rigo Vargas, Raul DeLeon, Victor Flores; **Arizona Assault:** Fortino Garcia, Gus Hernandez, Ernest Tarrango;

Men's 55 Major – **Doubleplay/Monarch:** Wayne Wilcox, Al Shelley, Bert Cochran, Dave Sloan, Paul Smit; **SoCal 55:** Wayne Galer, Eric Provost, Nelson Kracke; **Sonoma County Crush:** Rick Merian, Tom Brown

Men's 55 AAA – **AZ Legends:** Steve Rutledge, Jeff Brian, Kelly West

Men's 55 AA – **Pastimers:** Mark Himmelman, Doug Fredrickson, Bill Brundage, Dave Kelliher, Ed Minshull; **Dallas Spurs:** Lance Small, Al Schoelen

Men's 60 MajorPlus – **Chain Link:** Sam Newby, Dave Elkins, Andy Campbell, Mark Walsh, Paul Becker; **Arizona Rogue:** George Robinson, Steve Schroeder, Chuck Monroe; **Gonzalez Insulation:** Dan Silkwood, Julian Tamez

Men's 60 Major – **Top Gun III:** Clyde Phillips, Jim Strickland, Paul Lederman, Robert Castro, Scott Wolters; **Drillers:** Mike Williams, Hector Carrillo, Charlie Estorga; **EnviroVac Marauders:** Phil Brissette, Bob Mireau

Men's 60 AAA – **Ambush:** Joe Ellis, Steve Hilby, Bruce McClain, Ken Sheffield, John Underwood; **Arizona Old School:** Mike Cosgrove, Jim Fisher, Bob Kaplanis; **Cal Xtreme:** Ned Hennigan, Steve Martinez

Men's 60 AA – **Stagecoach Saloon:** Dennis Hunter, Neil Walker, John Hyde, Ken DeLozier, Dennis York; **Grant County Merchants:** Dean Bearup, Pete Lozano, Julio Rios; **Scrap Iron Freedom:** Warren Bailey, Blair Gifford

Men's 65 MajorPlus – **15 Hitmen:** Rick Littlejohn, Doak Whitley, Al Melaragno, Ellwin Jobe, Steve Ownes, Bob Henning

Men's 65 Major – **EnviroVac Marauders:** Leonard Gann, Steve Ogin, OJ Moe; **R & R 65:** Al Estrada, Hank Ornelaz

Men's 65 AAA – **Fountain Valley Outlaws:** Rick Ridenour, Bob Heggie, Bill McPhillips, Ernie Regalado, Bob Varela; **OC**

Mustangs: Don Cuzick, Pepe Siniard, Bob Westphal

Men's 65 AA – **Da Hui:** John Hirota, William Kaulu, Donald Meinel, William Miller, Billy Rees; **El Paso Nine Elevens:** Bobby Nava, Robert Ramirez, Robert Rico; **Sunlight Supply:** Charlie Moon, Les Gipe

Men's 70 Major – **Scrap Iron Legacy:** Jack Robinson, Stan Suichta, Bob Ross, Dick Schimmels, Ron Kemmerer; **Connection:** Tom Whelan, Doug Wiley, Herb Palmtag

Men's 70 AAA – **Makule Kane:** Albert Apo, Justus Taylor, Daniel Ayala, Guy Ruiz, Dee Tenn; **Kokopelli Eyecare Scorpions:** Bill Bauder, John Teetor, Troy Singletary; **TNT:** Dale Clem, Bob Fioritto

Men's 70 AA – **KC Seniors:** Joe Pennock, Marvin Droege, Dick Trout, Terry Jensen, Randy Graves; **Git-R-Done 70:** Jon Newell, George Togo, Dave Porzel

Men's 75 Platinum – **PDR Fastsigns:** Chuck Barracato, Arland Lyons, Ron Quarantino, Bill Winter; **Mesa Cardinals:** Jim Hann, Bob Hildeman, Wayne Erickson

Phoenix: Outlaws, Hawaii, PDR Win Titles

Continued from Page 12

Fountain Valley Outlaws (CA) over the OC-Mustangs (CA) 24-8 in the 65-AAA title game; and Da Hui (HI) over the El Paso Nine-Elevens (TX) 21-11 in the 65-AA Championship game.

The Men's 70+ Division winners were Scrap Iron 70 Legacy (CO) over Connection (CA) 14-9 for the 70-Major Championship; Makule Kane (HI) over Kokopelli Eye Institute Scorpions (AZ) 13-2 to wrap up the 70-AAA trophy; and the KC Seniors (MO) sweeping two from the Git-R-Done 70's in their Best 2 of 3 series for the 70-AA crown, 13-12 and 29-8.

In the only division that required an "If" game in Session #2, PDR Fastsigns (OR) avenged a game #1 loss to the Mesa Cardinals (12-8) by bouncing back to take the final two games of their Best 2 of 3 series, 17-14 and 21-9 to capture the 75-Platinum Championship. In the 75/80-Gold Division, the Arizona Prospectors 80's slipped by the Gold Coast 75's (CA) twice in thrilling one-run games, 5-4 and 14-13, to take home the title.

For complete game scores and bracket scores, please visit www.seniorsoftball.com.

Dave Dowell is a SSUSA National Director and Tournament Director for the Winter Worlds.

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Retirement: Many Aren't Ready For Temptations

Continued from Page 13

that we followed it up with a cruise to Mexico and a 14-day trip through the Panama Canal.

Like a lot of the newly retired set, we couldn't get enough travel and adventure. As those who are actively involved in Senior Softball know full well, there are scores of opportunities to travel both domestically and internationally. Just check out Senior Softball's upcoming adventure to New Zealand in March and April.

But travel far and wide comes at a cost...and it can be significant if you don't have a solid financial plan in place long before retiring.

Invariably, the costs of the first year or two of retirement are a lot higher than most people estimate and a lot more unpredictable.

While there are scores of retirement calculators out there on virtually every financial web site, financial experts report that many people will put down a low ball number for their first year of retirement, neglecting to factor in everything from vacations, increased spending on hobbies and even buying a new car if they had had a company car at their disposal during their working years.

Retirees who aren't old enough for Medicare and who are no longer covered by their employer health plans can be shocked to find the cost of carrying their own health insurance. For that reason, those on the cusp of retirement should make sure that they get as much done on the company dime as possible before retiring.

For instance, it's a good idea to get in the last dental and vision checkups a month or two before leaving work. The cost of a getting a new crown could run you \$1,000 or more if you have to pay for it yourself.

The bottom line for most new retirees is they aren't financially prepared for the exhilarating temptations of this next stage of their lives.

For once you've got all that free time on your hands, you can come and go as you please – and millions of retirees do just that.

Sacramento financial planner Bob Dreizler says people need to be cautious as they enter their retirement years.

"When you are not working, you have more time and ways to spend money to keep yourself amused," he says. "While you want to live it up after retiring while you are still in good health and mobile, you need to monitor your spending during this transitional time."

Dreizler acknowledges that he's "not a big believer in budgets, but this is one time in your life when it may make sense."

His advice is to start planning for your actual retirement five years ahead of time, although you need to start saving for retirement as soon as you start working.

"If you start a separate fund, outside of a retire-

ment plan, to use for a special trip or to subsidize those first few years, that is a good strategy," he adds.

That's the strategy that my wife and I used, squirreling away money each month in the employee credit union at work. The beauty of a credit union account is that the money can be taken directly out of your paycheck and deposited into an interest-earning account.

Even if you start with as little as \$10 or \$20 a week, that nest egg really grows if you can resist the temptation to tap into it. And if you can increase your deduction with each pay raise, then you'll have the opportunity to have a substantial cash account the day you retire.

Dreizler warns that investors can make a huge retirement planning mistake if they put all their spare money into their retirement account.

"This saves current taxes, but if you are in a similar tax bracket when you retire, it may cost you \$300 in taxes for every \$1,000 you withdraw."

His advice?

Use «non-retirement retirement accounts» and/or a Roth IRA. This way you can access funds later while paying a much lower tax cost. After you retire, all money is a retirement account, whether it's in an IRA or not. Certified Financial Planner Elfrena Foord says she likes to think of the retirement years in three phases:

The go-go years. "These are the times when you likely will spend a lot of money, when you're traveling at a moment's notice, just because you can," Foord says. "It's certainly not a bad thing, if you plan ahead. The first year or two, you may spend more in retirement than you did your last few years working." She notes that this phase of retirement could last 10 to 15 years or longer, depending on your physical and financial health.

The slow-go years. "You've got all the big trips out of the way. You've marked Paris and Australia off your bucket list and you're much more comfortable staying closer to home, taking local trips to Monterey or Palm Desert," she says.

While you should be able to reduce your spending on global travel, other costs related to your health begin to rise so you'll need to have a plan in place to cover those expenses. You'll find that while Medicare covers many things, it doesn't cover everything and you'll need to have additional insurance. Consulting your insurance expert is a wise step before you retire.

And finally the no-go years. This can be a time when you're just ready to settle down and tend to your garden or stay close to home. Traveling is no longer so important and many retirees develop other interests that often are volunteer-oriented. "Certainly, some retirees in their 80s and 90s will still travel, but often as not it's renting a place for a month or two to escape the weather.

For those nearing retirement, here's two suggestions for helping to pay for the extra expenses that come in the first two years: Once you know when you're going to retire, don't use up any further vacation time at work.

You've got the rest of your life to be on vacation, so stockpile vacation days at work. Then when you walk out the door, you'll get a nice paycheck for unused vacation time.

And if you're going to be light on your health, dental or eye care insurance, make sure you get any related issues taken care of on your employer's insurance before you walk out the office door for the last time.

Jack Sirard is a nationally syndicated business writer and a senior writer for Senior Softball News.

Next: Tips on what to do and how to give back to the community.

Social Security Benefits to Go Up 1.7% in 2015

Softball News Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Social Security Administration has announced that monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for nearly 64 million Americans will increase 1.7 percent in the new year.

That's about \$22 a month for the average recipient. In 2015, the average worker will receive \$1,328 a month, or \$15,936 a year, according to the Social Security Administration.

The 1.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that more than 58 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2015.

Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on Dec. 31, 2014. The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the

increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$118,500 from \$117,000. Of the estimated 168 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2015, about 10 million will pay higher taxes because of the increase in the taxable maximum.

2015's annual cost of living increase is up from 1.5 percent this year, but still less than 2012's increase of 3.6 percent. Seniors received no increases to their benefits for two years prior as prices fell due to the recession.

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2014 WORLD MASTERS

Eight Teams Win 2014 Triple Grand Slam



A Beltway Bandits outfielder, above, plays a ball near the warning track, while a Desert Dawgs runner tries to beat a throw in a game against Houston Fire. Both games were in the 55 AAA division.



By Ross McCulligan
Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – Eight teams claimed the Holy Grail of Softball - the Triple Grand Slam – during the World Masters Championships here. The Triple Grand Slam is earned when a team wins their division in the Western National Championships, the U.S. National Game and then the World Masters Championships.

Out of all the teams in the country – and 506 at the World Masters – accomplished: Dreamgirlz 50 W, Superior Senior Softball 60, MBA Elite 60, Vaca Syracuse Cyclones 70, San Francisco Seals 75 and Center For Sight 85.

Triple Grand Slam winners receive a pair of Tanel shoes, and option for a special ring and their team's name etched on the perpetual Triple Grand Slam Trophy.

In the U.S. National games, 13 western team and eight eastern teams won their regional. The U.S. Nationals are the second step of the Triple Grand Slam and is a winner-take-all game between the Eastern and Western National winners that is played during the World Masters in Las Vegas. Each of the winners received a plaque and bat bags for all players.



Here are the results of the U.S. National games:
■ **Epic of California** defeated

Mid-Atlantic Elite of Virginia 23-16 in the 40 Major division.

■ **Sommerville Softball of California** defeated **DLB of Wisconsin** 29-14 in the 50 Major Plus division.

■ **Team USA of Maryland** defeated **Cornerstone of Oregon** 25-23 in the 50 Major division.

■ **Stanislaus Sluggers of California** defeated **ILA Fifty Plus of Virginia** 22-15 in the 50 AAA division.

■ **MTC Softball Club of California** defeated **Omega IT Services of Maryland** 31-26 in the 55 Major Plus division.

■ **Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain**

Thunder from Colorado defeated **Triangle Masters out of North Carolina** 30-24 in the 55 Major division.

■ **Tri-C-Machine out of California** defeated **Old Stars out of Illinois** 16-15 in the 55 AAA division.

■ **Superior Senior Softball from Virginia** defeated **God's Sports Company out of California** 35-20 in the 60 Major Plus division.

■ **MBA Elite from California** defeated **Crystal Cobras out of North Carolina** 23-13 in the 60 Major division.

■ **Hannington's out of Massachusetts** defeated **Viejitos from California** 24-14 in the 60 AAA division.

■ **Hamel Builders/Superior**



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RS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Slam

Triple Grand Slam title

in the Eastern or
their division of the

— eight realized this
r Stars 70, Omen 70,

ized Triple Grand Slam

spective divisions.

-all single game

asters Championships

Senior Softball out of Virginia
eated **Full Circle of**
California 21-5 in the 65 Major
s division.

Handeland Flooring of
Wisconsin defeated **Enviro-**
c Marauders out of British
Columbia 24-15 in the 65 Major
division.

Sacramento Islanders of
California defeated **Syracuse**
clones out of New York 19-7
the 65 AAA division.

Damaged Goods out of
California defeated **Chicago**
men 20-16 in the 65 AA
division.

