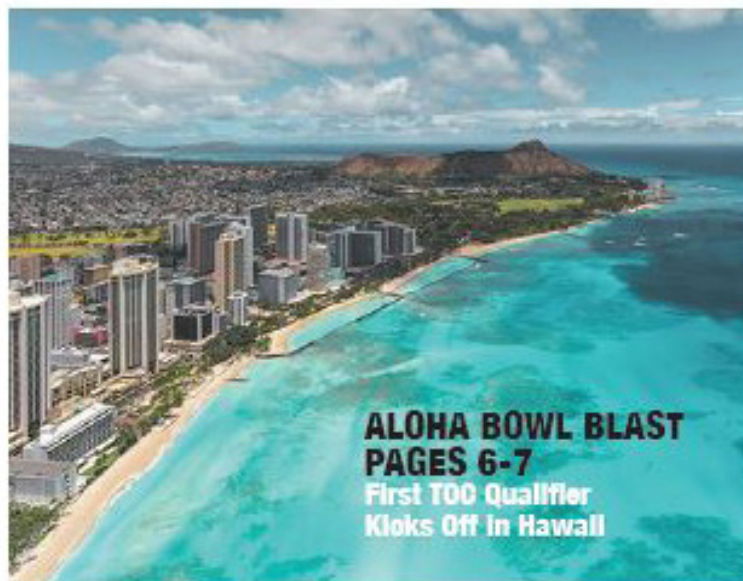


# BEAUTY AND THE BEST

## TOC Draws the Best from Biggest Tourneys

TOC OVERVIEW STORY PAGES 18-20 ■ ALL STAR GAMES & ROSTERS PAGES 19-20  
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Photo by Clover Tiedeken



**ALOHA BOWL BLAST**  
**PAGES 6-7**  
First TOC Qualifier  
Kicks Off in Hawaii



**A CARIBBEAN CLASSIC**  
**PAGE 10-11**

Senior Ball Growing in Dominican Republic





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# Miracle of Respect

**W**e are in the business of guiding a sport so that anyone, anyone, feels comfortable playing – as long as they play by the rules and respect other players.

In this sport, we care not what anyone believes, or how high is their bank balance, or what they do for a living.

This is not some Pollyanna idea. We are an oasis in the middle of a very divisive culture.

The only way we remain an oasis in this situation is to be respectful.

## Editorial

Respect of others keeps nations from war and individuals from fights – whether they be physical or verbal.

We feel –strongly – that this sport allows people of very different views to step on a field, smell the grass, gaze at the blue sky and enjoy friendly – but very real – competition. The friendships we make on the field crack walls of political, religious or racial differences.

They allow us to be friends based on who we are, not what we happen to believe.

*Terry Hennessy*



By Sue Ballenger

## Recruitment Kicks Off for Second Annual 90+ Game

**By Bobby Ellison**  
**Softball News Report**

**B**e part of the second annual 90s National Championship Game at the 2023 World Championships in Las Vegas. All SSUSA registered players 88 years old or over this calendar year are invited to participate in this prestigious event.

If you are interested, meet the age requirements and live west of the Mississippi, please contact: Guy Anderson at (916) 858-1646 or email him at: [kandcoach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kandcoach@sbcglobal.net)

If you live east of the Mississippi, please contact:

Dick Anderson at (612) 788-3991 or email him at: [glorande@comcast.net](mailto:glorande@comcast.net)

For general questions, contact Bobby Ellison at the

SSUSA office: 916-326-5303 or email him at: [bobby@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:bobby@seniorsoftball.com).

The big game will be played at the Big League

Dreams Park in Las Vegas during the World Championships on Monday, Sept. 18, during the second session (Men's 65-85+). The game will tentatively start between 11am and 1pm, local time.

*Bobby Ellison is the Player and Team Representative for SSUSA and coordinates the 90s National Championship Game.*



### Heard From The Dugout

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

Mark Twain

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# Inaugural Aloha Bowl Spawning a Tradition

By Donna McGuire  
And Jeffrey Kimoto

**H**ONOLULU — While the West Coast grappled with exceptionally heavy rain and snow in early March, the inaugural Senior Softball USA Aloha Bowl experienced the usual liquid sunshine spiced with a few showers.

Twenty-six women's and men's teams, including three from the mainland, participated in the first Senior Softball-USA's Tournament of Champions qualifier held in Hawaii. Four days of play began March 2 at the Patsy Mink Central Oahu Regional Park in Honolulu.

"I thought the tournament went very well except for the rain," Tournament Director Doug Robbins said. "All the teams seemed to have a good time."

Robbins credited the field crew for excellent work preparing the fields after showers hit the day before play was to begin, and after more rains arrived during the tournament's second day.

Unfortunately, the Friday

morning showers morphed into heavy/moderate rain that lasted three hours. As a result, most pool games ended up being canceled. SSUSA used a blind draw to seed affected teams into bracket play.

Many players expressed enthusiasm about returning next year, said tournament Co-Director Jeffrey Kimoto. He received calls from mainland teams asking about the tournament's progress, as well, with some saying they plan to attend in 2024.

Meanwhile, some of the Hawaiian teams had to travel between islands, which can be more expensive than flights from the mainland. Yet they enjoyed the event, too, Kimoto said.

"They want to do it every year now," he said.

Winners qualified for the 2024 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Florida.

## Results by division:

**Women's 40+ Masters AAA:** Playing a best-of-five format, Shut D swept Touch Em All 22-4, 12-2 and 23-14. Both teams are from Hawaii.



Photos by Jeffrey Kimoto

## Shut D (HI) - Women's 40+ AAA Champions

**Men's 40+ Masters Major:** This division turned into a home run derby. Thirteen homers happened in the first five innings of the championship game alone. Shut-D 40s, which entered the title game unbeaten, defeated Oahu Grown 25-18 for the crown. Both teams are from Hawaii. The California team Unloaded won three elimination games to finish third in the seven-team bracket, which was the tournament's largest.

Imua Hawaii claiming a 21-14 title game victory over KIA'I in a game that pitted two 50+ Major teams against each other. Team Imua averaged 25 runs a game in bracket play. A 40+ AAA team, HI Heat, finished third.

**Men's 50+ AAA:** Shut-D of Hawaii dropped the first game of a best-of-three format 22-21 but rallied to win the next two games against the Hawaiians 50 team 24-16 and 27-14.

**Men's 40+/50+ Gold:** Four Hawaiian teams competed in this mixed division with hot-hitting Team

**Men's 55+/60+ Gold:** Hawaii Five-O, the division's only 60+ Major team, had too

Continued on next page



Two Hawaiian teams play at Patsy Mink Central Oahu Park



Shut-D (HI) - Men's 40+ Major Champions



# Aloha Bowl: 7 Hawaiian Teams Earn TOC Berths

Continued from previous page

much firepower for its 55+ AAA opponents. It went 3-0 in bracket play, including a 14-8 championship game victory over the Hawaiians 55+ team. The Homeboys of Hawaii finished third in the four-team bracket.

**Men's 60+ Silver:** This division ended with one of the tournament's better battles. The Hawaiians 60s AAA team rallied to tie the 808 Hawaii AA team 17-17 at the end of regulation. The home-team Hawaiians scored once in the bottom of the eighth to earn an 18-17 championship. Des Islanders 60s finished third in the three-team bracket.

**Men's 65+/70+ Silver:** Two teams from the same organization met to decide this four-team division. Oahu's Warriors Imua 65s won all three of its bracket games, capped by a 20-10 title game victory over the Warriors 70s, which had won Winter Worlds in Phoenix in November. The Hawaiians 65s finished third.



Team Imua Hawaii (50 Major) - Men's 40/50+ Gold Champions



Shut-D 50s (HI) - Men's 50+ AAA Champions



Hawaii Five-O (60 Major) - Men's 55/60+ Gold Champions



Hawaiians 60 (AAA) - Men's 60+ Silver Champions



Warriors-Imua (HI - 65 AA) - Men's 65/70+ Silver Champions

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# Here's How to Power Up Your Swing

There resides in the game of softball a veritable plethora of dissimilar setup stances, but once a hitter reaches the contact point in their swing, all the many differences in setup end and the similarities of the proficient softball swing begin. That point in the swing is the “palm-up/palm-down” hand position. In developing a more powerful and precision swing to the ball, your hand positioning and path are imperative to achieving both a swing that produces power along with hitting skill.

I prefer a pulling action with the bottom hand to initiate my swing. My top hand is employed after the pull begins, which delivers maximum swing speed and aligns the bat barrel on plane early. The purpose of having a “palm up/palm down” hand position at contact, is to allow the top hand to fire the barrel through the ball without rolling over the wrists too soon. A wrist rollover is where the top hand takes over too early in your swing, moving the top hand up and over the bottom hand producing a bat plane change, that promotes mis-hits. This technique, “palm up, palm down”, hand

## Hitting Column By Art Eversole

position allows the barrel of the bat to stay in the hitting zone longer producing a driving action of the ball that maximizes the barrel trampoline effect.

Make certain you have a proper grip (i.e., aligning your “door-knocking knuckles”). A bad grip will not allow your wrists to be as effective at accelerating the bat head for bat speed. Typically, the top hand is the dominate-power hand in your swing and is normally your throwing side hand. Your bottom hand gets the bat started and aligns the bat barrel to the incoming ball. A common mistake made by hitters is to allow the dominate top hand to take over your swing too early. This swing flaw promotes both “casting” and the barrel head rolling-up on the ball producing a weak ground ball instead of driving the ball to the outfield. Remember, hitters that break their wrists early in the swing or roll over before or at the point of contact usually windup with less playing time.

In highly effective softball swings, the top hand/forearm

supinates while the bottom hand/forearm pronates and are performed simultaneously. These movements of the top and bottom hand coupled with good body mechanics will turn the barrel behind the batter and on plane with the incoming pitch. So, the turning of the barrel to the incoming pitch plane is done with a forearm pronation and supination. This action transitions into the wrist snap (ulnar deviation) striking the ball in the palm-up/palm-down position. This classic position keeps the bat on plane and delivers a greater force.

