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



## 2022 WORLDS FEATURES FIRST EVER 90+ GAME

### INTERNATIONAL CO-ED PAGES 17-18

2022 Worlds features return of the  
International Co-Ed division with 6 teams

### USA NATIONAL GAMES PAGES 17-18

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# Index

## From the Cover:

### Worlds' 90+ Game

Pgs. 16-17

### World Championships

Pgs. 16-18

### TOC Wrap-ups

Pgs. 6-9

## News Index:

Editorial.....Pg. 5

Crypto Senior Scams.Pg. 5

Senior Moments.....Pg. 11

McElroy Promotion.Pg. 11

Health Column.....Pg. 12

Fire Near Complex..Pg. 15

Caribbean Classic....Pg. 15

International Co-Ed.Pg. 17

USA Game.....Pgs. 17-18

HOF Induction..Pgs. 17-18

Jostens Rings.....Pg. 19

All-Tourneys.....Pgs. 21-26

Money Matters.....Pg. 26

Hitting Column.....Pg. 28

Rules Column.....Pg. 29

International.....Pgs. 30-31

## Sponsor Index:

BSN Sports - Official Ball  
Supplier of SSUSA....Pg. 4



Beebe Sports.....Pg. 14



Las Vegas Events.....Pg. 17



Jostens Rings.....Pg. 19



Baden Sports.....Pg. 20



Llerandi Gloves.....Pg. 25



## Bat Sponsors:

 .....Pg. 2

 .....Pg. 8

 .....Pg. 10

 .....Pg. 13

 .....Pg. 27

 .....Pg. 23

 .....Pg. 32



# Worlds in Vegas...An Event You Won't Forget

There's always been something magical about playing softball in Las Vegas.

As most Senior Softball players know, we've had a tremendous run of success in attracting teams to the desert mecca that's not only known for its non-stop gaming and entertainment, but also for the joy of just playing ball in the largest tournament in America.

This year, there are 663 teams. That's a record for us, but it's likely one that could be broken next year and again the following year.

Why?

It's pretty simple. There's a huge pent-up demand to travel and senior softball players and their families are at the forefront of the charge to get out of town to play ball and see the sights.

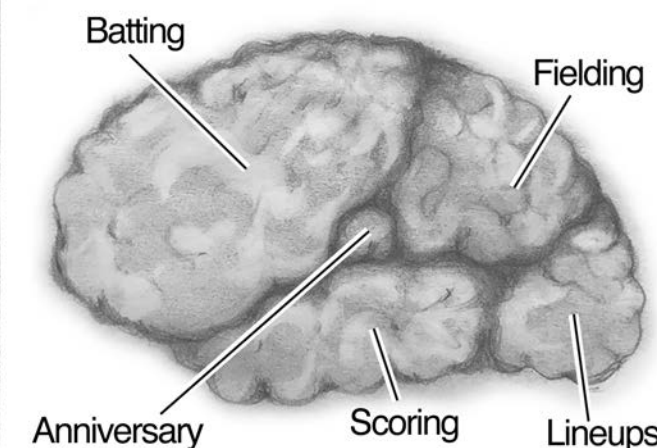
## Editorial

And while our Las Vegas tournament is our largest by far, many teams haven't been here yet and some haven't even left town to see what we have to offer. We'd like to encourage teams that haven't yet been to a regional tournament to take that first step in the coming year.

Every city where we host tournaments has something special to offer on and off the diamonds. Think of it as a mini vacation to see and do something new in 2023 when we'll have dozens of regional tournaments for all age and division levels.

Who knows? Maybe next year, we'll see you in Las Vegas or even on one of our international trips in what promises to be an experience you'll never forget.

## SENIOR SOFTBALL PLAYER BRAIN ANATOMY



By Sue Ballenger

# Crypto-Crooks: Scammers Target Seniors

The Value of cryptocurrencies crashed spectacularly in May, giving us all yet another reminder of why most everyday savers and household managers should be wary of them. But in the world of fraud, cryptocurrencies are increasingly popular, despite their volatility. Among the reasons:

- Once a person pays with a cryptocurrency, the money is usually untraceable. And that's ideal for criminals.

- As more retailers and consumers become aware of how scammer use gift cards as a nearly untraceable way to receive money, the criminals are looking for a new payment method - and crypto fills the

need perfectly.

- A general lack of understanding about how the cryptocurrency world works opens up all the types of new fraud possibilities for creative scammers.

No surprise, then, that in the past year, calls tripled to AARP's Fraud Watch Helpline involving scams using Bitcoin and other digital currencies. Many were from people who didn't realize they were being tricked into buying them.

Here are some recent examples. The bottom line advice: If any stranger or business asks you to use cryptocurrency to make a payment or transfer money, assume it is a fraudulent request and walk away. No

legitimate business demands payments this way.

**Fake Family Fraud:** "Auntie, I found this great investment, I've doubled my money, click here to invest. love you." This message came to a woman in California from what appeared to be her nephew's social media page. She clicked on the link and invested. It turned out to be a Bitcoin scam, and the \$12,000 she invested was gone. Her nephew's page had been hacked, and the criminals impersonated him to steal from his friends and family.

**Phony Job Offer:** A caller from Houston got a job offer in her email inbox for a job she could do from home. They sent her a W-9 form to fill out. Then they sent her a a

\$3,000 check for start-up fees and her first paycheck. After she deposited the check in her bank, they instructed her to transfer \$1,900 via a Bitcoin ATM to them to ensure their financial linkup was secure. Only after completing that transaction did her bank call with the news the check was fake. The \$1,900 in Bitcoin was impossible to trace.

*Reprinted from the AARP Bulletin, July/August 2022, Vol. 63, No. 6, Pg. 22.*



	TEAM	Retail
ADULT SHORT SLEEVE	\$32 <sup>50</sup>	\$39
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# Final Qualifiers of 2022 Season Gives Berths to Worlds and 2023 TOC

## New Complex Dazzles at Southern Champs

By Donna McGuire  
Senior Softball Report

New turf fields, mild weather and Southern hospitality greeted teams from nine states that arrived in Dalton, Ga., to compete Aug. 12 to 14 in the SSUSA Southern Championships.

This marked the event’s first year in Dalton, where teams got to play at the newly opened Riverbend Park Softball Complex run by Whitfield County Parks and Recreation. All four fields are fully turfed with a Georgia product designed to stay cooler and last longer than other sports turf.

This year, players didn’t have to worry about the heat. Temperatures in the 80s and occasional clouds made for perfect playing conditions. Even more than 2 inches of rain that fell less than 48 hours before play began had no negative impact on the fields.

“Please have more SSUSA tournaments here,” one player pleaded as he left the park on the final day.

Many other players expressed similar sentiments.

Five men’s teams and one women’s team earned berths in the 2023 Tournament of Champions by winning their brackets.

The 50 Shades women’s team from Indiana completed



50 Shades Women's Team (IN) W 50 Gold Champions

an undefeated run through pool and bracket play in the **50+ Gold** division, culminated by a 15-5 championship game victory over the Dreamgirlz 50 of Virginia. Regroup & Reload of Texas finished third in the three-team bracket.

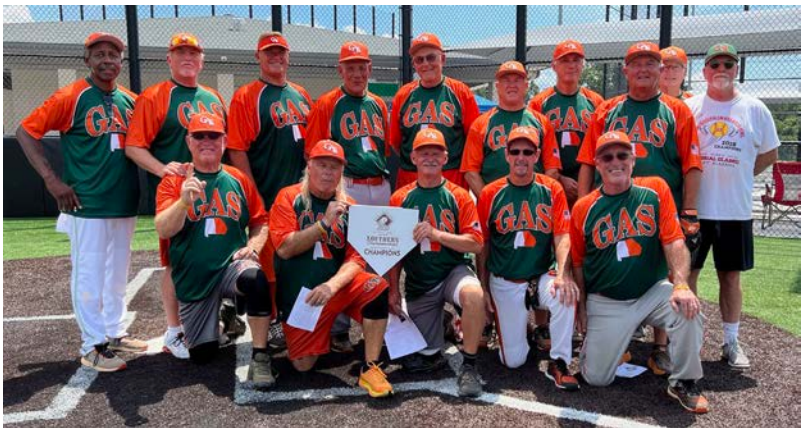
Allied Tool/LSR/Father Time of Kentucky lost only one game enroute to winning the three-team men’s **50+ Major** division. Big Daddy’s Softball of Georgia inflicted that wound with a 21-13 defeat of Allied in Allied’s first bracket game. Allied came back to double dip Big Daddy’s 19-18 and 17-11 in the title games. Duty Calls Seniors of Florida finished third.

In the men’s six-team 50/55+ Gold division, the **50+ AAA** team United Softball of Alabama also lost only one game all weekend, and that came in pool play. After bracket play began, United posted convincing victories of 13-3, 15-4 and 21-6. Montgomery Swarm, a **55+ Major** team from Alabama, finished second. Roof Masters, a 50+ AAA team

from Alabama, placed third.

In the men’s three-team **60/65+ Platinum division**, Monster Softball 60 of Mississippi lost its first championship game 25-14 to the Texas Crush Sixty Fives but rebounded in an exciting “if” game to edge Crush 18-17. Third place went to DT Express 60 of Georgia.

