

Senior Softball

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WINTER 2023 EDITION

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NEWS



MORE THAN JUST A GAME ■ AMERICA'S LARGEST CIRCULATED SENIOR SOFTBALL PUBLICATION

2024

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New Rules,
Hall of Fame,
Inspiration

2023 WORLDS WRAP PAGES 18-21

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Tournament Guide Coming in January

Softball News Report

Get all of the essential information on dates and fields, and find out much more in our 2024 Tournament Guide!

The guide book gives teams and players highlights of each Tournament of Champions tourney locations; what to do in the area, what to see, where to eat and shop. The guide will be emailed and available on our website in January.

Some of the highlights include the Southern Championships moving to March, Aloha Bowl coming back, Midwest Championships moving to Kansas City in April, the Northern Championships moving to Minneapolis in late May, and our brand-new Land of Enchantment Championships in New Mexico in June.

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The Season Ahead

Ah, the new year. It's the dawn of 2024 and what could be better than a fresh new year and all the promise that it holds.

For those of us fortunate enough to enjoy playing and managing Senior Softball, it's a great time of year.

We've got the whole season ahead of us and our hopes are as high as ever.

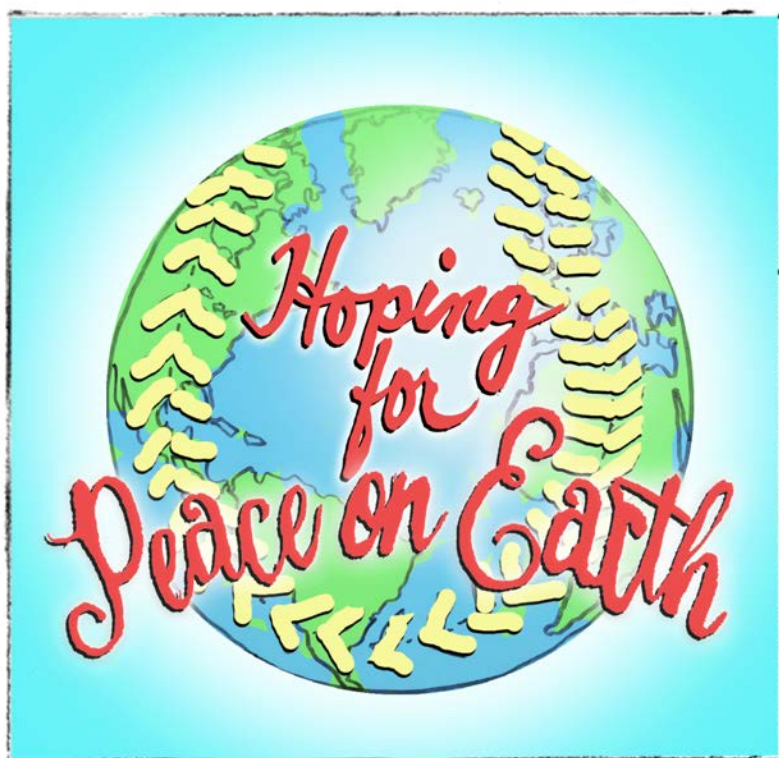
While it's a matter of some debate as to how long our favorite team will remain undefeated, we can certainly stand behind that claim...for now!

But as most senior softball players know, it's not just about winning. It's also about having a good time, relaxing, getting some well-needed exercise, meeting old friends and making new ones on both sides of the diamond.

Editorial

Yep, you've got the whole year ahead, so get out there and enjoy yourself. The whole new year lies ahead so make the most of it from the very start.

Have fun and we hope to see you on the diamond!



By Sue Ballenger

Out of State Teams Win Big in Florida Winter Nationals

By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report

Winter Nationals:

Four teams completed undefeated runs through pool and bracket play as Senior Softball-USA kicked off the 2024 playing season with the Winter National Championships in Florida.

Those four teams and 12 others earned berths to the 2025 Tournament of Champions by winning their divisions during play held Nov. 7-12. Seventy-two men's teams from 17 states competed at ballparks in Fort Myers and Naples.

More out-of-state teams emerged as champions than did Floridians. New York teams conquered four of the

divisions, and teams from Rhode Island won two. Ohio, New Jersey and Wisconsin teams also captured crowns.

Center For Sight of Florida celebrated its 25th season playing under the same sponsor by winning the 85+

Gold division for the third year in a row.

Results:

Men's 50+ AAA:

Playing a best-of-three format, Oldtimers of Florida swept The Misfits Cape Coral 15-14 and 22-11. Including pool

play, Oldtimers finished 4-1.

Men's 50/55+ Platinum:

Florida-Onyx needed all three games of a best-of-three competition to defeat Suncoast/Adidas of Florida

Continued on next page



Center For Sight celebrates their 25th season by winning the Winter Nationals' 85+ Gold division.

Winter TOCs: 17 states represented in the 2023 Winter Nationals

Continued from previous page 11-26, 25-20 and 25-23. Florida-Onyx finished 5-1 overall.

Men's 50/55+ Silver:

Top-seeded Isle Edge Trucking of Wisconsin, a 55+ AAA team, defeated second-seeded Derby City Masters of Kentucky 25-12 to win the title and finish 5-0 in the five-team division. It capped a tournament in which Isle Edge Trucking won by an average of 11 runs per game. Invaders of Massachusetts placed third.

Men's 55/60+ Platinum:

Top Dawgs of Florida swept Tiffany's of Michigan 19-14 and 27-18 playing a best-of-three format.

Men's 60+ Major:

Top-seeded Northeast Autobody of Rhode Island suffered its first loss, 15-3, in the championship game but rebounded to win the "if" championship 12-10 over Team Florida/Phoenix Tube. Team Mars of Florida finished third in the eight-team division.

Men's 60+ AAA:

Second-seeded Hudson Valley Cyclones of New York capped a 6-0 tournament by defeating sixth-seeded Dunn's Sporting Goods of Wisconsin 15-3 in the title game. Top-seeded Howe Enterprise of Maryland finished third in the eight-team bracket.

Men's 65+ Platinum:

Second-seeded Action Auto Parts of Rhode Island went 6-0 and defeated top-seeded Hudson Valley Cyclones of New York 12-9 for the title of the nine-team division. DEEP PURPLE of Massachusetts finished third.

Men's 65/70+ Gold:

Third-seeded Northeast Jackhammers of New York, a 65+ AAA team, defeated fourth-seeded Spring Ford of Pennsylvania 24-13 to win the title and finish 5-1 overall. The top-seeded Long Island Jaguars Red won four elimination games to finish third in the nine-team division.

Men's 70+ Silver:

Fifth-seeded Universal Softball Team of Ohio, a 70+ AAA team, lost the winner's bracket finale 21-9 to the second-seeded Syracuse Cyclones of New York but got revenge in the championship



Long Island Jaguars (NY), Champions of the 75+ AAA division of the 2023 Winter National Championships.

games. Universal led the entire way in both games as it double-dipped the Cyclones 20-6 and 34-13, capped by a 15-run open inning in the "if" game. Top-seeded Trademark Restorations of Florida finished third in the nine-team division.

Men's 70/75+ Major Plus:

In a best-of-three format, Venom of Florida defeated Hollis Appraisals/Ted Todd 13-12, 8-12, 21-17.

Men's 75+ Major:

JAG-ONE/Jersey Masters of New Jersey swept Northern Virginia Force 15-13 and 16-12.

Men's 75+ AAA:

Top-seeded Long Island Jaguars defeated the Syracuse Cyclones 25-14 to win the three-team division. Suncoast Outlaws of Florida finished third.

Men's 80+ Major Plus:

Florida Investment Properties claimed the title and TOC berth by going 5-0 against opponents from other divisions.

Men's 80+ Gold:

Bucs and Bulls of Florida, an 80+ AAA team, won the seven-team division by going undefeated in a five-game, round-robin format. Two of the victories were won by one run each. The Indianapolis Classics finished second at 4-1, and the Chicago Gray Sox of Illinois took third.

Men's 85+ Gold:

Center For Sight of Florida won the 85+ Major TOC berth with a 7-0 victory. The runner-up New York Statesmen nabbed the 85+ AAA berth. Main Street Pub of Michigan finished third in the three-team division.



Player connects at the 2023 Winter Nationals.



Players on (L to R) Florida Investment Properties 80, Center For Sight 85 (FL), and Main Street Pub 85 (MI) resting between games.

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Shaved Bat Scandal and Storms Rock 2023 Winter World Championships

By Donna McGuire
 Softball News Report

Usually heavy desert rain, nine teams going unbeaten, and the confiscation of a shaved bat headlined the SSUSA Winter World Championships played in Phoenix and Glendale, Arizona, in mid-November.

The tournament drew 184 teams from 23 states and two Canadian provinces. Champions hailed from as far away as Minnesota, Iowa, and Ontario, Canada.

Overall, 31 teams earned berths to the 2025 Tournament of Champions by winning their age and rating divisions during the Nov. 14-19 event.

Mother Nature dealt all second-session teams a blow. A widespread storm system drenched the metropolitan area early Saturday and left water standing on fields at all five ballparks. At some sites, light rain continued into mid-morning.

The rain forced the cancellation of the entire Saturday schedule at one park. Hours-long delays hampered the other four sites.

Tim McElroy, who served as the overall tournament director for Winter Worlds in Arizona as well as Winter Nationals a week earlier in Florida, appreciated the dedication of the grounds crews.

“Looking back at the two tournaments, there was a common thread: Parks and Rec staff at both locations (Lee County and City of Phoenix) were simply amazing,” McElroy said. “Participating teams – all 256 of them – played at outstanding venues with well-maintained ballfields.”

In addition to weather challenges, tournament directors in Phoenix dealt with an altered bat situation. After a pitcher appeared to be seriously injured by a rocket shot off that bat, the umpire grabbed the bat and ball, per SSUSA rules, and showed them to his director. SSUSA sent the bat to Miken for testing, which determined that the barrel had been shaved. (See story on page 9).

Separately, many teams put together



Idaho Spirit, Champions of the Women's 40+ AA division at the Winter Worlds.

memorable tournament runs. One of them, the Iowa Demons, weaved a long route through the elimination bracket into the title game before capturing the men's 60+ Major championship by double-dipping a previously unbeaten team.

Results:

Women's 40+ Masters Major:

Top-seeded FRSTeam of Colorado capped a 5-0 tournament by defeating Not Today of Nevada 23-8 in the championship game. Tharaldson Softball of Nevada finished third in the four-team division.

Women's 40+ Masters AAA:

Top-seeded Cali Freak Show edged Las Maletas of Arizona 19-18 to win the title. My Auto Jack of Arizona took third in the nine-team bracket.

Women's 40+ Masters AA:

Playing a best-of-three format, Idaho Spirit swept Arizona Desert Belles 27-26 and 18-11 for the crown.

Women's 50/55+ Major:

Arizona Dream Team, a 55+ team, capped a 4-0 tournament with a 19-8 title game victory over High Octane/Miken of Indiana, which earned the 50+ Major berth to the TOC. The Dream Team compiled an average score of 17-5 as it controlled the four-team division. Cali Gold Ladies finished third.

Women's 50/55+ AAA:

Second-seeded Adrenaline of Nevada went 5-0 and earned the 55+ AAA TOC berth and overall title by defeating Get Dirty of New Mexico 15-5. Get Dirty

Continued on page 8

Winter Worlds: 23 states Represented in the 2023 Phoenix Tournament

Continued from page 7

nabbed the 50+ AAA TOC berth. Top-seeded Wicked of Texas finished third in the five-team bracket.

Men's 40+ Masters AAA:

Playing a best-of-three format, MAJ/SOPHXTIK8TD of Arizona needed all three games to defeat the Astros of Texas 23-18, 3-19, 28-18.

Men's 40/50+ Gold:

Fourth-seeded Amigos of Arizona went 5-1 overall and won the title game 21-19 over third-seeded Wallcon/Standard Plumbing Supply/AZ Bandits-Halos. The New Mexico Punishers finished third in the eight-team bracket.

Men's 50+ Major:

Top-seeded Regeee's Rams of Ontario, Canada, capped a 5-0 tournament with a 20-11 title game victory over SPS/AZ Bandits of Arizona. The Originals of Texas placed third in the seven-team division.

Men's 50+ AAA:

Seventh-seeded NSC Heroes of Nebraska lost its first pool game then won six in a row, including a 24-15 title-game victory over fourth-seeded Pro Vision/Café Elite of Washington. Second-seeded El Paso Strong won four elimination games to finish third in the 14-team bracket.

Men's 50/55+ Silver:

After going 0-2 in pool play, 15th-seeded Lokahi of Arizona won all five of its bracket games, including a



Men's 65+ AA Champions, Scrap Iron 65s Rockies (CO) at the 2023 Winter World Championships in Pheonix, AZ, with their all-star pooch to the left.

22-19 victory over top-seeded West Coast Evolution of British Columbia, Canada, in the finale. Team Trucha of Texas nabbed third in the 17-team division.

Men's 55/60+ Platinum:

Top-seeded Arizona Heat 55s capped a 6-0 tournament with a 19-15 title game victory over sixth-seeded Regeee's Rams of Ontario, Canada. As the top-finishing 55+ Major team, Regeee's Rams also earned a TOC berth. Third place in the 10-team bracket went to second-seeded L.A.F. 55 of California.

Men's 55/60+ Silver:

Second-seeded Tejanos of Texas, a 60+ AAA team,

finished a 7-0 tournament with a 19-7 title game victory over the Weekend Warriors of California. Road Warriors of Arizona placed third in the 17-team bracket.

Men's 60+ Major:

Sixth-seeded Iowa Demons won four elimination games in a row to reach the championship game against unbeaten and top-seeded Minnesota Premier. The Demons extended their win streak to six by double-dipping Premier 20-12 and 27-23. The Sidewinders of Arizona placed third in the 11-team bracket.

Men's 60+ AA:

In a thrilling finish, second-

seeded Tri City Legends/D-bats of Washington barely lost the first title game 17-16 then barely won the "if" game 16-15 over Los Toros of NewMexico. The top-seeded NSC Prairie Dogs of Nebraska finished third in the five-team bracket.

Men's 65+ Major:

Second-seeded X-Men of British Columbia, Canada, won two elimination games before double-dipping Top Gun Stealth of California 18-2 and 20-11 in the title games. Peak Softball/Scrap Iron of Colorado finished third in the four-team bracket.

Men's 65+ AAA:

Seventh-seeded Scrap Iron Heavy Metal rebounded from a 12-8 championship game loss with a 22-11 "if" game victory over 14th-seeded Bucks Run Farms of Nebraska. Arizona Old School took third in the 19-team bracket, the tournament's largest division. 12-team bracket.

Men's 65+ AA:

Top-seeded Scrap Iron Rockies went 4-1, losing only



Iowa Demons, 60+, Champions of the 60+ Major division of the 2023 Winter World Championships.

Continued on next page

Bat Doctor Banned for Life; Player Suspended

Altered bats are the bane of our sport. Why?

They can result in balls traveling faster than approved bats and injure players. It is a clear safety issue.

The problem is that it is nearly impossible to identify bats that have been shaved or rolled.

Two recent incidents illustrate the danger and extent of the problem.

At the Winter Worlds in Phoenix in November, a pitcher was hit with a batted ball and had to leave the field. SSUSA policy is that the bat and ball are taken in case of serious injury. The bat was sent to the manufacturer, who examined the bat and confirmed that it had been shaved.