### REFER TO THE GRAPHIC BELOW FOR THE SWING MECHANICS:

1. Begin with your back elbow up and level with shoulders forming a “V” shape with your rear arm,
2. Raise back elbow upward in a rearward stretch with the front shoulder pointing down toward the pitch as you start your swing,
3. Turn the barrel behind your body toward the catcher and then forward to meet the incoming pitch with a slight uppercut action; lead arm is straight, back arm is “L” shaped in a palm-up/palm-

down position at contact,

4. Don’t roll your wrists, but unhinge them in a forward direction staying inside the ball, then extending bat upward toward centerfield,

5. Complete swing by rolling wrists moving the bat around your body to begin the follow-through,

6. Lastly, release top hand and finish with a smooth and controlled follow-through.

Watch Julio Rodriguez of MLB Home Run Derby fame perform this swing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQe379UykLo>

Happy Hitting,

*Art Eversole has played on Major and Major Plus teams in the Northwest. Eversole can be reached via email at [rtmyboy01@gmail.com](mailto:rtmyboy01@gmail.com).*

## Heard From The Dugout

**"I ain't in a slump.  
I'm just not hitting."**

Yogi Berra





# Third Annual Caribbean Classic Grows With Three Dominican Teams Challenging Americans

By Jim Goff

Tournament Co-Director

This year's Caribbean Classic featured a repeat undefeated championship team, some interesting injuries and a surprise marriage proposal on the beach!

But perhaps the most gratifying element of this event was the entry of three local teams from a Dominican senior slow pitch league established last year as the direct result of this tournament.

Balancing the three Dominican teams was a sold-out complement of three American teams, making for a six-team competition with a satisfying five-game round-robin format. Held once again at the Barceló Bávaro Grand Resort in Punta Cana, a dozen games were played Feb. 18-19 on the resort's ball field with three more contests staged on an adjacent soccer field converted into a second field.

In the opening game Saturday morning, the new team entry in the tournament MasterHigüey bested TeamUSA-Blue 17-9, followed by another



**All three teams that represented USA in Dominican Republic on the Beach in Punta Cana.**

Dominican victory, as MasterPuntaCanaWhite topped TeamUSA-White 16-8. Would this be the year when the younger, but less slow-pitch experienced Dominicans dominated their American friends, and produced a tournament champion?

Short answer: No, as the American bats came alive, averaging 20 runs per game in a seven-game win streak to finish 7-2 against the host country's teams.

Last year's undefeated champs returned 7 of 10 players and chose Red as their color for 2023. The battle for the gold trophy would come down to the final game of the tournament pitting TeamUSA-Red against TeamUSA-White,

with the Red team winning 20-9 to complete yet another 5-0 sweep. Thus those seven players including player-manager Terry Wayne Cloutier of Kansas can boast a perfect 10-0 record over the last two tournaments.

Second place silver went to TeamUSA-White in a head-to-head tiebreaker, as both they and MasterHigüey finished 3-2, with TeamUSA-White outlasting bronze/third place Higüey in a marathon 30-27 game played on the converted soccer field on Saturday.

Fourth and fifth place would likewise come down to the tiebreaker as a 2-3 record for both TeamUSA-Blue and MasterPuntaCanaWhite was decided by Blue's 17-12 decision over the Punta Cana team.

That left Master Punta

Cana Grey bringing up the rear, as they were unable to win a game. However, they could hold their heads high knowing that they had come the closest to beating the eventual champs, losing a close one to TeamUSA-Red 16-14.

Members of the Rochester, N.Y., area "gang of five" swept the three Red team individual awards. Chet Lochman and Rich Ezell were named Best Defense and Best Offense last year, and in this 2023 edition they switched places, with Ezell anchoring the outfield and Lochman making just two outs in the five games. MVP on the Red team went to lefty-pitching, right-hitting, 55 Major-rated rookie Craig Chamberlain, who took batting practice shirtless probably to show that he wasn't wearing shoulder pads under his jersey.

Runner-up TeamUSA-White named Joe Cusenza from Michigan, Harold Evans from Ohio, and Oklahoman Gary Simpson as their Best Defense, Best Offense, and MVP, respectively.

For TeamUSA-Blue,

**Continued on next page**



**USA players handing out donations to the kids and communities of Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.**



**One of the local Punta Cana Teams that joined the games.**



## Caribbean: 3rd Annual Caribbean Classic Maxes Out With 3 USA Teams

Continued from previous page

which finished just off of the mythical medals platform in fourth place, Best Defense honors were accorded to Richard Carlson from Illinois, Best Offense to “Maine-iac” Kurt McKenney, and MVP to perennial Pacific Rim Tournament standout Drew Pearson from North Carolina.

This year’s Best Injury award (a complementary bottle of the host country’s finest rum presented at the Sunday night banquet) proved to be a hotly contested affair, with Larry Lott of Arkansas taking an early lead by going to the local hospital almost upon arrival to receive treatment for possible Lyme



**Rich Ezell (NY) bats against the Dominican Team**

Photo by Wendy Lott

disease. Not to be outdone, Jim Gagliano from New York showed up with a broken hand and a detached retina suffered while playing indoor ball back home. He seemed to have more fun than anyone just courtesy running for the champion TeamUSA-Red, even though both he and Larry were declared ineligible for this prestigious award due to technicalities: a disease is not an injury, and the injury must occur at this tournament.

That winnowed the field down to Oklahoman and TeamUSA-White manager Frank Mitchell Mamola, who will be contacting the folks at The Guinness Book of World Records about his new blood blister, the largest anyone present had seen; and Californian Katherine “Kat” Catanzarite, who attempted unsuccessfully to eat a ball that took a nasty bounce while she stood her ground playing second base. In the

end, Kat’s 22 stitches clinched top honors, as she also set a Caribbean Classic Most Stitches record. And she was back on the field the next day.

But the most touching moment of the 2023 Caribbean Classic took place during the traditional group photo shoot on the beach when, surrounded by the American players and family members, travel host and tournament co-director Tulio Ontiveros proposed to his longtime girlfriend and business partner Betza Barrios.

“I had not planned this,” an emotional Tulio said, “but I was moved by the spirit of this place and my American friends.” Those American friends wish Betza and Tulio much happiness back home in Venezuela, until we see them again in Punta Cana for the 2024 Caribbean Classic.

## Camaraderie Wins in 2023 Caribbean Classic

Softball News Report

The third annual Caribbean Classic was played Feb.

15-20 and it went nearly

flawlessly, thanks primarily to a great deal of work by Jim Goff. Of course, that should come as no surprise as the previous two went well too; and it keeps growing.

This year three USA teams (Red, White and Blue, of course) faced off against three teams from Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

We USA players with only a few exceptions were in our 60s or early 70s and the Dominicans maybe averaged mid-30s with some fellas who looked to be 50-ish, and as always they are extremely talented ballplayers. The team I was on- we wore the Red uni’s this year- went 5-0 to win it all for the second consecutive year, with a final against USA White, who came in to the final with just one loss.

As before, I believe the reason we won against the DR teams is their unfamiliarity with slo-pitch. They usually play fast or modified pitch, so their timing tends to be off a bit at the plate, and their pitchers struggle to throw strikes at times.

But truly, the camaraderie is the whole point- it’s a festival really. And the resort is beautiful as are the beaches. As my friend Ed Schell, former SSUSA Hawaii state director would

### Senior Moments

By David Weinman



**Photo by Wendy Lott**

**Steve Frank (IL) catches ball at first base.**

say- “It was very, very not so bad.”

Two ladies joined us this year - one played for the White team, the other for the Blue. Katherine from California got the Purple Heart Award- in the first game of the tournament when a wicked hard high hop caught her in the mouth at second base, and at a local hospital she received around 20 stitches.

She played all three games the next day.

*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.*



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

For more information: email [Nic@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:Nic@seniorsoftball.com)



# We're Going to Scotland and Northern England in 2024

## Softball News Report

Senior Softball USA is kicking off the 2024 International calendar with a tour and tournaments in Scotland and Northern England — and an optional add-on three days in London.

“We are in the process of nailing down the dates in June 2024, but we already have confirmation from softball clubs in Edinburgh/Glasgow and in Leeds (near York),” said Terry Hennessy, Senior Softball USA’s chief executive officer. “The clubs are excited to host the tournaments.”

The itinerary, price and more information about the tournaments is expected to be released before June 2023, according to Hennessy.

And 2023 has been a very full year for Senior Softball International Tours, according to SSUSA.

The just-completed Tour to the Caribbean garnered praise from several of the 60 folks on the trip. **(See story on Pages 10-11)**. The dates for the 2024 Caribbean Classic Goodwill Tournament have also been confirmed for February 21-26, 2024.

And the Magic of New Zealand starts with a sell-out group of 62 next week, on March 16.

Later this year, the Pacific Rim Championships resume after a four-year Covid hiatus.



**Skyline of Hong Kong City and its bay at night.**

Hong Kong is hosting the 8th Annual Pacific Rim Championships, which will be played Nov. 4-5, 2023. The United States is allowed two teams, which will travel to Hong Kong Nov. 2-9 for the tournament and a tour of Hong Kong and the surrounding area.

“We will have more information from the hosts next month,” said Hennessy, who is president of the Pacific Rim Slow-Pitch Softball Federation.

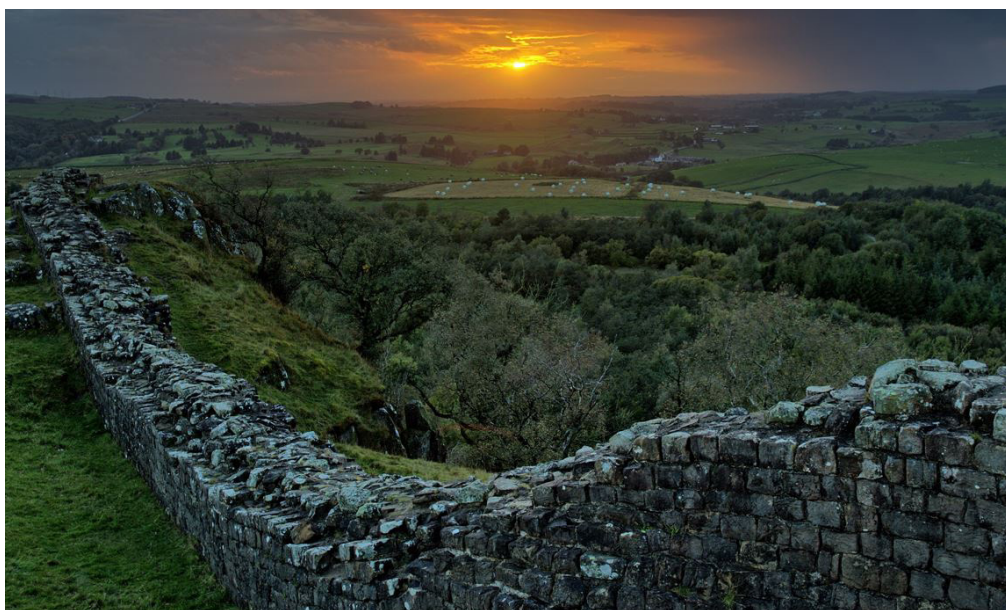
The Federation includes

Canada, China, Guam, Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan.