Connection out of California
eated **Vacar Stars out of**
Virginia 20-4 in the 70 Major
s division.

San Francisco Seals defeated



Joseph Chevrolet from Florida
14-12 in the 75 Major Plus.

■ **PDR Fastsigns out of Oregon**
defeated **Hamel Builders 75's of**
Maryland 19-17 in the 75 Major
division.

■ **Florida Investment**
Properties defeated **Fairway**
Ford out of California 19-13 in
the 80 Major division.

■ **Center For Sight 85's from**
Florida defeated **Redwood City**
Chiefs out of California 20-12
in the 80 AAA division.

■ **B.O.O.B.S out of California**
defeated **Lew's Crew/Exceeding**
Expectations out of Maryland
17-5 in the Women's 40 AA
division.

■ **Dreamgirlz out of Virginia**
defeated **Ladies Steel Smackin'**
of California 10-2 in the
Women's 50 division.

WMC: 62 Teams Compete in 50 AAA

Continued from Page 1

helped conduct the massive tournament. Over the 10-day period, approximately 16,000 players and spectators infused an estimated \$23 million into the local economy.

The largest division of the tournament, and in Senior Softball history, was the 50 AAA division with 62 teams. The 55 AAA division, with 37 teams, was the second largest followed by the 32-team 40 Major division.

The titles in many divisions were decided by razor-thin margins.

Forcing nine "If" games and a string of one-run games over 37 divisions, teams once again displayed a high level of competitiveness.

The tournament featured the first 85 division in WMC's history as three teams competed from across the United States to capture the championship: Center 4 Sight (FL), Southwest Stars (TX), and Western Chiefs (CA). (See Story on Page 18.

In a major highlight of the tournament, nine players were inducted into the National Senior

Please See Page 18



Photos by Jack Eberhard

A Silver City pitcher, top photo, tries to throw a Duke City Dynamite runner at first base in 65 AA action, while a Cal Xtreme outfielder, above, tracks a fly ball with the Vegas skyline in the background in 60 AAA play.



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WMC Launches First 85 Division

Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – The first 85 division in the history of the sport competed here during the World Masters Championships, with teams from Florida, Texas and California competing.

In the three-team round robin, Center 4 Sight of Florida captured the 85 division title. Southwest Stars of Texas managed a 17-13 win against Western Chiefs of California only to be bested by Center 4 Sight 25-15. Center For Sight's victory also earned them the Triple Grand Slam once again.

The new division came at the request of Hugh Brotherton, who formed Center 4 Sight



Hugh Brotherton, above, was force behind 85s.

as the first 85 team in the sport.

"We need this division so that we can continue to play," he said. "I only hope we are creating a 90 division in a few years!"

The 85 teams may have five 83-year-olds and five 84-year-olds. In addition, for the 2015 season, the 85 teams can use 12 players, including five outfielders.



Photos by Jack Eberhard

Center 4 Sight captured the first 85 division title - and won the Triple Grand Slam.

WMC: Three Scrap Iron Teams Win Titles

Continued from Page 17

Softball Hall of Fame. With friends and family by their sides, Senior Softball-USA honored the newly inducted members in a prestigious award presentation during the opening ceremonies of each session (See Page 22).

This year the Steve Simmons Memorial Sportsmanship award was presented to the 50 Caliber Softball Club of St. Louis. The award, also presented during opening ceremonies, recognizes a commitment to competition, respect and a love for the game. All three 50 Caliber Softball Club teams were honored (in the 50 Major, 55 Major and 60 Major).

Several softball clubs enjoyed multiple successes at the tournament. The Scrap Iron Softball Club out of Colorado saw three teams win their respective divisions. With Scrap Iron/Phiten seizing a championship in the 65 AAA division, Scrap Iron Legacy and Scrap Iron Gray Berets followed suit capturing finalists spots in the 70 Major and 80 AAA divisions.

Representing California, R&R Pumping Unit placed third in the 40 AAA division, while R&R Stokers grabbed the second spot in the 55

AAA division. The Syracuse Cyclones Softball Club (NY), Jimmy's Softball Club (MN), and Hamel Builders Softball Club also placed in two of their respective divisions.

Another major highlight of the WMC is the U.S. National Games, which pit the Eastern National Champions against the Western National Champions in their respective divisions. (List on Page 16).

Perhaps the largest attraction of the WMC is the possibility of teams completing their sweep of the Triple Grand Slam. Teams that won their division in the Eastern or Western Nationals earned their chance to do exactly just that by winning the U.S. National game and then their division at the WMC. When the dust settled, eight teams proved their dominance to claim the legendary title (Story on Page 16).

The 40 Major Plus division consisted of 10 teams, eight from California, one from Kansas and one from Virginia. No. 1 seed Unforgiven lost a tough battle to the fourth seeded Prestige/Premier in the third round, 26-25. Fattboyz then defeated Prestige, 23-20, to gain their way into the championship game. Prestige



An A-1 Light Trucking outfielder puts everything into his throw in 50 AAA division action.

clawed out a victory, 24-21, once again against Unforgiven to face the Fattboyz in the championship. Prestige showed their perseverance through two tough games, defeating Fattboyz, 34-30 and 33-30, to double dip for the division title.

In the 32-team 40 Major division, Boombah Voodoo also double dipped their way to the championship. As the No. 13 seed, Boombah ran off four straight victories eventually falling to Houck Construction, 23-22. Boombah

then defeated Reno Elite, 21-14, to find themselves up against the No. 31 seeded Houck once again in the championship. Boombah slugged their way to victory by defeating Houck, 26-18 and 27-24 to win the division.

The 40 AAA division featured 10 teams including three from Hawaii, one from Guam and one from Canada. No. 3 seeded Showtime/Titan faced their only real test of the bracket when they squared off with second-seeded Enviro-Vac. An extremely close game ended with Showtime defeating Enviro-Vac, 20-19. Showtime then ran through the rest of the bracket with little competition, winning the championships by an average of eight runs per game.

DLB won the championship in the 50 Major Plus division by the narrowest margins. In the 15-team division, No. 2 seed DLB ran off five consecutive victories on their way to the title. They defeated Texas Players 30-29, Nor Cal Warriors 25-10, AZ Elite 28-27, TSC 25-23 and TSC 21-19, for the championship.

In the 50 Major division, 31 teams competed, with the eight seeded 50

Please See Page 19



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WMC: 50 Caliber, Rhinos Win Huge Divisions

From Page 18

Caliber winning six consecutive games to claim the title. Their two closest games came against Family Stone, from Hawaii, 22-21 in the second round and So Cal Vandals, 20-18 in the semi-final.

Oklahoma Rhinos claimed their spot in Senior Softball history with a victory in the 50 AAA division. The victory was significant for the Rhinos as they not only proved themselves World Champions, but did so in a 62-team division, the largest in Senior Softball history. In the 138th game of the bracket, the Rhinos defeated Mixed Breed, 30-14, to win the division.

The 50 AA division consisted of eight teams competing for the division championship. As the No. 2 seed, the New Mexico Boomers dominated the

bracket winning by an average of 11 runs per game. Their only test came in the championship against Northern Exposure, but they earned a close victory, 18-16, to win the division.

Summy's Nighthawks battled their way through the 55 Major Plus division. The No. 5 seeded Nighthawks crushed California Energy, 47-8, in the first round of bracket play, then squeaked out a victory against MTC, 20-19, in the second round. In the championship game the Nighthawks won a competitive game, 25-24, over San Antonio Softball for the division title.

The 55 Major division included 28 teams. Grant's Posse defeated Old Style/Windy City 18-7 in the "If" game to win the division. Grant's Posse originally knocked Old Style into the loser's bracket with a 15-14 win in the fifth round. Old Style

fought back to force the "If" with a 19-18 victory in the championship, but their comeback fell just short with Grant's Posse winning the division.

The second largest division of the WMC came in the 55 AAA division as 37 teams competed for top honors. Due to the size of the division, the bracket was split into National and American pods. R&R Stokers came through the National division while Team Pound made their way through the American division. Team Pound then defeated the Stokers 18-16 and 20-11 to win the division title.

Rocky Mountain Extreme was seeded tenth in the 15-team 55 AA division. They were able to cruise through the bracket with little resistance and faced Champion Pumper out of Washington in the



Please See Page 21 No doubt - yooouuuur OUT!

2014 World Masters All Tournament Players Selected

2014 LVSSA/SSUSA

World Masters Championships All Tournament Players include:

Women's 40 Major – **TKP/Hunter**: Lisa Bull, Deb DiMeglio, Kim Roter, Carolyn Norman, Edith Duffey; **CPB**: Tracy Bougere, Marcelina Smith, Prince Washington

Women's 40 AAA – **Twisted Fossils**: Lori Palagi, Tammy Schondelmayer, Debra Larson, Lori Beaudoin, Donna McLean

Women's 40 AA – **Northern Construction Fireballs**: Elisa Stokowski, Shelly Lagimoniere, Becky Stone

Women's 50 – **Dreamgirlz**: Fay Jennings, Gwennie Wright, Beverly Lovett, Shirley Snell, Barbara Foxx; **Karphone**: Vanesa Farrington, Mena Johnson, Cindy Coleman; **Ladies Steel Smackin'**: Shawn Moreno, Dina Hidalgo

Men's 40 Major – **Boombah VooDoo/Miken**: Corey Mutter, Chris Tucker, Josh Morrison, Ken Manns, Jason Boldt; **Reno Elite**: Richie (Mo) Moczowski, Brian Williford

Men's 40 AAA – **Showtime/Titan Trucking**: Bryan Frantz, Scott Farrell, Willie Wilbert, Don Johnson, Ivo Salvi; **Defend Pono**: Ronald Ramirez, Craig Okita, Jason Lopez

Men's 50 MajorPlus – **DLB**:

Doug Kett, Jim Olson, Kurt Kozlowski, Eugene Snowden, Larry Tostrud; **TSC**: Henry Houston, Joe Torres, Myron Usher; **Sommerville Softball**: Ronnie Salcedo, Isaac (Chito) Alvidrez

Men's 50 Major – **50 Caliber St Louis**: Murray Wortman, Doug Thompson, Len Kanyo, Len Jones, Rick Riley; **So CA Vandals**: Ron Chenier, Dave Thompson, Pat Imbriale,

Men's 50 AAA – **Oklahoma Rhino**: Willie Schooley, Don Dunlop, Jim Yetter, Buddy Holman, Dale Boyd; **Mixed Breed**: Stewart Henry, Willie Winters, Bud Anderson; **Leed Construction**: Tyrone Maynard, Jim Caterbone

Men's 55 MajorPlus – **Summy's Nighthawks**: Scott Camery, Paul Salow, Mike Toomey, Frank Ferrara, Mike Lorden; **San Antonio Softball Club**: Mike Garibay, Frank Viver, Ray Cervera

Men's 55 Major – **Grant's Posse**: Keith Erikson, Barry Countess, Greg Brandt, Dan Hess, Ron Barnhart; **Old Style/Windy City Softball**: Brian Campbell, Kevin Krahn, Jim Cushing; **Wolf Pack**: Ken Childress, Henry Musgrove Jr

Men's 55 AAA – **Team Pound**: Randy Taylor, Mike Boukal, Matt Schunke, Bruce Ganyo, Ron Wong; **R&R Stokers**: Rich Moreno, Bill Probasco, Rick Vogel; **Mayhem 55**: Bob Sandlin, Mark Williams

Men's 55 AA – **Rocky Mountain Extreme**: Lawrence Platt, Donald Belker, Jon Toledo, Steve Murphy, Richard Rupp; **Champion Pumpers**: Gary Miller, Doug Payne, John Walkington; **1st Interiors**: Brian Williams, Randy Johnson

Men's 60 MajorPlus – **Superior Senior Softball**: Danny Ballard, Andrew (Pete) Smith, John Davide, Dennis Tuck, Billy Cameron; **Minnesota Masters**: Lon Stole, Gary Hamilton

Men's 60 Major – **MBA Elite**: Dave Donnan, Jose Moreno, Darryl Watson, Walt Christian, David (Lucky) Gonzalez; **Pope Transport**: Ken Van Bogaert, Rich Olson, Paul Cox; **Drillers**: Willie Bertran, Ruben Beltran

Men's 60 AAA – **Wisconsin Masters**: Mike Haley, Tom Johnston, Jim Sevals, Jim Hannula, Ken Sheffield; **Hannington's 60**: Marvin Sims, Kevin Lipsett, Thomas Tashea

Men's 60 AA – **Syracuse Cyclones**: Joe Versace, Rich Iuele

Men's 65 MajorPlus – **Full Circle**: Mack Lough, Chris Dayak, Rick Mansker, Brian Rooney, Jerry Scanlan; **Hamel Builders/Superior**: Danny Ballard, Andy Zitnay, Don Clatterbough

Men's 65 Major – **4:13 Rim Fire**: Eddie Rivera, Steve Snow, Joe Falcon, Wendell Rich, Hootie Ingram; **San Antonio Silver Streaks**: Mingo Garcia, Chris Schneider,

Rockey Crews; **Enviro-Vac Raiders**: Ross Evison, Trevors Bjurman

Men's 65 AAA – **Scrap Iron Phiten**: Mark Soloway, Skip Walker, Dick Schimmels, Stan Suichta, Greg Broeckelman; **SoCal Gusto**: John Sadler, Chuck Meeks, Tom Aguilar; **Suburban Auto Group**: Larry Koenig, Tony Perry