Georgia Alabama Seniors, also known as GAS, did not lose a game in winning the three-team **65/75+ Gold** division. GAS defeated The Grind.com of Tennessee 20-11 in the finale. The oldest team at the tournament, the Major Plus Venom 75s of Florida, finished third but impressed many who watched them play.



Georgia Alabama Seniors/GAS Softball (AL) 65/75 Gold Champs

“They are something special,” one opponent said.

Four teams competed in the men’s **60+ AAA** division, which Darrell Harris & Associates won with a 6-0 record. Its closest game was a 19-17 win over Mobley Brothers Roofing of Tennessee in pool play. Otherwise, no team came close. Darrel Harris capped its tournament with a 19-7 victory over Mobley in the title game. The Southern Boys of Georgia finished third while playing as a 60+ Major team.

## 4 Teams End Undefeated 5-0 in Northern Champs

Four teams compiled unbeaten records while winning titles during the SSUSA Northern Championships played Aug. 18 through 21 in Lansing, Mich.

Continued on next page

## TOC Wrap-up: Southern and Northern Champs Give 14 Berths to the TOC in 2023

Continued from previous page

Three of those teams entered bracket play as their division’s top seed. All four finished 5-0.

Overall, eight of the 32 teams that entered the annual event earned berths to the 2023 Tournament of Champions set for early February in Polk County, Florida.

A year ago, the Chi-Town Ballers of Illinois won the **50+ AAA** division. This year, they played 50+ Major and won again. Chi-Town defeated Michigan/Showtime 16-13 after losing the first title game to Showtime 17-6.

In the seven-team 50+ AAA division, top-seeded and unbeaten Crawford Contracting of Michigan won the crown over second-place Team OG of Michigan. Dayton Legends/22 Softball of Ohio finished third.

Five teams competed in the **55+/60+ Gold** division but none of the competitors could defeat Doug & Dan’s Auto Care of Michigan. Doug and Dan defended its 2021



Chi-Town Ballers (IL) 50+ Major Champions at Northern



Avalanche (OH) 55/60+ Silver Champions at Northern

**60+ Major** title by edging top-seeded Tiffany’s of Michigan 14-13 in the 2022 championship game. As the top-finishing **55+ AAA** team, Tiffany’s also earned a TOC berth. Lake Shore Contracting of Ontario, Canada, placed third.

Avalanche, a **60+ AAA** team from Ohio, put together the tournament’s most impressive run in the **55+/60+ Silver** division. The unbeaten Avalanche averaged 19 runs a game, posted an average victory margin of 13 runs, and defeated Jackson Merchants of Michigan 21-11 in the championship game. The Michigan Lumberjacks 60s finished third.

Another unbeaten, top-seeded BJM Bomb Squad of Illinois, won the **65+/70+ Gold** division with a 12-8 title game victory over Life Guard Advisors of Ohio. Life

Guard won three elimination games to reach the title bout. Motown Stars 65s finished third.

MP Components/Bomb Squad of Michigan repeated as the **65+ AA** division champions. MP beat the top-seeded Region 65s 12-4 in the title bout of the three-team division. Shannon Fence/CPOA of Ohio finished third.

Doc Martens/Ropes Courses of Michigan defeated the Ohio Silverados 17-9 and 14-10 to win the two-team **70+ AA** title.

## First Ever Team From Wyoming Plays in Rocky Mountain Champs

Though lightning and rain hampered some games during the Rocky Mountain Championships, teams from 17 states enjoyed otherwise excellent weather during four days of ball at the 12-field Aurora Sports Complex.

Some mornings, sweatshirts even appeared on fans and players alike.

The tournament featured a tweaked format this year, with the 65+ and older divisions playing Thursday through

Saturday. The 60+ and younger teams played Friday through Sunday.

Lightning delays and rain cancelled some pool games Friday night and delayed other games into Saturday. On Sunday afternoon, lightning paused most championship games until a downpour washed them out. A few divisions finished before the storm. In others, the remaining unbeaten bracket team was awarded a title and berth to the 2023 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Florida.

The geographically diverse 83-team field included Senior Softball USA’s first-ever team from Wyoming, a 50+ AA competitor named Team 307. As some might guess, 307 is the area code for Wyoming. All of Wyoming.

Host Colorado boasted the tournament’s most entries with 18. Texas sent a whopping 17 teams. Missouri, New Mexico, Utah and Nebraska also were well represented with at least five teams each. Other teams hailed from Nevada, Kansas, Minnesota, Washington, Iowa, Arizona, California, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

In addition, one **50+ Major** team, Walkoff, came all the way from Maryland.

Walkoff mimicked its name by winning its second bracket game with a walk-off home run. That three-run shot fired up the team, which went undefeated in the seven-team division. Walkoff capped its tournament with a 12-10 championship victory over Elevated 50s of Utah in a rain-shortened game. Elevated, which lost its first bracket game, won four elimination

Continued on page 9



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## TOC Wrap-up: Maryland 50+ Team Travels to Colorado for TOC Qualifier

Continued from page 7

games to reach the finals. Texas Steel finished third.

Rain left the **50+ AAA** championship game tied. Damage of Nevada won the crown as the undefeated bracket team. The Persuaders of Kansas won three elimination games Sunday to reach the championship game. P.C.S./Minnesota Lumberjacks 50 placed third in the 11-team bracket.

Six teams vied for the **50+AA/50+AAA** title. After lightning and rain erased Friday's pool games, a blind draw seeded teams for bracket play. KC Stampede of Missouri drew "1" out of a ball player's hat and then played like it deserved that top seed. Stampede won every game and defeated the Bootleggers of Colorado 11-7 in the finale. EXT of Texas finished third.

The unbeaten Texas Bulls were decaled winners of the three-team **55+ Major** division after rains arrived during the team's title game against ManCave of Texas. Alliance/Scrap Iron 55 of Colorado took third.

Legacy Sports USA defeated Texas Crush 60s 22-7 and 18-3 in a best-of-three format to win the 60+ Major Plus title.

Rain also interrupted a **60+ Major** championship game that was tied 11-11. Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder earned the title as the only defeated team in bracket

play. Sea Glass of Arkansas finished second after a strong run through the elimination bracket. Minnesota Premier placed third in the seven-team division.

In the 11-team **60+ AAA** bracket, the Mountain Men of Utah went 0-2 in pool play and were seeded eighth entering bracket play. Then they reeled off wins of 20-19, 10-7, 26-13 and 13-10 to reach the title game, which they were leading when the rain came. The Mountain Men were declared champs. Minnesota Thunder took second. Texas Legends finished third.

The top-seeded and unbeaten Austin Wizards won the six-team **60+ AA** division with a 11-10 title game victory over the Texas Tornadoes. Club Tilt/Haus of Colorado finished third.

Fourth-seeded BlueSpeed AV of Missouri did not lose a bracket game in winning the six-team **65+ Platinum** division. BlueSpeed defeated the Houston Fire 11-9 in the finale. Houston had won four elimination games to reach the title tilt. Scrap Iron High Octane took third.

Fierce Firearms 65 of Utah won the five-team **65+ AAA** division by edging



Houston Fire 65+ Platinum Finalists at Rocky Mountains

top-seeded Carriage Homes of Arkansas 15-14 in the championship game. The Utah Coyotes finished third.

In the three-team **65+ AA** bracket, the Electrifiers of Texas defeated Duke City Dynamite of New Mexico 27-14 for the championship. The Scrap Iron Diamonds 65 team finished third.

Eleven teams battled in the **70/75+ Gold** division, which was won by the KC Kids 70s, a Major team from Missouri that played 11 games in three days. After losing their second bracket game, the KC Kids won seven in a row and double dipped the AAA team Texas Rattlers 12-6 and 14-9 for the crown. As the top-finishing AAA team, the Rattlers also earned a TOC berth. The USA Patriots of Oklahoma finished third.

The 75 Scrap Iron Diamonds won the three-team

**70/75+ Silver** division by double dipping Not Dead Yet of Kansas 17-7 and 6-3. As the top-finishing AA team, Not Dead Yet also received a TOC berth. R & D Leverage of Missouri finished third.

Scrap Iron Gray Berets Base Force defeated the Antiques of Kansas City in a best-of-three format for the **80+ AAA** title. The Gray Berets won 14-5 and 19-9.

## Heard From The Dugout

"Someone's got to win, and someone's got to lose. Just make sure you gave it your best."

Yogi Berra



Fierce Firearms 65 (UT) 65+ AAA Champions at Rocky Mountain





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## The Same Game Can Lead to New Experiences

By Dave Weinman  
Senior Softball News  
Contributor

Even though I have played a “shipload” of softball and baseball in my life, I keep seeing and hearing new things. Here’s a sampling:

In a game in Pompano Beach this past winter, one of my teammates hit one of those little spinners toward the pitcher, you know the ones where everyone yells “let it go foul!” Well, this one rolled right back up to the wooden batting plate there, nestled comfortably against the wood but in fair territory. Thus, we saw a base hit that traveled the minimum possible distance (0 feet, 0 inches), with an exit velocity of approximately minus-one miles per hour.

At a AAA minor league game this spring in Jacksonville, Fla., I saw the batter from the Gwinnett Stripers get hit by a pitch - and the ball went right into his shirt, between the buttons. He turned toward the stands, unbuttoned his jersey, and handed the ball to the ump before trotting to first,

apparently unhurt.