South Korea has announced that it is sending a delegation to the Hong Kong Championships to explore joining the federation, according to Zhaoli Chen, the Federation’s executive director.

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.com.



**Hadrian's Wall, located in Northern England near the border with Scotland, built in 122 AD by Romans under Emporer Hadrian to keep out northern 'barbarians' from Scotland.**



**Pacific Rim Slow-Pitch  
Softball Federation**



# Rules Updated for 2023; 4v5 Game Survey Results

As the 2023 senior softball season begins to unfold, there are a number of rules that go into effect this year and in 2024.

Some of the changes can be a bit confusing to even our veteran players, so here is an explanation of some of the major changes.

## Roster Age Changes in 75s, 80s:

Let's start with the age changes in the 75 and 80 divisions.

The reason for this change is a giant positive movement in our sport for players to continue to compete as they reach 75, 80 and 85 ages. We now have large 75 and 80 divisions. To give you an idea of how much the sport has evolved, when I started with Senior Softball USA in 1994, the oldest age group was 70.

The rule allowing younger aged players in the 75 and 80 divisions was enacted several years ago when there were fewer players in those age groups.

This is no longer the case, so the Rules Committee voted to reduce the number of underage players that will be allowed on 75+ and 80+ teams starting with the 2024 playing season.

This year, 75+ teams still may roster as many as five 74-year-old players. Starting with the 2024 season, no underage players will be allowed.

This year, 80+ teams still may roster as many as seven underage players, including not more than three 78-year-olds. Starting with the 2024 season, 80+ teams will be

## Covering the Bases

By Terry Hennessy

allowed up to three 79-year-olds but no younger players.

The reason for the delay in implementing the 75 and 80 age division rules was to allow players already on the team to continue playing as they age up.

The 85 underage player rule remains in effect because there is still a relatively small pool of players from which to draw.

The Rules Committee also turned down a motion to allow up to three 69-year-olds on 70+ teams. Committee members noted that 70+ rosters were expanded to 22 a few years ago to help deal with injuries or other roster shortage problems.

## 4 or 5 games?:

Almost 6,000 players responded to our request for their preference to play either:

- In a 4-game guarantee schedule for TOC Qualifying tournaments and retain the existing entry fee price, or
- Or, continue to play in 5-game-guarantee TOC Tournaments and pay an additional \$75 per team.

The reason for the survey is because the cost of TOC Qualifying Tournaments shot up about 35% last year, largely because of increased travel costs (airfares, hotels, car rentals, gas) for umpires and officials.

The actual increase in cost of the TOC Qualifying Tournaments averaged about \$150, with SSUSA absorbing \$75 of the increase.

The results of the survey –



**2022 Rules Committee with SSUSA Staff at Dinner in Sacramento, CA. Left to right standing: Rick Seifman, Ron Grassi, Dave Dowell, Donna McGuire, Don Brooks, Jerry Smith, Fran Dowell, Tim McElroy, Mark Haupt, Terry Hennessy, Stephanie Hopkins, Bill Hill. Knelling left to right: Jeremy Briggs, KC Craig, and Doug Robbins.**

in which 5,949 players and managers responded – was unusually close:

- 52.5% opted for the 5 games and \$75 increase.
- 47.5% opted for 4 games and the existing entry fee.

In response to the results of the survey of players and managers, we increased the entry fees of TOC-Qualifying Tournaments \$75. To put this in perspective, the increase costs \$5 a player on an average roster, or \$1 per player per game.

This increase begins with the Southwest Championships. The old rate will be honored for any of the entries that we have already received or for any entries postmarked Feb. 22 or earlier.

## 1-time Exemption Players

This rule has to do with short-handed rosters. Basically, teams that fall below a certain level have been allowed to add players to get back to the minimum

level of players. Under the new rule, they are limited to adding only two 1-time players (in the same skill level).

That minimum roster number is based on the number of defensive players in the division (10 players for teams 40-60, 11 players for teams 65-80, 12 players for teams 85+, 10 players for Women's 40s and 11 players for women 50 and up).

So, for example, if a 60s team falls to 8 players before a tournament, it can add 2 to get to 10 total players. If they fall to 7 players, they can only add 2 and would have to play with 9 (shorthanded).

Teams adding more than 2 one-time exemption players will play Exhibition (games will not count and they cannot win awards), or at the next higher skill level.

This rule is designed to help teams that suffer a late fallout of players right before a tournament, but still want to attend a tournament.

Continued on page 17

# Llerandi Gloves Designed for Quality, Affordability

**S**ponsor Spotlight is designed to feature our sport's major sponsors – the businesses that bring us bats, gloves, balls and equipment ... and provide sponsorships that help keep the sport affordable and fun.

## Today, we spotlight Llerandi Gloves.

Since opening his business in 2018 and becoming a Senior Softball USA sponsor in 2022, Lou Llerandi has sold more than 1,000 gloves to baseball and

## Sponsor Spotlight

softball players alike.

Llerandi coached and taught at Duluth and Norcross High Schools (GA) before retiring and coming out of retirement to start Llerandi Gloves, now based out of Texas, according to the Gwinnett Daily Post (GA). Originally a resident of Gwinnett County in Georgia, the Gwinnett Post wrote about Lou earlier this year.

A big motivator to start

his own glove company was "to cut the prices because these big-brand gloves are out of control these days... You could spend \$450 to \$500 for a glove now," said Lou in the Gwinnett Post article.

According to Llerandi Gloves' website (<https://llerandigloves.com/>) they "sell Japanese Kip - \$299, US Steerhide - \$259 and Cowhide - \$189 [and] includes name embroidery and shipping! Now you can have the big brands quality at an affordable price!"

"My Llerandi Glove is one of the highest quality gloves I've seen," said Terry Hennessy, chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA. "I'm looking forward to using it for many years."

Lou Llerandi himself adds, "we are proud to make a premium quality leather glove at a reasonable price! We not only offer custom and stock gloves... customer service is most important to us... we talk to every customer by phone."



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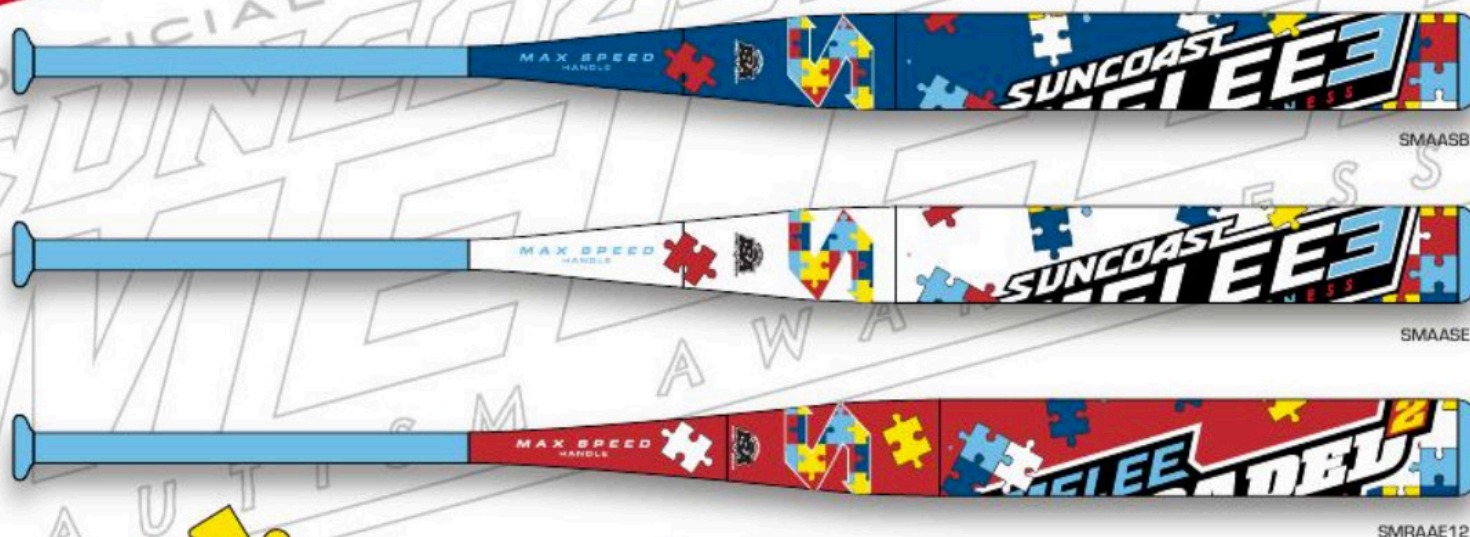
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**Barrel Type:** 13" Barrel, 1-Piece Design

**Weighting:** Balanced

**Signatures:** Mike Brock and Richard Clark

**Weights:** 34" / 25oz, 26oz, 27oz, 28oz, 30oz

**Warranty:** None

### SMAASE / MELEE3 AUTISM AWARENESS END-LOADED

**Barrel Type:** 13" Barrel, 1-Piece Design

**Weighting:** End-Loaded

**Signatures:** George Evangelista and Kenny Kibilko

**Weights:** 34" / 25oz, 26oz, 27oz, 28oz, 30oz

**Warranty:** None

### SMRAAE12 / MELEE RELOADED2 AUTISM AWARENESS 12" END-LOADED

**Barrel Type:** 12" Barrel, 1-Piece Design

**Weighting:** End-Loaded

**Signatures:** Johnny Dykes

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

**Warranty:** None

## TECHNOLOGY FEATURES...

### Max Speed Handle

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# How to Spot an Altered and Illegal Bat

**D**uring Winter Worlds in November, a Senior Softball-USA director noticed a large sticker on the barrel portion of a two-piece bat sitting in a dugout.