Men's 65 AA – **MN Lumberjacks**: Wayne Peterson, Dick Bunde, Dennis Johnson, Steve Baker, Myron Fluegge; **Texas Rattlers**: Bobby Olivares, Gary Lambie, Jesse Ayala; **SoCal Crush**: Tom Williams, Ken Larson

Men's 70 MajorPlus – **Omen 70**: Bill Nevis, Tom French, John Chacon, Al Oxley, Ron McElyea; **Florida Legends**: Zeb Carter, Roy Hern, Mike Marcum; **Stark Street Pizza**: Jack Robinson, Bob Gregorich

Men's 70 Major – **Vacar Stars**: Jim Presley, John Argilan, Bobby Brown, Frank Shotwell, Sal Colloca; **Scrap Iron 70 Legacy**: Bob Ross, Fred Searle, JC Moore; **Michael's/Libby's**: Rod Wilterdink, Jerry Stremikis

Men's 70 AAA – **Texas Legends**: Nick Nicholson, Joe Harris, Alan Smith, Jim Cary, Dick Anish; **Chicago Gray Sox**: Richie Douglas, Jim DuCharme

Men's 70 AA – **Syracuse Cyclones**: Bob Wood, Vern Wagar,

Milo Richmond, Ken Moses, Andy Endsley; **Git-R-Done 70**: Gene Dick, Ron Bolton

Men's 75 MajorPlus – **San Francisco Seals**: Argie Haddock, Jim Phillips, Bob Swarthout, Pete Conley, Herb Epple, Bill Enos

Men's 75 Major – **Mesa Cardinals**: Wayne Erickson, Paul Dvorak, Neil Riebe, Mike Wlasichuk, John Anderson; **Jimmy's Minnesota Gold**: Lowell Thompson, Jerry Filipek

Men's 75 AAA – **Harris Auction**: Marlyn Schroeffer, Richard Bullock, JE Smith, Eddie Glover, Ed Petlick

Men's 80 Major – **Florida Investment Properties**: Joe Sykes, Dave Bush, Norm Haltrich, Jerry Jones, Larry McCurdy; **Elk Grove Renegades**: Don Fields, Ron Newman

Men's 80 AAA – **Jimmy's MN Legends**: David Belbin, Bob D'Amadio, Gene Bartz, John Gratzek, Larry Herickhoff; **Pro-Health Care**: Blake Waterhouse, Willie Wood, Roger Schroeder; **Scrap Iron Grey Berets**: Don Notarmuzi, David Bray

Men's 85 AAA – **Center For Sight**: Don Gsell, Ray Rogers, Rick Mauer, Rich Pavlak, Guy Grasso; **Southwest Stars**: John Rawlings, Al Linski, Bill Blakemore



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World Masters Championships MVPs

Each team that competed in the 2014 LVSSA/SSUSA World Master's Championships selected one player as an MVP. Here is the list of MVP Selections:

WOMEN'S 40: Angry Birds-Heather Richard; Kiss Our Stix-Laura (LB) Bernadino; Lone Star Elite-Colleen Gillaspay; TKP/Hunter-Lisa Bull; Twisted Fossils-Tammy Schondelmayer

WOMEN'S 50: Arizona Dream Team-Terri Davis; Dreamgirlz-Sylvia Echols; High Desert Diamonds-Joyce Helgesen; Ladiez Steel Smackin-Darla Sommerville

MEN'S 40: EnviroVac-Mike Paynter; Hara's Dynasty-Greg Smith; Hawaiian's-Mike DeMate; MidAtlantic Elite-Sean Newsome; R&R 40z-Raul Torres; Rancid/Miken Sports-Frank Perez; Reno Elite-Richie (Mo) Moczowski; Showtime/Titan Trucking-Brian Frantz; SOCO District-Santos Reyes; Whatever Softball-Enrique Porchas

MEN'S 50: 50 Caliber St Louis-Scott Huff, Steve Wilhelm; A&C Developers-Gil Stephens; Bad Seed-Nick Iacobitti; Big Ten Softball-Mike Utterback; DLB-Tim Fredenburg; Down and Dirty-Randy Case; Fifty GZ-Adolfo Leal; Florida Automated Shade-Charles Larkin; Git-R-Done-Robert Carrington; Gizmos/KP Powerwash-Jeff McNeil; Hawaiian's-Darin Pacheco; ILA FiftyPlus-Jim Williams; JAXX/Bret-Rick Steele; JU Entertainment-Roderick (Rah Rah) White; Kamikaze 50-Carlen Bratta; KC Outlaws-Randy Detring; Kingman 50-Armando Caban; Leed Construction-Ron Uzwiak; Log Cabin Tavern-Max Williams; Michael's Toyota of Bellevue-Russ McDuffie; MN Lumberjacks-Mitch Krause; Oklahoma Rhino-Rusty Moore; Oxnard Rookies-Jamie Lagos; Rochester 50/Bob Johnson Chevrolet-Butch Crozier; San Antonio Gunslingers-Scott Fritts; Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder-Tim DeJarnette; SoCal Knights-Pablo Lopez; So



Photos by Jack Eberhard

Glen May, holding trophy, and the 50-Caliber 50, 55 and 60 teams won the Steve Simmons Memorial Sportsmanship Award for 2014, the top SSUSA award.

CA Vandals-John Birtcher; Sommerville Softball-Darrell Beeler; Sonoma County Crush-Mike McCamish; Southern Oregon Flatliners-Barney Lewis; Steel City Sox-Brian Novak; Team Elite/CC/Miken-Howard Cohen; Team USA-Calvin Butcher; Texas Elite-Whole Team; Texas Mavericks-Herb Oliver; Texas Softball-Gilbert Saenz; Bulletts-Joe Holloway; Top Gun 50-Jeff Hutchison; Top Gun Thunder-Craig Peirson; TSC-Harold Kelley

MEN'S 55: 1st Interiors-Brian Williams; 50 Caliber Plus-Dave Melosi; Action Auto Parts-Steve Marcotte; Arizona Legends-Jeff Brian; Arizona Old School-Tony Mauzy; Banker & Mann Softball-Jeff Sheeran, Dave Koelper; Bellevue Merchants-Ed McKeeken; Beltway Bandits-Jose Miranda; Braves 55-Art Estrada; Champion Pumpers-Doug Payne; Chicago Prime-Whole Team; CJ&S Express-Gary Duede; Dallas Spurs-Al Schoelen; Deep Purple-George Hamilton; Doubleplay/Monarch-Dan Plesitz; Family Stones-Chuck Seminara; Four Seasons/Wilkins Trucking/Weitzel's-Mike Wilkins; Git-R-Done-Kevin O'Reilly; Grants Posse-Glenn Stevenson; Gubiotti/Genesee-Joe Germano; Hawaiian's-David Hoopii; Houston Fire-Kippy Carr; In-

tegrity Builders-Rod Chambers; Kamikaze 55-Jose Sobalvarro; Kona Legends-Stan Grahovac; Mayhem 55-Gary Tackett; Michigan Smash/Top Gun-Robert Westdrop; Minnesota Prize-John Hill; Motown Stars-Lawrence Reedus; Mountain Men-Dave Litchfield; New Jersey Metro Hitmen-Tony Vodola; Northern Exposure-Dave Zuker; Old Stars-Lovelle Johnikin; R&R Stokers-Doug Hamlet; Scrap Iron Coyotes-Tony Cooper; Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder-Brad Edginton; Tasty Pizza-Rod Prather; Team Pound-Randy Taylor; Tri-C Machine-Rick Glazer; Unpredictable-Ricardo Ornelas; Wilson and Sons Auto-Mike Wilson; Wolf Pack-Lorren Dalesky

MEN'S 60: 911 Softball Club-Sam Grimes; Atlanta Recycling-Randy Broome; Bay Supporters-Robert Standley; Blue Chips-Dan Creeden; Cal Xtreme-Paul Richardson; Chain Link-Freddy Purvis; Chicago Hitmen-Paul Carpenter; Crystal Cobras-Gordon (Elmo) Moser; Dallas Spurs-Tom Parris; Dixon ZTR-Craig Long; Edge II-Thomas Goatley; God's Sports Company-Jimmy Ross; Hannington's-Andrew Harmon; Hawaiians-Mike Brown; Hollis Appraisals-Mike Monnier; MBA Elite-George Robinson; Makua Alii-BuckyMattson; Minnesota

Blizzard-Greg (Willie) Wilson; MN Masters White-Don Tarasewicz; No Dice-Bruce Sanchez; No Guts, No Glory-Dave Neal; OC Mustangs-Jerry McIntyre; Rezults Realty-Dan LoBue; Rogue 60-Tom Witucky; Sacramento Islanders 60-Craig Nakahara; Scrap Iron Legends-Dale Daugherty; Sidewinders 60-Ron Wiebold; SoCal 60-Shig Asato; Superior Senior Softball-Tommy Dommel; Syracuse Cyclones 60-Jim Ranucci; Team Texas (SA)-Carlos Vargas; Timberworks Construction-Roger Sanders; Top Gun 60-Jimmy Day

MEN'S 65: 4:13 Rim Fire-Bill Gore; Anaconda Sports-Joe Vancho; Chicago Hitmen-Mike McLennand; Codgers-Vic Thompson; Damaged Goods-Tim Ryan; Duke City Dynamite-Ray Johnson; Event Lab-Lud Nordahl; Florida Merchants-Pat McDonald; Franklin Loan Center-Tom Moore; Full Circle-Randy Gomez; Git-R-Done 65-Mark Beizer; Hamel Builders/Superior-John Davide; Kansas City Fire-John Gerstle; Last Call-Lowell Moore; Makua Alii-Michael Antone; Marauders-Steve Adams; Masters Marauders-Craig Barraclough; Midwest Express-Larry Peterson; Minnesota Prize 65-Bob Hagen; R&R 65-Phil Stevens; Rose Enterprises-Charles

(Chip) Cregar; Sacramento Buds-Tosh Ohara; San Antonio Silver Streaks-Bobby Saenz; Scrap Iron Diamonds-Jim Davidson; Scrap Iron Phiten-Tom Reynolds; Sidewinders 65-Bill Jenkins; SW Florida Thunder-Dennis Schroeder; Texas Rattlers-Tommy John; The Sheriff-Dale Clem; West 94th Street Pub-Drew Pearson; Yeagers 65-Jim Thomas

MEN'S 70: Chicago Gray Sox-Gary Heifner; El Paseo Bank-Jim Vargeson; Git-R-Done 70-Ed Nilsen; Hawaiian Pride-Dennis Holland; Hooters Casino Hotel Las Vegas/Ginco Plumbing-Bernie Tymko, Peter Eskiw, Nick Pashulka; Kokopelli Eye Institute-Scorpions-Bill Corso; Michael's/Libby's-Frank Caliendo Sr; MidAmerica Patriots-Frank Perez; Minnesota Masters-Norm Setnick; Omen 70-Lynn Anglin; RWC State Roofing System-Charley Sherrill; Scrap Iron Legacy-Jerry Sundberg; Stark Street Pizza-Doc DeMarco; Sun City Side-winder II-Buster Dickinson; Syracuse Cyclones 70-Bob Wood; Triple Play-Glenn Fitzgerald; WE Ruth 70-Daryl Idler; Vacar Stars-Larry Stremikis

MEN'S 75: Arizona 75-Joe Siegele; California Connection-Wally Seller, Gene Adams; Git-R-Done 75-George Togo; Gold Coast-Jeff Helgeartner; Hamel Builders 75-Ed (Hutch) Attenberger; Hill Contracting 75-Lucky Roton; Joseph Chevrolet-Tom Sides; Mesa Cardinals-David Boone; Minnesota Gold Jimmy's 75-Lowell Thompson; New Concepts I-Eusebio (Chevo) Duran; New York Statesmen-Dennis Leach; San Francisco Seals-Terry Nafziger; State Roofing Systems-Bill Beshore

MEN'S 80: Elk Grove Renegades-Don Fields; Florida Investment Properties-Ray Bosetti; Scrap Iron Grey Berets-Ken Klauer; Jimmy's MN Legends 80-David Belbin; ProHealth Care-Dick Steinmet; Texas Classics 80-Henry Morgan

MEN'S 85: Center For Sight-Hugh Brotherton



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From Page 19

finals. Rocky Mountain Extreme faced their first real test of the tournament but squeaked out a win, 16-15, to win the division.

Superior Senior Softball dominated the 60 Major Plus division in classic form. They were seeded No. 1 in the bracket and strung together four straight wins to take the division. They averaged a winning margin of 7 runs per game and scored no less than 25 runs in each of their victories on their way to the championship. Superior Senior Softball also claimed the Triple Grand Slam with their World Championships, 60 Major Plus division title

Another large division was the 60 Major's with 23 teams. MBA Elite lived on the edge with a series of close wins including a pair of one-run ballgames. They turned it on when it counted and were able to slug their way to a 32-23 victory over Pope Transport in the championship game. MBA Elites victory secured their spot in Senior Softball history as it captured the coveted Triple Grand Slam.

Extremely close competition played out in the 33-team, 60 AAA division. One-run games littered the bracket with the ninth seeded Wisconsin Masters playing a part in many of them. The Masters faced the top seeded Hannington's in the fifth round, eking out a 20-19 victory, forcing them into the elimination bracket. Hannington's would not go away easily and were able to claw their way back to face Wisconsin Masters in the finals. Hannington's was able to force an "If" with a 23-18 win over Wisconsin, but the Masters came back with another 20-19 win in the "If" for the division title.