The player on the Weekend Warriors, Henry Underwood, was

Covering the Bases

By Terry Hennessy

suspended for five years. He is appealing the suspension.

On a related note, the National Rules Committee last week increased any future Altered Bat penalties to 10 years (See Rules Story on Page 12).

In another altered bat incident, a bat doctor and senior softball player, Steve Mummert of Tempe, AZ, was banned for life after SSUSA discovered a website that offered bat shaving, rolling and other methods to illegally enhance the performance of bats. Mummert has been given 30 days to appeal the lifetime ban.

The sophisticated website had dozens of bats offered for purchase, along with the logos of SSUA, USA Softball and

USSSA. Senior Softball USA alerted USA Softball and USSSA and the manufacturers of the bats offered on the site.

Senior Softball USA is also working with the Sports and Fitness Industry Association's softball/baseball committee to come up with a field test for senior bats. As part of this project, the lab that certifies SSUSA bats – NTS – is sending their experts to the TOC in Florida in January to test as many bats as possible to gather information for the committee.

We hope to have a standard for preliminary field testing sometime in 2024.

Terry Hennessy is the Chief Executive Officer of Senior Softball USA and can be reached at: terryh@seniorsoftball.com.

Winter Worlds: No IF Game Needed for 70+ Major Plus Champions

Continued from previous page

to a AAA team in pool play, and won the title 24-12 over Duke City Dynamite of New Mexico. Triple 2 of Texas finished third in the three-team bracket.

Men's 70+ Major-Plus:

In a best-of-three format, Timberworks/Suncoast of



Team Texas, Champions of the 70+ AAA division at the 2023 Winter World Championships.

California swept Top Gun Over the Edge of California 25-17 and 10-7. Timberworks finished 5-0.

Men's 70+ Major:

Second-seeded Arizona Scorpions went 5-1 overall, losing only to a Major-Plus team in pool play, and won the title with a 21-11 victory over No Guts, No Glory of California. Steel Etc of Montana finished third in the six-team bracket.

Men's 70+ AAA:

Fourth-seeded Team Texas went 5-1, capped by a 13-11 title game victory over second-seeded Scrap Iron 5280', the team that dealt Team Texas its only loss in

pool play. Third-seeded Road Brawlers finished third in the bracket.

Men's 70+ AA:

El Paso Nine-Elevens double-dipped the New Mexico Boomers 17-12 and 18-8 to win the three-team division. The Scrap Iron Diamonds of Colorado took third.

Men's 75+ Major-Plus:

Top-seeded Omen 75s of California capped a 5-0 tournament with a 16-4 championship victory over



NSC Heros 50s, Champions of the 50+ AAA division of the 2023 Winter World Championships.

Continued on page 11

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Winter Worlds: 85+ Major Division Needs IF Game to Name Champion

Continued from page 9

Enviro-Vac Marauders of British Columbia, Canada. The 75 Scrap Iron Diamonds of Colorado finished third in the four-team bracket.

Men's 75+ Major:

Top-seeded Al's Sport Shop capped a 5-0 tournament with a 19-8 win over third-seeded SoCal Gusto. Fourth-seeded



Top Gun Blue Angels 85+ Major Champions at Winter Worlds.

Valley Fog of California finished third in the five-team division.

Men's 75+ AAA:

Third-seeded Minnesota Masters went 4-1 and defeated top-seeded Triple Play of California 18-7 for the title. Fourth-seeded So Cal

Warriors finished third in the five-team bracket.

Men's 75/80+ Silver:

Top-seeded Minnesota Masters 80s finished 5-1 and defeated Hui Ohana of Hawaii 15-12 for the title. Top Gun Olde Dawgs took third in the

three-team division.

Men's 80+ Major Plus:

Playing a best-of-three format, Maverick Construction of Texas defeated Omen 80s of California 9-0 and 17-13.

Men's 80+ Major:

Also playing a best-of-three format, the Sidewinders 80s of Arizona swept Top Gun 80 Gold of California 12-8 and 16-10.

Men's 85+ Major:

Top Gun Blue Angels needed all three games in a best-of-three format to defeat Scrap Iron 85 Legends of Colorado 7-11, 18-3 and 15-11.



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Batter's Box, Altered Bat Rules

2024 Rules: Midwest Teams Can Choose East, West Nationals

By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report

Batter's box and altered bat rules will change significantly starting Jan. 1 under new rules approved by Senior Softball-USA's National Rules Committee in early December.

In addition, 70-year-old teams will be able to add three 69 year old players to their rosters for the 2024 season, which aligns with SPA and ISSA requirements.

The new batter's box rule affects where batters may stand in the box before the pitch and when the bat strikes the ball.

The new altered bat rule harshens penalties for using an altered bat. It is designed to encourage all players to insist that no altered bats enter their dugout. Period.

The Rules Committee approved those changes and roughly a dozen others during the SSUSA Convention in Fort Myers, Fla.

Players, managers, directors, umpires and SSUSA staff had submitted more than 30 rule change recommendations to the committee, which normally meets annually. This year, it also held a special meeting in September to consider roster issues involving underage players for 75+ and 80+ teams.

The 2024 changes include:
BATTER'S BOX: The committee adopted part of the USSSA rule, which states: "The batter must take an initial position with his back



foot no farther forward than a line defining the front edge of home plate. The batter will be called out if he hits the ball when the back foot is completely farther forward than the line defining the front edge of the plate."

Other SSUSA batter's box rules remain in place, including: A portion of both feet must be inside the batter's box at the time of the pitch; the batter cannot step out of the sides or back of the box during the pitch and then hit the ball, fair or foul; the batter cannot step in front of the strike mat or on the strike mat to hit a pitch.

This change addressed the growing problem of ballparks having different size batter's boxes. Since the plate does not move, umpires should be able to consistently enforce the batter's box rule whether the game is being played on turf or dirt fields.

ALTERED BATS: To address a growing concern over shaved, rolled and otherwise altered bats, the committee strengthened its rules. If a bat is suspected of being altered to enhance performance, and the player refuses to surrender

it immediately to SSUSA officials, the player will be suspended for life. (Previous rule was 10 years.) If the player surrenders the bat, and tests show it was altered to enhance performance, the player will be suspended for 10 years. (Previous rule was five years.) In either case, managers no longer face suspension. Instead, the committee approved declaring the team ineligible for the Tournament of Champions and the World Championships. The team will forfeit all TOC berths it has earned.

The team penalty is intended to promote peer pressure against using altered bats. Though not all players know if a bat has been shaved or rolled, guilty parties often tell at least some teammates. When the word gets out, players should react appropriately.

SSUSA is working on additional deterrents, including bat testing to be done at ballparks.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT: The committee expanded the unsportsmanlike conduct rule to allow directors to eject a participant from multiple games. Behavior after

or between games is subject to this provision.

HOME TEAM FOR TITLE GAMES: The unbeaten bracket team now may choose whether to be home or visitor for the first championship game. A coin flip still will determine the home team for an "if" championship game.

TITLE GAME FORFEITS: Teams must play in the tournament championship game to receive awards, including any TOC or other tournament berth. After the championship game, the participants may, with the tournament director's approval, mutually agree not to play the "if" game.

EASTERNS/WESTERNS: Previously, teams were eligible for either the Eastern or Western national championships based on whether the team came from east of west of the Mississippi River. SSUSA now will allow teams from 17 states in the central third of the country to participate in either event (but not both) to attempt to qualify for the USA National Championship game at Worlds. Eligible states: Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

UNIFORMS: SSUSA added wording to the uniform numbers rule to make clear that whole Arabic numbers must be used. Fractions, symbols, decimal points, etc., are not allowed.

Continued on next page

Hall of Fame Highlights 9 Inspiring Inductees

Softball News Report

FORT MYERS, Fla. – Inspiring stories about inspiring people highlighted the Hall of Fame Banquet here during the SSUSA/ ISA National Convention on Dec. 8.

The list of those recognized included directors from China and Maryland, players from Florida, New Jersey, Georgia, Tennessee, and managers from Minnesota, Oregon and Florida.

Two SSUSA Hall of Fame inductees were elected in 2022, but were officially inducted this year after the 2022 Convention was cancelled when Hurricane Ian hit Fort Myers.

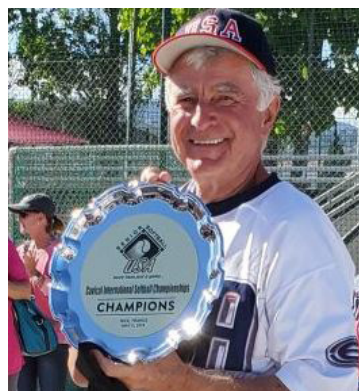
Rocco Cambareri of Florida was inducted in the Manager Category. Rocco managed and played on Florida Investment Properties (FIP) since 2006 and has been playing senior softball for 30 years. Rocco is also an excellent player, being



Rocco Cambareri

inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame as a player in 2006. In his years as manager, FIP has won the National Championships of SSUSA, ASA, USSSA, ISA, SPA and ISSA. Rocco led his team to the coveted Triple Grand Slam five times. He has also represented the United States in several international tournaments, including Italy, England, Scotland, Ireland and Spain.

John Fournier of Florida was inducted in the Player Category. John played on some of the top teams in Southern California for almost two decades before



John Fournier

moving to Florida in 2017 and joining some of the top teams there. John has been an ambassador for the sport overseas for more than a decade, winning MVP and Best Defense awards for tournaments ranging from Japan to China in the East, to Ireland, France, Spain, Germany, and Italy in Europe with U.S. teams.

The 2023 SSUSA Hall of Fame inductees included:

Zhaoli Chen of Japan was inducted in the Director Category. Born in the heart of Beijing, near Tiananmen Square, Zhaoli has been the principal force establishing softball, teeball and baseball



Zhaoli Chen

in China – and throughout Asia. She's traveled to Japan, China, South Korea, Mongolia, Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines, Macau and Hong Kong in this quest to build friendship through sports throughout Asia. She is Executive Director of SSUSA/ China and of the Pacific Rim Slow-Pitch Softball Federation, which includes China, Japan, Taiwan, Canada, the USA, Guam, Hong Kong and Macau.

Louise O'Donnell of New Jersey was inducted in the Player Category. Louise

Continued on next page

2024 Rules: Adding Players Simplified for East, West, TOC and Worlds

Continued from previous page

DOUBLE EQUALIZER FOR 80+ TEAMS: When 80+ teams receive a double equalizer, the manager now has the choice to accept seven runs (the old rule), or five runs and a 12th defender.

CO-ED RULES: SSUSA added two rules and clarified a third impacting

International Coed play. 1. Courtesy runners must be of the same gender as the runner being replaced. 2. In tournaments where SSUSA supplies the bats for co-ed play, only those bats may be used. 3. (Clarification): A female batter-runner cannot be thrown out at first base on the "initial" throw from an outfielder. A relay throw to another defender is allowed.

WOMEN'S 50+ DIVISION: Previously an open division, the women's 50+ age group now will have two rating classifications: AAA and Major.

MEN'S 70+ ROSTERS:

Men's 70+ teams may draw up to three underage players, all of whom must be 69 years old.

MEN'S 75+ and 80+ ROSTERS: (Approved in September.) Men's 75+ teams may draw up to five underage players, all of whom must be 74 years old. Men's 80+ team may draw up to seven players aged 78 or 79, including not more than three 78-year-olds. (This retains the 2023 rule but eliminates changes that had been planned for 2024.)

ADDING & RELEASING PLAYERS: SSUSA has established new roster minimums for adding

teams to qualifying rosters for the Eastern and Western national championships, the World Championships and the Tournament of Champions. Players being added must be the same age (or older) and same skill level (or lower) as that of the team. No higher skill level players can be added. Age divisions that play with 10 defenders can add to reach 15 players. Teams that play with 11 defenders can add to reach 16 players, with the exception that 80+ and 85+ teams are given leeway to complete rosters.

Hall of Fame: Inductees Named for 2024 Class

Continued from previous page



Louise "Weasey" O'Donnell

has played in Senior Softball USA since 2008 on some of the best teams in the nation – both East and West. The teams include Arizona Dream Team, Firestyx, and Team Works. Known for her power hitting, Louise has helped her teams win numerous World and National Championships – and has won the home run contest at the Tournament of Champions several times.

Dick Anderson of Minnesota was inducted in the Manager Category. Dick has not only managed teams, but he was the driving force in establishing senior softball in Minnesota. He was instrumental in the national creation of the 80s division in 2010, the 85s division in 2015, and the 90s division in 2022. He not only managed the 90s East Team but was also one of the standout players in the first-ever 90s competition. He founded Edison High School Sports Foundation that has raised more than \$1 million in scholarships.

Mike Sisavic of Oregon was inducted in the Manager Category. Mike loves the game of softball and has been playing for about 75 years, starting in New York City. He entered the senior softball community 50+ years ago in Portland. He was a player-manager with dozens of teams



Mike Sisavic

winning many local, regional, and national tournaments, culminating in 22 rings. His team won four Triple Grand Slam Championship Titles in the 75s and 80s divisions. Mike helped shape the sport as a member of SSUSA's Player Advisory Committee and the Senior Softball Summit Association.

The Independent Sports Association inducted three people into the ISA Hall of Fame:

Tim McElroy of Maryland was inducted in the Director Category. Tim has been a tournament director, scheduler, umpire-in-chief and manager for both ISA and SSUSA for more than 20 years, with 36 years in softball. He serves as the Eastern Region Director for ISA and the Eastern Vice President for SSUSA. His



Tim McElroy

work building the 40s program and umpire corps on the East Coast has been paramount for senior softball in the region.

Scott Elliott of Georgia was inducted in the Player Category. Scott played softball from 1979 until his retirement in 1999. During his 20 years, he became a diverse

player, playing offense and defense, infield, outfield and pitcher. He's a three-time Super Division ISA World Series Champion (1996-8), three-time Super Division ISA All World Team Selection (1994-6) and two-time Super Division ISA World Series Runner-Up Finalist (1993-4). He hit more than 2,300 home runs.

Leon Davis of Tennessee was inducted in the Player Category. Leon started to play softball when he was 15 years old. After a tour in the Vietnam War (1968-70), he continued to play tournament and recreational softball. Leon began playing softball at the beginning of ISA, founded by Larry Nash in 1984. During his time with ISA, he's won 28 State Tournaments in A, AA & AAA, 5 C Class Church State Tournaments, and 16 World Tournaments across A, AA & AAA.

In addition to the Hall of Fame inductions, SSUSA announced its three top association awards:

The SSUSA Executive Director Award went to **Aaryn Val**, who is Executive Director of Explore Elk Grove (CA). As the driving force behind Explore Elk Grove,



Aaryn Val

Aaryn Val is a visionary leader dedicated to fostering community engagement and promoting the unique charm of Elk Grove. She has been a driving force in partnering with Senior Softball in the region. Aaryn is not only a leader in her professional

Winter 2023 Edition

capacity but also an advocate for community well-being, who actively participates and volunteers for Elk Grove Unified School District, Elk Grove Girls Softball, and the Food Bank, reflecting her commitment to making Elk Grove a better place for everyone.

The SSUSA Outstanding Service Award went to **Allison Gruber**, Executive Director of the Lee County Sports Organizing Committee. The first Outstanding Service Award Senior Softball USA has given went to Allison because she has helped SSUSA not only this year, but for more than two decades. That help has come in many, many forms: Sponsorship, coordination, and most of all friendship. Allison has done all these things – and many more – for the sole reason of helping Senior Softball USA.