After taking a closer look, the director asked to speak to the owner.

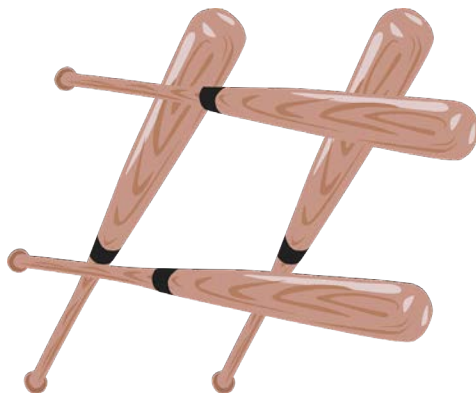
"This sticker makes the bat an altered bat," the director said. "If you want to use this bat, this sticker needs to be removed."

Rather than saying thanks for the heads up, the owner blew up at the director.

Such a reaction shows how little the player knew about SSUSA rules governing bats.

If he or a teammate had entered the batter's box with that bat, and the umpire had noticed the sticker, the batter would have been called out and ejected from the tournament. That is the penalty for using an altered bat.

A bat is considered altered when its physical characteristics have been changed. Inserting material inside the barrel, shaving the barrel, applying excessive tape to the handle, painting



## Umpire's Corner By Donna McGuire

the barrel, or applying any foreign substance to the barrel are prohibited.

And if SSUSA determines that a bat was altered to enhance performance, the owner and team manager also face longer-term consequences. For example, if testing confirms the bat was shaved, the owner would be suspended for five years and the manager for one year.

In this case, it's unclear why the player put a sticker on the barrel.

A player might use a sticker to mark ownership.

However, any ownership mark should be on the handle, knob, or end cap -- not the barrel.

A player might use a sticker to cover a crack. Sorry, but if the crack is significant, the bat shouldn't be used.

A player might use a sticker to cover a clamp mark created during the shaving of a bat. Sorry, but hiding a clamp mark is a no-no, just as shaving the bat is a no-no.

Altered bat rules are more stringent than the rules for using an illegal bat. Still, players can cost their team a big out and ejection during a tournament if their bat is illegal.

The SSUSA website outlines our bat policy and provides a list of manufacturers whose bats are approved, as long as the bats meet 1.21 BPF guidelines or carry the newer NTS Certification stamp. As of March 1, that list shows 19 manufacturers. But not ALL bats those companies make are legal.

For example, ASA/USA Softball stopped using the BPF-testing system in 2015. If you have one of the ASA or USA bats manufactured since then, and it does not have

another association's stamp on it, it is illegal to use in SSUSA play even if the manufacturer is approved.

The penalty for using an illegal bat is an out and ejection from the game. A batter is guilty of using the bat as soon as he or she enters the batter's box with the bat.

Starting November 1, SSUSA no longer will allow bats that do not carry a SSUSA logo or the words "SSUSA approved" on them. If you plan to buy a new bat this year, such as a USSSA bat that currently is legal for senior softball play, take into consideration whether you still be will able to use it after the 2022 playing season. Some, but not all, USSSA bats will become illegal on November 1.

During a discussion last year about altered softballs and altered bats, a player tried to rationalize using such equipment. He contended that every team should be able to use the best bats and softballs they can find.

No. For an even playing field, all teams should use the same game balls. And all players should use only bats that are approved for SSUSA play, as those meet specific performance guidelines.

Otherwise, instead of competing to win, you are cheating to win.

*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*

## Rosters: Avoid Rating Increase

Continued from page 14

### Get that Roster In On Time:

Rosters MUST be submitted by the end of the business day on the entry deadline day. Teams that have not submitted their rosters by the end of the deadline day will be placed in the next higher skill level for

that tournament. Managers should send rosters that include all players they intend to use at the tournament, even if the players have not registered, by the entry deadline.

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



# Another Successful Tournament

## All-Stars, Skill Contests and 88 Teams, Oh M

By Donna McGuire  
Softball News Report

Eighty-eight teams from 26 states and Canada capped their 2022 season by playing in the 2023 Senior Softball-USA Tournament of Champions in early February in Polk County, Florida.

A hitting clinic, skills competition, All-Star game and free reception preceded three days of high-quality softball. Entrants had to win the 2022 SSUSA World Championships or another 2022 TOC qualifying tournament to gain entry to this crown jewel event. That meant all teams were champions before they arrived.

After the last out was recorded during tournament play, 26 teams had claimed division championships and free quality rings from Jostens.

"Every game we played, we played as good as we could," said Galen Weinkauff, an 83-year-old Texan who was chosen MVP for the 85+ champions Main Street Pub of Michigan.

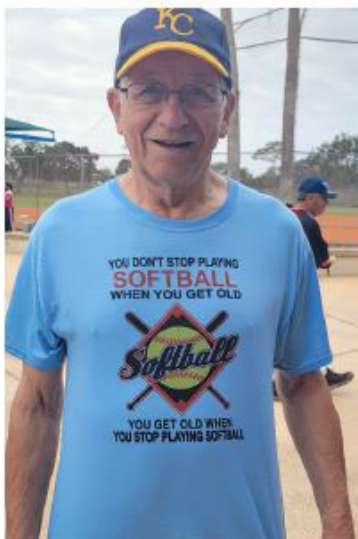
Nearly 60 players participated in the Wednesday night All-Star game, which the American team won 22-20 by thwarting a Nationals rally in the top of the ninth.

About 275 contestants flooded the Diamond Plex Softball Complex the next morning for a fun slew of skills competitions: power hitting, precision hitting, pitching and speed. Winners received their awards at the reception that evening.

That's where Dan Pitkin of the 50+ Southern Illinois

Lightning team learned he had won two awards – precision hitting, with a perfect score, and the speed title with a 14.2-second time around the bases. He earned a bat and a pair of shoes.

"Now I have bragging rights on my whole team," said Pitkin, an Illinois resident who also batted .700 for the tournament. "It was a very fun experience."

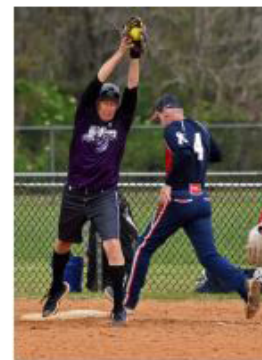


Both All-Star Teams (American & National) group photo at DiamondPlex Sports Complex



# nt of Champions for The Books

## ly!... at the 2023 Tournament of Champions



John Fournier, above and Rocco Cambareri, left, were inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame at the TOC



## All-Star Game a Thriller

By Donna McGuire  
Softball News Report

A hard-charging National All-Star team had just banded six hits in a row – four for extra bases – when a pivotal moment arrived during the SSUSA Tournament of Champions All-Star game in early February.

The offensive outburst had enabled the Nationals to trim an eight-run deficit to three, 22-19, at the Diamond Plex Softball Complex in Polk County, Fla. After trailing the entire nine-inning game, they finally were pressuring the American All-Stars, who had

made two errors and recorded only one out in the top of the unlimited-run inning.

With runners on first and second, the next batter laced a fly ball into the center-field gap. National fans roared as the lead runner scored, narrowing the deficit to 22-20. As the next runner approached third base, his coach waived him home, too.

That's about when cutoff infielder and shortstop Marvin Knowles Jr., who plays for the 40s team Smokin' Aces/American Legion Post #327 of Virginia, heard teammates yelling, "Throw it home! Throw it home!"

Aware he had little time to

react, Knowles took the throw from the outfield, pivoted quickly and uncorked a bullet. The ball bounced once before smacking into the catcher's glove. It beat the runner by three steps.

"Out!" the plate umpire said.

National players groaned.

Their next batter flew out, ending the game.

Afterward, several participants pointed to Knowles' accurate throw home as the game-changing play.

"Pretty much the momentum had shifted to their side," Knowles acknowledged. "That stopped the rally."

Continued on page 20



plex at the 2023 TOC



# All-Star Rosters Make for a Close Game

Continued from previous page

Four managers and nearly 60 players ranging in age from their 40s to 90s participated in the game, one of the favorite pre-tournament events at the annual Tournament of Champions. Each TOC-competing team selected one player for the game. SSUSA staff divide those players between the teams and assigned each team two managers.

Mike Rose of Suncoast/Adidas 55+ of Florida and Michael Encalade of Smokin' Aces/American Legion Post #327 40+ managed the American team. Jerry Ago of Fat Chops/4 Season 50+ of Massachusetts and Terry Hennessy of the Sacramento Islanders 70+ team managed the National team.

Women and the oldest men's players took the field first. After three innings, mostly 60-something players rotated into the lineup. For the final three innings, both teams substituted in their youngest players.

The players' camaraderie and competitiveness impressed Rose, who was making his All-Star managerial debut.

"That was a lot of fun," he said.

And yes, the National's late rally had him worried, he said.

"They had some of their younger players in there who really stroked the ball."

Some key hits early in the game proved very important for the American team, he said. That included a first-inning, two-run, inside-the-park homer by Ray LePage of the NorEasters 80s of New York.

After three innings, the Americans had stretched their lead to 10-2.

The Nationals pecked away. In the top of the sixth,

Nick Miller of Top Gun Phantoms 55s hit a bases-loaded triple that pulled the Nationals within one at 13-12.

The Americans responded with five runs on six hits in the bottom of the inning. The biggest blow was a two-run home run by David Pritchett of Maryland-based Extreme 40.

The Americans lead 22-14 after hitting in the bottom of the eighth, which featured home runs by Knowles and Mark Mesenbrink of the Northwest Jokes/Demarini 50s of Washington.

At that point, the Americans had out-hit the Nationals 30-19. Then the Nationals got busy. Vic Wogen of Big Hurt Softball 50/Maximum Precast blasted a two-run home run. Four other players doubled and two singled before the rally came up short.