No. 8 seed Team Texas was knocked into the elimination bracket by Relentless in the fourth round of the 21-team, 60 AA division. They strung together wins in a few closely fought ballgames, 15-14 and 21-20, over Fresh Poke and Syracuse Cyclones to gain their way into the championship. Team Texas then scored 18 runs in two consecutive games, one being the "If", against Relentless to win the division championship.

Despite a strong performance by Hamel Builders, Full Circle dominated the competition in the 65 Major Plus division. Going into the championship bracket undefeated, Hamel Builders demolished Event Lab 38-19. Omen 65 did their best to knock Full Circle into the elimination bracket, but came up short 17-15. With Full Circle up next, Hamel Builders fell to the elimination bracket in a tough 12-8 loss. Undaunted by the loss, Hamel bulldozed Omen 24-7 to replay Full Circle for the title. Full Circle's steadfast bats overpowered Hamel Builders 30-15 to take the division title.

Fielding 13 teams, the 65 Major division saw top seed 4:13 Rim Fire muscle out their competitors



Photos by Jack Eberhard

Team Pound celebrates winning the 37-team 55 AAA division - the second largest.

with ease. Enviro-Vac, the second seed, was able to reach the semifinals by coming out on top against R&R 65's 20-15 and SW Florida 25-24, but lost their composure against a tough 4:13 Rim Fire squad in a close 14-11 loss. By that time, fifth seed SA Silver Streaks had clawed their way up the elimination bracket winning five games in a row to play Enviro-Vac for a chance to vie for the crown. Coming up with a solid 32-24 win, SA Silver Streaks attempted to dethrone 4:13 Rim Fire but they fell a dozen runs short, losing 27-15.

In a surprising turn of events, No. 12 seed S.I. Phiten and No. 11 seed SoCal Gusto survived a talented 65 AAA division to duke it out for the title. SoCal Gusto overcame a late-round loss to Suburban 22-21 to climb out of the elimination bracket. Eliminating top seed Islanders 20-16 and Sidewinders 17-12, SoCal exacted revenge against Suburban with a 20-16 victory to make it to the championship game. Meanwhile, S.I. Phiten blasted Sidewinders out of the water with a 15-7 win and squeezed by Suburban 18-15 to play SoCal Gusto for the ring. In a close game, Phiten triumphed over SoCal Gusto 21-19 to win the championship.

Outperforming 19 talented teams, fifth seed MN Lumberjacks captured the 65 AA division title. Top seed Damaged Goods, after two strong wins against Kauai 20-12 and Desert Heat 37-18, fell to the elimination bracket in a 19-18 loss to MN Lumberjacks. Third seed SoCal Crush punished the Rattlers 17-11 and Chicago Hitmen 18-15 only to be beaten by the Lumberjacks 23-21. Trying to stay alive after their loss to SoCal Crush, the Rattlers pulled off some impressive wins disposing of Damaged Goods, Chicago Hitmen and SoCal Crush. Earning a spot in the championship game, the steadfast Rattlers just couldn't compete against a seemingly invincible MN Lumberjacks losing 17-10.

In several close offensive bouts, Omen 70 pushed through to gain the 70 Major division title.

The win also secured the 70 Major division Triple Grand Slam. With a narrow 14-12 win over Stark St. Pizza, Omen showed great resolve defeating a skilled FL Legends team 24-21. Florida Legends rebounded with a 28-21 win over Stark St. Pizza. In an evenly matched championship game, Omen 70 defeated the Legends 16-15.

The 70 Major division saw Scrap Iron 70's dig deep to defy Vacar Stars's control of the bracket. After dropping to the elimination bracket in a tough loss to the Stars 20-12, Scrap Iron regained their footing by defeating Michael's 19-10. With momentum on their side, Vacar seemed poised to seize the title without a loss, but Scrap Iron delivered a fatal 14-13 win to deflate their confidence. In an exciting "If" game, Scrap Iron 70's fell short 10-9 and Vacar earned the division title. Vacar Stars close battle with Scrap Iron also gained them the coveted Triple Grand Slam.

Featuring another "If" game to determine the champion, the 70 AAA division showcased the highly competitive play present here. Knocked into the elimination bracket 24-19 by a commanding Texas Legends squad, Hooters persevered disposing of MN Masters 13-9, Triple Play 17-15, Top Gun II 12-7 and Chicago Gray Sox 22-21 in that order. Given a chance to dethrone the Texas Legends in the finals, Hooters pulled off a 23-22 upset win. Seasoned and ready to win, Texas Legends answered only their second loss in the tournament with a thunderous 35-17 win over Hooters to take the division title.

Terrifying their competitors, the Syracuse Cyclones swept the 70 AA division to win the title. Defeating USA Patriots 24-12 and Git-R-Done 25-5, the Syracuse Cyclones easily sealed the division by overwhelming USA Patriots again 25-3 in the championship game. The Cyclones also grabbed the Triple Grand Slam in the 70 AA division, marking the third TGS winner in the 70 age bracket.

The 75 Major Plus Division saw Joseph Chevrolet and S.F. Seals battle it out for the title. S.F. Seals proved to be victorious swiftly putting away Joseph Chevrolet with two consecutive wins 14-12 and 27-12. With the win, the legendary team out of California claimed another Triple Grand Slam title.

Mesa Cardinals mowed down the competition in the 75 Major division. Knocking PDR Fastsigns into the elimination bracket with a resounding 13-0 shutout, Mesa went on to beat Hamel Builders 17-9. Hamel Builders then defeated Jimmy's MN Gold 13-0 in the elimination bracket, producing the second division shutout, to earn a rematch against Mesa. Winning the championship game 16-11,

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Photos by Jack Eberhard

Seven players were inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame during second session Opening Ceremonies. The inductees, from left in the top photo, include: Harry Heller, Jim Douglas, Mike Sisavic, Steve Salter, Dennis Lutz, Don Pierson, Not in photo: George Sylvia.

In left photo, Mike Adair, manager of GSC team, left in photo, and Bobby Davis of Hollis were inducted during the third session Opening Ceremonies. Nellis Air Force Base provided the color guard.



WMC: TKP, Fossils Winners

Continued from Page 21

Mesa Cardinals dashed the hopes of Hamel Builders and seized the division title.

With 12 teams competing in the 75 AAA division, Harris Auction stole the show going undefeated in bracket play to gain the title. Both NY Statesman and Hill Contracting did their best to cut Harris Auction down a peg to no avail. With NY Statesmen losing 30-21 and Hill Contracting losing 22-12, Harris Auction reached the finals with a significant edge. Harris Auction the walloped Hill Contracting 28-15 in the championship game.

The 80 Major Division saw some inspiring play by Fairway Ford overshadowed by the success of Florida Investment Properties. Starting off strong, Fairway Ford beat EG Renegades 25-17 only to be decimated by Florida Investment Properties 24-8. Falling to the elimination bracket, Fairway defeated EG Renegades again 17-6 to earn another shot at Florida Investment Properties in the championship game. But Florida Investment Properties won 17-15 to win the division title.

With eight teams competing for the 80 AAA title, Jimmy's Minnesota

Legends faced little resistance from the competition to earn the division title. One by one, Jimmy's Legends bested the cream of the crop beating ProHealth Care 16-8 and SI Grey Beret 13-10. Salvaging their team's hopes for the title, ProHealth Care turned around to defeat Redwood City 22-11 and Oregon RR's 22-10. Riding their winning momentum, ProHealth Care went on to silence SI Grey Beret 20-14 to face off against Jimmy's Legends in the championship game. The Legends powered in 22 runs to ProHealth Care's 8 to clinched it.

The Women's 40 Masters Major division fielded eight highly competitive teams. C.P.B. started out strong triumphing over Team Works 21-20 and top seed Old School 20-6. TKP/Hunters also managed a commanding start overcoming All In 10-8 and a solid Hafta Play squad 18-15. Then TKP/Hunters narrowly beat C.P.B. 20-19 to advance to the finals. Dropping to the elimination bracket, Hafta Play eked out a nice victory against Angry Birds 15-14, but was unable to keep up with C.P.B. losing 22-11. Facing off in the championship game, TKP Hunters and C.P.B. both put up a good fight, but TKP Hunters came away with the win and the

division title 22-16.

Tharaldson Softball and Twisted Fossils dominated the Women's 40 AAA division, despite a notable performance by the Saints. Losing to Team Alaska 14-11 in their first bracket game, the Saints were able to climb their way up the elimination bracket disposing of DFW Classic, Old Nasty and Law & Order. Tharaldson Softball managed several significant wins against Kiss Our Stix 17-5 and Team Alaska 15-1 to face off against Twisted Fossils. Unable to muster enough runs, Tharaldson Softball lost 15-11 to Twisted Fossils and dropped to the elimination bracket. In a defining game, Tharaldson Softball flexed their muscles and overcame a scrappy Saints Squad 17-9 to earn a spot in the finals. Twisted Fossils experienced their first loss of the tournament to Tharaldson 17-13 compelling an "If" game to determine the champion. In a suspenseful match-up, Twisted Fossils captured the Championship with a 15-14 win over Tharaldson.

The Women's 40 Masters AA division saw six teams battle it out for the title. Above the Law laid down the law one by overcoming Guam

Forty 19-4, Lew's Crew 19-14 and B.O.O.B.'s 13-11, to make it to the finals. After losing to Utah Relics 18-17 in a nail biter, No. Const. Fireballs managed four consecutive wins to climb out of the elimination bracket, including a bittersweet 22-21 victory over the Utah Relics. Facing a determined Above the Law squad, the Fireballs managed a 15-8 win to force an "If" game. Undeterred, Above the Law outgunned the Fireballs 21-8 to seize the division title.

In the Women's 50 division, Dreamgirlz crushed the competition and captured the title. Ladiez Steel Smackin did their best to take control of the bracket after solid wins against HC Swingers 16-4 and Dream Team 8-7, but were decimated by the Dreamgirlz 30-12. Karphone picked up the reins after being relegated to the elimination bracket by Dream Team in a 4-3 loss. Managing four consecutive wins, including an important 19-8 victory over Ladiez Steel Smackin, Karphone failed to overcome the Dreamgirlz 14-11. By winning the World Championships, Dreamgirlz captured the Triple Grand Slam in the Women's 50 division.



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Southern Teams Vie For TOC Berths

By Joseph Ruggiero
Softball News Report

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. – The Southern Championships returned here for its 8th consecutive year at the five-field Liberty Park Sports Complex from Aug. 14 to Aug. 17.

Twenty-seven teams attended the tournament representing seven states from America's southern region including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The tournament's divisions were well-balanced and competitive with "If" games determining the winners of the 55/60 Gold division, the 60 AAA division and the 65 Gold division.

One team, Edge II, managed an impressive "double dip" comeback to seize the title in the 55/60 Gold division.

Five teams did their best to slow Monster Softball's winning momentum in the 50 Major division. With Monarchs and Langston bowing out early, Lighthouse defeated a strong Herrington team 16-8 to earn a chance to face an undefeated Monster Softball squad. In their first match-up, Monster Softball barely eked out a 22-21 win against Lighthouse. In the second game, Monster softball proved



more confident mustering 29 runs to Lighthouse's 23. An exciting, high-scoring rematch, Monster Softball showed why they deserved the title despite the efforts of some talented southern competitors.

The 50 AAA division saw Magnolia Softball and North Georgia Outlaws vie for the title. After losing the first game 17-12, the North Georgia Outlaws came back to beat Magnolia Softball 16-5. Unable to find any offensive rhythm, Magnolia Softball fell to North Georgia 11-6 in the championship game and the Outlaws took the division title.

The 55/60 Gold division featured

some fun and exciting bracket play. Despite an impressive showing by DT Express during seeding games, they couldn't overpower David Bowen 10-8 or Edge II 21-18 and were eliminated. G.A.S. started strong beating (By) Grace redeemed 23-12 and Edge II 22-21, but failed to thwart the hot bats of David Bowen, losing 24-15. Falling to the elimination bracket, G.A.S. unfortunately faced a resurgent Edge II team that decisively disposed of them 23-10 to earn a spot in the championship game against David Bowen. With two consecutive one-run wins, Edge II narrowly overcame David Bowen's offensive firepower 21-20 and 22-21 to clinch the championship.

With seven teams competing in the 60 AAA division, 6th seed ATL Recycle seemed poised to upset some top-seeded teams and entertain a shot at the title. After losing to ATL Naturals 21-7, the scrappy ATL Recycle team battled their way through the elimination bracket eliminating AR Naturals 25-13, T.A.G. 22-20 and Randy Smith 19-8. Top seed, Elite 60's, halted ATL Recycle's winning streak 20-5 to face second seeded Boys of Summer. In their first match-up, Elite 60's upset

Boys of Summer 18-17, but the Boys of Summer rebounded with a nail biting 13-12 victory to steal the 60 AAA division title.

The 65 Gold division showcased compelling performances by 7th seed, LA Legends, and 8th seed, The Firm. With both teams going winless into the championship bracket, they upended the top two seeded teams to start off bracket play. LA Legends beat 4:13 Rim Fire 20-17 and The Firm upset Sports Lettering 23-22. Rim Fire quickly rebounded from their initial loss by handily defeating Team ABC, Sports Lettering, and Custom Graphics. Almost knocked out by Carriage 20-21, Rim Fire pushed on to spar with the Firm and came out ahead 17-12 to face LA Legends in the championship game. LA legends, playing hot off of a three-game winning streak, stood toe to toe with Rim Fire, but lost 17-16. In an exciting end to the tournament, the two teams battled out the 3rd "If" game of the tournament and LA Legends persevered 16-8 to claim their division title and a T.O.C. berth.