The SSUSA Award of Excellence for 2023 went to **Robert Estfan and the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department**. During the Winter World Championships in November, a storm inundated four of the Phoenix fields SSUSA used for the tournament. Many cities would simply have thrown in the towel, but Robert came out personally and led his crews on a herculean effort to get the fields playable for the 200 teams competing.

The SSUSA Hall of Fame Class of 2024 was also announced. These three people will be inducted at the 2024 SSUSA/ISA Convention in December 2024:

Dale Hood of Norristown, PA, in the Player Category.

Jim Goff of Iowa in the Director Category (tie)

Bob Johnson of California in the Director Category (tie)



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Warranty: None

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Barrel Type: 12" Barrel, 1-Piece Design

Weighting: Power End-Load

Weights: 34" / 25.5oz, 26.5oz, 27.5oz, 28.5oz, 29.5oz

Warranty: None

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Equalizers Can Lead to Many Questions

Questions about equalizers arise regularly at Senior Softball-USA tournaments.

Most often, players want to know why runs are awarded one per inning in the second through sixth innings instead of up front or some other configuration. Other times, players challenge why a team received an equalizer run in the open inning. Or players question why they must play "down" to the lower-rated team's home run limit.

Opinions on equalizer rules vary so much that the SSUSA Rules Committee received six requests this year to change one aspect or another of those rules.

The committee adopted only one suggestion. More on that later.

First, a little history. Originally, Senior Softball-USA's age divisions did not have classifications. If you played 50+, your competition included all other 50+ teams. In 1995, after team numbers had grown sufficiently, SSUSA introduced skill level classifications within age divisions. Currently, most SSUSA age groups have four classifications: AA, AAA, Major and Major-Plus.

Grouping teams into classifications helps keep games competitive. It means teams of similar abilities play each other most of the time. Equalizers, meanwhile, help keep games competitive when teams from different classifications, or different age divisions, compete.

SSUSA introduced the five-run equalizer first. The

Umpires Corner

By Donna McGuire

extra defender option came later.

Initially, all five runs of the equalizer were awarded up front, in the first inning. That meant if the lower-rated (or older) team batted first and scored the maximum possible of five runs, it would be ahead 10-0 before the other team came to bat.

Complaints about this system abounded. Being down 10 runs before batting had a way of dampening players' spirits.

About 16 years ago, SSUSA master scheduler Dave Dowell analyzed the impact of awarding runs one per inning starting in the first inning versus starting them in the second inning versus starting them in the third inning. The goal was to find the fairest way to award the runs.

Dowell developed a three-chart mathematical analysis, (Chart left). One chart showed that awarding the runs starting in the first inning proved a huge detriment to the team giving the runs. If the game lasted only five innings, the equalizer acted like a seven-run equalizer (one per inning played) instead of a five-run equalizer.

Another chart showed that awarding the runs starting in the third inning proved a huge detriment to the team receiving runs. Games need to go a full seven innings for all five runs to be accrued.

The fairest option, according to Dowell's analysis, was to award the runs one per inning starting

in the second inning. If an inning played, the run would be awarded.

SSUSA implemented the second-through-sixth inning equalizer run rule in the 2008 season.

This year, the Rules Committee received conflicting recommendations on changing that rule. One manager wanted the equalizer runs to start in the third inning. One tournament director wanted them to start in the first inning.

Dowell dug out his old statistical analysis document for the Rules Committee to consult.

Neither recommendation went anywhere.

The only equalizer request approved by the committee came from Dick Eddington, manager of the Antiques of Kansas City, an 80+ AAA team based in Kansas. His team sometimes plays 70+ AAA teams or 75+ Major teams. The double-equalizer of seven runs does not help enough, Eddington said. His 80+ players cannot compete even with the seven-run assist. Game scores proved his point.

Eddington suggested that 80+ teams receiving a double equalizer be given an option. Take the seven runs. Or take five runs and a 12th defender (the base defense for 85+ division teams).

He believes that will make games more fun for the 80+ players.

The committee agreed.

Donna McGuire is SSUSA's Central Region Umpire in Chief and Chair of the SSUSA National Rules Committee and can be reached at: donna@seniorsoftball.com.

SSUSA Equalizer Rules
Actual "Equivalent Runs" Analysis

✗

Innings Played	FIVE RUNS INNINGS 1 ▶ 5			
	OLD	"Equiv."	1 ▶ 5	"Equiv."
1	5	35.00	1	7.00
2	-	17.50	1	7.00
3	-	11.67	1	7.00
4	-	8.75	1	7.00
5	-	7.00	1	7.00
6	-	5.83	-	5.83
7	-	5.00	-	5.00

"OVER"
▼
◀ Breakeven

✓

Innings Played	FIVE RUNS INNINGS 2 ▶ 6			
	OLD	"Equiv."	2 ▶ 6	"Equiv."
1	5	35.00	-	-
2	-	17.50	1	3.50
3	-	11.67	1	4.67
4	-	8.75	1	5.25
5	-	7.00	1	5.60
6	-	5.83	1	5.83
7	-	5.00	-	5.00

"UNDER"
▼
◀ Breakeven

✗

Innings Played	FIVE RUNS INNINGS 3 ▶ 7			
	OLD	"Equiv."	3 ▶ 7	"Equiv."
1	5	35.00	-	-
2	-	17.50	-	-
3	-	11.67	1	2.33
4	-	8.75	1	3.50
5	-	7.00	1	4.20
6	-	5.83	1	4.67
7	-	5.00	1	5.00

"UNDER"
▼
◀ Breakeven

OFFICIAL GAME

After 4½ innings with Home ahead, or
after 5 innings with Visitor ahead.



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Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – For the fifth year, the Senior Softball World Championships set the bar for the sport as the largest softball tournament of any kind in America.

The 10,500 players on 654 teams competed in 2,099 games from Sept. 14 through Oct. 1. The 2023 World Championships attracted teams from 43 states, three Canadian provinces, Guam and Germany.

And there were winners. Many winners.

Thirty-nine teams from 17 states won the coveted World Championships title, 21 teams won USA National Championship games, and 9 took the top honor in the sport winning the Triple Grand Slam. (See the list of winners on Pg. 19) To win the Triple Grand Slam, teams had to win the Eastern or Western Nationals, the USA Nationals and the World Championships.



Photos by Clover Schultz

Top photo: Reds Boys (Ky) batting, beat the SSC/Per-suaders 16-12 to win the 50+ AAA Championships; Bottom Photo: USA National Women's 50+ AAA Champions, Straight Pride 50s (CA) playing against Shots Fired (RI).



“It was an honor and a privilege to see so many players and fans from all over,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA’s executive director. “The play on the field was exceptional and the special events added a rich dimension to the Worlds.”

The special events started the day before the tournament started with the SSUSA Directors and UICs re-training to use both defibrillators and basic first aid. SSUSA supplied both defibrillators and first aid kits specifically designed for sports injuries at each of the eight softball com-

plexes.

The first session of four sessions saw the Louisville Slugger Warriors – made up of veterans wounded in combat and college amputees – take on a Las Vegas celebrity-filled team.

The Sept. 16 game, to raise money for the Louisville Slugger Warrior team to travel, featured a number of notable Las Vegas celebrities, including a 3-time Gold Medal winner for the USA Olympic softball team, former MLB and NBA players, the head coach of the University of Nevada/Las Vegas (UNLV) bas-

ketball team, a top coach for the UNLV baseball team, and a former UNLV quarterback.

In addition, the Chief of Police for Henderson (who is also in a college softball Hall of Fame) played first base and the Dueling Pianists, Tam and Kim Pinegar, a top lounge act in Las Vegas, were base coaches.

Nationally renown singer Kasey of the Marilynds sang the National Anthem.

The second session featured the second annual 90s Game on Sept. 18, with the Eastern All-Stars defeating the Western All-Stars 15-7.

But the score was secondary to the overflow crowd watching the game

Please See Page 20

Teams Claim Victories at 2023 Worlds

Triple Grand Slam:

Legacy Sports USA, AZ,
60 Major-Plus
 Prime Time, IL, **65 Major**
 Trachsel Auto Body, OR,
65 AAA
 Pastimers, WA, **65AA**
 Venom, FL, **75 Major-Plus**
 Gold Rush, CA, **80AAA**
 Suncoast/Adidas, FL, **50 Major-Plus**
 Expert Ind. Supply, NJ,
50 AA
 Arizona Dream Team,
 AZ, **55 Women**

US National Game Winners:

Women's 40 Major:
 TABU (CA)
Women's 40 AAA:
 Dynasty Sisters Mood Swings (CA)
Women's 50 Major:
 Snap, Crackle, Pop (WA)
Women's 50 AAA: Shots Fired (RI)

Men:
40 Major Plus: Suncoast Adidas 40s (FL)
40 Major: Cheap Suits/Republic Realty (CA)
50 Major Plus: Suncoast/Adidas 50s (FL)
50 Major: PulseChain.com & Feet Heat Customs (OH)
50 AAA: Rolfe & Company (CA)
55 Major: CANVAS Softball (CA)
55 AAA: Xtreme Home Improvements and Restorations/New York Fitness Clubs/Fredrick's (PA)
55AA: California Coast Plumbers Inc.
60 Major: Top Dawgs (FL)
60 AAA: Turn 2 Electric (NC)
65 Major: Prime Time (IL)

65 AAA: Trachsel Auto Body 65s (OR)
70 Major: REI Nation (TN)
75 Major Plus: Venom 75s (FL)
75 Major: Valley Fog (CA)
80 Major Plus: San Francisco Seals 80 (CA)
85 AAA: New York Statesmen

World Championships Winners:

Women's 40+ Major:
 1. Redz/California Bat Company (NC)
Women's 40+ AAA:
 1. Pro Moves 40 (CA)
Women's 40+ AA:
 1. FIGO Islanders (Guam)
Women's 50+ Major:
 1. Old School (CA)

Women's 50/55+ AAA:
 1. Straight Pride 50s (CA)
Women's 55:
 Arizona Dream Team 55s

Men's 40+ Major Plus:
 1. JK Inc. Easton/Miken (CA)
Men's 40+ Major:
 1. Legends Sports (NV)
Men's 40+ AAA:
 1. Gigantes O.C. 40s (MD)
Men's 50+ Major Plus:
 1. Suncoast/Adidas 50s (FL)
Men's 50+ Major:
 1. G.O. Softball/Mae Capital (CA)
Men's 50+ AAA:
 1. Reds Boys (KY)
Men's 50+ AA:
 1. Expert Ind. Supply (NJ)
Men's 55+ Major Plus:
 1. J.K. Inc 55 (CA)
Men's 55+ Major:
 1. Acme (CA)
Men's 55+ AAA:
 1. D'Amore Law (WA)
Men's 55+ AA:
 1. So Cal Riptide 55/RMK Trucking
Men's 60+ Major Plus:



Left photo: Blue Pill Mafia/QOS Networks (AZ), 40+ Major; Right photo: Players visit 2023 Worlds' Registration/Receptions; Bottom Photo: Top Gun Olde Dawgs (CA), 70+ AA Champions at the 2023 Worlds.

Photos by Clover Schultz



1. Legacy Sports USA (AZ) (CA)
Men's 60+ Major:
 1. Dirty Birds 60s (CA)
Men's 60+ AAA:
 1. Avalanche (MI)
Men's 60+ AA:
 1. Road Warriors (AZ)
Men's 65+ Major Plus:
 1. Cal Energy
Men's 65+ Major:
 1. Prime Time (IL)
Men's 65+ AAA:
 1. Trachsel Auto Body 65s (OR)
Men's 65+ AA:
 1. Pastimers (WA)
Men's 70 Major-Plus:
 Timberworks/Suncoast (CA)
Men's 70+ Major:
 1. Enviro-Vac Marauders (BC, Can.) \
Men's 70+ AAA:
 1. D & K Softball (CA)
Men's 70+ AA:
 1. Top Gun Olde Dawgs (CA)
Men's 75+ Major Plus:
 1. Venom 75s (FL)
Men's 75+ Major:
 1. 75 Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO)
Men's 75+ AAA:
 1. KC Kids 75 (MO)
Men's 75+ AA:
 1. San Antonio Legends
Men's 80+ Major Plus:
 1. Florida Investment Properties
Men's 80+ Major:
 1. Scrap Iron 80s (CO)
Men's 80+ AAA:
 1. Gold Rush (CA)
Men's 85+ Major:
 1. Top Gun Blue Angels 85 (CA)
Men's 85+ AAA:
 1. Jaguars (CA)

International Co-Ed:

1. Throwin Shade (CA)

Film to Capture Hope, Inspiration of Warriors

Softball News Report

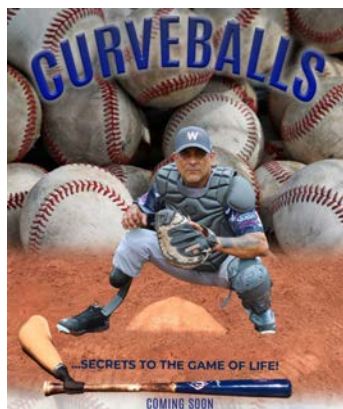
The Louisville Slugger Warriors National Amputee Baseball Team is far more than your average sports team.

The players provide hope and brotherhood to veterans and disabled people alike – and inspiration to all who see them play.

Their amazing story is the subject of a compelling new movie, aptly named Curveballs.

General Manager David Van Sleet was awarded one of the military's highest honors in 2013 for his work forming a team made up of veterans who lost limbs in combat. The Military Order of the Purple Heart presented Van Sleet its highest award, the George Washington Medalion of Merit Award.

Van Sleet retired a few years ago, but has kept working with disabled veterans and now includes others who



lost limbs.

The upcoming movie focuses on the competitive baseball/softball team whose players' injuries threw a curveball in their life, but that didn't stop them from playing the sport they love.

The Louisville Slugger Warriors has played against SSUSA Tournament of Champions All Star teams for a number of years.

At the 2023 World Championships in Las Vegas, the Louisville Slugger Warriors played against a team of Vegas celebrities

and a few lucky SSUSA players. The Warriors won 22-11 and more can be read about this first-ever game here: <https://seniorsoftball.com/?news&story=1992>.

"Whether born without a limb as youths, or military members who returned home requiring a prosthetic device," this team can be a home and family, according to the documentary.

"This team means a lot more than just playing baseball," said Carlo Adame, a U.S. Army Veteran and below-the-knee amputee on the team. "We get a chance to defeat the odds, which are definitely stacked against us,



and adapt and overcome. I get a chance to play a sport with brothers who have fought a lot of the same battles. We are not just a team; we are a family."

Van Sleet added, "sports are challenging whether you're able bodied or not, so you can imagine playing ball with an amputation. As most individuals have seen or heard, our players play at an exceptional level, so don't underestimate them. But the main thing this team has done is to give these players another chance to play a sport they love."

The film is to be produced during 2024 by Dream-time Entertainment Digital with John Biffar directing, Van Sleet as executive producer, and David C. Beaty, Craig Handel and Gustavo Sagastume producing. For updates on the documentary, please visit their website: <https://lswarriorsteam.org/>.

2023 Worlds: 3 Players, Manager, Lifetime Achievement HOF Inductees

Continued from page 18

at Big League dreams. Friends, families and fans had a great time cheering all of the 90s players and jeering the umpire through 22 runs and three home runs.