A game summary would not be complete without mentioning a fun moment from the top of the third inning. As Hugh Brotherton of Center for Sight 85s of Florida approached the plate to bat, the public address

announcer informed the crowd that Brotherton was 92 years young.

Brotherton stopped, grinned and waved to the crowd. Then he pulled a sharp line drive toward third. Spectators cheered briefly -- until the third baseman caught the ball. Then the crowd booed.

Brotherton shrugged his shoulders.

After all, it wasn't the first time he'd made an out in his long career.

Just being in the game felt fun to him.

## TOC American All Stars

**Co-Managers: Mike Rose (Suncoast/Adidas 55, FL) & Michael Encalade (Smokin Aces/American Legion Post #327, VA)**

Micheal Bellinger	RoughNecks (40-WA)
Marvin Knowles	Smokin Aces (40-VA)
Brooke Archuleta	Damage NV (50)
Mark Mesenbrink	NW Jokers (50-WA)
Randy McKee	S. Illinois Lightning (50)
Calvin Butcher	Suncoast/Adidas 55s (FL)
James Macciocchi	Homer Lovers (55-Can.)
David Kroll	Isle Edge Truck. (55-WI)
Scott Atkin	Tiffany's (55-MI)
Ben Ramos	Manifest 55 (TX)
Steve Daize	Bandits (60-ON, Can.)
Kevin Rochon	Avalanche (60-OH)
Eddie Hrun	W.H.B. Knights (60-FL)
Marty Jenkins	Austin Wizards (60-TX)
Jim McDowell	L.I. Jaguars Red (65-NY)
Jeff Senten	TAG / Power (65-TN)
Jerry DeJongh	BJM Bomb Squad (65-IL)
Fred Hull	Bat Attitude (65-UT)
Robert Price	Electrifiers (65-TX)
Kerry Charlet	FL Mustangs 70
Jack Perveiler	Chicago Hitmen (70)
Robert Ward	NM Boomers (70)
Wayne Baker	NOVA Force (75)
Ray LePage	NorEasters (80-NY)
Robert D'Amadio	Team Rehab. (85-MN)
Frankie - Mangaoang-Bodine	Firestarter Oldies (W40-WA)
Karen Johnson	Golden Girls (W40-MD)
Karen Hunger	Kryptonite W 50 (FL)

## TOC National All Stars

**Co-Managers: Terry Hennessy (Senior Softball USA) & Jerry Ago (Fat Chops/4 Season, MA)**

Joe McDonald	GTR (40-OR)
Domonic Salamone	Rough Ryders (40-MD)
Steve Brundage	Lotempio Law(50-NY)
Russ Ramsey	Walkoff (50-MD)
Vic Wogen	Big Hurt/Precast (50-IL)
Jerry Ago	Fat Chops (50-MA)
Kurt Ortlieb	Kons Trenching (50-WI)
Jim Chouinard	Infoquest.com (55-PA)
Nick Miller	T.G. Phantoms (55-CA)
Tonny Gilchrist	BJM BombSquad (60-IN)
Mike Kemp	Levin Ameri. II (60-FL)
Freddy Helmuth	Texas Legends (60)
Dave Perillo	Ockers Co. (60-NY)
Jeffrey Leman	Arizona Blaze (60)
Taylor Branch	Full Throttle (65-AZ)
Joe Kramer	So Cal Riptide (60)
Emilio Lobato	5 O'Clock Some. (65-CA)
Craig Baumann	NOVA Force (65)
Jack Parker	Team Fire Sox (65-WA)
Rico Petrello	Hudson Cyclone (65-NY)
Dean Burrow	Los Vatos 65 II (AZ)
Tom Pasko	Jag-One Jersey Red (70)
Tom Beranek	Doc Martens (70-MI)
Ron Christian	L.I. Jaguars (75-NY)
Don Scarbrough	Bucs & Bulls (80-FL)
Hugh Brotherton	Center For Sight (85-FL)
Heidi Bowen	Stayin' Alive (W40-WA)
Louise O'Donnell	AZ Dream Team (W55)





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# TOC Skill Contest Winners Named

By Nic Francois  
Managing Editor

**P**OLK COUNTY, FL. – More than 250 Tournament of Champions players competed in four skills contests here on Feb. 2 at the Diamondplex Softball Fields. Contests include Speed (fastest running around the bases), Power Hitting (most home runs), Precision Hitting (best accuracy hitting through cones), and Pitching (most balls in a bucket).

Each contest had five divisions: Men's 40-50+, Men's 55-60+, Men's 65-70+, Men's 75-85+, and Women's. The winners of each division per contest won prizes corresponding to the contest itself.

## Power Hitting Contest:

The object of the Power Hitting Contest was to hit as many balls over the fence as possible with 10 pitches. Division winners won Miken/Easton Bats.

Winners:

Men's 40-50+: **Vic Wogen** of Big Hurt Softball 50/Draft Picks (Illinois – 4 home run hit on 10 pitches).

Men's 55-60+: **Kevin Strauss** of KC Stampede (Kansas – 4 home run hit out of 10).

Men's 65-70+: **William Ong** of Los Vatos Viejos 65 II (Arizona – 3 out of 10).

Men's 75-85+: **Robert Ward** of New Mexico Boomers 70s (5 home runs out of 10, most in the contest).

Women's: **Mariah Kautz** of Firestarter Oldies (Washington – 3 in sudden death after a tie).

## Precision Hitting Contest:

The object of the Precision Hitting Contest was to hit as many balls through four sets of cones and accurately call the last hit. A perfect score is 6 points. The winners won Miken/Easton Bats.

Winners:

Men's 40-50+: **Gordon Loukota** of Big Hurt Softball 50/Draft Picks (Illinois – 5 out of 6 points).

Men's 55-60+: **Dan Pitkin** of Southern Illinois Lightning 50 (Perfect 6 out of 6 points).

Men's 65-70+: **Ken Day** of Hudson Valley Cyclones (New York – 4 points).

Men's 75-85+: **Tom Keane** of Long

Island Jaguars (5 points).

Women's: **Beth Spencer** of Arizona Dream Team 55s (Perfect 6 points).

## Pitching Contest:

The object of the Pitching Contest was to get as many balls as possible to land in a 5-gallon bucket from 50 feet away. Contestants threw 10 balls. The winners won Rawlings gloves.

Winners:

Men's 40-50+: **Tony Schneck** of Southern Illinois Lightning (2 out of 10 in the bucket).

Men's 55-60+: **Joe Kramer** of So Cal Riptide 60 (2 in the bucket).

Men's 65-70+: **Jerry Coulter** of Team Fire Grey Sox (Washington – 2 in the bucket).

Men's 75-85+: **Erik Johnson** of FL. Mustangs (1 in the bucket winning sudden death after a tie).

Women's: **Joyce Hongell** of Kryptonite W 50s (Florida – 1 in the bucket).

## Speed Contest:

The object of the Speed Contest was to obtain the fastest running time around the bases – home plate to home plate. Bases were 70 feet and runners must touch each base. The winners won Adidas shoes.

Winners:

Men's 40-50+: **Wayne Boward** of Extreme (Maryland – 13 seconds flat).

Men's 55-60+: **Dan Pitkin** of Southern Illinois Lightning 50 (14:25 seconds).

Men's 65-70+: **Emilio Lobato** of 5 O'Clock Somewhere (California – 14:07 seconds).

Men's 75-85+: **Ron Christian** of Long Island Jaguars (15:60 seconds).

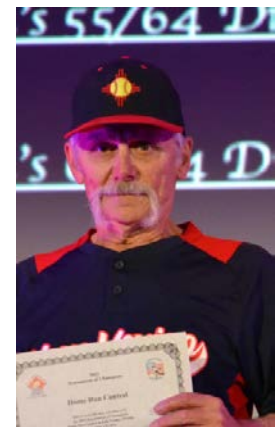
Women's: **Janet Estrada** of Cali Freak Show 40 (14:84 seconds).



Kevin Strauss, Power, 55-60.



William Ong, Power, 65-70.



Robert Ward, Power, 75-85.



Vic Wogen, Power, 40-50.



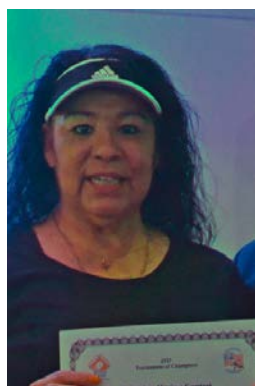
Mariah Kautz, Power, Women's.



# Skill Contests Winners and Prizes



**Gordon Loukota, Precision, 40-50.**



**Angie Ayala accepted the award for Beth Spencer, Precision, Women's.**



**Erik Johnson, Pitching, 75-85.**



**Janet Estrada, Speed, Women's.**



**Dan Pitkin, Precision & Speed, 55-60.**



**Tony Schneck, Pitching, 40-50.**



**Wayne Boward, Speed, 40-50.**



**Rawlings Glove, Prize for Pitching Contest Winners.**



**Ken Day, Precision, 65-70.**



**Joe Kramer, Pitching, 55-60.**



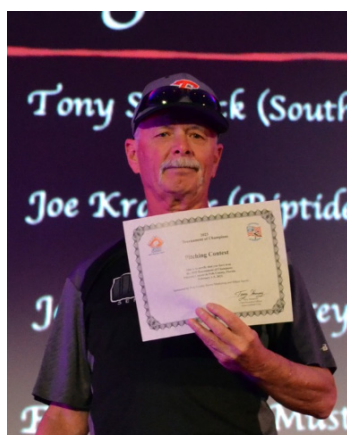
**Emilio Lobato, Speed, 65-70.**



**Easton 2023 Maricao Foster Motherload Empire Senior Bat, Prize for Power and Precision Hitting Contest Winners.**



**Tom Keane, Precision, 75-85.**



**Jerry Coulter, Pitching, 65-70.**



**Ron Christian, Speed, 75-85.**



**Adidas Shoes, Prize for Speed Contest Winners.**



# SSUSA Inducts Top Player, Manager at TOC

## Softball News Report

**W**INTER HAVEN, Fla. – The 2022 Hall of Fame manager, Rocco Cambareri, and 2022 Hall of Fame player, John Fournier, were inducted into the Senior Softball USA International Hall of Fame here during the Tournament of Champions.