For complete game results, please visit Senior Softball USA's Southern Championships' tournament page at: www.seniorsoftball.com.

2014 Southern Championships All Tournament Players include:

Men's 50 Major – **Monster Softball:** Danny Cloud, Dane Davidson, Clarence Watkins, Jay Mann, Rex Lee

Men's 50 AAA – **North Georgia Outlaws:** Gary Nicholson, Jeffrey Robertson, Gary Berrong, Danny Davis, Danny Galloway; **Magnolia Softball:** Allen Miles, Alan Johnson, Phillip Spence

Men's 55/60 Major – **Edge Softball:** Glen Dale Smith, Ben (Chip) Sheffield, Harold Fincher, Tom Goatley, Rick Goss; **David Bowen Sporting Goods:** Jeff Cherry, Kevin Hogan, Fred Williams

Men's 60 AAA – **Boys of Summer:** Larry Chasteen, Odis Ledbetter, Rex Fletcher, Robert Rook II, David Foster; **Atlanta Recycling:** Tony Childs, Johnny Stanford

Men's 65 Gold – **Louisiana Legends:** Jimmy Robichaux, Jim Gautreaux, Lynn Guidry, Gary Smith, L. Phil Pittman; **4:13's Rim Fire:** Willie Stegall, Ronald (Hootie) Ingram, Gill Gore

Ron Hager, Manager of Nebraska's A&C 50s Dies

Softball News Report

Ron Hager, 55, of Nebraska, manager of the 2014 A&C Developers 50AAA team, died Aug. 24 after losing his battle with cancer.

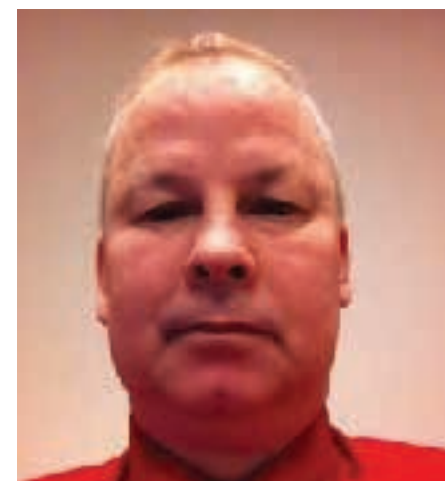
Ron also managed the 2012 and 2013 Dunkin Donuts 50 AAA teams. Ron had been a member of Senior Softball since 2010, playing in several

Midwest area tournaments with Nebraska X-Treme.

Being part of team was important Ron and it showed. He was always supportive of his teammates, family and friends.

"Ron loved softball. He was always thinking about and studying the game. He was a stats guy who loved to win. Some guys love to play and some guys love to be part of something. I think Ron loved both equally," said teammate Gerald McCaw. "He was a good guy and he will be missed."

Ron was employed by Tetrad Corp, a construction and real estate agency, for more than a decade. His most recent project included the Fred



Ron Hager

& Pamela Buffet Cancer Center, in which he was project manager. Past projects included work for Millard Public Schools.

Heard in the Dugout

"Conversation is like a boat:
If everyone crowds on the
same side, it sinks. It needs
balance to keep afloat."

-- Marjorie Pither



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Record 116 Teams Compete For Titles In Western Nationals

By Ross McCulligan
Softball News Report

SACRAMENTO – The 14th annual Western National Championships returned to Sacramento and South Placer County for the second straight year. A record 116 teams competed in Central Valley's first leg of the most coveted prize in senior softball, the Triple Grand Slam.

Winners of the Western Nationals earn a berth in the U.S. National Game against winners of the Eastern Nationals at the World Masters Championships in Las Vegas. In addition, winners also receive a birth in the Tournament of Champions in February.

The Western Nationals grew to 23 divisions in order to accommodate the 116 teams. The Aug. 5-10 tournament utilized four complexes throughout the Elk Grove, Sacramento and South Placer region.

SSUSA, the Sacramento Convention Bureau and Placer Valley Tourism are looking at long-term plans to keep the Western Nationals in the Central Valley.

"We have developed a great relationship with each CVB and believe the Western Nationals will only continue to thrive in terms of quality and size here in the Capitol City," said Fran Dowell, executive director of SSUSA.

Many players sought hydration and shade as the temperature reached triple digits for a few days of the tournament. Despite the heat, the tournament was a great success as teams battled their way to the first step of the Triple Grand Slam.

The 40 Major Plus division was strictly a Northern California battle. Six teams, all hailing from the Central Valley, slugged through an extremely competitive division.

The two seed, Prestige/Premier

lost their opening bracket game to NorCal Stars, 23-19, forcing them into the loser's bracket. No. 1 seed Louisville Sluggers, handedly won two in a row to await an opponent in the championship. Prestige/Premier fought their way to an 'IF' game with Louisville Sluggers, however the Sluggers defeated Prestige, 24-15, in the 'IF' to win the division.

The 40 Major division included six teams from Nevada and California. Epic dominated pool play and the bracket, defeating their opponents by an average 10 runs in five games. They ultimately took the division championship against Reno Elite, 17-12.

Seven teams competed in the 50 Major Plus division. A barrage of close games occurred in bracket play but in the end, No. 2 seed God's Sports Company, squared off with No. 1 seed Sommerville Softball in the championships. Sommerville made quick work of GSC, as they had with all their competitors, defeating them, 21-5, to win the 50 Major Plus division.



A camera crew from Good Day Sacramento interviewed Don Holt, manager of the Elk Grove 80s, for their morning show.



Photos by Jack Eberhard

12 teams competed in the 40 Men's Masters Major and Major-Plus divisions, including Kraze from California, above.

Cornerstone, hailing from Oregon, dominated the nine-team 50 Major bracket. They grabbed the top seed heading into bracket play and defeated Aftershock, 23-22, in the fourth round of games. Aftershock then defeated Doerflinger, 23-12, to face off with Cornerstone in the championship game. Aftershock was ultimately too beat up to compete, forcing them to forfeit the championship to Cornerstone.

The 50 AAA division was extremely competitive with nine teams battling for the division. Number three seeded Sugamele Golf was upset early by Twelve Gauge 13-12,

but Sugamele exacted their revenge on Twelve Gauge, 18-17, later in the bracket to then face Stanislaus Sluggers in the championship. Stanislaus fell to Sugamele, 14-8, forcing them to the 'IF' game. However, Stanislaus fought back to win the game, 19-10, and hence the division championship.

The 55 Major Plus and Major divisions played a mixed round robin on Friday and Saturday morning, and then split into individual brackets for each division.

California Energy, Goodman Racing and MTC squared off in the Major Plus division. California Energy defeated Goodman Racing 18-16 to make it to the championship against MTC. MTC forfeited the first championship game to Cal Energy setting up a one-game championship. MTC was not forced to regret the forfeit as they defeated Cal Energy 23-19 to win the division.

The 55 Major division also consisted of three teams, Avenue Towing, Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder and Wolfpack Softball. Scrap Iron defeated Wolfpack 17-11 in the second round and then once again 13-12 to win the championship for Colorado.

Five teams competed in the 55 AAA division, four from California and Scrap Iron Rockies from Colorado. All teams went 1-1 in

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Westerns: TRI-C, GSC, Pope, Viejitos Win Titles

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pool play forcing run differentials into effect for seeding. Baker Boyz lost their third round game to TRI-C Machine 16-4 only to come back and defeat them in the championship 21-11 to force an 'IF.' TRI-C took control in the 'IF' handing the Baker Boyz a 26-14 defeat to win the 55 AAA division championship.

The 55/60 AA division consisted of two 55AA teams and one 60 AA team. Ain't No Saints (60 AA) grabbed the top seed while Pastimers (55 AA) and Scrap Iron Coyotes (55AA) were seeded two and three respectively. Ain't No Saints defeated the Coyotes 24-17 and then Pastimers 20-19 to win the division. Pastimers also claimed a TOC birth as the 55 AA division winner.

God's Sports Co. fell to Timberworks Construction in their last seeding game Saturday morning. That would be their final loss of the tournament as they went on to defeat Timberworks and Arizona Rogue by an average of eight runs per game to win the 60 Major Plus division.

The 60 Major division was full of tight competition. Enviro-Vac, hailing from British Columbia, grabbed the number one seed only to lose to Pope Transport 13-12 in the third round. Pope Transport then defeated MBA Elite 15-12 and 6-1 consecutively to win the division championship.

The largest division of the tournament was the 60 AAA with 11 teams. Because of the size of the division bracket play began on Friday with three games in the first round. Viejitos, out of California, went 0-2 in pool play and looked destined for an early exit as the No. 10 seed. They then caught lighting in a bottle winning games five in a row by an average of 6.5 runs per game, eventually defeating Cut Loose, 17-7, for the division title.

Full Circle and Omen competed in a best-of-three in the 65 Major Plus division. Full Circle defeated Omen 19-14 in the first game but Omen came back to take the second 15-14 setting up a third and final championship game. The highest scoring game of the division ensued with Full Circle defeating Omen, 22-16 to win the division.

Three teams competed in the 65 Major division. Enviro-Vac grabbed the No. 1 seed to gain a bye in bracket play. The Marauders beat Yeagers 14-6 only to fall to Enviro-Vac 20-15. The Marauders then defeated Yeagers once again to gain their way into the championship only to be defeated by Enviro-Vac once again 14-9 in the championship game.

Nine teams, eight from California and one from Nevada, competed in the 65 AAA division. Game On, seeded No. 1, won their first two bracket



Photos by
Jack Eberhard

**BOOBs and
Ladies Steel-
Smackin'
faced off in
the 40/50
Women's
finals.**

games before losing to the Sacramento Islanders 16-15 advancing the Islanders to the championship game. Nor-Cal STIXX, as the No. 2 seed, lost their opening bracket game to the Islanders, forcing them to win six games in a row to face the Islanders in the championship. Nor-Cal STIXX went on quite a run but came up short against the Islanders 19-17 in the championship.

In the 65 AA division, Damaged Goods and Sacramento Buds squared off in a best-of-three bracket. Damaged Goods was too much for the Buds defeating them in two consecutive games 19-8 and 16-8 respectively.

The 70 Major Plus division was also a best-of-three, pitting Omen and Stark Street Pizza competing for the division. Although both games were tight, Omen won the championship with consecutive wins over Stark Street by scores of 15-14 and 17-14.

The 70/75 Platinum mixed division consisted of four 70 Major teams and one 75 Major Plus team. The San Francisco Seals (75 M+) grabbed the top seed but lost to Connection (70 M) in the second round, 14-13. As the No. 2 seed, Connection ran off three straight wins including another defeat of the Seals in the championship game 16-10. The San Francisco Seals were deemed the 75 M Plus champions.

The 70 Silver division included four 70 AAA teams and one 70 AA team. Can-Sirs (70 AA) played exhibition, not allowing them to advance in the bracket. Kokopelli Eye Scorpions, out of Arizona, defeated Triple Play, out of California 16-15 to advance to the championship game. Triple Play then clawed their way into the championship as well and forced an 'IF' game against Kokopelli

after a 15-5 victory in the championship. Both teams struggled offensively in the 'IF' with Kokopelli edging out a narrow 7-4 win for the division title.

The 75 Gold division was made up of two 75 AAA teams, State Roofing Systems and Oregon Roadrunners, and one 75 Major, PDR Fastsigns. PDR and the Roadrunners battled for their right to play State Roofing in the finals with PDR winning a close game 14-13. PDR went on to defeat State Roofing in the championship 16-9 only to lose the 'IF' 22-17 crowning State Roofing division champion. PDR was also deemed the 75 Major champion.

The 80 Gold division also drew three teams. Elk Grove Renegades (80 M), Fairway Ford (80 M) and Redwood City Chiefs (80 AAA) competed in the division. Fairway Ford was handed their only loss of the bracket by the Renegades in the championship 15-7. Fairway Ford then defeated the Renegades in the 'IF' 16-8 to win the division. Redwood City Chiefs was awarded the 80 AAA division championship.

In the Women's 40 Gold division, five teams competed for the championship. Penguins out of Nevada grabbed the top seed but lost two games in a row to Old School, 17-16 and 15-14, the later in the championship game. Penguins was awarded the 40 AAA division as Old School was the only 40 Major team in the division.

Northern California was represented in the Women's 40 AA/50+ division with B.O.O.B.S competing against Ladies Steel Smackin in a best-of-three. B.O.O.B.S. got the best of Steel Smackin defeating them 11-6 and 19-6 for the division championship.



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Despite Heavy Rain, East Champs Emerge

By Ross McCulligan
Softball News Report

RALEIGH, N.C. – The 14th annual Eastern National Championships returned here for its seventh straight year attracting 61 teams in the first leg of the coveted Triple Grand Slam.

Winners of the Eastern Nationals earned a berth in the U.S. National Game against winners of the Western Nationals at the World Masters Championships in Las Vegas. In addition, winners also received a birth to the Tournament of Champions in February.

The Eastern Nationals, played from July 29 to Aug. 3 at the beautiful Walnut Creek Softball Complex, drew 15 divisions, with 56 out-of-state teams traveling to North Carolina.

The first session of the tournament went off well, however tournament directors had to deal with some torrential rain during the second session.

Due to these conditions, all bracket play was cut to single elimination in order to obtain a definite champion, said tournament director JB Barner.