"It is an enlightening experience to watch 90-year-olds playing with a competitive spirit that inspires younger softball players to continue to play the game we love for

as long as possible," said Bobby Ellison, who coordinated the game with Anthony Hinojosa.

"For the second year, it was an honor to see these gentlemen step on the field of play," said Hinojosa.

In addition, five people were inducted into the Hall of Fame during Opening Ceremonies after the 90s Game.

Carl Gustafson of Wyoming, was inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame in a rare Lifetime Achievement category.

One manager and three players were inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame:

Kurt Mahaney of Cali-

fornia was inducted in the manager category.

Joe Cors of California was inducted as a Pioneer Player.

Vince Melograno of Florida was inducted as a player.

Tols Mihailoff of Florida was inducted as a player.

And for the first time since COVID struck in 2020, managers, directors and softball vendors got together the evening before each session for a Manager's Registration/Reception at Boulder Station Hotel and Casino.

"It felt great to be able to gather managers, directors and sponsors in one place again – it felt like Old Home Week," said Terry Hennessy, SSU-

SA's chief executive officer.



Photo by Clover Schultz.

Carl Gustafson (left) accepts Lifetime Achievement Award from Terry Hennessy (right).

Execute Your Swing With Consistency & Strength

You need both arms to work together when you swing your softball bat;

a one arm only swing is not ideal, however, each arm does have its role.

I believe you should begin your swing to the ball from your launch position using your lead arm (left arm for right-handed hitters and right arm for left-handed batters). A lead arm beginning to your swing will keep your hands inside the ball as you move to contact. The lead arm should be nearly straight and the rear arm bent to about a 90 degree angle. If you begin your swing with your back arm, you most likely will push or "cast" the clubhead out when extending the back arm too soon killing your swing action.

Try a throwing motion with the bat at the incoming ball instead of just pulling the bat solely with the lead arm.

Hitting Column

By Art Eversole

This will increase your bat speed quite a bit and will also square up to the ball better for a solid hit instead of dragging the bat to the ball. You should set your bat lag early in the swing releasing it as you begin extending your rear arm and wrist to the incoming pitch in the classic palm up/palm down position.

It's not enough to just use your hands and arms to swing the bat, you also must snap open your hips driving hard into the ball all at the same time to maximize bat speed. The bat barrel must be "squared-up" to the ball at contact for maximum ball-exit speed.

Contact should happen before you fully extend your back arm. Arms are fully extended after contact maximizing bat speed through the ball

ending in a two arm or one arm follow through, depending on if you release your top hand or not after contact.

If you release your top hand, you can finish your swing with the "umbrella" follow-thru. This is where you release your top hand right after contact and continue your follow-thru with your lead arm only in an upright trajectory just like you just opened an umbrella.

This follow-thru is a direct consequence of a slightly upward bat path to the ball which allows you to lift the ball over the infielders on a line rather than hitting ground balls from too much top hand to the ball. A two-handed follow-thru is okay as well.

Remember that a proper hip rotating action, that is in sync and supports everything else is necessary for your swing work effectively. Make certain you swing the bat ag-

gressively and not passively and I don't mean overswinging at the ball. Controlled aggression is what we're looking for in a senior softball swing.

Recap swing execution (see photo below):

1. Set yourself in your normal stance at the plate,
2. Stretch arms back to start your swing like loading a bow, as you begin your weight shift,
3. Use lead arm to initiate swing, lead arm is nearly straight, rear arm is at 90,
4. Throw bat at ball for additional bat speed (without letting go, of course),
5. Extend both arms fully after contact,
6. End in a smooth looking follow-through.

Spend time practicing your swing with the lead arm to establish muscle memory in starting your swing with this technique. The goal here is to have a repeatable swing that will make you more consistent while delivering maximum force to the ball with minimal effort. Hitting a softball with efficiency can be a very satisfying and doing things correctly can only enhance this fun activity.

The individual in my demonstration photo insert is Brett Kreuger from the greater Seattle area and is a well-established Major plus power hitter in senior softball.

Happy hitting,

Art Eversole has played on Major and Major Plus teams in the Northwest. Eversole can be reached via email at: rtmyboy01@gmail.



2023 Worlds Players Earn All-Tourney Selections

Softball News Report

Congratulations to the All-Tournament selections from the 2023 World

Championships! First place teams earn five all-tournament selections, second place gets four, third place earns three, and fourth place gets two. Managers, if your All-Tournament selections are missing; please email in your honorees to nic@seniorsoftball.com.

Women's 40+ Major:

Redz/California Bat Company (NC): Sara Graveline, Deanna Faircloth, Pam Usry, Trina Thomas, Amekea Maye.

St. Louis Storm: Shonte Davis, Crystal Bentrup, Vannezza Poole, Sara Olson.

Women's 40+ AAA:

Dynasty Sisters Mood Swings (CA): Keri Reisinger Sulonen, Tammy Young, Renea Hering, Jenny Allison, (MVP: Kelly Brook).

Not Today (NV): Brook Rymer, Mel Pagel, Sarah

Tandal, (MVP: Cynthia Dominguez).

Custom Truck (NV): Kami Marrott, Erica Judge.

Women's 40+ AA:

Guam Women's – Team SOTTA: Lavia Peter, Nichole Terlaje-Ichihara, Michelle Terlaje.

Women's 50+ Major:

Old School (CA): Lisa Maxey, Sabrina Bobkowski, Lisa Donlea, Brenda Foor, Brett Corey, (MVP: Alma Guzman).

Stix With Impact (CA): Sylvia Echols, Vera Arellano, Kathryn Held, (MVP: Gina Oliver).

Women's 50/55+ AAA:

Arizona Dream Team 55s: Lisa Bull, Dixie Dalton, Karen Bauer, Renata Schumaker, Terry Graham, (MVP: Sharon Marine).

Straight Pride 50s (CA): Staci "Mo" Mosher, Leticia "Lety" Carranza, Brenda Ashford, Robin Fluker-Stinson.

Men's 40+ Major:

Smash It Sports Northwest 40



Photos by Clover Schultz.
Women's 55+ Arizona Dream Team, the first Women's 55+ Major team with SSUSA, at the 2023 Worlds.

(WA): Derek Warren, Ed Marson, Paul Struwe.

Men's 40+ AAA:

Gigantes O.C. 40s (MD): Adam Miller, Pat Boggs, Jason Herndon, John Kindley, Tim

Mason.

Men's 50+ Major Plus:

Hara's/Bay Equity/J & R Wood Products/Rawlings (WA): Pat Paschal, Chris Bailey, Chris Olsen, Steve Elliott.

Deluxe Bakery/Juno Athletics (NJ): Monte Harris, William Sampolski.

Men's 50+ Major:

PulseChain.com & Feet Heat Customs (OH): Gary Lynce, Scott Sorenson, Gary Noonan, Mike Buxton.

Team Shadow (NV): Chuck Henninger, Jimmy Ferguson, Isaac Alvidrez.

Crawford Contracting (MI): Rick DuBose, Shannon O'Neil.

Men's 50+ AAA:

SSC/Persuaders (KS): Danny Driskill, Bill Schafer, Scott Harrington, Steve Ditch.

Team Express/Living (T.E.L.L.) (AL): Roosevelt



Session 4 of the 2023 World Championships final Men's 50 AAA game between Red's Boys and SSC/Persuaders with Red's Boys taking the Championship, 16-12.

Continued on next page

All-Tourneys: Nine Out of 654 Teams Won Triple Grand Slams in 2023

Continued from previous page

Walker, Layne Briney, Toney Dowell.

Men's 50+ AA:

Expert Ind. Supply (NJ): Farlan Alusik, Mike Rolph, Mike Hoffmann, Leon Gioupis, Alan Dente, (MVP: Christopher Yee).

Team Madness (TX): Steve Marshall, Johnny Rodriguez, Roger Mendoza.

Men's 55+ Major Plus:

J.K. Inc 55 (CA): Dan Romero, Ron Hayes, Dean Aldridge, John Bailey, Todd Johnston.

Men's 55+ Major:

Acme (CA): Dallas Kester, Brian Williford, Jeff Braskamp, Chris King, Chuck Rufkahr.

Vectra International/Big Biscuit (KS): Ivan Morris, Jeff Henning, Mike Moore.

Men's 55+ AAA:

Xtreme Home Improvements/ etc... (PA): Steve Shellenberger, Keith Ivory, Mark Kopko, Garry Mauger.

Lowe Legends 55 (OH): Mark Murray, Brice Tuohy, Willie Huling.

Men's 55+ AA:

Lobos 55 (TX): Leon Mosby, Jimmy Sneed, Anthony Barrientez.

Longshoremen 55 (VA): Joe Peirson, George Shelby III.

Men's 60+ Major Plus:

Legacy Sports USA (AZ): Mike Hoffner, Robbie Robinson, Dwayne Curry, Rod Gibson, Dave Thompson.

Texas Crush Sixties:

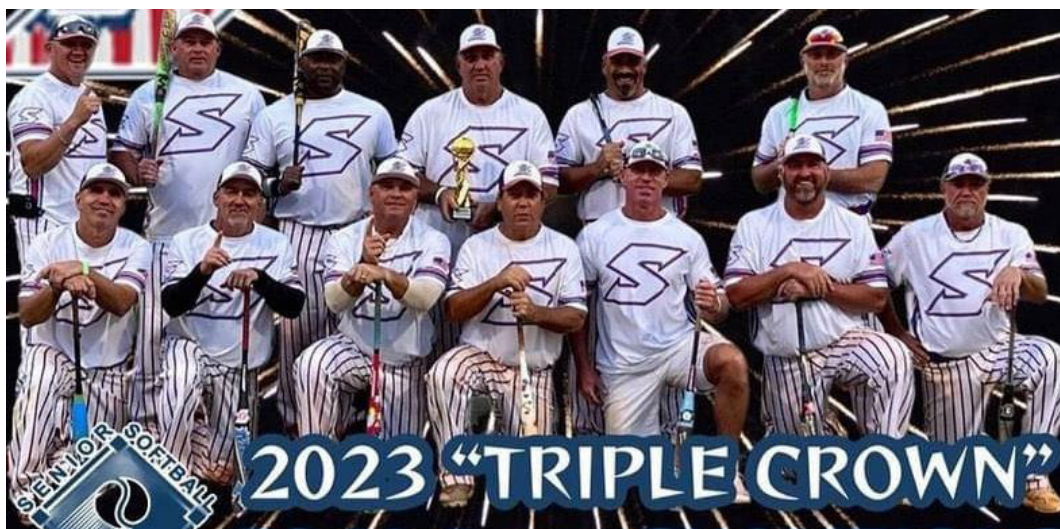


Photo by Suncoast/Adidas 50s (FL)
Suncoast/Adidas 50s (FL) at the 2023 World Championships, win the Triple Crown by winning their 50+ Major Plus division at Easterns, the USA National Game, and Worlds.

Murray Williams, Paul Stanley, Chuck Yaeger, Pat Rea.

Men's 60+ Major:

Monster Softball (MS): Al Beyersdorf, Calvin McCrary.

Top Dawgs (FL): Jerry Stotts, Billy Devine, Donny Meyer.

Sonoma County Crush 60 (CA): Craig Heredia, Greg Guilfoil.

Men's 60+ AAA:

Avalanche (MI): Daniel Fritz, Joe Mannind, Christopher Misterovich, Gregory Moncrief, Gerald (Bear) Borawski.

Texas Threat 60s:

Mike Pizzuti, Scott Fritts, Lawrence Sherrell, Russell Hanz, (MVP: Jeff Huser).

Men's 60+ AA:

Road Warriors (AZ): Dale MacDonald, Clark Fletcher, Jim Innocenti, Will Having, Fred Goossens.

Spin Tees (WA): Grant Brown, Kevin L. Johnson, Dell Corner, Tommy Dorsey.

OKC Angels (OK): Shane Smith, Randy Allen, Peter Bortvit.

Men's 65+ Major Plus:

Cal Energy: Vern Ramie (MVP), Gary Robertson (MVP), Kevin O'Reilly (MVP), Lyman Rose, Greg

Brandt.

Men's 65+ Major:

Omega IT Services LLC (MD): Horace Jefferson, Kenny Sanders, Verdell Blackston, Hosea Harris.

MN Masters/Ancell: Dan Krtnick, Steve Bennett, Jeff Kurkowski, (MVP: Phillip Gutterman).

Men's 65+ AAA:

Trachsel Auto Body 65s (OR): Charles Hudson, Joel Patnode, George Ladenburg, Bill Borrelli, Gerhard Greve.

Peak Softball/Scrap Iron 65s (CO): Ken Oavis, John Springer, Mark Schmucker.

Men's 65+ AA:

Pastimers (WA): Kevin Johnson, Steve Salmon, Kem Akers, Todd Kottsick, Bill Rissberger.

Texas Tornadoes 65s: Peter Atkins, Paul Rubin, David Kruse, Baron Porter.

Region 65s (IN): Dan Kairis, Raul Serrato, Mike Sardello.

Men's 70+ Platinum:

Enviro-Vac Marauders (BC, Can.): Ross Evison, Don Mackey, O.J. Moe, James Groh, Tony Goularte, (MVP: Ralph Tipton).

Ryan's Way (UT): John



Photos by Clover Schultz
Minnesota Masters and Last Call (NV) play during session 2 of the 2023 World Championships.

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IS BUILT TO WIN*



DEMARINI.com / SLOWPITCH

All-Tourneys: Worlds' Selections Including 4th Place Teams and MVP Team Picks

Continued from previous page

Decker, Steve Francom.

Men's 70+ AAA:

D & K Softball (CA): Donny Crenshaw, Mark Purdy, Tom Steinhauer, Ernie Regalado, Ron Martel.

Rezults Realty (NV): Jim Strickland, Mark Walsh, Scott Carr, Tom Warren.

Codgers 70 (ID): Gerge Van Horn, Dave Henderson.

Men's 70+ AA:

Top Gun Olde Dawgs (CA): Steve Koontz, Roger Penticoff, Gary Mueller, Gary Bloch, Edward Arroyo.

Git-R-Done 70 (CA): Mike Sanchez, Robert Richardson, Robert Fishburn, Johnny Gonzales, (MVP: Tommy DeRocher).

Men's 75+ Major Plus:

Venom 75s (FL): Don Cabral, Stew Casterline, George Chance, Cliff Roberts, Jim Davidson, (MVP: Clyde Smith).

Omen 75 (CA): Wayne Ross, Chris Dayak, Gary Tryhorn, Roland Blietz, (MVP: Bob Cummings).

AMR South 75s (FL): Chad Baldwin, Terry Perriman, Gordy Ferguson.

Men's 75+ Major:

75 Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO): Len Gann, Pat McGuigan, Ralph Perkins, Hal Meyer, Ken Hiatt.

Valley Fog (CA): Bucky Harless, Jim Martin, Dennis Uber, Steve Foster.

Tri-State Diamondback 75 (NM): David Luebber, Ronne Mercer.



Texas Tornadoes 65s playing Pastimers (WA) during the 65+ AA Championship game of the 2023 World Championships.

Photos by Clover Schultz

Men's 75+ AAA:

KC Kids 75 (MO): Melvin Carr, Ken Vokac, Jim Jenkins, Chuck Tipton, Bill Nees.

So Cal Warriors 75: Tom Aguilar, Dave Pokladowski.