The two were inducted in the field at Diamondplex on Feb. 3. Senior Softball USA only inducts one person per category into its Hall of Fame each year. Normally they are inducted at the SSUSA Annual Convention, but it was slated for Ft. Myers in December and was canceled because of Hurricane Ian.

"This is very special to me personally because I have known and played with and against both of these men in a number of international competitions, and I consider them both good friends," said Terry Hennessy SSUSA's chief executive officer. "They



**John Fournier (CA)**



**Rocco Cambareri (FL)**

are both exceptional ambassadors of our sport and of America."

John Fournier has played on some of the top teams in Southern California for almost two decades before 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 2022 Hall of Fame manager, Rocco Cambareri, 86, has managed and played on Florida Investment Properties (FIP) since 2006 and has been playing senior softball for 30 years.

Rocco was 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 country in several international tournaments, including Italy, England, Scotland, Ireland and Spain.

## Heard From The Dugout

"You're not famous until my mother has heard of you."

Jay Leno

# Meet the Senior Softball Hall of Fame 2022 Class

## Softball News Report

**S**eventeen players and managers, including pioneers of the sport, were elected into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame for 2022.

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 2022 are players, with 9 inducted, along with five pioneer players. Only three managers were inducted in this time, including one pioneer manager. Some are more than just players

and managers. One of the pioneer players, Bonnie Strang, directs qualifiers in her state and was named 'Athlete of the Year' in 2016 by the Delaware Senior Softball Association.

Here's the National Hall of Fame Class of 2022:

## Managers:

### **James Klassen**



Jim Klassen has managed the Enviro-Vac Marauders teams for over 22 years, from the 50s to

70s. He has won several National and World titles in multiple senior softball organization, including SSUSA, ISA, and Huntsman. Jim has been a driving force in building senior softball in Western and Central Canada, and will often travel far for some tournaments, such as Rock N' Reno, the sport's oldest senior tournament.

John White writes, "To find a good manager that is also a good coach and an exceptional ball player is extremely rare but Jim Klassen is all of the above. He lives for the game and is a great strategist whose quick thinking and knowledge of the game has

won us many games."

Tony Goularte adds, "Jim has built a dynasty in British Columbia with his EnviroVac teams. How he juggles playing, coaching, and dealing with umpires amazes me. He is a very compassionate man with great insight into the way to win playing the game."

### **Kurt Mahaney**



Continued on next page



# Hall of Fame: Managers and Players Inducted

Continued from previous page

Kurt Mahaney was born in Modesto, Calif., where he graduated from Oakdale High School and attended Stanislaus State University. He worked at the California Department of Corrections, serving as a lieutenant. Kurt began senior softball in 2008 and has played and coached on such teams as MTC, Five Spot, Nor Cal Longhorns and Nazzareno Longhorns, all 50 Major Plus teams.

Gary Robertson says of Kurt, "Since I had known Kurt for the last 35 years, I knew he was a good coach and player, so I looked forward to playing with him. My fellow players and I had no idea that would be the start of something great. In 55 Major Plus, he coached our team to National titles in 2012, 2013 and 2015. Then we moved to the 60 Major Plus division and five more titles would follow."

## Pioneer Managers: **Joe Stortini**



Joe, 90, was born in Tacoma, Wash., after his parents immigrated from Italy in 1914. From 1955 to 1975 Joe coached football, baseball, and taught civics at high schools in Tacoma. In 2005, he opened Joesepi's Italian Ristorante and Deli, where his customers and friends can

find him "eight days a week" according to Joe.

Since 1969, he has coached, played, and sponsored four teams - a total of 49 years with Senior Slowpitch Softball with numerous wins and medals at World and National championships.

Richard Payseno writes, "Our coach Joe has set a high standard and set great examples that we as players are very proud to be a part of in the organization."

## Pioneer Players: **Joseph Cors**



Although Joe, 79, began as a baseball player, slow-pitch softball did not come into his life until he was introduced to senior softball through a recreational league in Sacramento. At the age of 68, the Sacramento Blues, recruited Joe for tournament play. He went from AA to a Major team and then to a Major Plus team in a two-year span as the senior softball world discovered his ability.

Joe has helped the Omen 70's and 75 Major Plus teams become recognized as one of the best teams in the nation and now plays for an 80's division Major Plus team that is also highly rated nationally - The San Francisco Seals.

In addition to numerous Regional, National, and Triple Crown Championships, he has also received 11 All Tournament selections from various tournaments.

"Joe has been a good and consistent hitter over the past eight years, his outfield play is exceptional, and his throwing arm is strong and accurate. On and off the field Joe has demonstrated qualities that every team appreciates in their players," writes Tom Best.

## **Vincent Melograno**



Senior softball began for Vince in Cleveland in 2002 at the age of 57. In 2007, he was invited to play on a traveling team from Cincinnati - Joseph Chevrolet 60+ Major. Vince went on to play for various Major and Major Plus teams but has been committed to Florida Venom since 2016.

According to Rainer Marrtens, "Vince (now 73) brings many attributes to the game. Of course, slow pitch softball is all about hitting and Vince does that very well. His batting average, playing at the highest skill level of the sport (Major/Major Plus) is in the high 700s."

Robert Conrad writes, "Vince has earned 48 All-Tournament award and eight MVP awards with a consistent

.765 to .900 OBP during the timeframe."

## **Penelope Adams**



Penne's career in Women's Senior Softball began in 2004, playing in the National Senior Games with the Colorado Hot Flashes, finishing second.

Penne has participated in well over 100 tournaments, including SPA, SSUSA, and ISSA. Teams she has played on have won National Championships, World Championships, gold medals at the Huntsman Senior Games and numerous regional events. As a member of these championship teams, she has won many individual awards and more rings than she can wear.

Jamie Gowdy writes, "No matter what the association or level of competition, Penne continues to be one of the best senior women players in her age division in Colorado and perhaps the nation."

According to Ruth Fellmeth, "Penne has played with our Freedom Spirit of Florida 75-80 team for the past several years... She is an excellent outfielder and a very consistent hitter. Most of our tournaments she receives the All American award for her outstanding play."

Continued on page 26

# Hall of Fame:

Continued from page 25

## Bonnie L. Strang



Senior softball began for Bonnie when she retired in 2007 after 41 years of teaching, including coaching high school softball. She immediately reached out to her best friend, Harriet Mair, Senior Softball Hall of Fame member, who suggested Blue Chicks in Delaware. Bonnie played her first senior softball tournament with them in Maryland and was selected as MVP for the team. Wanting to play often, Bonnie played with as many teams as she could before becoming a permanent member of the Freedom Spirit of Fla.

Bonnie has participated in many major tournaments including the Huntsman Games and NSGA Games and was the 2020 recipient of the Maje McDonnell Award at the Philadelphia Phillies Phantasy Camp. As a Board Member of the Delaware Senior Olympics, she continues to direct, promote, and play softball at a high level.

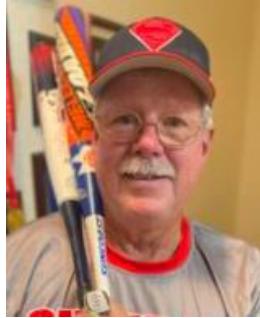
Ruth Fellmeth writes, "Bonnie is a natural leader and has been playing softball almost all her life. Therefore, she is a very experienced and a natural ballplayer. She also directs qualifying games

in Delaware which enables teams to enter the National Senior Softball games."

According to Fred Dohrmann, "She is a complete student of the game and Bonnie's athletic ability is remarkable."

## Players:

### Howard A. Brinkley



Howard started his Senior Softball Career at the age of 56 when he was recruited by the Carolina Cobras out of North Carolina. He played first base for several years before being moved to pitcher. Howard moved to the High Street Bucs out of Maryland, who he played for until he turned 70. Between the two teams Howard has accumulated numerous awards including Best Defensive Player, MVP, All American, All Tournament, and All World.

To challenge himself, Howard moved up to play with the Superior 70 Major Plus Team in the last part of 2021. He continues to enjoy softball in his 70's and hopes to be able to play in his 80's.

Pat Carey says, "Howard has earned the respect of all who competed against him and have played with him. He is a player who leads by example."

John Davide states, "His pitching has thwarted many good hitting teams allowing his team to win many tournaments. A great pitcher

in slow pitch can change and control a game. Howard has the ability to do that."

## Todd Burris



Todd, although being inducted for his playing ability and sportsmanship, is currently the coach of Dan Smith/FAI/Dudley 65s out of North Carolina. He started his Competitive senior softball career in 2010 with the Carolina A's and the Triangle Masters. As a player, he earned 18 All Tournament or All American Selections from 2010 to 2021.

"Todd is one of our sports most powerful long ball hitters and has won many a game at his final at bat. Besides the accolades he has received, many players who know him think his best attribute is his attitude. Teammates as well as opponents agree that he is an ambassador of Senior Softball."

## Tommie Clark



Tommie started playing Senior Softball in 2010 after a successful ASA/USSSA career. He plays left field and left center and is known as one of the best defensive players in Senior Softball. Over his impressive career he has received 10 All American/All World Awards, with four at the Major level and six at the Major Plus Level. Tommie has played on seven World Championship teams with the San Antonio 55's and Texas Crush Sixties.

According to John Roach, "Tommie is known for being a hard middle and home run hitter. He is an excellent outfielder with great speed and a very good arm. Consistently, he throws out runners at second, third, and home plate trying to advance. Tommie always strives to play his very best."

## Ronald Hargrove



Ron has been involved with softball since the early 1980s and started playing senior softball as a player/manager in 2009 with the East Coast/Junkies. He played with and managed the team for three years. He also played with and managed NE Storm beginning in 2012.

Ron was named Senior Softball Manager of the Year in 2013 and 2015 as The Storm were ISSA and SPA

Continued on page 32



# 2023 TOC. All-Tournament Player Selections

Congratulations to the All-Tournament selections from the 2023 TOC! First place teams earn five all-tournament selections, second place gets four, while third place earns three. Managers, if your All-Tournament selections are missing; please email in your honorees to [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

## Women's Division

Golden Girls Softball (MD): Heather Long, Karen Johnson, Jill Coleman.