The 40/50 Platinum division was comprised of four teams, three 50 Major Plus and one 40 Major. DLB Softball (Major+) went 3-0 during pool play to grab the No. 1 seed. They defeated Mid-Atlantic Softball 40's (Major), 16-13, to advance to the championship against Mid-Atlantic Softball 50's (Major+). DLB handed Mid-Atlantic a significant defeat, 23-6, with some great defense and timely hitting to claim the bracket. Mid-Atlantic Softball 40's also earned a berth into the U.S. National Game as the 40 Major representatives.

The 50/55 Platinum division consisted of two 50 Major and one 55 Major Plus teams. All three teams went 1-2 in pool play, forcing run differentials to determine seeding placements.



Florida Automated Shade (Major) earned a bracket play bye, while Team USA (Major) squared off with Omega IT Services (Major+) in the first round. Team USA topped Omega 22-5 and then Florida Automated Shade, 22-5, to win the division. Omega IT Services also earned a berth into the U.S. National Game as the 55 Major Plus representative.

The 50 AAA division was one of two divisions tied for the largest in the tournament at seven teams. All teams in the bracket played extremely tough, with four out of six games decided by one run. West 94th Street Pub and ILA Fifty Plus both went 2-0 in pool play with West 94th edging out ILA for the top seed in run differentials and gaining a first round bye. ILA defeated Pacs Softball, 15-14, in the first round and then defeated Steel City, 9-8, to claw their way into the championship. Meanwhile, No. 4 seed Old Corps defeated the Buckeyes, 12-

11, and then upset West 94th St, 14-2, to face ILA in the championship. Both teams played an excellent game and in the end ILA edged out an, 11-10, victory to claim the division.

As a mixed bracket the 55/60 Platinum division also comprised seven teams, five 55 Major and two 60 Major Plus. Due to the one-game elimination bracket format, teams only needed three consecutive wins for the championship. That team was Triangle Masters, from North Carolina. They defeated High Street Bucs 55, Sweet Construction and Superior Senior Softball by an average of three runs per game to win the division.

The 55/60 Gold division consisted of three 55 AAA teams and one 60 Major team. Old Stars (AAA) dominated two games on their way to the championship, defeating South Florida Heat, 16-8, and Chicago Prime, 14-4. As the only 60 Major team, Carolina Cobras earned a berth in the U.S. National Game at the World Masters in Las Vegas.

Six teams made up the 60 AAA division. Hanningtons 60s and Hamel 60s grabbed the top two seeds respectively in bracket play, subsequently earning a first round bye. Both team won their second round games to square off in the championship. Hamel's came out swinging and held Hannington's scoreless with an, 11-0, shutout victory.

The 60 AA division consisted of three teams, Chicago Hitmen, Code Electric and Syracuse Cyclones. The Cyclones were able to defeat Code Electric, 17-12, in the first round and then defeat the Hitmen, 13-11, to win the division championship.

The 65 Platinum division consisted of three teams: Hamel Builders/Superior Senior Softball

Continued on Page 27

Eastern National All Tournament Players Named

2014 Eastern National Championships All Tournament Players:

Men's 40/50 Platinum – **Mid-Atlantic Softball:** Danny Grubbs, Ray Anderson, Jose Gilbert; **MidAtlantic Elite:** Russ Ramsey, Michael Dill

Men's 50/55 Platinum – **Team USA:** Jeff Frey, Jay Ehrhart, Phil Miller, Gerrard Blair, Cal Butcher; **Florida Automated Shade:** Kurt Musial, Chris Coffey, Manny Queipo

Men's 50 AAA – **ILA Fifty Plus:** Eric Boles, George Shelby, Reginald Landers, Adrian Dixon, Gus Eddens; **Old Corps Classic:** Scott Cobb, Jim Gardner, Mark Frastak; **West 94th St Pub:** Ken Siler, Bobby Holliman

Men's 55/60 Platinum – **Superior Senior Softball:** Billy Cameron, Clarence Ellison,

Ray Wimbrough, Pete Smith, Randy Thomas

Men's 55/60 Gold – **Old Stars:** Kent Karr, Tim Cannon, Wayne Weiss, Ron Floyd, Bob Cash; **Chicago Prime:** John Bathart, John Isaac, Elmer Piper

Men's 55 Major – **Triangle Masters:** Fred Latimore, Kenny Seagroves, Norman (Palo) Bogue, Mike Koch, Wade (Oggie) Heppert; **Levin Financial:** Leonard Simmons, Jennis Sills

Men's 55 AAA – **Carolina Cobras:** Roldando (Rolly) Flores, Tom Stankus

Men's 60 AAA – **Hamel 60:** Anthony Marlow, Ralph Hamlin, Eric Johnson, Henry Eugene Pinkney, Warnell Fletcher; **Hannington's 60:** Kevin Lipsett, Dan Sides, Thomas Tashea; **Flip Dow 60:** KC Ladish, Wayne Harper

Men's 60 AA – **Syracuse Cyclones:** Bob

Darnell, Rich Iuele, Paul Lapan, Gary Lasko, Chris Bell, Jack Hale; **Code Electric:** Mitch Holloway, Danny Deans

Men's 65 Platinum – **Hamel Builders/Superior Softball:** Tommy Dommel, Donald Clatterbough, Andrew Smith, James McLamb, Andrew Zitnay; **SW Florida Thunder:** Jim McGuire, Sonny Johnson

Men's 65 AAA – **Syracuse Cyclones:** Steve Johnson, Bill Dunn, Ala Dragomani; **Riverside/Longshots:** Granderson Jones Jr, Donald Anthony

Men's 65/70 Silver – **Carolina Cardinals:** Jerry Johnson, Walter Bailey

Men's 70/75 Platinum – **Hamel Builders:** Skip Poffenberger, Bill Bahnmaier, Ed Attenberger, Bill Nalley, Maynard Wells; **Carolina Blue Sky:** Lee Wish, Don Morton, Wayne Yates

Men's 75 Gold – **Joseph Chevrolet:** Jim Bavis, Richard Lines, Frank Vargo

Men's 80/85 Gold – **Florida Investment Properties:** Everett Arnold, Larry McCurdy, Al DeWerth, Roger Thresher, Jerry Jones, Joe Sykes; **Center For Sight 85:** Don Gsell, Hugh Brotherton, Frank Hart, Paul McGillicuddy

Women's 40 Gold – **Graphic Expression/Manic Training:** Paula Locke, Deb Raymond, Gerah Ventresca, Lin Hart, Trish Rosso; **Ladies First:** Sonya Fultz, Terri Andreoni, Elondis Mack; **Kryptonite:** April Blake, Karen Hunger

Women's 40 AAA – **Sportsman Shop:** Danielle D'Amico, Shannon Moore

Women's 50 – **Dreamgirlz:** Lydia Crandall, Sylvia Echols, Barbara Foxx, Beverly Lovett, Shirley Snell, Debra Tucker



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Western National All Tournament Players Named

2014 Western National Championships All Tournament players:

Men's 40 MajorPlus – **Louisville Slugger 40:** Jim Heflin, Tom Sanchez, Aaron Gallwitz, Kevin Foster, Derek Wilson

Men's 40 Major – **Reno Elite:** Blake Gundmundson, Richard (Mo) Mockowski, Angel Olvera

Men's 50 MajorPlus – **Sommerville Softball:** Paul Salow, Darrel Beeler, Ron Parnell, Mike Reed, Isaac (Chito) Alvidrez; **God's Sports Company:** Scott Camery, Scott Spalding, Frank Riese, Dwayne Curry

Men's 50 Major – **Cornerstone:** Rick Snyder, Al Larsen, Jeff Block, Kenny Stewart, Terry Clayton

Men's 50 AAA – **Stanislaus Sluggers:** Gilbert (Peewee) Rosenburgh, Jess Taylor, Randy Ehlers, Don Stogdell, Marty Winters; **Sugamele Golf:** Paul Smit, Clifford Ganaway, Steve Fletcher

Men's 55 MajorPlus – **MTC 55:** Bob Aikman, Kurt Mahaney, Dave Matusich, Gary Robertson, Ron Webb; **Goodman Racing:** Scott Riley, Tom Palmer

Men's 55 Major – **Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder:** Mark Troxel, Tim Ryan, Chris McTigue, Dave Schultz, Mark Haupt; **Avenue Towing:** Brad Spruitenburgh, Keith Erickson

Men's 55 AAA – **Tri-C Machine:** Dave England, Mark Markarian, Rick Glazer, Scott Depelo, Mike Wright

Men's 60 MajorPlus – **GSC:** Mickey Ayala, Barry Oliver, Steve Owens, Barry Scarpellino, Marvin Mielke; **Rogue 60:** Kenny Vaught, Rober Lawrence, John Vincent



Photos by Jack Eberhard

Cut Loose, above, lost to Viejitos in the largest bracket of the Western Nationals, the 11-team 60 AAA division.

Men's 60 Major – **Pope Transport:** Dennis Muth, Ron Bruce, Paul Cox, Mike Baehman, Mike Brown; **Ryan's Way:** Lew Agius, Tim Eicher

Men's 60 AAA – **Viejitos:** Kevin Austin, Joe Daniel, Roderick Faulk, Feliciano Garcia Jr, Feliciano Yacap; **Cal Xtreme:** Dennis McNulty, Richard Mansker

Men's 60 AA – **Ain't No Saints:** Wayne McLaughlin, Steve Schuler, Dave Avery, Donnie Quinn, Robert Navarro

Men's 65 MajorPlus – **Full Circle:**

Steve Callan, Randy Gomez, Billy Steele, Tom Hanratty, Four Pitchers (Ellwin Jobe, Ron Danoski, Corky Northrop, Mark Lough); **Omen 65:** Mike Baldonado, Fred Purvis, Dan Walsworth

Men's 65 Major – **Enviro-Vac Marauders:** Ray Wilson, Ross Evison, Steve Ogin, Trevors Bjurman, Jim Klassen; **Yeager's 65:** Richard Fink, Jim Thomas

Men's 65 AAA – **Sacramento Islanders:** Bruce Gilmore, Lou Chavez, Dave Bristol, Perry O'Laughlin, Jody Andagan; **Nor Cal**

Stixx: Ken (Spanky) Andrews, Steve Etchieson, Hiroshi (Hero) Tarumi; **Game On:** Billy Boswell, Tommy Thompson

Men's 65 AA – **Damaged Goods:** Tim Ryan, Jerry Baugh, John Mertens, Ken Leppke, Jose Santana; **Sacramento Buds:** Rich Del Chiaro, Lee Marshall, Tosh Ohara

Men's 70 MajorPlus – **Omen 70:** Jerry Ford, Ron McElyea, John Chacon, Tom Best, Tom French, Billy Wilson; **Stark Street Pizza:** Jack Robinson, John Dire, Bob Williams, Hank Cluess

Men's 70 Major – **Connection 70:** Ken Cornelison, Tom Weaver, Jerry Herling, Bill Schroeder, Tony Ivarone; **San Francisco Seals:** Herb Epple, Argie Haddock, Pete Conley

Men's 70 Silver – **California Oaks 70:** Bob Scaletti, Gene Hanson

Men's 75 Gold – **State Roofing Systems:** John Ventura, Bill Guzules, Larry Heise, Dennis Logie, Bill Beshore; **PDR Fastsigns:** Mel Bentley, John Fournier, Arlie Lyons; **Oregon Roadrunners:** Mike Urtz, Roger Smith

Men's 80 Gold – **Fairway Ford:** RJ Jerrels, Roger Williams, John Chacon, Frank Perdue, Ken Lockman; **Elk Grove Renegades:** Don Fields, Ray Newman, Vern Schlotthauer; **Redwood City Chiefs:** Ted Alarcon, Doug Luther

Women's 40 Gold – **Old School:** Deena Dobbins, Diane Dahilig, Kim Petersen, Wendy Hernandez, Alma Guzman; **Penguins:** Maura Penger, Teresa Smith, Cheryl Tamba; **Steel Runnin:** Jennifer Bennett, Shana Groff

Women's 50 – **Ladies Steel Smackin:** Melanie Roberts, Sheila Stimmler, Malia Wolf, Shari McAnaney

Eastern Nationals: Graphic, Dreamgirlz Win Women's Titles

Continued on Page 27

(Major+), Handeland Flooring (Major) and SW Florida Thunder (Major). Hamel's grabbed the No. 1 seed while Handeland and SW Florida battled in the first round. SW Florida won their first meeting, 24-9, then lost to Hamel's, 21-9, to face Handeland once again in the loser's bracket. Handeland exacted their revenge on SW Florida with a 19-14 victory, however lost the championship to Hamel's, 22-10. Handeland Flooring did gain a berth in the U.S. National Game as the 65 Major representative.

Joseph Chevrolet, 75 Major Plus, and Vacar Stars, 70 Major, squared off in a best-of-three bracket in the 70/75 Platinum division. Vacar Stars took the first game, 13-10, and Joseph Chevrolet won the second, 12-10. In the championship 'IF' game Vacar Stars banged out 13 runs against Joseph Chevrolet's 6 to win the division.

The 65 AAA bracket included six teams from Georgia, Maryland, New York and North Carolina. Syracuse Cyclones grabbed the top seed in the

bracket while Spicer Properties was seeded second.

Spicer defeated the Cyclones, 12-9, in the third round, sending Spicer to the championship and the Cyclones to the loser's bracket. Syracuse Cyclones defeated Riverside/Longshots, 17-10, to square off with Spicer Properties once again in the championship game. In an excellent battle, Spicer Properties squeaked out a victory, 16-15, over Syracuse Cyclones to win the championship.