Men's 75+ AA:

San Antonio Legends: Flo Martinez, Earl Satterwhite, Othel Gardner, Gary Neill, Mike Equivel, (MVP: Alfred Vampran).

Men's 80+ Major Plus:

Florida Investment Properties: Charlie Hrobowski, Frank Krawczyk, George Riggs, Denny Evans, Ray Dye.

San Francisco Seals 80: Bobby Davis, Tom Best, Bill Nevis, Junior Cosare.

Men's 80+ Major:

Scrap Iron 80s (CO): Tom Imming, Robert Fontaine, Uffe Traeden, Larry Bradsby, Dick Gwilt.

Sidewinders 80s (AZ): Paul Felice, Billy Kee, Mike Lavis, Frank Seaberg.

Top Gun 80 Gold (CA): Jerry Herling, Charlie Wiley, Bob McCormick.

Men's 80+ AAA:

Gold Rush (CA): Larry Yoder (MVP), Mike Bunyard, Dan Kiser, Ed Kirley, Dave Dovenberg.

IES 80s (NV): Dennis Ibbotson, Dale Alcorn, Bob Gregorich.

Git-R-Done Gold (CA): Jim Trez, Richard Verdugo, (MVP: Ben Plascencia).

Men's 85+ Major:

Top Gun Blue Angels 85 (CA): Gary Adams, Al Grefsheim, Rico Coronado, Bob McCormick, Ronnie Guest.

Center For Sight (FL): Mike Breitenstein (MVP), James Mattingly, Fred Cronin, Ray Bosetti.

Men's 85+ AAA:

New York Statesmen: Marvin (Al) Hunter, Marvin Kravitz, Tom Strickland.

Team Rehabilitation (MN): Jerry Kraus, Tom Daniel, Paul Fleischer, Bob Lenzmeier.

Midwest Driving School (KS): Ken Stock, Galen Weinkauff.

International Co-Ed:

O&S (NV): Mick Jenkins, Christina Jenkins, Nancy Grove.

Living Legends Coed (CA): Shelby Williams, Jessica Johnson.

MVP Picks:

San Antonio 80s (AAA): Jose Fernandez.



Player from the Bavarian Royals team from Germany during International Co-Ed play.

All-Tourneys: Rocky Mtn. To First TOCs of 2024

Congratulations to the All-Tournament selections from the Rocky Mountain Championships, the Winter National and Winter World Championships. First place teams earn five all-tournament selections, second place gets four, while third place earn three. Managers, if your All-Tournament selections are missing, please email in your honorees to info@seniorsoftball.com.

For the 2023 World Championships' All-Tourney Selections, please see pg. 22.

Rocky Mountain

Men's 50+ Platinum:

Texas Steel/California Bat (TX): Gibar Bradshaw, David Cummings, David Nichols, Todd Switalski, Chip Crist.

Scrap Iron Havoc (CO): Lou Scirrotto, JR Rugierro, James Wallace, Jesse Rodriguez.

Men's 50+ AAA:

SSC/Persuaders (KS): Scott

Harrington, Steve Ditch, Tim Ward, Brian Williams, Jim Haugh.

Band of Brothers 50 (UT): Barry Currah, Andy Lujam, Jonas Tripp, Trevor Knapp.

Texas Rush 50: Howard Mitchell, Brian Hall, Todd Dubuissou.

Men's 50+ AA:

Lobos 50 (TX): Jeff Young, Eugene Galloway, Isaac P. Garcia, E. David Martinez, Rolando Gutierrez Jr.

Men's 55/60+ Platinum:

Texas Crush Sixties: Bobby Gilbert, Paul Stanley, Doug Kett, Tommie Clark, John Roach.

Damage NV: Thomas Wood, Tommy Winnett, Will Bowden, Casey Hann.

Men's 60+ Major:

Peak Softball/Storage Time/Scrap Iron 60s (CO): Jeffrey Wood, Kevin Graham, Kim Oliverson, Ross Guillen, Rudy Preciado.

Minnesota Premier:

Kenny Carr, Jeff Miller, Steve Perez.



Teams played at the 12-field Aurora Softball Complex during the 2023 Rocky Mountain Championships in August.

Men's 60+ AA:

OKC Angels (OK): David Harris, Rafael De Leon, David Baker.

Men's 65+ Major:

Scrap Iron High Octane (CO): Tim Ryan, Randy Strandberg, Nick Longo, Jamie Gowdy, Carl Markey.

MN Masters/Ancell: Rick Weaver, Steve Bennett, Mike Molitor, Larry Maki.

Men's 65+ AAA:

Texas Legends 65: Lyle Henkel, Sid Scardina, Chuck Connelly, Mike McClanahan, Freddy Helmuth.

Scrap Iron Heavy Metal (CO): Stuart Fredman, Bruce Brothis, Pete Ayotte, Glenn "Mike" Brown.

Scrap Iron Xplosion 65 (CO): Mark Gembarowski, Gary Peterson, Greg Pearson.

Men's 65+ AA:

Duke City Dynamite 65 (NM): Erik Shekter, Don Marler, Doug Winter, Armando Gutierrez, Manuel Jackson.

Electrifiers (TX): Lloyd Hill, Jesse Ovalle, Robert Price, Sam Carrizales.

Men's 70+ AAA:

Scrap Iron 5280' (CO): Randy Huls, Ash Jenkins, Ted Lucero, David Maestas, Gary Nation.

Men's 70+ AA:

Not Dead Yet (KS): Richard Torres, Scott Pugh, Gary Grimes, Rick Keefover, Mick Keller.

Men's 70/75+ Major:

KC Kids 70 (MO): Robert (Bobby) Gregg, Gary Pycior, Curtis Priest, Lonnie Smith Jr. Steve Likes.

Tri-State Diamondbacks 75 (NM): Art Macomber, Geroge Anas, Ronne Mercer.

Men's 75/80+ Gold:

Scrap Iron 80s (CO): Dick Gwilt, Tom Imming, J.C. Moore.

Winter Nationals

Men's 50+ AAA:

Oldtimers (FL): Scott Van Dyke, Juan Castillo, David Toledo.

Men's 50/55+ Platinum:

Florida-Onyx: Donnie Hudson, Tony Precanico, A.J.



Several Scrap Iron Senoir Softball teams play in their home state tournament, the 2023 Rocky Mountain Championships.

Continued on next page

All-Tourneys: Winter Nationals & Winter Worlds Kick Off SSUSA's 2024 Season

Continued from previous page

Hernandez, Scott Hall, Dan Bench.

Men's 50/55+ Silver:

Isle Edge Trucking (WI): Scott Grunert, Ervin Mercer, Todd Oleson, David Kroll, Steve Steidl.

Men's 55/60+ Platinum:

Top Dawgs (FL): Mark Golden, Howard Albritton, Brian Brown, Steve King, Scott Atkin, Barry Hudson.

Men's 60+ Major:

Northeast Autobody (RI): Bob Putney, Mark Moniz, John Kilcoyne, Ron Charchafliah, Tony Tager.

Team Mars (FL): Jimmy Nelson, Kurt Musial, Charles Larkin.

Men's 65+ Platinum:

Action Auto Parts 65s (RI): Dave Hawkins, Jim Rock, Jim Bacca, Marc Green,

Kevin Lewis.

Men's 65/70+ Gold:

Northeast Jackhammers (NY): Dan Kelley, Bert Owens, Darryl Nielsen, Joe Germano, Mike Chomicz.

Spring Ford 65+ (PA): Tom Gerahty, Joe Nosler, Paul Koch, Bob Burkhardt.

Long Island Jaguars 65s Red: John Farrell, Frank Kiernan, Paul Montelione.

Men's 70+ Silver:

Universal Softball Team (OH): Chuck Wisler, Rex Hicks, Glen Ford, Billy Friedlinghaus, Tennis Ooten.

Trademark Restorations (FL): Sam Jones, Gerry Kelly, Mike Harenberg.

Men's 75+ AAA:

Suncoast Outlaws (FL): Paddy Yamonico, Doug Bell, Phil Mansueto.

Men's 80+ Major Plus:

Florida Investment Properties (FL): Louis Fatato, Bob Skidmore, Tom Starke, Frank Gordon, Jay Paldin.

Men's 80+ Gold:

Bucs and Bulls 80s (FL): Gene Smith, Robert DePietro, Jerry Flannery, Paul Gawel, Bill Denenegar.



Southpaw batter swings and makes contact with the softball during the 2023 Winter Nationals in Polk County, FL.

Indianapolis Classics: Doug King, John Loiacano, Roger Gildersleeve, Ron Sanner.

Men's 85+ Gold:

Center For Sight (FL): Bill Brotherton, Bob Willoughby, Mike Breitenstein, Fred Cronin, Bob Skidmore.

New York Statemen: Al Hunter, Larry Callaway, Tom Strickler, Art Barnes.

Rodriguez, Christina Gallegos, Yvette Cheesebrow.

Men's 50+ AAA:

NSC Heroes 50s (NE): Mike Marlow, Brian Kottich, Travis Burbage, Chris Abeyta, Barry Casey.

Pro Vision/Café Elite (WA): Antz Gallardo, David Crow, Brian Cody, Mike Bryant.

Men's 50/55+ Silver:

West Coast Evolution (BC, Can.): Chris Godenir, Lowell Pick, Carl Wright, Dave Lind.

Men's 55/60+ Platinum:

Regeee's Rams (ON, Can.): Rob Taylor, Pierre Tremblay, Mark Regan, Paul Quaresma.

Men's 55/60+ Silver:

Tejano's 60 (TX): Robert Galvan, Joey Aragon, Antonio Arras, Jesse Ocon, Arnold Villegas.

Weekend Warriors 60 (CA): Kyle Swensen, Ed Stevens, John Soulliere, Dan Olivas.

Road Warriors (AZ): Wally Bakken, Ray Lee, Kari Toivola.



Teams and players enjoy the weather at the 2023 Winter Nationals Championships in Polk County, FL.

Winter Worlds

Women's 40+ Major:

FRSTeam (CO): Heather Tegtmeier, Alyson Carter, Jennifer Doolittle, Danielle Hall, Samantha Rawlings. Tharaldson Softball (NV): Billie Jacobs Meyers, Kelly Glass, Theresa Shmidt.

Women's 40+ AA:

Idaho Spirit: Tawny Lopez, Michelle Benoit, Celia Wells, Pam Hoskins, Brisa Soto.

Women's 50/55+ Major:

Arizona Dream Team 55: Lisa Bull, Renate Schumaker, Terry Graham, Louise O'Donnell, Sharon Marine.

Women's 50/55+ AAA:

Wicked (TX): Nellie

Continued on next page

All-Tourneys: Teams Earn the First TOC Berths of 2024 from Winter TOCs

Continued from previous page

Men's 60+ Major:

Iowa Demons: Kelly Rush, Jeff Folgers, Tim Walker, Larry Mueller, Mark Rogers.

Men's 60+ AA:

Tri City Legends/D-bats (WA): Rick McFall, Bill Knudson, Brian Mayer, Roger Ingram, Michael Plunkett.

NSC Prairie Dogs (NE): Matt Smith, John Walsh, Tom Holder.

Men's 65+ Major:

X-Men (BC, Can.): John Engle, Randy Bach, Audie Yastremski, Brian Campbell, Jeff Morton.

Men's 65+ AAA:

Bucks Run Farms (NE): Gary Guentzel, Jim Loberg, Pat Kostal, Gil Stephens.

Arizona Old School 65: Ken Van Keuren, Jim Pierce, Mark Hughes.

Men's 65+ AA:

Triple 2 (TX): Jim Judy, , Chuck Schaefer.

Men's 70+ Major:

No Guts, No Glory (CA): Joe Guerrero, Jack Brunshmid, Alan Jackson, Ken Kowalsky. Steel Etc (ND): Lee Libera, Marlin Harris, Richard Stauffer.

Men's 70+ AAA:

Scrap Iron 5280' (CO): Dave Maestes, Tony McAvoy, Gary Nation, Andy Shapiro.

Men's 70+ AA:

El Paso Nine-Elevens: Mike Sinnott, David Sosa, Charlie Sandoval, Carlos Estorga, Ricardo Garcia.

Men's 75+ Major Plus:

Omen 75 (CA): Bob Cummings, Chris Dayak,

Ellwin Jobe, John Barresi, Rick Hoen.

Enviro-Vac Marauders (BC, Can.): Ross Evison, Trevors Bjurman, Dave Dockstader, Tom Shaw.

75 Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO): Ken Armbruster, Ralph Perkins, Len Gann.

Men's 75+ Major:

Al's Sport Shop (CA): Ron DeVincenzo, Mike Price, Mike Moeller, Wayne Billingham, Clauis Nickleberry.

Valley Fog (CA): Danny Estin, Dennis Uber, Bucky Harless.

Men's 75+ AAA:

Minnesota Masters 75s: Rollie Schwanz, Wayne Peterson, Gene Thompson, R. J. Ashley, Tommy Walsh.

So Cal Warriors 75s: Larry Ekema, Ray Tyndall, Herman Vaught.

Men's 75/80+ Silver:

Minnesota Masters 80s: Tom Lundberg, Lenny Myland, Tim Bothof, Bill Meyer.

Hui Ohana (HI): Al Apo, Vern Sanches, Guy Ruiz, Jerry Hersh.

Top Gun Olde Dawgs 75 (CA): Jerry Shapiro, Jim Douglass, Gary Nieman.

Men's 80+ Major Plus:

Maverick Constructions 80s (TX): Gustavo Blanco, Dennis Evans, Fred Hunt, Darryl Schroeder, Frankie Krawczyk.

Omen 80 (CA): Prentiss Byrd, Ron Greeno, Michael Hoffberg, Gary Tryhorn.

Men's 80+ Major:

Sidewinders 80s (AZ): Manny Hurtado, Mike Lavis, Jerry Bianchi, Curt Arthur, Tom Grubb.

Men's 85+ Major:

Top Gun Blue Angels 85 (CA): Frank Seaberg, Argie Haddock, Carroll Shook, Ronnie Guest, Larry Thompson.

Scrap Iron 85 Legends (CO): Maxwell Litt, Al Grefsheim, J. C. Moore, Ron Brixey.

Past Tourneys

2023 Western Nationals – Sacramento, CA

Women's 40+ AAA:

Dynasty Sisters Mood Swings (CA): Marcella Marin, Andrea D'Amico, Dawna Sampson, Renea Hering, Laurie Towne.

Men's 55/60+ AA:

California Coast Plumbers Inc.: Jerry Lawrence, Rodger Reistad, Robert O'Mara, Erich

Fischer, Mario Kuhn.

Men's 80/85+ AAA:

Gold Rush (CA): Gene Hanson, Ed Kirkley, Rich Gonigliaro, Rich Simonson, Les Kincanon.

Managers, if your All-Tournament Selections are missing, please email in your honorees to: info@seniorsoftball.com.



Women's teams enjoy the sunshine at the 2023 Winter Worlds in Phoenix, AZ with palm trees in the background.

Heard From The Dugout

"Success
equals goals;
all else is
commentary."

Brian Tracy



**DENNIS
RULLI**

BALANCED

Dennis Rulli

**RONNI
SALCEDO**

LOADED

Ronni Salcedo

**RON
PARNELL**

MOTHER LOAD

Ron Parnell

TRIPLE R

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Team Rating/Appeal Changes for 2024 Season

Softball News Report

A number of team ratings were changed at the end of the season.