## Men's 40 AAA

Rough Ryders (MD): Sean Cooper, Gary Smith, Donaye Fowlkes, Lamont Baker, Anthony Middleton.

## Men's 40/50 Platinum

Suncoast/Adidas 50s (FL): Darryl Waddy, Rob Roop, Paul Gilligan, Brad Stillwell, Jim Larkins.

## Men's 50 AAA

Fatchops/4 Season (MA): Todd Ansaldo, Edward Buonato, Jeffrey Jeanotte, John Brower, Jerry Ago.

Magic Softball (MA): Dave Tocchio, Ken Stuart, Greg Justice.

## Men's 50/55 Platinum

Suncoast/Adidas 55s (FL): Orlando DeMoss, Jerry Reynolds, Luis Sanchez, Mike Brock, Greg Neal.

Chi-Town Ballers (IL): Nate Benson, Eugene Laird, Charles Davis.

## Men's 55 AAA

Top Gun Phantoms (CA): Nick Miller, Gene Leves, Bobby Jones, Tom Mott.

Infoquest.com (PA): Matt Murray, Fred Belinskas, Bryan Kratzer.

## Men's 55 AA

Longshoremen 55 (VA): Mike McCormick, Wesley Lambert, Larry L. Kelley, Kenneth Evans.

## Men's 60 Major



**Rough Ryders (MD) - 40 AAA Champions**

Credit: Clover Tiedeken

Bandits (ON, Can.): Steve Daize, Joe Donlon, Gord Ferguson, Don Britton, Scott Sproule.

Arizona Old School 60s: Mike Reuvers, Dennis Burt, Dave Zuker, Eddie Soto.

## Men's 60 AAA

BJM Bomb Squad 60s (IN): Jimmy Weber, Jimmy Fields, Doug Arambula, Mike McCullough, Greg Blazina.

## Men's 60 AA

Club Tilt/Haus (CO): Charlie Wohr, Jose (Manny) Collado, Tom Graziano, Tom Gill, Anthony Washington.

Full Throttle 65s (AZ): Pete Dziawura, Taylor Branch, Eddy Thompson.

## Men's 65 Gold

Via Citrus 65 (FL): Richard Meltz, Mark Falvo, Bob Lehman, Mike Monnier, Mark Richmond.

Long Island Jaguars 65s Red: Frank Kiernan, Bob Santos, Frank Puglia, Jim McDowell.

## Men's 65 AA

Bat Attitude (UT): Dean Jamison, Donn Nimmer, ill Shepherd, Milton Kaha, Vardell Curtis.

## Men's 70 AAA

FL. Mustangs 70: Don Atkins, Gary DeFalco, Al Guzzo, Don Held, Ron Salyer.

## JAG-ONE/Jersey

Masters Red: Larry Berra, Frank DeLuca, Al Feigenbaum, Mike Sivilich.

## Men's 70 AA



**Bandits (ON, Can.) - 60 Major Champions**



**Top Gun Phantoms (CA) - 55 AAA Finalists**

Continued on page 29

**DENNIS  
RULLI**

BALANCED

*Dennis Rulli*

**RONNI  
SALCEDO**

LOADED

*Ronni Salcedo*

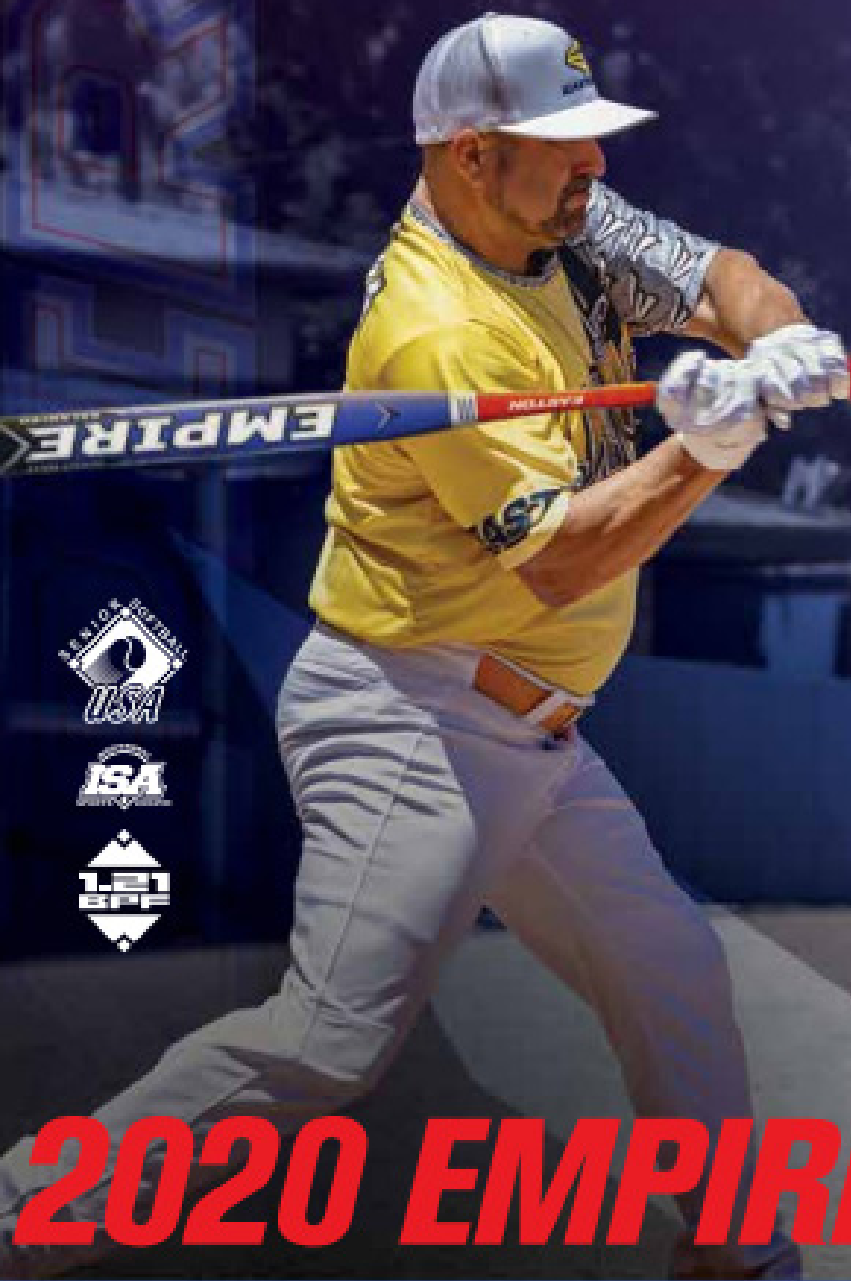
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DURABILITY**

**OPTIMIZED  
PLAYER WEIGHTING**





# All Tourneys: Past Tournament Player Selections



**Doc Martens/Ropes Courses (MI) - 70 AA Champions**

Continued from page 27

Doc Martens/Ropes Courses (MI): Gerry Lyster, Wilber Uhl, Bob Richard, Dave Young, Larry Vitale.

Chicago Hitmen 70s: Jack Perveiler, Archie Aaron, Mike McLennand, Mike Sabatino.

## **Men's 75 Platinum**

Venom 75s (FL): Jim Davidson, Gary Nicolay, Phil Farmer, George Chance, Clyde Smith.

Maverick Construction 75s (TX): Joe Flores, Ron McElyea, Gordon Ferguson, Terry Perryman.

Midwest Express 75s (IA): Tarry Cory, Larry Peterson, Ed Rastovski.

## **Men's 80 Gold**

Bucs and Bulls 80s (FL): Bill Denegar, Larry Sweet, Don Scarbrough, Paul Gawel, Bill

Helms.

NorEasters (NY): Ray LePage, Robert Killian, Frank Emick, Ron Van Denburgh.

Syracuse Cyclones 80 (NY): Frank Jacobs, Harold White, Rick Markquardt.

## **Past Tournament Selections**

2022 Southwest Championships – Las Vegas, NV

## **Men's 65/70+ Major-Plus**

Tiberworks/Suncoast (CA): Steve Hillman, Rick Littlejohn, Lud Nordahl, Chris Dayak.

2022 Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup – Reno & Sparks, NV

## **Men's 65/70+ Major-Plus**

Tiberworks/Suncoast (CA): Steve Hillman, Lud Nordahl,

Doak Whitley.

2022 Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships – Salem, OR

## **Men's 65/70+ Platinum**

Timberworks/Suncoast (CA): Ellwin Jobe, Roland Bleitz, Lud Nordahl, Rick Littlejohn.

2022 Western National Championships – Sacramento & Placer Counties, CA

## **Men's 65/70+ Major-Plus**

Timberworks/Suncoast (CA): Steve Hillman, John Cochran, Ellwin Jobe, Wayne Ross.

2022 World Championships – Las Vegas, NV

## **Men's 70+ Platinum**

Timberworks/Suncoast (CA): Steve Hillman, Chris Dayak, Tommy Burrell, Marvin Mielke, Wayne Ross, (John Cochran – MVP).

2022 Winter National Championships (2023 Event) – Polk Co., FL

## **Men's 65+ Silver**

FL. Mustangs: Frank DeLuca, Steve DeBroeck, Dave Shirer.

## **Men's 75/80+ Gold**

JAG-ONE/Jersey Masters: Joe DiFabio, Dick Lillich, Joe Romeo, Jim Siers, Frank Taparata.

2022 Winter World Championships (2023 Event) – Phoenix, AZ

## **Men's 65+ AA**

Pastimers (WA): Ed Jerry, Pete Nelson, Don Papsedero, Mark Bedolla.

## **Men's 80/85+ Gold**

Top Gun Blue Angels 85 (CA): Gary Adams, Rico Coronado, Joe DeCristofaro, Bob Fontaine, Gus Niklas.



**Venom 75s (FL) - 75 Platinum Champions**



**FL Mustangs 70 - 70 AAA Champions**



**Bucs and Bulls 80s (FL) - 80 Gold Champions**

# Money Matters: What to Keep in a Safety Deposit Box

In my continuing effort to get many of our family finances in order this year, I decided to head to our local bank to check out my safety deposit box.