We have popularized the term “frenemies” here in the Buffalo/Western New York area. There are several senior leagues around, on different nights or mornings, so Paul for example is my teammate on Wednesday night but my opponent on Saturday morning. I put the emphasis on the first syllable personally. So, I find it’s nice to be supportive. As in, “Paul, better save yourself for Wednesday, these Saturday games don’t matter. What with that bad knee and all.”

On the other hand, don’t you love the teasing that

sometimes goes on? Like when that one guy on your team (isn’t there one on every team?) is high-stepping his way towards home and someone yells, “Run Forrest, Run!”

If you don’t think I’ve seen some ball, here’s where I’ve played or will play in 2022: Hawaii (twice), Florida, Dominican Republic, Prague, Budapest, Lansing MI, West Falls NY, Cheektowaga NY, Syracuse NY, Akron OH, Erie PA, Meadville PA, Rochester NY, Las Vegas and St George UT. And guess what I’ve seen everywhere I go? Old and young people, men,

and women, enjoying a ball game. Being outside, running around, laughing, applauding, explaining, making excuses... making friends.

Here are a couple of my “Highs and Lows” of the game. Have you noticed how you can go from the mountain top to the valley floor in a nanosecond sometimes? Bill Buckner was a great player, and led the league in batting one year, but gets remembered for missing one lousy ground ball. I hit into one lousy triple play- so what? (Words you don’t want to hear the next inning- “OK, who made the last three outs?”)

I heard an ex-major leaguer say this on TV recently: “If baseball hasn’t made you humble, it’s about to.”

I think that applies to a lot more than baseball.

Until next time, keep on enjoying softball and life my friends!

*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.*



## Tim McElroy Named Eastern VP

### Softball News Report

Sacramento – Senior Softball USA has named Tim McElroy, national director from Frederick, Md., to a newly created position of vice president/East.

McElroy, 52, has been in the sport for 35 years and with Senior Softball USA for 22 years. He is also a director for SSUSA’s sister organization, ISA.

“Tim has done about everything in the sport, from playing to managing to umpiring to

directing,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA’s chief executive officer.

“In the past several years, he has built the 40s program throughout the East and is helping to build the Umpire Corps in that region,” said Hennessy. “He is instrumental in building the whole program of Senior Softball in the Eastern United States.”

McElroy has been a lead tournament director in several of the largest SSUSA tournaments and runs several national qualifiers

from Maryland to Florida.

“I love the game and this company,” said McElroy, “so I was speechless when Terry and Fran approached me with this opportunity. I wouldn’t be in this position without the support of so many players, umpires and fellow directors. My goal is to thank each of you by making SSUSA a little better each time we hold an event.”



Tim McElroy: SSUSA's New Eastern Vice President





# Exercises to Increase Core Strength

By Stan Reents, PharmD,  
Health Coach  
Senior Softball Report

In my previous column, I explained that improving core strength doesn't automatically translate to better sports performance.

Nevertheless, maintaining core strength is clearly beneficial for back health and your ability to do routine tasks. Here are several core strengthening exercises I like and don't like:

### SPINE TWISTS:

Never do any exercise where you rotate your upper torso while your hips are immobilized.

### PLANKS:

Planks have been popular for several years. However, they are not universally endorsed. I don't recommend them for two reasons:

First, a sustained contraction of the long, thin muscles of the back can deplete the oxygenation of these muscle cells. This is based on research from Stuart McGill, an expert on back exercises.

Second, planks are a motionless exercise. While isometric exercises like planks

can increase muscle strength, strength is only improved at that specific anatomical position. Because Pilates exercise involves movement, I think it is a much better choice for improving core strength.

But, Pilates exercise requires an apparatus known as a Reformer. More than likely, you don't have one at your house. Here are some alternatives:

### WAIST BENDS:

While seated in a chair, bend forward as far as you can without causing pain in your back. Then, straighten up to a normal sitting position. Do this 10-15 times in a row. Work up to 20-30 reps. It might not seem like much, but your upper torso provides plenty of weight for your back muscles to lift. This exercise may also improve the flexibility of your spine, which can be helpful in older adults and in people who spend a lot of time sitting.

### KNEE LIFTS:

Stand with your rear-end against a wall (to help maintain your balance), and put your hands behind your head. Lift one foot off the

ground (bend your knee). Try to touch your elbow on that side to your knee, then put your foot back down.

Start with 10-15 reps and work up to 20-30 reps. You can do one side and then the other, or, you can alternate sides with each rep. These are like crunches, but I feel they cause less stress on the lower back. They also exercise the hip flexors better than crunches. These are the muscles that connect the upper leg to the pelvis and are responsible for lifting your feet when you walk and run. Hip flexors are often very weak in older adults, producing a

shuffling gait and, in turn, causing people to fall and break their hip.

### GLUTE BRIDGE:

Lie on your back with your feet flat on the floor. Then, lift your hips up. At this point only your feet and your shoulders are touching the floor. Hold this position for no longer than 3-5 seconds and relax. Do 8-10 reps.

### INCHWORM WALK:

Stand with your legs together and as straight as possible. Bend down and put your

hands on the floor. Walk your hands forward until you are in a push-up position, then walk your feet towards your hands and repeat. This one is tough, so initially only do this exercise for 15-30 seconds.

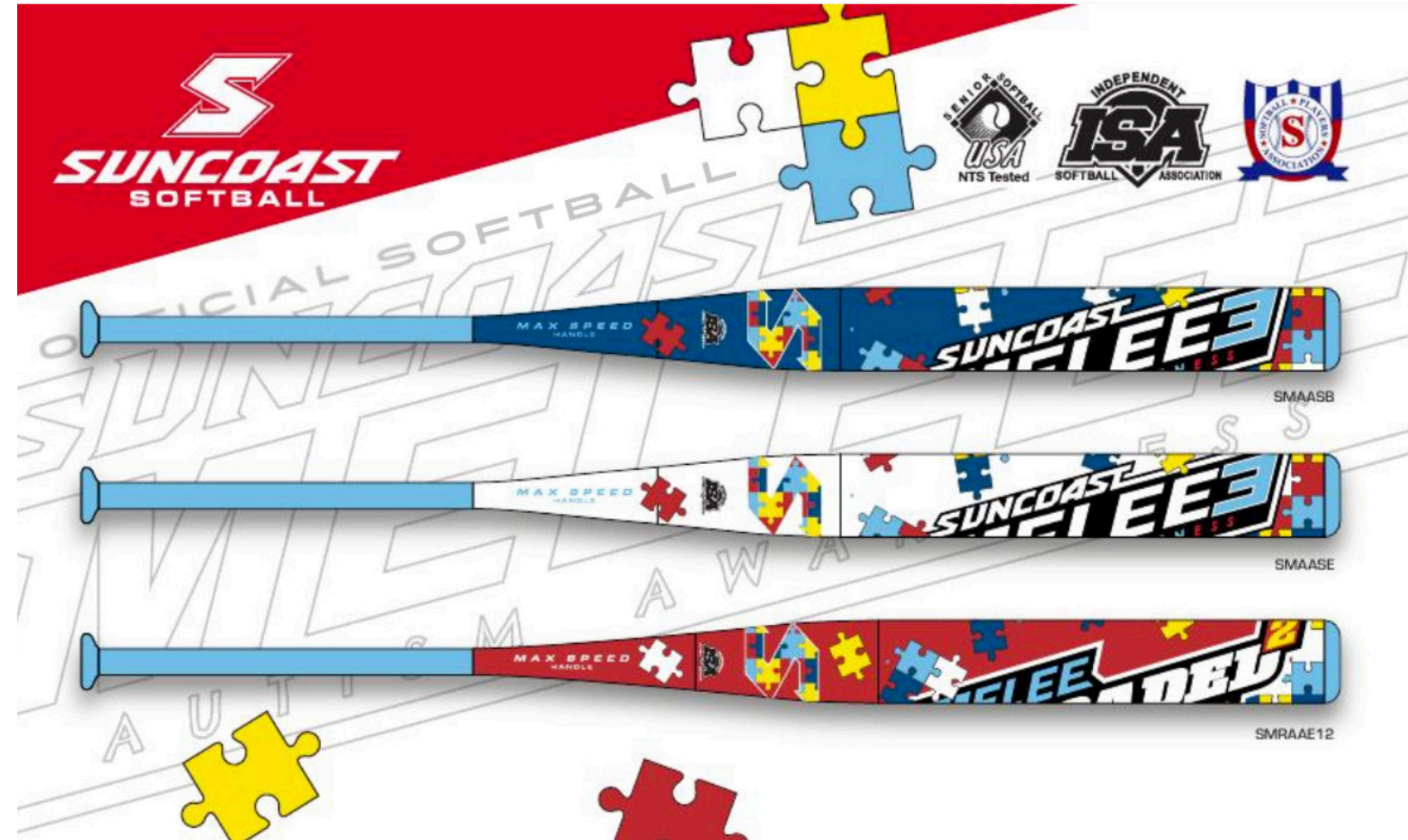
For more core strengthening exercises, here is a good resource: "Developing the Core." It's published by Human Kinetics for the National Strength and Conditioning Association. [https://www.athleteinme.com/Review\\_Details.aspx?id=1651](https://www.athleteinme.com/Review_Details.aspx?id=1651)

Stan Reents, PharmD, is a 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

"If I knew I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself."