Teams were moved up according to their finish at the World Championships. Those moves were determined by the rulebook.

The Senior Softball USA Ratings directors also reviewed team appeals and the results of all teams throughout the season and sent recommendations to our Ratings Advisers throughout the country.

After reviewing the Rating Adviser recommendations, teams were moved up or down according to performance.

SSUSA reviews Team Appeals twice a year: After the World Championships at the end of the season and in June.

Here are all of the end-of-the-season Rating Moves:

2023 Rating Report Automatic

Move-Ups:

Number of teams in Division = Move up:

- 11+ teams= 1st -2nd move up
- 21+ teams=1st -3rd move up
- 31+ Teams=1st -4th move up

Men's 40+ Major: 48

1. Legends Sports (NV)
2. First Capital (NY)
3. Smash It Sports Northwest 40 (WA)
4. Blue Pill Mafia/QOS Networks (AZ)

Men's 40+ AAA: 24

1. Gigantes O.C. 40s (MD)
2. GTR (OR)
3. G2G (CA)

Men's 50+ Major: 41

1. G.O. Softball/Mae Capital (CA)
2. PulseChain.com & Feet Heat

- Customs (OH)
3. Team Shadow (NV)
4. Crawford Contracting (MI)

Men's 50+ AAA: 66

1. Reds Boys (KY)
2. SSC/Persuaders (KS)
3. Team Express/Living Legends (T.E.L.L.) (AL)
4. MC Improvements (WI)

Men's 50+ AA: 8

1. Expert Ind. Supply (NJ)

Men's 55+ Major: 35

1. Acme (CA)
2. Regeee's Rams (ON, Can.)
3. Vectra International/Big Biscuit (KS)
4. .50 Core Sports & Apparel/Grit Hounds Softball (VA)

Men's 55+ AAA: 51

1. D'Amore Law (WA)
2. Xtreme Home Improvements and Restorations/New York Fitness Clubs/Fredrick's (PA)
3. Lowe Legends 55 (OH)
4. Junkies/A-1 Pavement Markings 55s (CA)

Men's 55+ AA: 5

1. So Cal Riptide 55/RMK Trucking

Men's 60+ Major: 36

1. Dirty Birds 60s (CA)
2. Dudley Lightning 60s (MO)
3. Top Dawgs (FL)
4. Sonoma County Crush 60 (CA)

Men's 60+ AAA: 42

1. Avalanche (MI)
2. Texas Threat 60s
3. Crossfire (TX)
4. Diminished Skills 60s (CA)

Men's 60+ AA: 11

1. Road Warriors (AZ)
2. Spin Tees (WA)

Men's 65+ Major: 19

1. Prime Time (IL)
2. Omega IT Services LLC (MD)

Men's 65+ AAA: 30

1. Trachsel Auto Body 65s (OR)

2. Tex/Ark Legends (TX)
3. Peak Softball/Scrap Iron 65s (CO)

Men's 65+ AA: 14

1. Pastimers (WA)
2. Texas Tornados 65s

Men's 70+ Platinum: 1 major plus 16 Major

1. Enviro-Vac Marauders (BC, Can. - 70 Major)
2. Over The Edge (CA - 70 Major)

Men's 70+ AAA: 18

1. D & K Softball (CA)
2. Rezults Realty (NV)

Men's 70+ AA: 12

1. Top Gun Olde Dawgs (CA)
2. Git-R-Done 70 (CA)

Men's 75+ Major: 9

1. 75 Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO)

Men's 75+ AAA: 9

1. KC Kids 75 (MO)

Men's 75+ AA: 5

1. San Antonio Legends

Men's 80+ Major: 4

1. Scrap Iron 80s (CO)

Men's 80+ AAA: 6

1. Gold Rush (CA)

Men's 85+ AAA: 4

1. Jaguars (CA)

Women's 40+ Major: 15

1. Redz/California Bat Company (NC)

Women's 40+ AAA: 22

1. Pro Moves 40 (CA)
2. Dynasty Sisters Mood Swings (CA)
3. Not Today (NV)

Women's 40+ AA: 3

1. FIGO Islanders (Guam)

Women's 50/55+ AAA: 14

1. Arizona Dream Team 55s (W55 AAA)
2. Straight Pride 50s (CA - W50

AAA)

2023 Rating Report Performance (Moving Down):

Men's 40+:

Rossi Law Group (RLG) – Men's 40AAA
Shut-D 2 – Men's 40AAA
SIA – Men's 40AAA
Hard Knox - Men's 40 Major
Pony Tail Express – Men's 40 Major

Men's 50+:

Harford Financial Group – Men's 50AA
Los Traviesos – Men's 50AA
Ontourage – Men's 50AA
Softball Rehab 50 – Men's 50AA
PA Merchants – Men's 50AAA
Rossi Law Group (RLG) 50s – Men's 50AAA
Vancouver Connection 50s – Men's 50AAA
Battleborn NV 50 – Men's 50 Major

Men's 55+:

Maryland Classics / Office Bar & Grill – Men's 55AA

Men's 60+:

Beltway Bandits – Men's 60 AA
Michigan Lumberjacks 60 - Men's 60 AA
Beginnings Softball 60s – Men's 60AA
Next Level/Incrediwear – Men's 60 Major

Men's 65+:

Promotion/Phoenix Tube – Men's 65AAA

Men's 70+:

OKC Outlaws – Men's 70AA

Men's 75+:

OK-ARK – Men's 75AA

Men's 80+:

Ho'oikaika – Men's 80 80 Major

Women's 40+:

Poly Chics (Cali Gold) -

Continued on next page

Ratings: Numerous Rating Appeals Are Approved or Denied.

Continued from previous page

Women's 40AA

Comin' in ICY HOT – Women's 40AAA

TST – Women's 40AAA

2023 Rating Report Performance (Moving Up):

Men's 40+:

Barkley Heating & Air/O.P.P.

– Men's 40Major

Borrachos 2.0/4BE – Men's 40Major

Prime 40s – Men's 40Major

Men's 50+:

4 Season Paint & Remodeling/ Evil Sports/Sundial Cocktails –

Men's 50 Major

Quality A's Reloaded – Men's 50Major

Rolfe & Company – Men's 50 Major

Men's 55+:

Buddies, Sampson's, Mid-Michigan Merchants – Men's 55AAA

ETX 55s – Men's 55 Major

Texas Silverbacks – Men's 55 Major

CANVAZ Softball – Men's 55 Major-Plus

Men's 60+:

Arizona Monsoon – Men's 60

Major

CPOA Cleveland/Northern

Ohio Printing – Men's 60 Major

California Energy – Men's 60 Major-Plus

Men's 65+:

Majestic – Men's 65 AAA

Hudson Valley Cyclones –

Men's 65 Major

Top Gun Stealth – Men's 65 Major

Ohio Elite/Safe Step Tub – Men's 65 Major-Plus

Men's 70+:

Anderson Roofing/.50 Caliber

– Men's 70 Major

No Dice/Costa Rica – Men's 70 Major

Men's 75+:

Git-R-Done 75 – Men's 75 AAA

JAG-ONE/ Jersey Masters – Men's 75 Major

Last Call – Men's 75 Major

Team appeals approved:

Men's 40+:

Headcase – Men's 40 Major

Men's 50+:

NW Blue Dogs – Men's 50AAA

Supreme Athletics/Incredible

Pets/Epic Sports Cards – Men's 50AAA

Deluxe Bakery/ Juno Athletics – Men's 50 Major

Men's 55+:

Team Blast 55 – Men's 55AAA

L.A.F. 55 – Men's 55 Major



LAF 55 (CA), team appeal was approved, moved down to Majors.

Speedwerx – Men's 55 Major

Men's 60+:

Bayou City Bombers – Men's 60AA

Arizona Scorpions – Men's 60AAA

Minnesota Merchants – Men's 60 Major

Men's 65+:

Desert Bats DEP 65 – Men's 65AA

Free Style Promotions – Men's 65AA

Incrediwear – Men's 65AAA

North Idaho Softball Club – Men's 65AAA

REH/Second wind – Men's 65AAA

Arizona Scorpions – Men's 65 Major

Houston Fire 65 – Men's 65 Major

Women's 50+:

Cali Gold Ladies 50 – Women's 50AAA

Team appeals denied:

Men's 40+:

No Mercy – Men's 40 Major

Tarz Nation/G Brand – Men's 40 Major-Plus

Men's 50+:

A3/NW50s – Men's 50 AAA

Dirty Birds – Men's 50 Major

Hawaiian Force – Men's 50 Major

Iowa Demons 50s – Men's 50 Major

Rock N Legends 9 – Men's 50 Major

Promolink/Ancell – Men's 50 Major-Plus

Scrap Iron Havoc – Men's 50Major-Plus

Men's 55+:

Big Hurt Softball 55/Draft Picks – Men's 55 Major

Scrap Iron Mile High – Men's 55 Major

Top Gun Phantoms – Men's 55 Major

50 Degrees – Men's 55 Major-Plus

Vectra International/Big Biscuit – 55 Major-Plus

Men's 60+:

Mike's Bar & Grill – Men's 60 AAA

Darrell Harris & Associates – Men's 60 Major

Javelin Joe's Transport – Men's 60 Major

Levin/Ameriprise – Men's 60 Major

Northwest Yeahos – Men's 60 Major

Men's 65+:

Team Fire Grey Sox – Men's 65 AAA

Men's 70+:

No Guts, No Glory – Men's 70 Major

Men's 75+:

Northern Virginia Force 75 – Men's 75 Major



KC Kids 75 (MO), moved up automatically after winning their 2023 World Championships division.

Thanksgiving Miracle for Hall of Famer

By Nic Francois
Softball News Report

ALTON, Ill. – The kindness of friends and fellow softball players can truly make someone's day. In this case, John Meeden's Thanksgiving was surprisingly wonderful thanks to his friend, Mike Drake.

John was inducted into Senior Softball USA's Hall of Fame in 2012



as a player. Sadly, as reported by the Riverbender Paper of Alton, "Meeden had his rings and memorabilia stolen from his Alton residence."

Mike felt awful for his friend who was in the Alton Memorial Rehabilitation Center for health issues at the time. Mike reached out to SSUSA staff who were able to provide Mike with a replacement Hall of Fame ring free of charge to present to John. Mike gave the ring to John this past Thanksgiving at the rehabilitation center.

John was extremely grateful to his friend and SSUSA staff for his new ring and wore it while eating his Thanksgiving dinner.

John is now 82 years old and started playing with SSUSA in 1999. At age 15 he had tried out for the St. Louis Cardinals and Minnesota Twins. His

friend Mike remembers John usually batting almost .800 before retiring from senior softball in his 70s.

"SSUSA is very happy John has his Hall of Fame ring again and thanks Mike Drake for his coordination and help," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA CEO.



John Meeden (left) and friend, Mike Drake (right).

Some Advice for Players From Outerspace

Softball News Report

Being an important softball journalist, it's not surprising that players often come to me for advice. In today's Senior Moments, I'll address some of the questions that I've been asked (or they are in my head). So today we have the first installment of "Reader Mailbag." Please send any questions you may have to Dr. Dave at Senior Softball. Please do not send me money. Checks or Venmo are better.

Dear Dr. Dave,

I'm managing a team for the first time, and I wonder if you have any advice on how to relate to the players. Sometimes I struggle with relationships.
H. Lecter

Dear HL:

I've found that in life the secret to success is honesty. If you can fake that, you've got it made.

Dear Dr. Dave,

Why do I keep hitting into double plays? Here's a video.

Ox McGrrr

Senior Moments

By Dave Weinman

Dear Ox:

The current problem as I see it is you hit the ball hard but run slow.

What you need to do is run slow but also hit the ball slow.

Dear Dr. Dave,

Like so many senior softball players, I find I need to urinate more often than I had to when I was young. Following the advice of sports physiologists, I have been drinking several bottles of water the night before a game, and I continue to drink substantially while playing to ward off dehydration. The problem is, I'm running to the bathroom five times a game. I'm running to the bathroom more than I'm running the bases.

Any advice?

Yours truly,
Kent Holdet

Dear Kent:
Depends.

Dear Dr. Dave,

I had a nightmare and I hope you can help me understand it. I was dreaming about my mother, but when I looked up at her face she was wearing the baseball hat from the team I hate the most. I was so upset I woke up, had a piece of dry toast and some black coffee for breakfast and immediately wrote this e-mail.

What do you think?
Earlie Mahrnin

Dear Earlie,

A piece of dry toast and a cup of black coffee, you call THAT a BREAKFAST!!!!

Enjoy YOUR dreams- if you are still playing ball, you're living them. This might be true.

Dr. Dave

Dave Weinman is a long time Senior Softball player and Senior Softball News Contributor who travels and helps coordinate most of SSUSA's international tours and trips.

Learn From the Late Investor: Charlie Munger

Softball News Report

There's no question that Warren Buffett has been and continues to be one of America's greatest investors.

The Oracle of Omaha's holding company, Berkshire Hathaway, has racked up a fabulous long-term track record of not only beating the stock market, but in some years handily outdistancing the popular stock indices.

While Buffett gets all the due credit, it must be noted that his right-hand man and long-term friend Charlie Munger was just as instrumental in the success of Berkshire Hathaway.

Munger, who died recently at age 99 (he would have turned 100 on Jan. 1), served as vice-chairman of the company and was also known for his investment expertise, dating back

Money Matters By Jack Sirard

decades.

It seems to me that many of us could learn a lot from just taking a quick look at how Munger lived his life.

For instance, like Buffett, Munger certainly didn't live the life of many billionaires. He chose to live in the same modest Southern California home that he bought in the 1950s.

Explaining his rationale to an interviewer, Munger said that a "basic house" has utility and he pointed out "that a larger home could help you entertain more people — but that's about it. 'It's a very expensive thing to do, and it doesn't do you that much good.'" (For the record, Buffett lives in the same Omaha, Neb., home that he bought in 1958 for

\$31,500.)

Munger, who was usually known as a man of few ... but powerful ... words, eschewed the life of living life on the financial edge, preferring to live a modest life.

For instance, he was a outspoken critic of luxury travel and told a shareholder's meeting that he believed it to be quite frivolous. "The back of the plane arrives at the same time as the front of the plane, invariably," he noted.

And back in the late 1980s, Buffett said that Munger's idea "of traveling in style in an air-conditioned bus, a luxury he steps up to only when bargain fares are in effect."

When it came to investing, Munger had a simple mantra: Focus on quality companies selling at fair prices, rather than chasing cheap stocks with

dubious futures. He also had an eye for spotting a good business long before Wall Street had known about it and the ability to make a timely investment decision.

Munger also was a strong proponent of donating much of his wealth so others could work together, sharing ideas. He donated more than \$500 million to colleges and universities as well as other institutions, including gifts to construct residences for students and researchers.

Munger's life provides a valuable parable: the brightest lights are best when they show the way for others.

Jack Sirard is a retired nationally syndicated financial columnist and senior editor of Senior Softball News.

**WELCOME
ALL-STARS AND
ROCK STARS**
LAS Vegas

Las Vegas welcomes the SSUSA World Championships to the ultimate sports destination.

Discover more at VisitLasVegas.com.



Pacific Rim Returns to Hawaii; Open Spots for Switzerland-France-Germany; Caribbean Closed

Softball News Report

The 2024 Senior Softball USA (SSUSA) International Tours will take players across two oceans, into historic mountains, towns and forests – and to pristine beaches.