Like a lot of people, I signed up for the box when we moved to town more than 20 years ago, but other than taking our passports in and out for the past few years, I hadn't really taken a look at what was inside...and yes, there was a lot of outdated junk.

One of the good things about local banks is that many have the boxes (some offer them for free if you have a few accounts or a minimum balance) and they're great for storing documents in case of fire, flood and the like.

And over the course of many years, we had not only stored our "very important" documents, but also those of some of our children and even some from our parents who passed away years ago.

So, it was time for a thorough cleaning. But the question that always nagged at me was simply this:

What documents should be tucked away in the bank's safety deposit boxes and what should be kept at home or another safe location?

For openers, the most common items put in the boxes include a wide variety of family documents, insurance papers, investment documents and what many consider to be their priceless family valuables that Aunt Martha willed to them.

I think that most people will agree



## Money Matters

By Jack Sirard

that a safety deposit box should be used to store any and all documents that you can't lose or replace. For some folks, that means your marriage license. For others, not so much.

So when you're deciding what to put into that box in the bank's security room, know that it's more than just keeping your valuables safe from thieves. You also need to consider what you could lose in a flood, forest fire or tornado.

Here are the most common things stored in safety deposit boxes:

1. Family documents. This includes birth certificates, passports and, yes, marriage licenses.
2. All property deeds and titles and mortgage documents.
3. Your various insurance policies, although in some cases you will want to keep a separate copy of them in your possession.
4. A fairly detailed list of your

personal possessions that could be needed in an insurance claim. Photos help too.

5. Any business or personal contracts.

6. Financial documents if you hold your own stock and bond certificates.

7. Those good old family heirlooms and jewelry as well as antiques or collectibles that could fit in the box.

Of course, the experts like to point out that while nearly anything of value can be stored in a safety deposit box, some things probably shouldn't go in. That includes legal documents that you might need to access in an emergency.

They note that in case of an accident or sudden death, dependents may need to get hold of such documents in a timely manner and that could be challenging if they are locked up in your bank and you are the only key holder.

In addition, the experts note that while many people like to store cash in their safety deposit boxes, it's not a good idea as you won't earn any interest and it may hint that you are trying to hide it from the IRS which could lead to future problems.

When you sign up for the box, the key thing I think is that you get to take advantage of your bank's state-of-the-art security systems. And you can sleep better at night.

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

# AARP: More Ways to Raise Side Cash in Older Age

Here's how some people do it.

## Declutter:

Maurren Stiles, 58, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, averages \$75 a month in sales on Facebook Marketplace, listing her family's old clothes and brand-name finds at thrift stores.

## Go Back To School:

When her daughter's high school asked parents to consider working as

substitute teachers in 2021, Emily Korff, 46, of Vienna, Virginia, responded. Hourly pay in her area starts at \$18.50. Job requirements vary by state and district.

## Be Tech Supportive:

In Delray Beach, Florida, retiree Larry Davis, 72, charges \$35 an hour for computer tasks such as setting up printers and installing Wi-Fi networks. Advertising in local papers targeting at older residents

helps get customers, he says.

## Get Paid To Donate:

Mary Halstrum, 54, of Winterset, Iowa, makes about \$450 a month donating plasma - the yellow, liquid portion of blood left over after platelets and other cells are removed. "It helps people," she says. "Getting paid is just a bonus." To find a donation center near you, visit [givingplasma.org](http://givingplasma.org).

**Teach Online:** Former

math teacher Peggy Chinoski, 54, of Troy, Michigan, tutors middle and high school students, charging \$35 to \$50 for half-hour online sessions. Other subjects for which there's demand for help: reading, writing and foreign languages. Volunteer at a local school to test the waters.

*Reprinted from the AARP Magazine, December 2022/January 2023, Pg. 27. By Margie Zable Fisher.*



# SUNDAY SWAGGER



*THE 2023 DEMARINI SENIOR SLOWPITCH  
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# Hall of Fame: 4 Pioneer Players Among Inductees

Continued from page 26

World Champions. During his career as a player, Ron hit 382 home runs and received 42 awards as a player.

Santo Denicker states, "Ronald is a great softball player who's offensive and defensive skills are well known throughout senior softball. He is also one of the top home run hitters in the country."

**Dana Kimmel**



Dana Kimmel has been playing senior softball since 1999. He began his Senior Softball career with Monkey Joes Big Nut Company. After coming close a couple of times, they won their first National Championship in Virginia in 2004.

Despite his many accolades, including National and World Championships and MVP/All American selections, Dana insists, "It has been a tremendous experience competing against the best players in the country. The friendships I have made along the way with fellow athletes is actually more valuable and important to me than any honor I could ever receive."

According to Joe Starr, "Dana may be one of the best and most consistent leadoff hitters in our illustrious game."

His ability to excel on both sides of the game is a skill that is very rare at this level of play and age."

**Richard Meltz**



Rich began his senior softball career in 2010 after a brief career with the New York Yankees. He started his work career and took up softball as a hobby. He began playing third base with the Hollis Appraisals team replacing Ed Rose as he graduated to the 70+ age division.

Ed Rose states, "Rich was the perfect player to keep the Hollis Team winning tournaments and taking over where I left off. He is a much bigger, stronger player and contributed to 11 championships since joining the team. He commands respect at third base and at the plate as being one of the power hitters of the game still today."

**Timothy Potter**



Over the past 18 years,

Tim has played in and won numerous World and National tournaments. He was selected to 19 All World/All Tournament teams and received five MVP awards from national tournaments.

Tim is in the Anne Arundel County Senior Softball, Maryland Slow Pitch, and the Washington Metro Softball Hall of Fames. He has spent his Senior Softball career with the High Street Bucs.

William Cameron states, "Tim is a fierce competitor for one of the tough High Street Bucs teams from the Mid-Atlantic Region. His leadership and the example he sets for his team on and off the field has been instrumental in making the High Street Bucs one of the top teams on the East Coast."

**Randy Thomas**



Randy "Doc" Thomas started his senior career around the age of 53 playing for the Rams out of Knoxville, Tenn. At the age of 61, he was given the opportunity to play with Superior Softball in the 60 Major Plus Division. With Randy in the outfield, Superior won all eight national and world tournaments that year, including the Triple Crown in Las Vegas.

Throughout his storied career, Randy has been a member of teams that have won more than 20 national or world titles. In addition to these wins and awards, Randy has had numerous MVP, All Tournament, and All American selections.

John (Johnny) Scruggs Jr. states, "Randy is a true team player and always gives 100%. He is a strong lead-off hitter, has accuracy in throwing the ball, and runs like mad."

**Terry Rhian**



Terry began playing senior softball in 2010 with the Golden Girls in Virginia, and now plays with the East Coast Gems 55 Majors and Sluggers 60. Over the course of her career, she has contributed to teams winning more than 15 National and World titles on both the East and West Coast.

Terry has been selected to 12 All World teams and 5 All National teams, including two MVP awards and one Best Defensive player award.

Coach Will Grandstaff states, "Terry is an outstanding outfielder with the speed, agility, and arm strength necessary to not only make the routine play but also make the outstanding play."





  
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Item #: 49267 34"/28oz



#### MODEL: DDSR3B2

- 12" Power Barrel with Balanced Load

Item #: 49260 34"/25oz

Item #: 49261 34"/26 oz

Item #: 49262 34"/27oz

Item #: 49263 34"/28oz





# Do You Know If Your Dietary Supplements Work?

**By Stan Reents, PharmD, Health Coach**

How do you know if a drug or dietary supplement works? The obvious answer is if a research study has documented evidence that it works.

The best research uses an inactive placebo and prevents both the subjects and the researchers from knowing who received it until after all the results have been obtained. Using a placebo like this is really important when conducting research in humans. It's because our preconceived beliefs can have a dramatic impact on our response to pharmacologic agents.

Here are several examples to illustrate that:

Caffeine has been studied for decades. A search on PubMed (the search engine for the National Library of Medicine) retrieves nearly 38,000 published scientific papers on caffeine.

Anyone who drinks coffee knows some of the effects of caffeine. But let's focus on how caffeine affects athletic performance. There's no doubt that caffeine is ergogenic in some settings. For example, in sports that require sustained effort like distance running, swimming and cycling, caffeine enhances metabolic/energy-producing processes.

In 2006, researchers in the United Kingdom evaluated the effect of caffeine on cycling performance in trained cyclists. The athletes were required to perform three 10-k time trials. Before each one, they were told that they would

## Health Column

**By Dr. Stan Reents**

receive caffeine 4.5 mg/kg, caffeine 9.0 mg/kg, or an inactive placebo, in random order. Generally, subjects are not told what they will be receiving but informing the athletes before each time trial what they were being given was the entire point of this study.

Believing they received the lower dose of caffeine, the cyclists performed better compared to their effort after receiving the placebo. And, performance after being told they received the higher dose was even better. This is exactly what you would expect, right?

It turns out that caffeine was never administered during any of the three tests. Each time, the cyclists received only a placebo. Equally surprising, each athlete claimed he experienced at least one caffeine symptom.

This power of suggestion" was also demonstrated in competitive weight lifters: They were given a placebo, but told it was an anabolic steroid. Their performance improved. Then, when they were informed that they actually received a placebo, their enhanced performance dissipated.

In yet another study, subjects participated in an evaluation of an analgesic drug. Everyone received the same drug, but half were told it cost \$2.50 a pill and the other group was told it cost 10 cents a pill. They were then

given mild electrical shocks to the wrist to measure how well the drug worked.

Those who were told the drug cost \$2.50 rated it more effective than the other group did. But, here again, neither group received a real analgesic: both received an inactive placebo.

The point is: anyone – including physicians – can be biased (fooled) by their preconceived beliefs. If you believe a drug or supplement will work, you're more likely to conclude that it does.

This phenomenon – called the "placebo effect" – can account for roughly 30% of the response to a treatment. Some researchers believe the impact can be even higher than that. It's important to keep this in mind when you watch TV ads for dietary supplements.

*Stan Reents, PharmD, is a health care professional and health/fitness coach. He created the web site [www.AthleteInMe.com](http://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."*

## Heard From The Dugout

"I've been on a diet for two weeks, and all I've lost is 14 days"

Totie Fields

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