Mickey Mantle



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**Warranty:** None

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Fall 2022 Edition

# Active, Deadly Fire Near Southern CA Championships Complex in Hemet

**Softball News Report**  
**By Nic Francois**  
**Managing Editor**

**H**EMET, CA – The Fairview Fire, which started Labor Day and has already grown to more than 5,000 acres, is near the Diamond Valley Lake Sports Complex here.

Fortunately, a change in wind is keeping the fire away from the complex, which was the centerpiece facility for the Southern California Championships this year.

However, the fire is fast-growing and only 5 percent contained, so officials are crossing their fingers that the wind does not change and that fire fighters regain

control of the blaze. Record high temperatures are hampering their efforts.

Hemet is one of the host cities for Southern California State Championships. The photo at right was taken from the Diamond Valley Lake Sports Complex and shows the glow of the fire in the background.

The complex is less than a 10-minute drive West of the fire and mandatory evacuation zone.

The destructive fire has already destroyed several buildings, taken the lives of two people, and spread over 4,000 acres overnight according to Cal Fire.

The cause is still under investigation.



Photo by Jerry Smith

Fairview Fire behind Diamond Valley Complex

## Caribbean Classic 2023: SSUSA Goes Tropical

**Softball News Report**

**See Related Story on Pg. 30**

**T**he entry deadline for the third annual Caribbean Classic International Goodwill Tournament is fast approaching; deposits and reservation forms (available on the SSUSA website) are due by the end of October.

Enough entries for this draft format tournament already have been received to form two Team USAs, the same number that played in the 2022 edition. However, the tournament will be expanded to three Team USAs if needed to meet demand.

This combination tournament and all-inclusive vacation will be Feb. 15-20, 2023, with additional nights available beyond the five-night package.

The tournament will

return to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic at the beautiful Barceló Bávaro Palace Resort with its manicured ball field located just steps from room accommodations and half-mile long beach.

“The beach comes in handy for nursing any foot blisters or callouses formed from playing ball,” says Tournament Director Jim Goff. “I like to walk the beach barefoot in the morning before the games begin; the sand and salt water are better than any foot bath for getting my feet ready to play.”

“Then at night,” Goff adds, “I retire with my wife to our private hot tub to soak the muscles while spending quality time with her.” Each room is equipped with

such a tub. The American teams will take on two local Dominican teams and possibly a third team composed of players from Venezuela, Colombia and Canada. SSUSA is actively seeking players from our neighbor to the north, while Tournament Co-Director Tulio Ontiveros from Caracas, Venezuela is recruiting participants from South America.

“Slow pitch is still relatively new to Latin America,” Ontiveros said, “and in Caribbean Classic I and II, one of your Team USAs has managed to win the tournament, but we are practicing and even starting our own senior slow pitch leagues in Punta Cana and Caracas with the goal of winning Caribbean Classic III in 2023.”

“With that friendly gaunt-

let thrown down,” Goff says, “and possibly six teams in competition, we will probably play a five-game round robin to see who takes home the gold plaque. No matter the result, it’s going to be fun.”



**Two trophies for the winning team: One official and one improvised from local material!**



First Ever 90+ Game, USA Game, HOF, and International Co-Ed at Worlds

World Championships Set to Break Senior Softball and World Records

Record Breaking, First Ever 90+ Division

**Softball News Report**

**L**AS VEGAS – For the first time in the history of softball, two 90s teams will compete here in a single game during the World Championships.

The East 90s play the West 90s at 12:30 on Monday, Sept. 19 at Big League Dreams during the second session of the Worlds.

“This game marks a momentous time in our sport,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA’s chief executive officer. “A short 25 years ago, the oldest group competing in national tournaments was the 70 division.

“What it means for thousands of younger players is that they can look forward to playing well into their golden years – and enjoying the sport we love.”

This is much more than a game, according to SSUSA: “This is an inspiration for

90+ Game: Western Team		90+ Game: Eastern Team	
Manager: Guy Anderson (CA)		Manager: Dick Anderson (MN)	
Coach: Dominick Greco (TX)		Coach: Hugh Brotherton (FL)	
Bill Altman	TX	Ray Bosetti	PA
Phil Watkins	TX	Bobby D'Amadio	FL
Roland Stiarwalt	CA	Dave Goldberg	MN
Roe Kennedy	OK	John Gratzek	FL
Al Lenski	TX	Bobby Johnson	FL
Warren Wood	OK	Roland (Chuck) Johnson	WI
Jose Perez	OK	Norris Kruse	MO
Rocco Cambareri	FL	Dwight McVickers	FL
Robert McElrea	WA	Roger Schroder	IN
Alonzo "Smiley" Trevino	TX	Dick Skinner	MO
Eloy Solis	CA	Mike Smieja	MN
Raymond Everingham	CA	Henry Smith	IN
Donald Fields	CA	Fred Swenson	MN
George Windle	TX	Joe Sykes	TN
Jay Lavarney	TX	Willie Wood	FL
Eldon Brast	TX	Donald Deaton	TN

thousands of players – and proof that life can be fulfilling and fun for decades longer than previous generations enjoyed,” said Hennessy.

Many of the players are being drawn from the 85 Division – and some from the older players on 80s teams. But other players in their 90s are coming in just for this game.

The oldest player to grace the field in the game will be Mike R. Smieja, age 93, from Minnesota.

The players come from the elder statesmen of the sport from 11 states. Dick Anderson from Minnesota and Hugh Brotherton from Florida will lead the East 90s and Guy Anderson of California and Dominick Greco of Texas will head up the 90s West squad.

Anderson and Brotherton have been instrumental in promoting the idea of a 90s

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Bobby Ellison was given the task of coordinating the recruitment of 90s players for the first 90s game in the history of the sport. Here is an insight into how it came together and what it meant to him.*

**By Bobby Ellison**  
**SSUSA Player/Team Representative**

Being the 90's National Championship Game coordinator has been a challenge and an eye-opening experience

One huge challenge was finding and contacting SSUSA players who meet the age requirement to participate in the 90's National Championship Game. Searching the database of all present and past 85 teams and checking their rosters for eligible players was my first step in finding players.

Then, I made a list of all eligible player to be contacted. I thought contacting eligible players would be a breeze.

It wasn't.

Many of the 90's not only do not check their emails on a regular basis, but they also don't even have an email

address or computer. Thirty percent of eligible players had to be mailed, and many calls were made.

My eye-opening experience began when I started talking to players on the phone. Enthusiasm, excitement, and anticipation were a few of the emotions expressed by the 90's over the phone.

One player said that he was going to have his great grandchildren attend the game. Another said he was going to call his friends and family. Another player put me on hold to use the restroom because he was so excited.

And many who could not attend because of personal injury and health reasons for themselves or loved ones. But they expressed their happiness about SSUSA sponsoring a 90's National Championship Game.

I was so monumentally impressed by the players who expressed being honored, humbled, and blessed to be part of the first SSUSA 90's National Championship Game, I booked my flight for this prestige event.



The Worlds Again Shatters Record: Largest Tournament in the Country

**Softball News Report**

**L**AS VEGAS – The largest slowpitch softball tournament in the world – the Senior Softball World Championships – set another record with 663 teams.

This year features a return of the International Co-Ed Division, 18 US National Games, a very special game featuring the first two 90s teams in the sport (See related story on Page 16), a Hall of Fame induction in the first session – and many of the largest divisions in each age and skill level of Senior Softball.

“We expect 663 teams to play this year in The Worlds,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA’s executive director. “The previous record was 650 teams.”

The Men’s 55 and 60 age divisions will play Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 15-18, while the Men’s 65 through 85 age divisions continue Monday-Thursday, Sept. 19-22. The Men’s and Women’s 40 age divisions play Friday-Sunday, Sept. 23 - 25; while the Men’s 50 age division play Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 and the Women’s 50-55 play Friday-Sunday, Sept.30 - Oct. 2. International Co-Ed Teams play Oct. 1-2.

The 663 teams in the WMC translate to more than 20,000 people, who will infuse more than \$30 million into the local economy. Teams from 40 states, Canada, Guam and Germany will be competing for the title of the largest softball tournament in America.

Las Vegas Events, the Title Sponsor of the 2021 Worlds, has been instrumental in providing the necessary support to create the largest senior softball tournament in the world.

“On behalf of Las Vegas Events, I’d like to congratulate Terry Hennessey, Fran Dowell and their staff for another excellent job in putting together the Senior Softball World Championships,” said Dale Eeles, LVE’s vice president

Continued on next page

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# Worlds: Las Vegas Events Supports Senior Softball Players and Teams

Continued From Previous Page

of event development. “With more than 650 teams expected to participate again this year, this could not have been possible with the support of Big League Dreams, Clark County, City of Las Vegas and City of Henderson.

“We appreciate the level of cooperation in making all of the softball fields available during this time and buying into the overall vision for Las Vegas Events, which is to drive additional room nights to our destination through major sports and special events,” said Eeles. “We hope all of the teams enjoy the competition on the field and everything that our city has to offer when the games are completed.”

The main draw of the Worlds is for teams in 38 divisions to win free top-quality rings in the largest senior tournament ever.