The Syracuse Cyclones 70's team fared better than their 65 counterparts. The Cyclones were seeded second in the five team, 65/70 Platinum division. They won a series of consecutive close games defeating Monkey Joes and Chicago Hitmen (twice) by an average of 1.5 runs. Ultimately they beat the Chicago Hitmen in the championship, 9-8, to win the division.

Hamel Builders (Major) and Carolina Blue Sky (AAA) went head to head in a best-of-three for the 75 Gold division. An 'IF' game was needed to decide a winner as the Builders defeated Blue Sky, 13-10, to win the division.

In the 80/85 Gold division Florida Investment Properties battled Center For Sight for the championship. FIP was able to score enough runs defeating Center For Sight, 14-9 and 22-16, in consecutive victories for the division championship.

The Women's 40 Gold division included one major and four AAA teams.

Due to the adverse weather conditions, bracket play was forced into single elimination format. Kryptonite (major) was defeated by four seed Graphic Expressions/Manic Training in their opening round game, 9-1. Graphic then squeaked by Ladies First, 11-10 to win the division.

Dreamgirlz (Women's 50) and Lew's Crew (40 AA) went head-to-head for the Women's 40 AA/50 division. Dreamgirlz played great ball and was able to defeat Lew's Crew, 13-4 and 17-12, in consecutive victories for the championship.

For complete scores and bracket results, please visit www.seniorsoftball.com.



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51 Teams, 9 States Play in Rocky Mountain

By Joseph Ruggiero
Softball News Report

AURORA, COLO. – Returning here for the second year in a row, the Rocky Mountain Championships hosted 51 teams in 12 divisions over the Aug. 15-17 weekend. Growing since its inception in 2013, 10 more teams participated in this year's tournament than last year.

Gathering teams from Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Texas and Utah, the tournament continued to attract a diverse set of teams from all over the country.

This is due, in no small part, to the beautiful 12-field Aurora Sports Complex – named 2014 SSUSA Complex of the Year – as well as great weather.

Director Don Brooks noted that the complex did not disappoint senior players, nor did the weather as “many of the teams, especially the traveling teams, were extremely complimentary of the complex and the playing conditions.”

Featuring a talented pool of teams, Brooks remarked that “all games and divisions were very competitive,” but a couple of divisions set the bar high.

The 50 AAA division fit Brook's description perfectly showcasing some fun, but highly competitive championship bracket play. Of the 9 teams competing, fourth seeded S.I./Moore Plumbing got off to a fast start by beating the top



seeded Texas Elite 27-13 and Animo 20-14. Texas Elite proved their resolve however ousting Universal 25-22 and Rio Grande 19-12 to rally their way out of the elimination bracket. With only Animo standing in their way, Texas Elite quickly dispatched them 23-14 to earn a rematch against S.I./Moore. Losing the first game 14-9, S.I./Moore refused to go down easy. In a climactic “If” game, Texas Elite scored 29 runs to S.I. Moore's 28 to claim the division title.

seeded Texas Elite 27-13 and Animo 20-14. Texas Elite proved their resolve however ousting Universal 25-22 and Rio Grande 19-12 to rally their way out of the elimination bracket. With only Animo

Windy City Thunder cleaned house in the 50 Major division going undefeated. They topped Sac Pac 20-16 and Scrap Iron/RM Thunder 19-14. Putting up a valiant effort during the championship game, SI/RM Thunder almost pulled off an upset win but ultimately lost to Windy City 23-22 in a suspense-filled final game.

With six teams competing in the 60 AAA division, Scrap Iron Legend's impressive performance kept the division interesting. SI Legends were knocked into the elimination bracket by a tough Dixon ZTR squad in a close 15-14 match-up. SI Legends regrouped to outdo Wizards 12-11 and Dugout 15-6. With Dixon ZTR's 18-17 loss to the KC Renegades, SI Legends were given a chance to eliminate Dixon ZTR, which they did in a well-earned 23-8 victory. Riding that winning momentum, SI Legend's came out swinging and handedly defeated KC Renegades 18-11 in the semifinals. With an “If” game deciding the winner, KC Renegades seized the division title with a close 19-18 win over the formidable SI Legends.

The 55/60 Platinum division saw the TUC

Continued on Page 29

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Cancer Claims Tom 'Coach' Sneddon, Former DA

By Ross McCulligan
Softball News Report

Veteran senior softball player Thomas Sneddon died after a battle with cancer on Nov. 1. He was 73. He was born in Southgate, Calif., on May 26, 1941.

During his softball career, Sneddon played on two teams: the Channel Island Pirates and the Silver Sox. Sports were a large part of his life.

He played in the Babe Ruth World Series at the age of 15. He coached



Sneddon was well known in Southern California softball.

the Santa Barbara Youth Football League for more than a decade and many people simply knew him as "Coach." Softball became a passion of his later in life and his team won

the World Championships in 2002. He played and managed up until shortly before his death.

His passion for history extended to his fight with cancer, living by the words of Winston Churchill, "Never give in – never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense."

Tom attended the University of Notre Dame and then UCLA Law School. He ran for Santa Barbara District Attorney in 1982 and held the

position until his retirement in 2006.

He was influential in many different organizations around the Santa Barbara community including the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children program, and the Rape Crisis Center, along with many other agencies and organizations.

He had a 'what you see, is what you get' genuine personality. He loved his family, his work, his friends and his community.

NJ Outfielder 'Tuffer' Wilton Dies at 72

By Joseph Ruggiero
Softball News Report

Moreland "Tuffer" Wilton, 72, of New Jersey, a reliable outfielder and impressive base-runner, died at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Somerset, Somerville, N.J., on Aug. 21.

Tuffer, as he was known by his friends and family, played for the New Jersey Jaguars and New Jew Jersey Masters since 2008.

"Tuffer loved softball. Tuffer ran like a deer and was a great outfielder.

If I asked him to come out and play on Christmas, he would be there," said his manager and teammate, Bob Pietrzyk, "We lost a great player."

An avid hot rod mechanic and co-owner of Reese Performance in Somerville for 24 years, Tuffer could always be found taking a car apart, repairing one or putting one back together. Still working on cars at Corbo's Automotive at the time of his death, Tuffer remained committed to his lifelong passion.

Though his love of cars, softball,

volleyball and roller-skating were well-known, nothing gave Tuffer greater joy than spending time with his grandchildren. A notorious jokester, known by many as a "big-kid," Tuffer loved to pull pranks at the delight of his grandchildren.



Wilton

Rocky Mountain All Tourney Picks

2014 Rocky Mountain Championships

Men's 50 Major – **WC Thunder:** Jim Watson, Tonny Gilchrist, Scott Klein, Tom Hubek, Terry Feeney

Men's 50 AAA – **Texas Elite:** Rey Garcia, Walt Lowry, Steve Vinson, Jerry Wicks, Alan Walcott; **Scrap Iron/Moore Plumbing:** Ron Levitre, Lawrence Hernandez, Randy Strandberg

Men's 55/60 Platinum – **Tucson Bandits:** Dave Quenzler, Mike Swank, Mark Reagin, Dave Niles, Kenny Hill; **Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder:** Rick Stillwell, Michael Mouton, Mark Troxel

Men's 55/60 Gold – **Integrity Builders:** Rod Chambers, Mike Fitzgerald, Roger Hein, Chuck Grubb, Ted Bliss; **KC Kids:** Bob Knowles, Bill Radford, Ron Sanell; **Mountain Men:** Mike Seegmiller, Jaime Miranda

Men's 55 AA – **Rocky Mountain Extreme:** Rich Shaum Jr, Don DiFiore, Scott Brian Ritter, David Sprino Hernandez, Joseph Hernandez

Men's 60 AAA – **KC Renegades:** Pat Bales, Randy Rowe, Dave Cook, Steve Likes, Larry Rodgers; **Scrap Iron Legends:** Lupe Pena, Don Poulter, Terry Roberts

Men's 60 AA – **Scrap Iron Freedom:** Asa Jenkins, Bob Templeton, Mike Westin, Ken Mason, Rich Viera

Men's 65 Platinum – **High Desert Roadrunners:** Ronne Mercer, Johnny Battaglia, Roger Assink, Austin Kramer, Lucky Near

Men's 65 AAA – **Scrap Iron Diamonds:** Hans Benes, Ron Kemmerer, Ralph "Obie" Oberhelman

Men's 65 AA – **R & D Leverage:** Ron Nieman, Larry Branson, Howard Helm; **Scrap Iron Classics:** Danny Bradfield, Bill Shaffer, Jerry Vigil

Men's 70 Major – **Scrap Iron Legacy:** Dave Cox, Jerry Sundberg, Jim Brown, Dennis Lutz, Don Pierson; **Tri State Diamond Bar:** JW Perry, Tom Grubb

Men's 70/75 Silver – **Mid America Patriots:** Don Applebaugh, Robert Hill

Rocky Mountain: Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri Win

Continued on Page 29

Bandits put up a strong offensive showing to snuff out the rest of the competition. Going undefeated during championship bracket play, the TUC Bandits demolished Tasty Pizza 38-20 and MWC 20-13 in their first two games. Facing Scrap Iron/RM Thunder in the finals, Tucson Bandits clinched the division title with a strong 27-12 victory.

The KC Kids showed true grit against impressive performances by Integrity Builders and Mountain Men in the 55/60 Gold division. After being pushed into the elimination bracket by Mtn. Men 16-11, KC Kids went on to win four consecutive games, including a tough 20-15 rematch against Mtn. Men to earn a spot in the semifinals. Unable to keep up with Integrity Builders, KC Kids lost 19-8. The undefeated Integrity Builders gained the division title in a clean sweep.

With four teams competing in the 55 AA division, Rocky Mtn. Extreme came away with the title. Facing little resistance from Dallas Spurs 18-7 and SI Coyotes 15-9, Rocky Mtn. Extreme easily sealed the division title by defeating SI Coyotes 19-7 in the championship game.

Three evenly matched teams duked it out for the crown in the 60 AA division. MN Blizzard barely snatched a victory from the Dallas Spurs 31-29, but fell to SI Freedom 22-16. In a welcome rematch, the Dallas Spurs managed a 23-16 comeback over MN Blizzards and advanced to the championship game. Calm, composed and undefeated, SI Freedom confidently beat Dallas Spurs 17-12 to claim the division title.

MN Prize 65s and High Desert RR's vied for the 65 Platinum division title. MN Prize 65s gained the edge with a close 27-26 early win. High Desert however persevered to win two

consecutive games 15-12 and 19-9 and seize the division title.

R&D Leverage swept the SI 65 Classics 18-11 and 17-14 to clinch the 65 AA division title.

Scrap Iron Force appeared to be the strongest contender at the start of round robins in the 70/75 Silver division. Cutting down New Concepts 10-8 and Scrap Iron Force 75's 14-13, they were poised to easily win the division title. Scrap Iron 75's however bounced back defeating M.A. Patriots 12-4 and Scrap Iron Force 16-12 to compel an "If" game. However the teams decided not to play the final game, with Scrap Iron 75s giving the title to Scrap Iron Force in a 7-0 forfeit.

For complete game results, please visit Senior Softball USA's Rocky Mountain Championships' tournament page at: www.seniorsoftball.com.



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138 Winter Nationals Teams Kick Off 2015

By Dave Dowell
Softball News Report

FT. MYERS, FLA – The 13th annual SSUSA Winter National Championships in Lee County kicked off the Eastern portion of the 2015 Tournament Season with 138 teams descending on Ft. Myers, Cape Coral and Naples for six days of spirited competition.

The Winter Nationals continue to grow annually, with teams hailing from as far north as Ontario, Canada, and as far west as Dallas, Texas, and just about everywhere in between.

“We are pleased to host such a great group of softball players each year to start the new senior softball season,” said Allison Gruber, a sports division executive with the Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau. “We see many of the same players from year to year and enjoy rolling out the red carpet while they are here,” she added.

Session 1 began on Tuesday with 72 teams in the age 65 and older divisions playing at the Lee County, Northwest and Cape Coral sports complexes. The highlight of the first session, judging from local press coverage and attendance, was the first ever game between the defending LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Champions from both the 80+ (Florida



The First and Second place teams in the 75 Major Division pose together at the Winter Nationals in Florida. The winners were Bucs & Bulls, in light jerseys, and Premium Seats USA, in dark jerseys, took second place.

Investment Properties) and 85+ (Center for Sight) Divisions.

F.I.P. defeated the scrappy Center for Sight 85's squad 23-10 by virtue of a big open inning and capped an impressive unbeaten tournament with a Championship game victory over Jimmy's Minnesota Legends (15-2) on Thursday. Center for Sight did defeat the other two “younger” 80+ teams on the way to a very impressive third place finish.

In the Men's 65+ Divisions, the Windsor Chiefs (ON) won the 12-team 65/70+ Platinum bracket,

with the High Street Bucs (MD) and Jersey Masters (NJ) second and third, respectively.

The largest division of the tournament was the highly competitive 25-team 65-AAA bracket, with Spicer Properties (MD) and the Lake Wales Legends (FL) being the last two standing. Spicer won the winner's bracket final (16-10) over Lake Wales before dropping the Championship game to the Legends (17-15) and bouncing back to take the “If” game (22-7) to complete the run to the title.

It was a similar story in the five-team 65-AA division, with the Long Island Jaguars (NY) winning the trophy in the “If” game (19-14) over Kentuckiana after the two teams had split the winner's bracket final (Long Island by 11-7) and Championship game 1 (Kentuckiana by 20-14).