The Fourth Annual Caribbean Classic in the Dominican Republic kicks travel off in February, while the Jewels of Europe tour heads to Switzerland, Germany and France in June and the Pacific Rim Championships will return to Hawaii in November.

“All of these trips,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA’s chief executive officer, “are designed to build friendships for the US senior players – and with the players from other countries.”

After a four-year COVID delay, the Pacific Rim Championships heads to Hawaii Nov. 4-8 with teams from Japan, China, Taiwan, Canada, the U.S., Guam, Hong Kong and Macau.

In addition, the Pacific Rim players from all countries and territories will be invited on a cruise of the Islands after the tournament from Nov. 9-16. Details will be posted in the next few weeks.

The Heart of History



Pacific Rim Slow-Pitch
Softball Federation

Tour will take players and their families to the mountains of Switzerland, towns of Eastern France and into the Black Forest of Germany from June 13-26, 2024.

The Tour begins in Zurich and takes travelers through the alpine wonders of Switzerland, up the Rhine into the Black Forest, through northeast France and beautiful medieval towns.

The Caribbean Classic drew 42 players and their families this year and will pit the two SSUSA teams against teams from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela on fields at a beautiful all-inclusive resort.

For the past three decades, Senior Softball USA has been setting up tournaments around the world to give American players the opportunity to experience other countries in a way no other tour can match.

For more information, call SSUSA at 916-326-5303, or email Nic@seniorsoftball.



Colmar is also known as the "Little Venice of France" due to its similar waterway canals.



2022 Hawaiian Tournament and Cruise attendees stand outside of Norwegian Cruise Line's Pride of America cruise ship.



2023 Caribbean Classic attendees at Punta Cana Beach next to the host resort.

Don't miss the opportunities of a lifetime



Join us on the
Senior Softball USA Tours:

2024

Fourth Annual Caribbean Classic
in the Dominican Republic
is full with a waiting list.

■ **February 21-26**

The Heart of History Tour goes to
Switzerland, France and Germany.

■ **June 14-26**

The Pacific Rim Tournament
heads to Hawaii.

■ **Tournament: November 5-8;
Cruise: November 9-16**



For Details on these Adventures: <https://seniorsoftball.com/?page=35>

For more information: email Nic@seniorsoftball.com



Walking Can Reduce Risk of Type 2 Diabetes

By Stan Reents, PharmD,
Health Coach
Senior Softball Report

In November, an analysis of 10 previously-published studies on how fast you should walk to reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes appeared in the British Journal of Sports Medicine. The authors found that, as walking speed increased, the risk of type-2 diabetes went down:

- Walking at 2-3 mph (defined as normal walking speed) lowered the risk of developing diabetes by 15% compared to walking slower than that.

- Walking at 3-4 mph ("fairly brisk") lowered the risk by 24%.

- Walking faster than 4 mph ("brisk walking / striding") lowered the risk by 39%.

The researchers concluded that the slowest walking speed that still helped reduce the risk of diabetes was 2.5 mph.

OK, let's evaluate the practical implications of these findings:

Several years ago, I did an 8-mile walk. I have long legs and can walk fast. I assumed I could sustain 4 mph and, thus, it should take me about 2 hours. But, it took closer to 3 hours. My average pace was 2.7 mph.

So, I feel that a goal of walking 4 mph isn't realistic, especially for older adults. Instead, shoot for 2.5 mph at a minimum, if you can. But even that pace might be tough to achieve:

The researchers equated 2.5 mph to 87 steps per minute for men and 100 steps per minute for women. Walking at 87 steps per minute is more than one step per second, and, of course, 100 steps per minute is even more challenging.

Here are some thoughts on exercising to lower your

risk of diabetes:

- First, you don't have to limit yourself to walking. Any type of aerobic exercise is effective: swimming, riding a bike, Zumba, etc. Resistance exercise is also effective: working out with weights or stretch bands. Pick something you like to do because that predicts you will do it regularly.

- Second, you don't actually have to exercise in the classic sense either. Lots of house chores also stimulate a variety of muscle groups: mowing the yard, raking

leaves, and more difficult tasks like trimming limbs off of a tree or digging up / planting a shrub.

Doing physical work like house chores involves the same physiologic principle that occurs during traditional forms of exercise: repeated muscle contraction helps those muscle cells respond to the actions of insulin. This, in turn, means muscle cells extract glucose from the bloodstream more efficiently.

Whether you choose exercise or house chores, these will also help promote the loss of excessive weight. This can also reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes.

And any activity is better than being sedentary all week long. That leads to insulin resistance, which is the main cause of type 2 diabetes.

For more details, see my review "Exercise For Diabetes Mellitus" at <https://www.athleteinme.com/ArticleView.aspx?id=322>.

Stan Reents, PharmD, is a healthcare professional and health/fitness coach. He created the website www.AthleteInMe.com®, a resource on the health benefits of exercise. He is also the author of the sports medicine text "Sport and Exercise Pharmacology."



Annual Toys-For-Tots Tourney Donates Gifts & Food

Softball News Report

FOUNTAIN HILLS, AZ – Rick Seifman hosted his 27th annual Toys-For-Tots recreational tournament on Dec. 7-10. The weather was warm, sunny and perfect for softball and charity just before the holidays.

Each player and their family were encouraged to bring an unwrapped, new gift or canned food for the local food bank. Among the toys donated were sports balls,

board games, large stuffed animals, Nerf foam toys, art supplies, model cars and firetrucks, dolls and action figures and two bicycles, one green and black, the other baby blue with butterflies and tassels.

A special thanks to Arizona Scorpions player Tom Petrizzio and Team MTI who donated checks in addition to the toys or food items.

Manager of Los Vatos Viejos 70 II Moises “Mouse” Longoria said players and attendees “seem to remember when they were young children and waiting for Santa to bring them a toy... If one day you all want to come down to Phoenix to play in this great tournament and put a smile on a child, this is the place.”



Toys donated at the tournament.



Players from Bucky's Casino pose with bikes and toys donated as part of Rick Seifman's Toys For Tots fundraising tournament.

In that spirit, consider entering your team in the 2024 Toys For Kids Benefit

recreational tournament, to take place Dec. 5-8, in Phoenix and Fountain Hills.

'It Ain't Over' Until Yogi Berra Swings

Softball News Report

One of the most uplifting – and heartening – films to come out this year is about one of the best players in the history of baseball, who is best known for his humor.

The documentary “It Ain’t Over” takes a close and personal look at Yogi Berra’s life and legendary ability.

“Even if you are not a baseball fan you will enjoy this documentary,” said Larry Berra, Yogi’s son, and a senior softball player. “It’s not just baseball but about the man.”

Although best known for his “Yogisms,” his career was indeed legendary.



Yogi Berra (left) with his son, Larry Berra (right) at Mets' Shea Stadium, 1971, showing fans batting techniques.

Consider: In his 19 seasons in Major League Baseball, Yogi won 10 World Series Championships – more than any other player in MLB history. He was an 18-time All Star, had a career batting average of .285, hit 358 home runs, with 1,430 RBIs.

Yogi was one of only six

players to win the American League Most Valuable Player three times. Yogi was inducted into the MLB Hall of Fame on the first vote in 1972.

For the first time, the 98-minute portrait paints a complete picture of the sports legend.

“It’s very important to me to keep Grandpa’s legacy alive,” Lindsay Berra, his oldest grandchild, told an MLB interviewer. “Most important to me is to have people remember truly what a great baseball player he was, because I feel that a lot of his on-the-field accomplishments have been eclipsed by the Yogi-isms and the fact he was this short, kind of funny-

looking guy later in life.”

Of course, you will see more than one “Yogism” in the documentary, as well.



Official Movie Poster (2022).

Meet National Senior Softball Hall of Famers 2023

Softball News Report

Eighteen players and managers, including pioneers of the sport and an umpire, were elected into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame for 2023.

While Senior Softball USA has its own Hall of Fame, the NSSHOF is a joint Senior Hall of Fame that represents all national slow-pitch softball organizations, of which, SSUSA is the largest.

A majority of the Class of 2023 are players, with 14 inducted, including five pioneer players. Similar to last year, three managers were inducted, including one pioneer manager. This year's class also includes an umpire.

Here's the National Hall of Fame Class of 2023:

Pioneer Manager: **Dick Anderson**



Dick has played Senior Softball for 28 years and is locally known as the "Grandfather of Minnesota Senior Softball". Not only is he the founder and current President of the Minnesota Senior Sports Association, but the founder of the Edison High School Sports Foundation which has raised more than a million dollars in scholarships. Dick was inducted into SSUSA Hall of Fame this month. (See story on pg. 13) Dick holds memberships at the Minnesota ASA Softball Hall of Fame, USSSA Softball Hall of Fame, and Senior Sports

Association Hall of Fame.

The Minnesota Senior Softball Scene publication writes, "Nobody has done more to develop, promote, and advance the senior game in Minnesota than Dick. He has been a driving force in developing competitive teams and viable programs in Minnesota in several of the senior age divisions."

Don Bowman says, "Dick has been a special ambassador for the state of Minnesota, the upper Midwest, and nationally, in promoting the growth of Senior Softball. He has done more for the sport in this area than anyone I know and is a great teammate and leader for Senior Softball on and off the field."

According to Terry Hennessy, Dick was born a pioneer. "I've known Dick Anderson since the mid-1990s both as a manager and a player. He not only managed teams but was the driving force in establishing senior softball in Minnesota."

Managers: **Kevin Evans**



Kevin Evans was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1953. He attended high school at Chula Vista and then attended San Diego State University. Kevin began his Senior Softball career in 2004, playing in the Top Gun Senior Softball program. Since then he has played in and managed many of the Top Gun teams that have competed around the country winning

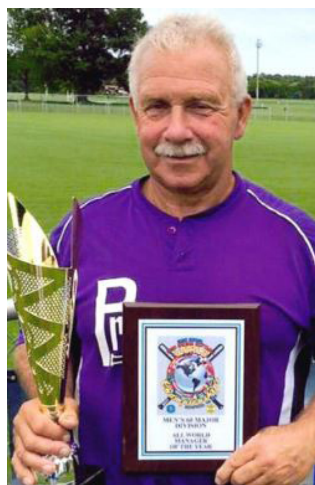
multiple Regional and National Championships.

Fran Dowell writes, "As impressive as Kevin's service to our sport has been, he has simultaneously managed his Top Gun III team to the pinnacle of Senior Softball."

Mike Adair says of Kevin, "Overshadowing his player contributions has been the leadership he has displayed as an outstanding team manager. His accomplishments as a player have contributed greatly to the success achieved by his team winning multiple major tournaments."

According to Red Simmons, "For 17 years I've seen a lot of teams and managers with all kinds of skills and leadership styles. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Kevin Evans stands at the top of the class with a few peers."

Michael Santo



Michael Santo has been involved with Senior Softball for the past 20 years, as a player and manager. His managerial accomplishments include 4 national titles, championships in over 38 other senior national and regional tournaments of varying degrees, and multiple second & third place finishes. Mixed in with these team championships have been some noteworthy individual awards. Michael received the SPA Manager of the year award in 2016 and ISSA'S

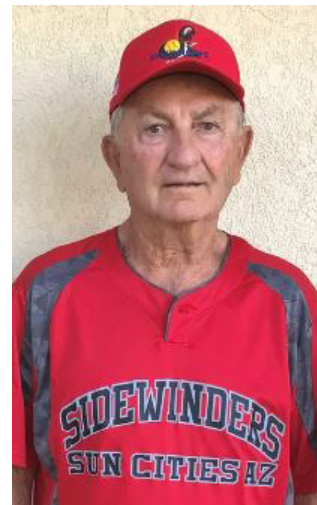
Manager of the Year 3 times covering the years 2016-2020.

Andrew Snyder had this to say about Mike, "He has an eye for talent, the ability to manage various personalities and implement on the field strategy to obtain the best results. He has not only earned the respect of all who have played for him, but also all that have competed against him."

Terry Rounsaville says, "Mike's goal has always been to improve Promotion's performance by recruiting and honing the talent of ball players that he has played with and against. He is a well-known figure on the senior circuit for his positive and determined attitude to improve and to elevate Senior Softball."

Bob Baker writes, "I have been playing Senior Softball for over 15 years and have never had a coach as passionate as Mike Santo. His pre-game preparation is excellent and he always is in constant communication with his players in regards to game strategy and line-up combinations."

Melvin Bentley



Melvin's Senior Softball career began at the age of 59. Although he started at the AA level, he continually advanced eventually reaching the Major Plus classification. Over the years Melvin has received many

Continued on next page

All-Tourneys: 6 Out of 18 Inductees Are Pioneer Players or Managers

Continued from previous page

awards including World Champion MVP, Tournament of Champions MVP, and won the 2009 Triple Crown with the Sidewinders 70 Major Plus team.

Argie Haddock says, "Mel is not only a great player, but he is a gentleman on and off the field. He is supportive of his teammates and shows the highest level of sportsmanship. His personality and upbeat attitude make him a valuable teammate."

"Melvin's greatest skills are pitching and hitting. His performance in those positions encourages our team to strive for excellence in competition. His competitive spirit helps to build team morale on and off the field", writes Robert Mucha.

Harold Heller states, "Mel and I played on the same team for several years and won several national titles. He is one of the best all around pitchers I know. He's a great fielder, a top notch player who is always sought after, and his demeanor on the field is outstanding."

Eddie Glover



Eddie Glover began Senior Softball as a member of Reeds Mini Storage in 2008. Eddie was born in Lonoke County, AR in 1937. He has played Senior Softball the past 34 years. Eddie is small in stature at 5 foot 6 inches and weighs 120 pounds. He may have a small frame to the naked eye but he has a big heart and is still competitive at 85 years of age.

Jim Fuls says, "Eddie has the qualifications as a player but also as an ambassador for Senior Softball. Eddie has been a very active Senior Softball Representative on the Arkansas Hall of Fame Board for the past 16 years."

Moman Bates writes, "Eddie is a small man with a genuine love for the game of softball. His softball skills are great, whether as a player, coach, manager or batboy! I have umpired when Eddie was playing and he never complained about anything and always exhibited a positive attitude."

Don Harris states, "I have known Eddie for the last thirty or so years. He is an outstanding player and person. His major skill is how he performs in the clutch. Perhaps Eddie's greatest attribute is being a Godly man. Lots of players talk the talk but Eddie actually walks the walk."

Ron Reddick



Ron's Senior Softball career of more than 25 years has earned him 19 All-American, All-Tournament, and All-Star selections across SPA and SSUSA tournaments. He has played for 3 World Champion teams and 8 National Champion teams. Teams Ron managed have won 18 Florida Half Century Championships, 4 gold and 6 silver medals at the Huntsman World Senior Games. They also won 14 National Championships with SPA and 4 with SSUSA in addition to a U.S. Championship.

Dick Clarke writes, "Ron has played on numerous teams during his storied career. I was a teammate of Ron's on the New York Statesmen 75's and can attest to his outstanding playing ability and love of the game of softball. Ron personifies all the attributes one would strive for as a senior softball player. He is truly an ambassador of the game."

Denny Cole says, "In my 60 years of playing slow-pitch softball, Ron moves to the top of my list as a player/manager and as a caring human being. In addition to his national achievements, Ron is an ambassador for the great game of slow-pitch softball. He is a true gentleman and a man of the highest integrity."