In addition, the top award given by SSUSA annually, the Steve Simmons Memorial Sportsmanship Award will be presented to Ken Rhodes of the Idaho 70 Major Codgers

The award is named after SSUSA National Director Steve Simmons, who died in a boating accident in 2012.

Steve had been instrumental in every facet of senior softball and was a major force in the National Senior Softball Summit, helped create the SSUSA Clubs and

Leagues program, created the very popular Recreation-al Tournament Circuits, was an exceptional tournament director, a member of the National Rules Committee – and, most important – he loved to play softball.

“This award (Steve Simmons Sportsmanship) transcends the game itself,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer. “It stands for all that is good in the sport: passionate competition played with good humor and good fellowship - that is the formula for good sportsmanship. The beauty of good sportsmanship is that it incites a love of the game for all who witness it.”

In addition, the Opening Ceremonies for the First and Second Sessions of the Worlds features Ms. Senior Universe Kat Ray singing the National Anthem and the Rancho High School ROTC Color Guard. Gary Springer of the Cornerstone 60 Major team will be inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame on Thursday, Sept. 15 at 12:30 pm at Big League Dreams.

“A tournament of this requires the effort of hundreds of people throughout the region,” said SSUSA Executive Director Fran Dowell. “We deeply appreciate all of their help. For example, we depended on Larry Giese and Steve Boyle to help us set everything up in Boulder City.”

Most of the major bat and softball sporting goods companies will be sending representative to display their new bats, balls and other equipment at one or more of the complexes during the 3 weeks of the tournament.

## 2022 USA National Game World Championships Western Teams

- [Women's 40+ AAA](#)
- Not Today (NV)
- [Women's 50+ AAA](#)
- Snap, Crackle, Pop (WA)
- [Men's 40+ Major Plus](#)
- JK Inc. (CA)
- [Men's 40+ Major](#)
- Cheap Suits/Republic Realty/Express Althetics (CA)
- [Men's 40+ AAA](#)
- GTR (OR)
- [Men's 50+ Major Plus](#)
- Fattboyz/Prestige/Elite (CA)
- [Men's 50+ Major](#)
- Junkies/Onyx/NVS Sports Apparel (CA)
- [Men's 50+ AAA](#)
- Damage NV
- [Men's 55+ Major](#)
- L.A.F. 55 (CA)
- [Men's 55+ AAA](#)
- Smash 55 (CA)
- [Men's 60+ Major](#)
- CornerStone (OR)
- [Men's 60+ AAA](#)
- Wilson Motors 60s (ID)
- [Men's 60+ AA](#)
- Spin Tees (WA)
- [Men's 65+ Major](#)
- Oregon Crabs 65
- [Men's 65+ AA](#)
- Cascade Thunder (OR)
- [Men's 70+ Major](#)
- Animals 70s (CA)
- [Men's 75+ Major Plus](#)
- Omen 75 (CA)
- [Men's 75+ AAA](#)
- Al's Sports Shop (CA)

Singletons - Triple Grand Slam Eligible:  
TABU (CA).....Women's 40+ Major  
Legacy Sports USA (AZ).....Men's 60+ MP  
Cal Energy.....Men's 65+ MP  
Gamers (ID).....Men's 65+ AAA  
Last Call 70 (NV).....Men's 70+ AAA  
Valley Fog (CA).....Men's 75+ Major  
Triple Play 75 (CA).....Men's 75+ AA  
San Francisco Seals 80.....Men's 80+ Major  
Scrap Iron Gray Berets Base Force (CO)..... Men's 80+ AAA  
Singletons:  
Timberworks/Suncoast (CA)...Men's 70+ MP  
Brunette/Spikes (WA).....Men's 70+ AA  
Top Gun Blue Angels 85 (CA).....Men's 85+ Major  
Jaguars (CA).....Men's 85+ AAA

## 2022 USA National Game World Championships Eastern Teams

- [Women's 40+ AAA](#)
- Golden Girls Softball (MD)
- [Women's 50+ AAA](#)
- Unfazed (VA)
- [Men's 40+ Major Plus](#)
- Killman's/Lewis Lawn/Rockhills Merchants (SC)
- [Men's 40+ Major](#)
- The Riddlers (NY)
- [Men's 40+ AAA](#)
- Rough Ryders (MD)
- [Men's 50+ Major Plus](#)
- Suncoast/Adidas 50s (FL)
- [Men's 50+ Major](#)
- Steves Sports/AJS
- [Men's 50+ AAA](#)
- Fat Chops/4 Season (MA)
- [Men's 55+ Major](#)
- Ohio Elite/R Sports/AMR
- [Men's 55+ AAA](#)
- Infoquest.com (PA)
- [Men's 60+ Major](#)
- The Bank (DE)
- [Men's 60+ AAA](#)
- Levin Ameriprise II (FL)
- [Men's 60+ AA](#)
- Beltway Bandits (VA)
- [Men's 65+ Major](#)
- Dan Smith/FAI/Dudley (NC)
- [Men's 65+ AA](#)
- Hudson Valley Cyclones (NY)
- [Men's 70+ Major](#)
- New Jersey Hitmen
- [Men's 75+ Major Plus](#)
- Venom 75s
- [Men's 75+ AAA](#)
- Northern Virginia Force 75

Singletons - Triple Grand Slam Eligible:  
50 Shades Women's Team (IN).....W 50+ M  
FBI 55/Worth/Miken/DeMarini/Blue Mountain\* (FL).....Men's 55+ MP

Singletons:  
Longshoremen 55 (VA).....Men's 55+ AA  
Florida Investment Properties.....Men's 80+ MP

# Jostens at the Worlds: Commemorate Victory

## Senior Softball News

Jostens is the official championship ring manufacturer of Senior Softball USA and will be at the Worlds in Las Vegas with special deals and a new line of rings.

"The best way to commemorate that very special victory of a major Senior Softball tournament is a Jostens ring designed specifically for the event," says Terry Hennessy, the chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA. "There is no better tournament and memory to commemorate than your time playing at the Worlds."

Stop by the Jostens booth and say hi to Senior Softball's personal Jostens' representative, Karen and ask her about their new rings and special deals.

You will receive \$150 off an upgrade for World Championship rings or pendants. You can see the championship rings and pendants by [clicking here](#).

Jostens also is featuring the new SSUSA paperweight for pre-order. The paperweight is in the shape of an oversized championship ring, photographed to the right. Please click here for the SSUSA Paperweight Order Form or for more details and



to place a pre-order.

You also can get \$25 off the base price of any 2022 SSUSA tournament ring orders (excluding World Championships rings) if placed in person at World Championships, Sept. 15 – Oct. 2, 2022.

You can contact Karen at

(507) 358-1795 to ask what field she is at.

If you have a Jostens SSUSA ring that needs to be resized, re-antiqued, or repaired, you can bring them to Karen's booth, and she will give them to Jostens' warranty department, and they will be shipped back to you after completion.

Please see the ad below to see all of Jostens' ring and pendent options for Senior Softball USA players.



SSUSA's Jostens Rep:  
Karen Gallea  
(507) 358-1795  
[karen.gallea@jostens.com](mailto:karen.gallea@jostens.com)





**Baden**

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**MAINTAINS CONSISTENT PLAYABILITY  
IN HOT AND COLD CONDITIONS!**

## Players Recognized Across 9 Tournaments

**C**ongratulations to the All-Tournament selections from the following tournaments! First places 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).

### Northeast Champs

#### **Men's 40+ Platinum**

The Riddlers (NY): Shawn McDonnell, Carlo Cannone, Charlie Baumgartner, Ralph Mordente.

#### **Men's 50+ Major**

Taylor Made Construction/Phoenix Tube/BPA (PA): Joe Bacco, Stephen Miller, Steve White, Keith Ivory.

Roebell Painters/Paradise Painting/Allstate Carburetor (NY): Doug Fenning, Mike Hagerty, Kevin Ridley.

#### **Men's 50+ AAA**

Magic Softball (MA): John Murphy, Steve Whalen, Tim Cress, Rick Aldrich, Steve Johnson.

Fat Chops/4 Season (MA): Mike Guertin, Jeff Jeannotte, John Flowers, Jerry Ago.

#### **Men's 55+ Major**

Finance of America (NJ): Dave Lesneski, Paul Capobianco, John Segledi, Donnie Dalgauer,

Rodney Monteleone.

#### **Men's 55+ AAA**

Inforquest.com (PA): Matt Murray, Brent McFeaters, Dan Wert, Edward Moyer, Robert Gratkowski.

#### **Men's 65+ Major**

Talaga Construction 65 (CT): Ken Bavier, Don Brennan, Jim Adamowicz, Rich Bettley.

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

Spring Ford 65+ (PA): Jack Feehan, Gene Kushon, Brad Hanson, Dale Hood.

#### **Rochester Royals (NY):**

Gary Rothenberg, Mike Garvey, Bob Baziw.

#### **Men's 65/70/75+ Silver**

Syracuse Cyclones (NY): Tom Desimone, Ron DeFrancis, Dennis Naylor, Paul Ibert.

JAG-ONE/Jersey Red: John Newton, Rich Traub, Tom Pasko.

### Midwest Champs

#### **Men's 40+ Gold**

Hubs Pub 40 (MO): Kenny Leach, Rick Simcox, Brandon Hubbard, Levi Wright, Brandon Bartels.