The Men's 70-AAA crown went to the Senior Red Birds (IL) coming out on top of the Bostonian 70's and the Jersey Masters (NJ). The 70-AA final was an all-Indiana finale with the Indianapolis Classics slipping by

Continued on Page 31

Winter National All Tournament Players Selected

2014 Winter National Championships (2015 roster event) All Tournament players included:

Men's 50 AAA – **All Secure:** Louis Reyes Jr, Alvin Berkhall, Carl Lockhart, Marty Thiessen, Marvin Kelly; **New Rule Softball:** Scott Bowden, Warren Jenkins, Dave Leon, Danny VanCamp, Curt Kreisler

Men's 50/55 Platinum – **Good Times:** Ray Bonnell, Donny Burke, Tim Fincher, Ned Johnston, Craig Lisa; **WC Thunder:** Jim Weber, Jim Watson, Larry Mueller; **Tri-State Merchants:** Bob Baker, Pat Daley

Men's 55 Major – **Six Pac:** Mark Harrison, George Roberts, Donnie Katzman, Alan Gibson, Frank Cebe; **CNM Wealth Mgmt/Snyder's Lance:** Roger Bard, Doug Schram, Brad Rector, Pete Bassignani

Men's 55 AAA – **The Bank:** Tom Forrest, Gary Lewis, Joseph Lucas, Mike Johnson; **Ballbusters:** Dan Stewart, John Popov, Doug Brooks

Men's 50/55 AA – **Silver Foxes:** Norman Caribo, Danny Woodcum, Dan Covey, Art Permenter, Paullie Grillot, Scott Jones; **The Grey Geese:** Kelly Goswick, Kevin (Goose) O'Kiefe, Bob (Oz) Darrah, Tom Collins

Men's 60 MajorPlus – **Hollis Appraisals:** Pat McLellan, Dave Motta, Jack Aronson, Charles (Chip) Cregar, Lewis (Gunny) Grace; **Minnesota Masters:** Steve Pease, Steve Schletty, Garry Morris, Dave Mattson, Dave Slack

Men's 60 Major – **High Street Bucs:** Timmy Potter, Steve Propert, Joe Herr

Men's 60 AAA – **Minutemen/Pepco/SFS:** Manny Patton, Tom Coyne, Barry Benjamin; **American Scaffolding:** Bob Bosse, Mike Hanselman, Jim Richardson

Men's 60 AA – **No Stars:** Bruce Walsh, Allan Parenteau, Stan Duncan, Bill Coyne, Harry Freedman; **Action Auto Parts:** Mario DeAngelis, Bob Pierce, Paul Danesi, Frank (Flip) DeCorpo, John Martins, Manny Costa

Men's 65/70 Platinum – **Windsor Chiefs:**

Roy Oke, Grant Snary, Wayne Dupuis, Bill Wislon, Ernie Holden; **High Street Bucs:** Bill Macuch, Bobby Lehman, Pat Carey

Men's 65 AAA – **Spicer Properties:** Joe Fry, Martin Harahush, Ron Miller, James Ross, Ken Ruffo; **Lake Wales Legends:** Donnie Atkins, Eric Johnson, Don Held; **Bradford White:** Rob Wolf, Jim Siers

Men's 65 AA – **Long Island Jaguars:** William (Butch) Schultheis, Billy Meyler, Bob Gutkowski, Wayne Hillen, Tom Granito Jr; **Kentuckiana:** Terry Stallard, Charlie Abell, John McGarry

Men's 70 AAA – **Senior Redbirds:** Len Suess, Bob Moutray, Carlos Lindo, Gary Schad, Jim Welch, John Meeden; **Bostonian 70s:** Dave Clark, Tom Hall, Stuart Gray, Angelo Scarcella; **Jersey Masters:** Dick Lillich, Bob Zimmerman

Men's 70 AA – **Indianapolis Classics:** Dave Abney, Wayne Weber, Bill Wolfe, Ken Bonham, Floyd Edwards; **Columbus Silver**

Sticks: Jim Ogilvie, Roger Gildersleeve, David Adwell; **Blaze (SW Florida):** Conrad Madaleno, Bob Schneider

Men's 75 Major – **Bucs and Bulls:** Wayne Mundy, Roy Gardner, Doug McLellan, Randy Hill, Bill Miller, Rich Kelly; **Premium Seats USA:** Tom Ladd, Don Gsell, Scott Logan, Wayne Hughes

Men's 75 AAA – **ProHealth 75:** Barney Slowey, Bill Rutzinski, Ozzie Oswald, Dennis Driebel, John Heisdorf; **BackOffice Associates:** James VanBaalen, James Parmelee, Michael Sullivan; **Peach Tree Restaurant:** Dan MacDonald, Donald Germer

Men's 80/85 Gold – **Florida Investment Properties:** Larry McCurdy, Ferrell Sparks, Don Deaton, Dewey McVicker, Bob Johnson; **Jimmy's MN Legends:** Bob D'Amadio, Norm Robinson, Don Hutchinson; **Center For Sight:** Paul McGillicuddy, Don Gsell



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Winter Nationals: Teams From 9 States, Canada Win Titles

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the Columbus Silver Sticks in the "If" game (15-14) after dropping the Championship game (17-13).

The Men's 75+ championships went to the Bucs & Bulls (FL) in the 75-Major with an exciting last at-bat 23-22 "If" game win over Premium Seats USA (FL) while ProHealth Care 75 (WI) swept through the tournament unbeaten with their Championship game win over Back Office Associates (MA), 16-8

Previous All Tourney Players

These All Tournament selections came in after the deadlines for the editions in which the original list appeared:

Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup

Men's 55 MajorPlus – **Summy's Night-hawks**: Jon "Bully" Kramer, Scott Camery, Randy Holbrook

California State Championships

Men's 40 Major – **Epic**: Elbert Certeza, Robert Contreras, Eric Mauldin, Robbie Ortega, Jamie Robles

Men's 50 Platinum – **NorCal Warriors**: Robert Gibbs, Ken Block, Brian Crisp, Gary Hoffman, Willie Gomez; **L.A.F.**: Matt Dobyms, Terry Shinn

Men's 50 AAA – **Kamikaze**: Jeff Lawless, Jaime Gillette, Mike Stater, James Durant, Mike Grimm; **Sugamele Golf**: Bill Colt, Alan Derow, Glenn Gann

Men's 55 Silver – **Kamikaze**: Vinny Gallo, Mark Toma, Mario Penados, Tony Valencia, Dan Fallon

Men's 70 Major – **Connection 70**: Mel Makos, Bob Manzer, Rudy Morfin, Mike Rivera, Tony Iavarone

Northeast Championships

Men's 55/60 Gold – **Syracuse Merchants**: Ron Mitchell, Dan Kelley, Butch Sweeney; **Team Deluxe/Bradford**: Bill Swanson, Ron Weikel

Men's 65 Gold – **Brantford Nissan**: Jim Banyard, Phil Riley, Tom Gorman, Terry Keys, Brian Kernaghan; **Rochester Classics**: Jerry Schiffhauer, Joe Gogolsky, John Milne

Men's 65/70 Silver – **Syracuse Cyclones**: Ken Moses, Tony Galeazzi, Vern Wagar, Robert Wood, Ted MacCarrick

Men's 70 AAA – **Hannington's of MA**: Ray LePage, Ed Finnegan, Pat Romano



Session 2 commenced on Friday with another 62 teams in the mix and the tournament expanding to the N. Collier Regional Park facility in Naples. In contrast to the first session, Mother Nature played a major role over the weekend as rains hampered play, especially here and in Cape Coral.

In the 50+ Divisions, the AMR 50's (OH) swept the first two in the Best 2 of 3 from previously unbeaten Steve Levin/Dudley (FL) by scores of 22-19 and 27-12 for the 50-Major+ title.

The 50/55-Platinum winner was Good Times (FL), who won all the close ones, three times winning bracket games without scoring more

than 10 runs, the last of which was by 9-6 over the WC Thunder (IL) in the Championship game.

The eight-team 50-AAA was moved on Sunday to Naples from Ft. Myers in an attempt to beat the rains, but bracket play was suspended and ultimately cancelled with two teams, All Secure (FL) and New Rule Softball (FL) the only two unbeaten in bracket play being declared co-champions.

The 55+ divisions also suffered rain issues that resulted in champions being declared based on results to date when play was terminated. The 55-Major championship went to the Six Pac 55's (KY) over CNM Wealth Management (FL) when the Championship game was cancelled, leaving Six Pac the only unbeaten.

The same result occurred in the 55-AAA's with The Bank (DE) declared victors following their winner's bracket win (16-5) over the Ballbusters (FL) late Saturday afternoon, prior to Sunday play being rained out.

In the 50/55-AA Best 2 of 3, the Silver Foxes 55 (FL) bounced back strong in the "If" game (24-8) after

they had split the first two games with The Grey Geese 50's (FL).

Lastly, the 60+ Divisions completed play in Naples, but not in Lee County or Cape Coral. The 60-Major+ title went to Hollis Appraisals in their two-game sweep (9-3 and 23-10) over the previously unbeaten Minnesota Masters while the Metro Hitmen (NJ) became the only other team to compile an unbeaten tournament. The Hitmen swept through the 60-Major bracket from the top seed position, culminating the perfect run with a 33-15 victory over the High Street Bucs (MD).

The 17-team 60-AAA bracket champion was declared to be Slug-A-Bug (FL) as they were the only remaining unbeaten team when play was cancelled. There was a six-team tie for second place.

And in the 60-AA, Action Auto Parts (RI) and No Stars (FL) were declared co-champions when play was cancelled. They were the only unbeaten teams in the winner's bracket at the time.

For complete scores and bracket results, please visit www.seniorsoftball.com.

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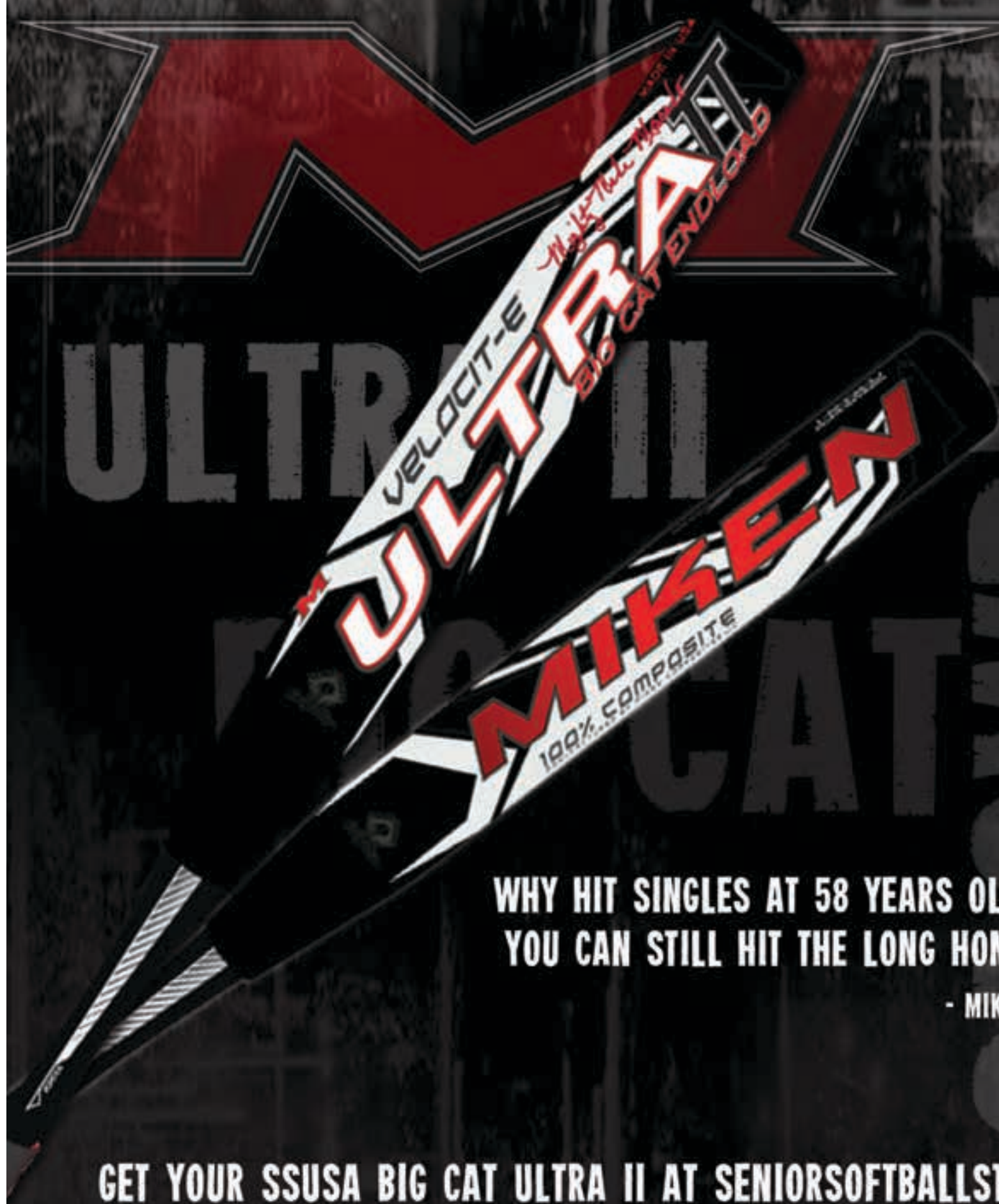
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