According to Roger Thresher, "Ron is both a fine player and manager. I've played with him and against him for many years, which has allowed me to assess his many talents. He has played a steady outfield and his hitting has been notable. He was easily chosen as our MVP. Ron has been productive, well liked, and respected by several tournament teams he has played for."

Fred White



Fred White has participated in Senior Softball for 28 years. Throughout his career he has won several championships in the major and major plus divisions including the Triple Crown in 2017.

Dennis Lutz writes, "Fred is an excellent outfielder, baserunner, and hitter. He can hit the monster homeruns when needed and the extra base hits but most importantly, he is a great teammate and friend to all."

"Fred is a great team player that is well liked by his teammates and opponents. He is an excellent outfielder that is blessed with exceptional speed and hitting power. Because of these attributes, he has won many All-Tournament and MVP honors", says Jim Douglas.

According to Marv Rueck, "There is much more to Fred than his softball skills. As a person, he is very humble and modest with a great smile and sense of humor that makes him a great teammate and friend. You couldn't ask for a better person to play ball with!"

Mike Cordry states, "I have known and played softball with and against Fred for over 20 years. Since I first saw him play, I have considered him to be one of the top 5 players in his age group in the west."

Continued on next page

All-Tourneys: Two Women's Players Inducted

Continued from previous page

Patricia Duncan



Patsy's Senior Softball career spans 28 years. From 1995 to present, she has received numerous All-Tournament selections including SPA All-World in 2012 and All-American selections in 2014 and 2017. In her 28 years of playing Senior Softball, she has only missed two nationals.

According to Brenda Phelps, "Patsy has worked very hard to keep our teams going strong and is always hunting for ball players as well as encouraging seniors to come and play. She has always had a great love for softball and her friends. Patsy has a true heart for softball and is dedicated to the sport and supports her teammates."

Penne Adams writes, "I met Patsy many years ago as we have played together on several different ladies' softball teams. She is a serious committed softball player but also a very fun-loving caring person. She has been an asset to any team she has played on in the past and has received many awards."

Coach Gale Harris says, "Patsy is a friend, ball player, and just a good person – she takes the cake. She is what I call a "Utility Player" that will

try her best to play whatever position I ask her to play. Patsy gives 100% at all times and her attitude is outstanding – this is all a coach ever asks for in a player."

Players: William Bandy



William Gene Bandy started his senior softball career in 2007 on Goodman's Softball, a major classified team. Several years later he has earned numerous All-World and All-American titles in addition to several National Championships.

John Davide writes, "Geno has been a great player during his tenure in Senior Softball, playing on many top teams and winning several National Championships. Offensively, he is a strong hitter and his defensive skills have saved many games. Although he has gained notoriety through his many awards and accolades, he has remained a humble team player who lifts his teammates when needed."

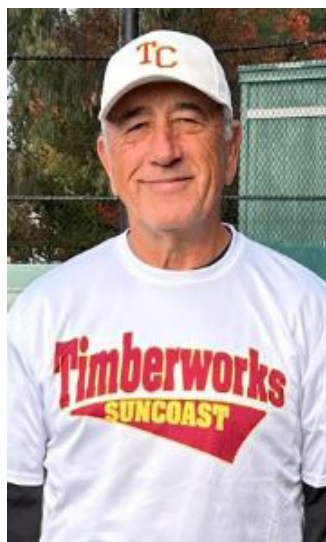
Donald Clatterbough states, "I have played against Geno for years when he has played with prominent senior teams. I found him to be an outstanding offensive and defensive competitor. He has also been my teammate on the Superior Senior Softball team where he has excelled as a player and teammate. Geno is a dedicated player who plays for the love of

the game."

John Scruggs Jr. says of Geno, "He is one of the most reliable teammates I have ever played with. He is the fellow outfielder that every player wants next to him."

According to Wade Heppert, "Geno is the ultimate competitor. His drive to compete and will to win make him a great teammate, player, and a feared opponent. His superb offensive and defensive skills as well as his timely hitting puts him among one of the best I've ever played with or against."

Chris Dayak



Chris Dayak's senior softball career started in 1999 with the 50 team, The Farm, in northern California. Throughout his career he has played infield for every team he's played for and amassed multiple All Tournament selections in the Major plus division as well as numerous World Championships.

Ellwin Jobe writes, "While Chris is a very good defensive player, he really distinguishes himself with the bat. He is always a very high-average hitter, but also has an ability to hit with exceptional power."

"Chris is a proven leader demonstrated by the confidence players have in him. He handles himself with dignity, professionalism, sportsmanship,

and is a gentleman on and off the field."

According to Mike Rittenhouse, "Chris has proven to be an elite Senior Softball player with superior offensive and defensive skills. He's a class act on and off the field and a genuine

Michael Hoffberg



Mike Hoffberg was born in 1944 in Chicago, Illinois, and settled in Southern

California in 1978. He began playing Senior Softball at age 50, and now at age 78 he has advanced from AAA to Major to Major Plus, playing with some of the top teams in California.

Mike Smith says of him, "Mike was one of our best outfielders but was needed to play shortstop. In typical, selfless fashion, Mike starred where he was assigned to play, and did it fabulously. His speed and accurate arm, along with superior game sense helped him excel always. He is a great teammate, person and friend."

Bob Cummings states, "I have played against Mike and now with him on the Omen Softball Club, and his play always stands out in crucial situations both offensively and defensively. Mike is always

Continued on next page

All-Tourneys: Half of 2023 Class Are Players

Continued from previous page

lifting up his teammates with positive encouragement and has all of the traits of a pure Hall of Famer”.

According to Dennis Lutz, “Mike has been a teammate for many years and also a good friend of mine. He brings many exceptional attributes to the game but most of all he is a great teammate and an exceptional player.”

Calvin McCrary Jr.



Calvin “ROCK” McCrary Jr., started his illustrious Senior Softball career with Team C&M out of the state of Alabama. He has played in the senior divisions of the 50’s, 55’s, & 60’s all on the Major and Major Plus level. Calvin has amassed many awards but none bigger than being selected as a Senior Pro for Miken/Easton/Worth in 2022.

J.D. Lillie says, “I have played with and against “Rock” for over 20 years in both under 50 years of age softball and in Senior Softball. Over the years I have known “Rock” I can truly attest that he is a man of integrity, he is dependable, his character is impeccable, and he gives his all when he is between the lines. His performance on offense and defense on the field is exemplary as indicated

by the numerous awards and achievements he has earned over his years as a senior softball player.”

According to Dr. Michael Williams, “Calvin’s involvement in senior softball has been admired by senior softball fans, teammates, and opposing players for many years. His character, knowledge, and support reflect his exceptional level of performance on the field. His collaboration and leadership skills extend beyond the playing field.”

Gary Nicolay



Gary has participated in Senior Softball for 25 years. He won his first of many senior championships in 2003 playing for Florida Storm 55 Major.

Ed Rose says, “I recruited Gary primarily as an outfielder to help improve the speed and quickness of the team. Gary’s speed and timely hitting has him as one of the best outfielders in the 75 and over age group.”

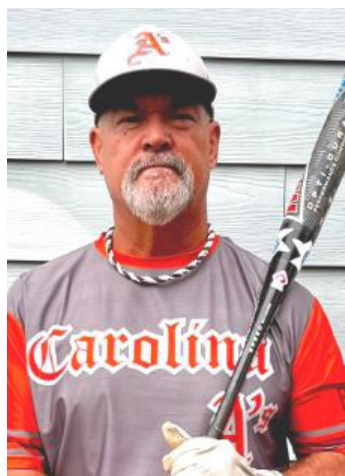
According to Larry Lopez, “Gary has always been an intense competitor when I played against him and an even better teammate while playing with him. He is a true gentleman both on and off the field, demonstrating the highest level of sportsmanship.”

Stephen Wilson states, “I have played with and against Gary for over 14 years, and have found him to be one of the toughest outs in Senior Softball. With speed and agility, his defensive qualities are the best

in the senior circuit.”

David Reed writes, “Gary is a great guy to play with and a team player, ready to play or run where ever the team needs him.”

Drew Pearson



James “Drew” Pearson started his Senior Softball career in 2011. Throughout his career Drew has played on several senior teams at the Major and AAA level and won several National Championships. Additionally, he has received numerous All-World, All-Tournament, and MVP selections.

Terry Hennessy says of Drew, “He is an outstanding athlete both on defense and offense. Equally important is the quality of his character. He was an amazing ambassador to the international teams he played for and has been an ardent cheerleader for his own teams.”

Wade “Oggie” Heppert writes, “Drew is an athlete who never gives up, works hard at his games and gives 110% in games until the final out. He makes you a better player as he appreciates the wins and respects the losses.”

According to Jack Rule, “Drew is a true hard nosed competitor who plays all outfield positions and first base. He is a team player all the way who will do whatever it commands to win. It has been a real privilege to coach him for most of seven years.”

Gary Robertson



Gary Robertson was born in 1957, in Modesto, California. He graduated from Davis High School and Stanislaus State College in Turlock, Ca. He is retired from the Modesto City School system, serving as a teacher.

Gary began playing Senior Softball in 2007 with MTC 50 Major. Since then he has won the last six SSUSA World Championships at the Major Plus level and the last eight out of ten. Additionally, he has received many All-Tournament and MVP selections along the way.

Kurt Mahaney says, “Gary continues to be one of the top hitters in Senior Softball. He also has assisted me in making tough decisions for our softball teams. Gary’s character is exemplary. He plays the game the right way by respecting his opponents and his fellow teammates.”

Steven Imlay writes, “Gary is a standout 5 tool player that comes along only so often with an unbelievable skill set and personal qualities that separate him playing at the highest level of Major Plus. He is an excellent teammate whose dedication to the sport is demonstrated by the respect and love garnished for him by his teammates and competitors. His stats are consistently high and comparable with the elite players in Senior Softball with

Continued on next page



DUDLEY® SENIOR SLOWPITCH BATS

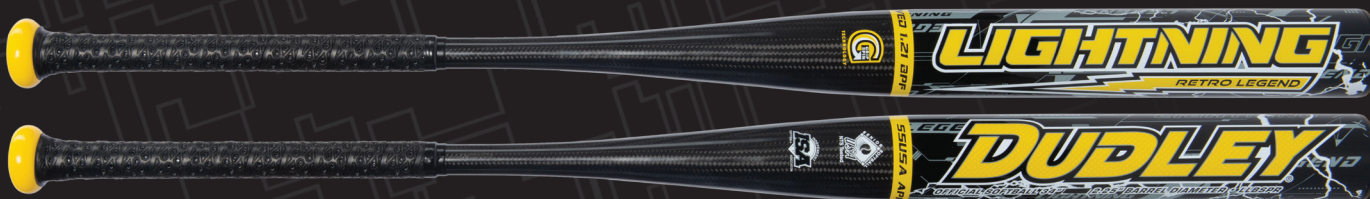
1 PC LIGHTNING LEGEND WITH GRIP SPIN

- 1 Pc MicroPly Technology™ Composite = Thin to Win performance shells



- New Grip Spin Technology® Barrel

- Approved by SSUSA and all other 1.21 BPF associations



MODEL: LLBSPR

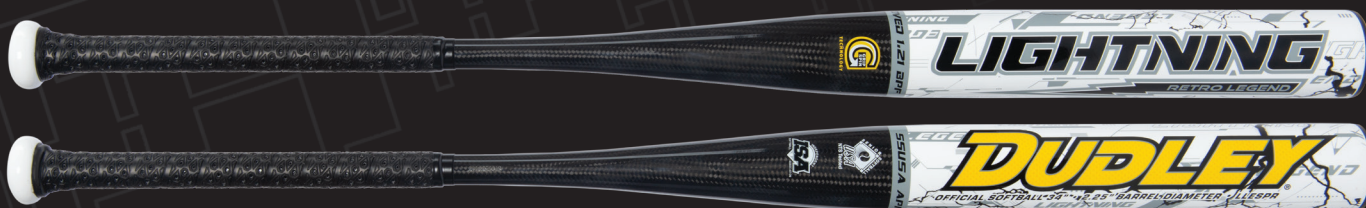
- Balanced 12" Power Barrel with new Flex Plug

Item #: 49308 34"/25oz

Item #: 49309 34"/26 oz

Item #: 49310 34"/27oz

Item #: 49311 34"/28oz



MODEL: LLESPR

- New Flex Plug to increase 1 Pc Barrel Flex
- End Loaded 12" Power Barrel with new Flex Plug

Item #: 49316 34"/25oz

Item #: 49317 34"/26 oz

Item #: 49318 34"/27oz

Item #: 49319 34"/28oz

All-Tourneys: Umpire Inducted to 2023 Class

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leading teams in home runs and average year after year."

Lon Stole



Lon Stole was born in Iowa Falls, Iowa in 1950. He attended high school in Prairie Farm, Wisconsin, and college at the University of Wisconsin in Stout, Wisconsin. Lon began his Senior Softball career with the Minnesota Masters in 2001 under the leadership of the late Steve Simmons.

Dick Kuyath says of Lon, "In World or National tournaments Lon often led the team in batting average or was near the top. He often made exceptional plays in the outfield with his glove and strong arm. His already great hitting and fielding continued to improve each year until they became truly exceptional. This helped his teams to improve their caliber of play from AAA in the early years to Major or Major Plus in recent years".

Don Bowman writes, "I have seen many great ball players in the senior softball circuit and Lonnie is the 'cream of the crop'. There is not a nicer guy you will meet on or off the field, and Lon is a true ambassador of the game."

Dick Anderson states, "I have played with Lon for about ten years and he is a teammate

of quiet confidence and the highest character. As our leadoff hitter, he has led our team to the championship almost every year."

Sylvia Echols



Sylvia Echols began playing Senior Softball just twelve years ago, but she has accomplished a lot in a short amount of time. In addition to 15 MVP titles, she has received numerous All-American, All-Tournament, and All-World selections as well as led her team to earn multiple Championship titles.

Brenda Jones states, "Sylvia has such great softball instincts and makes plays that leave you wondering how she ever got to the ball. She never takes a play off and is dedicated to always giving her all."

Freda Jones says of Sylvia, "She is a player any coach can build his or her team around. She always gives 100% in any position offensively and defensively and is a dedicated player and team member. Sylvia loves the game, respects her team members and coaches, and has no problem putting her team's needs above her own."

According to Linda Franco, "Sylvia is a leader who is always ready with a word of encouragement or congratulations. She is a fierce competitor, but she competes with grace and dignity as a team player always putting the good of the team first."

Umpires:

Dan Adams

Dan M. Adams started out as a player in a recreational league as a first baseman/catcher. After



Dan Adams

playing in competitive league and tournament ball, he wanted to start umpiring a senior league. The passion for umpiring grew and he started calling in USA Senior National Tournaments and ISSA World Championship Tournaments. After almost thirty years of umpiring, the love of the game still burns in his heart. Dan is respected by his fellow umpires, managers, and most of

all the senior players.

R.B. Thomas Jr. states, "Dan is certainly one of the outstanding umpires in the Senior Softball games today. His knowledge and application of the game rules is one of the best around. Dan is a real asset to any umpire crew and he understands the importance for the players ending the game with a very positive tournament experience."

According to Ron Daniel, "Dan is very knowledgeable of the rules and their implementation. He handles situations in a manner that de-escalates problems while still being very courteous to players. Dan is held in high respect by teams because he has control of the games without trying to be seen, hustles, and his calls are clear and precise."

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