#### **Men's 50+ Major**

S&S Exteriors (KS): Casey Lewis, Brad Wallace, Monte Johnson.

#### **Men's 50+ AAA**

Team Mastery (AR): Michael Hamilton, Keith Burns, Jim Mayes, Ed Guilliams, Shane Johnson.

#### **Men's 55+ AAA**



**Hubs Pubs 40 (MO) 40 Gold Champions**

K.C. Elite 55s: Jerome Harvey, Edward Bo Hendley, Bruce Cole (MVP), Eric Gault, Kevin Cheadle.

#### **KC Stampede (MO):**

Gary Combs, Scott Pauls, Jim Beeding.

#### **Men's 55+ Major**

K & I 55s (IN): Mark Harrison, Randy Eades, Eric Fouce.

#### **Men's 60+ Major**

50 Caliber Silver St. Louis: Bob Wessel, Ron Linenfelser, Ken Stengel, Shawn Kelly

#### **Men's 60/65+ Gold**

NSC Omaha Silver Bullets: Ted Bliss, Jerry McCaw, Bryan Herald, Mike Fitzgerald.

BlueSpeed AV (MO): Jerry Maschger, Rick Culpepper, Roger Hein.

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

KC Kids 70s: Bobby Gregg, Bill Radford, Lonnie Smith.

#### **Men's 70+ AAA**

Anderson Roofing/50 Caliber St. Louis: Steve Angelo, Mike Morton, John Burton, Don Ohmes.

#### **Men's 70+ AA**

Chicago Hitmen 70s: Bill DeLuca, Archie Aaron, Al Bartolotta, Joe Rebec, Michael Sabatino.

R & D Leverage (MO): Ken Stock, Steve Zimmerle, Rick DeWitt, Jim Glynn.

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

Maverick Construction 75s (TX): John "Howdy" Melton, Mandy Fithian, Fred Hunt, Ron McElyea, Rocky Crews.

Midwest Express 75s (IA): Duane Carolus, Larry Orth, Eddie Rohrer.

### Jim Sherman Memorial/ Northwest Champs

#### **Women's 40+ Silver**

Vintage 208 (ID): Kristi Sims, Carmen Coy, Anne-Marie DeCouto, Kim Presnell.

#### **Women's 50+ AAA**

Snap, Crackle, Pop (WA): Traci Barnes, Rene Sundby, Christine Johnson-Sundby, Nancy Harper, Christy Lambert.

#### **Bend Blockbuster (OR):**

Annette Swenson, Melissa (Missy) Scott, Virginia (Ginny Ann) Fillmore, Jennifer (Jen) Stoulil.

NW Lady Warriors/Miken (WA): Melissa Busby, Shanda Strode, Lori Friday.

#### **Men's 40+ AAA**

Style Motors/Integrity Home Loans/Sutton Sign Solutions (OR): Daren Hernandez, Joe Croasmun, James Upward.

#### **Men's 40/50+ Platinum**

Northwest Legends 40 (WA): Rodrigo Castillo, Kelly McNeilly, Jim Jacobsen, Juan Ventura, James Wilson.

Smash It Sport Northwest 40 (WA): Stanley Depko, Toby Holmes, Jeremy Merritt, Casey Hubeek.

#### **Men's 50/55+ Platinum**

Assured Products Group (CA): Dave Adams, Paul Supat, Al Becker, Chuck Rufkahr, Brian Williford.

Cody Staffing/SIS/A3 (WA): Matt Rich, Shon Schreiber, Randy Bezon.

#### **Men's 50+ AAA**

Pro Vision/Café Elite (WA): Mike Bryant, Carl Booker, May Patajo.

#### **Men's 50/55+ Silver**

Vancouver Connection 55s (WA): Cori Anderson, Rich Lanphear, Ramiro Leos, Scott Potts, Clint O'Neal.

#### **Men's 60+ AAA**

Chélu (OR): James Taylor, Rob Blevens, Doug Baker, Darrell Rinde.

#### **Men's 60+ AA**

Spin Tees (WA): John Hendrick, Sherman Davis, Paul Katz, Grant Brown, Steve Zacharczyk.

**Continued on page 22**



# All-Tourney: 118 Teams Play in the Easterns

Continued From Page 21

**Men's 65+ AA**  
Cascade Thunder (OR): Karl Johannsen, Dave Kanner, Craig Messing, Paul Jacobus, Hal Townsend.

**Men's 65/70+ Platinum**  
Oregon Crabs 65: Mike Slavenski, Chris Bailey, Lloyd Kirner, Curt Tejcka, Jeff Edwards.

**Men's 70+ AAA**  
Last Call 70 (NV): Bill Fingerson, Jack Sheeman, Rod Mathisen, Lowell Moore, Ken Lamb.

**Men's 70/75+ Platinum**  
Enviro-Vac Marauders 70s (BC, Can.): Jim Norris, Rick Parker, Skip Baebler, Tom Shaw.

**Men's 70/75/80+ Gold**  
Mr. Plywood (OR): Larry Revert, Bob Adams, Tony Perry, Richard Pescatore.

**ISA Senior Worlds**

**Men's 50 Major**  
Allied Tool/ LSR/ Father Time (KY): Gabe Gortney, Steve Shields, Jeff Porter, Tyrone Groves, Mattie Fiedler.

**Men's 50-AAA**  
Southern Illinois Lightning: Chris Nolan, Shawn Mayberry, Tom Goforth, Brad Wallace, Randy McKee.

**Men's 55/60 Platinum**  
Warner Roofing/EQSi/TQL (IN): Terry Patesel, Jeff Powell, Maurice Woods, Jerry Williams, Mike Kinnett.

**Men's 60-AAA**  
BJM Bomb Squad 60s (IN): Bob Cash Jr, Dwayne Garrity, Ray "Doug" Arambula, Fred Scheub, James Weber.

CPOA Cleveland/ Northern Ohio Printing: Ray Konik, Doug

Viriden, Gary Chmielewski.

**Men's 65-Major**  
Scrap Iron High Octane (CO): Eddie Brown, Carl Markey, Jamie Gowdy, Mitch Saunders, Rick Loy.

**Men's 65-AAA**  
(By) Grace Redeemed (TN): Tommy Parker, Don Smith, Rick Musser, Gary Still, Darrell Douglas.

Dayton Legends 65s (OH): Chuck Wray, Rick Hedge, Guy House.

**Men's 65-AA**  
Region 65s (IN): John Bathurst, Marty Spain.

**Eastern Nationals**

**Women's 40+ AAA**  
Cherry Bomb (MD): Cathy Nicodemus, Teresa Balcaitis, Marti Stepner.

**Women's 50+ Gold**  
50 Shades Women's Team (IN): Cynthia Diane Mobley, Keesha Allen, Ruby Bond, Sandy McGee, Michelle Walker.

Kryptonite W 50 (FL): Veronica Shaw, Sonya Brooks-White, Joyce Hongell, Tera Guzman.

**Men's 40+ Major Plus**  
Killmans/Lewis Lawn/Rockhill Merchants (SC): Jason Gilfillan, Freddie Bynum, Adam Keith, Patrick Price, Jason Martel.

HDI (VA): Brian Renner, Ricardo Castillo, Donnie



Fat Chops/4 Season (MA) 50 AAA Champions

Anderson.

**Men's 40+ Major**  
The Riddlers (NY): Gary Fontana, Shawn McDonnell, Charlie Baumgartner, Brad Reed, Anthony Santoianni.

PA Legends: John (Greenie) Greenawalt, Larry Lopez, Dusty Wolff, Carlos Rivera-Torres.

**Men's 40+ AAA**  
Rough Ryders (MD): Buck Talley, Erik Burrell, Tony Middleton, Taxi Smith, Derek Walton.

Smokin Aces/American Legion Post #327 (VA): Kenny Reynolds, Curtis Hines, Tori Waldo.

**Men's 50+ AAA**  
Fat Chops/4 Season (MA): Rodney Erickson, John Brower, Jerry Ago, Keith Mackey, Derek Therien.

**Men's 50/55+ AA**  
BACKSIDE (VA): Cliff Heater, Keith Doxey, James White, Joe Peirson, Rich Stauffer.

Flatline 50s (VA): Danny Spitler, Lee Smith, Doug Cantrell, Freddie Jobe.

**Men's 55+ Major Plus**  
FBI/Worth/Miken/DeMarini/ Blue Mountain (FL): Bob O'Brien, Doug Kett, Paul Stanley, Alan Tanner, Denny Russo.

BPA/Backman/Rawlings 55 (PA): Mike Dill, Donny Meyett, Kirby Murphy.

**Men's 55+ Major**  
Ohio Elite/R Sports/AMR: Jimmy Kotarski, Rob Hauke, Todd Houseman, Mark Schneider, Doug Snyder.

N.E. Merchants 55 (MD): Rich Puchalski, Bill Jerich, Jeff Rowe, Randy Houck.

No Shows/Miami Power: Lou Mingo, Victor Nadal, Chris Round.

**Men's 55+ AAA**  
Infoquest.com (PA): Matt Murray, Dan Wert, Russ Zellers, Luke Melhorn, Rob Gratkowski.

**Men's 50/55+ AA**  
Harford Financial Group (MD): Adam Freeland, Mike Dikeman, Johnathan Nixon.

**Men's 60+ Major**  
The Bank (DE): Doug Whitfield, Gary Lewis, Barry Hudson, John Alcaide, Gerard Blair.

Olympian Athletics 60s (PA) Richard McDonald, Mike Sivilich, Doug Hartzok.

**Men's 60+ AAA**  
Levin Ameriprise II (FL): Nelson Rivera, Dean Thomas, Richie Pedigree, Anthony Nicometo, Michael Kemp.

Friendly Transmission (NC): Steve Belford, Johnny Dixon, Terry Spillman.

**Men's 65+ Major**  
Promotion/Phoenix Tube (NJ): Tim Gamberzky, Gerard Stigliano, Al Delaney, Steve Toth.

**Men's 65+ AAA**  
Northern Virginia Force 65s: Larry Lee, Al Tefft, David Black, Tom Longo, Joe Mizzoni.

Spring Ford 65+ (PA): Ross Barnett, Mark Johnson, Bob Miller.

**Men's 65+ AA**  
West Chester Wild (PA): Larry Riggs, Mike Whelan, Wayne Taylor, Frank Edwards Jr.

**Men's 70+ AAA**  
JAG-ONE/Jersey Masters Red: John Newton, Tom Pasko, Frank DeLuca, Mike Sivilich, Vince Stella.

Syracuse Cyclones (NY):

Continued on page 24

**EASTON**

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# All-Tourney: 157 Teams Play in the Westerns

Continued From Page 22

Tom Desimone, Mark Easter, Tom Cramer.

**Men’s 70/75+ Platinum**  
Venom 75s (FL): Gary Nicolay, Chad Baldwin, Clyde Smith, Jim Davidson, Phil Farmer.

New Jersey Hitmen: Tony Vodola, Franklin Gantz, Dale Hood, Gene McCloskey.

High Street Bucs 70 (MD): Kenny Ruffo, Barry Lausch, Bill Redman.

**Men’s 75/80+ Gold**  
Delaware Legends 75s: Willie Barnes, Jose Castro, Milt Reisner, Jimmy Pugh.

Florida Investment Properties: Dennis Evans, John Ramage, Mike Breitenstein.

**Men’s 80+ AAA**  
Noreasters 80 (NY): Ray Lepage, Bob Killian, Frank Emick, John Forames, Bob Wood.

Blazers (NC): Paul Math, Al Avant, Tim Brayboy.

**Western Nationals**  
**Women’s 40+ Major**  
TABU (CA): Sarah Haight, Alice Lui, Tammy Milat, Tonya Wheat, Lorresa Kiss.

Utah Relics: Kellina Whiting, Marty Hurtado, Kathy Christiansen.

**Women’s 40+ AAA**  
Not Today (NV): Rachel Nagler, Tasha Stetter Tiffany, Sarah Tandal, Melinda Pagel, Ambria Gregorich.

**Women’s 50+ AAA**  
Snap, Crackle, Pop (WA): Traci Barnes, Mel Riley-Davis, Kat Sherer, Rene Sundby, Robyn Rieger.

Takin’ Chances (CA): Michelle Adkins, Monique Ward, Cindy Cooper.

**Men’s 50+ Major Plus**

Bay Equity/Hara’s/Vortex/SIS/ Easton (WA): Derek Warren, Steve Elliott, Tony Thew, Todd Biddle.

**Men’s 50+ AAA**  
Damage NV: Randy Mason, Jimmy Cox, Jon Medina, Chaz Ward, Brooke Archuletta.

Rolfe & Company (CA): Troy Yartz, Tom Lerossignol, Rick Oakes, Aaron Hatanaka.

Pro Vision/Café Elite (WA): Antonio Gallardo, May Patajo, John Black.

**Men’s 55+ Major**  
L.A.F 55 (CA): Bob Baer, Bobby Gunn, John Patterson, Matt Dobyns, Wayne Zucker.

Oregon Elite 55: Tony Ronek, Les Charter, Scott England.

**Men’s 55+ AAA**  
North Valley Seniors (CA): Pat Napoli, Bob Gilbertson, Chuck Davidson, Mark Piland.

**Men’s 60+ Major Plus**  
LPC 60s (CA): Dan Arevalos, Darren Idler, Paul Salow, Richie Navarro.

**Men’s 60+ Major**  
CornerStone (OR): Al Larson, Dave Dahilig, Barney Lewis, Don Owen, Larry Whitcomb.

California Energy: Terry Lewallen, Ricky Ishimaru, Bobby Ellison.

**Men’s 60+ AAA**  
Wilson Motors 60s (ID): Kelly Scott, Wayne Darling, Rick Carringer, Doug Freeman, Steve Barstow.

Arizona Scorpions: George Siegele, Dave Platt, LeRoy Weighall.

**Men’s 60+ AA**  
Spin Tees (WA): John Hendrick, Grant Brown, Sherman Davis, Tommy Dorsey, Steve Zacharczyk.

Pastimers (WA): Ron Klawitter, Steve Salmon, Jay Himmelman, Kevin Oldenburg.

**Men’s 65+ Major**  
Oregon Crabs 65: Gary Kearney, Jim Engles, Curt Tejcka, Dave Mueller, Jeff Edwards.

**Men’s 65/70+ Major Plus**  
Cal Energy: Anthony Hinojosa, Kevin O’Reilly, Lyman Rose, Mike Babbs, Dwayne Krekke.

Texas Crush Sixty-Fives: John Roach, Joe Witherspoon, Joe Standefer.

**Men’s 70+ Silver**  
Last Call 70 (NV): Don Farber, Steve Owens, John Ohm, Ken Lamb, Lowell Moore.

Nor-Cal 70’s: Dennis Barrett, Ray Lucas, Kerry Gates, Richard Edwards.

No Dice/Bay Photo Lab (CA): Dave Terry, James “Jimi” Nix, Kevin Buchanan.

**Men’s 70/75+ Platinum**  
R & R 70s (CA): Mike Young, Steve Adams, Tom Plucinak, Jim Stevens.

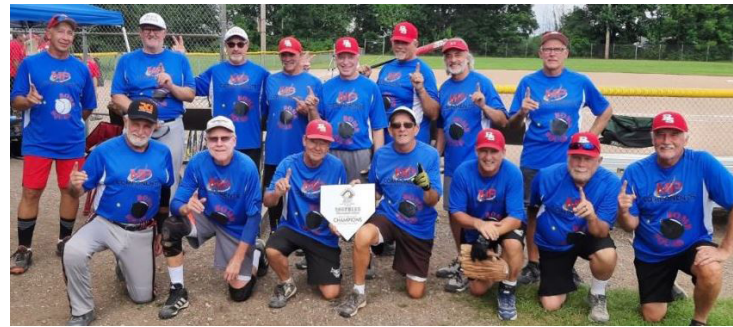
**Men’s 75+ Major**  
Valley Fog 75 (CA): John Hoffman, Hal Johnson, Dennis Uber, Steve Foster, Kent Grant.

**Men’s 75+ AAA**  
Al’s Sport Shop (CA): Steve Harabedian, Robert Jackson, Gabe Salas, Roy Rodriguez, Chris Mills.

**Men’s 75+ AA**  
Triple Play 75 (CA): Tom Dixon, Jesse Atkins, Rick Sexty, Dave Smaw, Doyle Daniel.

**Men’s 80/85+ Major**  
San Francisco Seals 80s: Charlie Sherrill, Joe Cors, Ray Garcia, John Di Re, Bruce Hyman.

**Southern Champs**  
**Women’s 50+ Gold**  
50 Shades Women’s Team (IN): Tesha Robinson, Diane Mobley, Marvelyn Greene, Christina Moore, Monica Hubbard.



MP Components/Bomb Squad (MI) 65 AA Champs at Northernns

Dreamgirlz 50 (VA): Sylvia Echols, Beverly Lovett, Nicky Mack, Lydia Crandall.

Regroup & Reload (TX): Corinna Viejra, Shirley Brooks-Smith, Gertrude Anderson.

**Men’s 50+ Major**  
Allied Tool/LSR/Father Time (KY): Gabe Gortney, Steve Shields, Mike Hall, Jeff Porter, Matt Fiedler.

Big Daddy’s Softball (GA): Jason Garner, Victor Thornton, David Samples, Donnie Adams.

Duty Calls Seniors/Miken/ Worth/Easton (FL): Tyrone Christopher, Martin Thiessen, Terry Middleton.

**Men’s 60+ AAA**  
Mobley Brothers Roofing (TN): Al Cox, Jeff Henderson, Butch Womack, Joe Guist.

**Men’s 60/65+ Platinum**  
Texas Crush Sixty Fives: Jimmy Ross, Bob Hendren, Murray Williams, Mike Garibay.

**Men’s 65/75+ Gold**  
Georgia Alabama Seniors/GAS Softball (AL): Jimmie Young, Grady Singletary, Dennis Moore, Jerry Guyton, Brad Woodall.

**Northern Champs**  
**Men’s 50+ AAA**  
Team OG (MI): Dave Wiersum, Frank Woodward, Robert Becvar, Ernie Burus.

Dayton Legends/22 Softball (OH): Tracey Burden, TedDingess, John Grieshop.

**Men’s 55/60+ Silver**  
Jackson Merchants (MI): Jeff Toburen, Scott Burns, Doug

Continued on next page

# All-Tourney: Teams Select Top Players

Continued From Previous Page



Electrifiers (TX) 65 AA Champions at Rocky Mountain

Reska, Tom Scholtz.

Michigan Lumberjacks 60: Michael De Jong, Bill Sprague, Jim Reinbold.

**Men’s 65+ AA**  
MP Components/Bomb Squad (MI): Robin Reed, Mike Ott, Carl

Lounds, Dick Hildebrand, Albert Russel.

Region 65s (IN): Jim Fanta, Kenneth Richmond, Bob Fonesca, John Bathurst.

**Men’s 65/70+ Gold**  
BJM Bomb Squad 65s (IL): Kevin Kronst, Bill Sujka, Dave Schmidt, Art Corral, Jack Putz.

Motown Stars 65 (MI): Charles Neal, Dwight Treadwell, Lawrence Reedus.

**Men’s 70+ AA**  
Doc Martens/Rope Courses (MI): Joe Orr, Larry Vitale, Jim Bellingner, Charles Rickard, Dave Young.

Ohio Silverados: Dave Caplinger, Randy Ballard, Tom Delagrang, Jim Kirby.

**Rocky Mountain**  
**Men’s 50+ AAA**  
Damage NV: Jon Medina, Scott Caster, Scott Jacobucci, Brooke Archuletta, Tom Johnson.

**Men’s 55+ Major**  
ManCave (TX): Tim McKellop, Michael Garibay, JR Halek, Tom Clark.

**Men’s 50/55+ Silver**  
ETX 55s (TX): Greg Jones, Kirby Peters, Warren Smallwood.

**Men’s 60+ Major Plus**  
Texas Crush Sixties: Robbie Ramirez, Bobby Gilbert, Murray Williams, Mike Garibay.

**Men’s 60+ Major**  
Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain

Continued on next page





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# Money Matters: Best Advice? Invest in What You Know

By Jack Sirard  
Senior Softball News  
Contributor

Living in a small country town as I do, it’s pretty common on these warm summer nights to find your neighbor out working on some project or another.

My nearest neighbor, Terry, is certainly no exception. He’s an extremely talented person who can fix almost anything ranging from his fully restored 1965 Porsche to his ageless 1948 Ford tractor.

One night after dinner he showed up at our doorstep with his tools in hand to help us out with a troubling plumbing problem. And when I say help us out, I mean he did all the work and I got to hold the flashlight as for me all plumbing problems are troubling.

Like a lot of us, Terry has been retired for a few years after having co-owned a highly successful printing business. He loves to take motorcycle trips throughout the country, enjoys an occasional trip to Mexico and entertains his grandchildren on a regular basis.

In short, he has a wide array of interests very much like so many people you and I know.

Much of the time when we’re hanging around his garage, the talk invariably turns to what’s going on in the stock market. He’s a man of many



questions, a few insights and a slight fear of the stock market.

And it certainly doesn’t take too many 1,000-point drops in the Dow Jones industrial average to put fear into the investing hearts of most investors.

That’s why Terry, like many, many investors decided to entrust 100 percent of his funds to a fee-based investment adviser who makes all of the buy and sell decisions.

But lately, he’s come to regret that decision as he’d like to have a greater hands-on relationship with his portfolio. “What I really need to do,” Terry tells me repeatedly “is to take some of my money and invest it myself.”

Bingo.

While according to Terry his investment adviser has done “more or less OK,” he really doesn’t know where his all his money is or the risks involved.

My thought was that he should take a

given amount of his what’s in his overall portfolio, say just 10 percent and make some investment decisions himself in a separate portfolio.

Say he’s got \$400,000 in his account, that gives him \$40,000 to invest. That’s enough to buy 100 to 200 shares of several stocks. And in his case at this point in time, even if he lost it all (which is highly unlikely), it wouldn’t be the end of the world. Having owned a small business for years, he’s certainly well acquainted with risk.

When I suggest this, he almost always comes back at me with, “I don’t know anything about the market.” But now I’ve countered with, “No one does, BUT you know a lot about cars, motorcycles, copiers, paper, travel and a myriad of products that you bought and sold every day in your business.

“There are thousands of publicly traded companies out there. Just focus on a few of those and invest in what you know.”

What it would offer him is hands-on training to develop investment skills that may pay ever bigger dividends down the road.

And that would give us even more conversation starters out in his garage.

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

## All-Tourney: Rocky Mtn. is the last TOC

Continued From Previous Page

Thunder 60 (CO): Tim DeJarnett, Cory Firzlaff, Kim Oliverson, John Springer, Randy Strandberg.

### Men’s 60+ AAA

Texas Legends 60s: Freddy Helmuth, Bert Feinberg, Mike McClanahan.

### Men’s 60+ Major

Minnesota Premier: Todd Zemke, Brian “Willie” Peterson,

Rich Hanson.

### Men’s 65+ Platinum

Bluespeed AV (MO): Rod Chambers, Mark Luttmann, Gary Crews, Jim Prentice, Ted Creech. Houston Fire 65s: Kenneth Max Lane, Ronnie Orask, Robert Bob Schulz, Gary Blaize.

### Men’s 65+ AAA

Fierce Firearms 65 (UT): Mike Conatser, Aaron Lundin, Barry Blumenthal, Rainy Leroux, Kyle Holdaway.

### Men’s 65+ AA

Electrifiers (TX): Lloyd Hill, Gary McCoy, Robert Price, David Ferree, Earl Eldredge. Duke City Dynamite (NM):

David Padilla, Don Marler, Lawrence Chavez, Kempton Lindquist.

### Men’s 70/75+ Gold

KC Kids 70s (MO): Jerry Clawson, Bobby Gregg, Gary Hall, Mike Hildebrandt, Bill Radford.

### Men’s 70/75+ Silver

Not Dead Yet (KS): Howard Marlow, Steve Seehorn, Richard Torrez, Howard Warner.

### Men’s 80+ AAA

Antiques of Kansas City: Jerry Denzler, Kenny Stock, Marlyn Schroepfer, Dick Edington.

The following are All-Tournament Player Selections

not published in the previous newspapers with their corresponding tournament:

### Northern CA Champs

#### Men’s 55/60+ Gold

California Energy 60: Bobby Ellison, Chuck Draper, Paul Supat, Terry Lewallen.

#### Men’s 70+ AAA

Nor-Cal 70s: Bruce Allen, Larry Younger, Ray Lucas.

Managers, if your All-Tournament selections are missing; please email in your honorees to [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).





# When Should You Roll Your Wrists?

By Art Eversole  
Senior Softball News  
Contributor

At my hitting club in SeaTac, Wash., I have been observing a swing flaw by members for quite some time. I am referring to the rolling of the wrists early in the swing, particularly just before contact.

I can remember being told by my youth coaches to roll my wrists when I hit, however, they failed to tell me when, where or how during the swing the wrists should roll. Should they roll before contact, at contact or after contact? We were led to believe that somehow the action of rolling the wrists created the power to propel the ball to the outfield.

Simply stated, you should never roll your wrists (i.e., a sideways motion) before you hit the ball. Actually, the wrists don't "roll" at all, instead they "hinge" toward your forearms just before being released forward into the ball. To see what I'm referring to, hold your bat out in front of you and cock or hinge your wrists upward in the direction of the tip of your nose and the wrists will hinge.

A powerful wrist snap results in the rapid acceleration of the bat through the hitting zone. The wrists begin to "rollover" only after the ball leaves the bat into a smooth follow through. After the wrists are hinged then release the hands to the ball in a palm-up/palm-down position (see insert). Remember to "drive" the barrel head through the ball keeping it longer on the incoming ball path for a squared-up hit.

The rolling of the wrists is



actually part of the follow-through and not the swing to the ball. We roll our wrists over to facilitate the follow-through. Have the bat head rotate completely around the body for a continuous swing action and releasing the top hand helps. Wrists should work like you're planting an axe into a tree trunk. You would not roll your wrists when launching an axe into the tree, if you did, you'd miss striking the blade directly and mashing the side of the axe.

The bat is launched to the ball by pushing and throwing your hands as they release to the ball, again there is no rolling of wrists. This move creates what is called "impulse" in physics (i.e., the force generated divided by the time it takes to complete the movement over distance traveled). So, the baseball adage "quick to the ball" makes sense according to

physics. Remember to keep your lead arm almost straight (i.e., but not totally barred) to create maximum leverage and length to your swing. The arms are only fully extended after the ball has left the bat.

- Summary of Important Points:
- Rolling wrists before contact is ineffective,
  - Cock the wrists straight back toward your forearms when launching an axe into the tree, which is referred to as "radial deviation",
  - Release the wrists with the top hand palm-up and the bottom hand palm-down to the ball,
  - Do not "flip" the wrists sideways which is a very weak hitting motion when striking the ball,
  - Release wrist hinge quickly to create maximum power.
  - Attack the ball like burying an axe into a tree trunk,
  - Rotate your trunk to

bring the bat to the launch position and not by just using your arms,

■ Use the turning of the barrel technique into the plane of the incoming pitch for best results,

- Begin rolling the wrists after contact.
- Video showing correct timing of wrist roll: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SduvPZodFOQ>

Happy hitting,  
Art Eversole

## Heard From The Dugout

"I've bought a big bat. I'm all ready, you see. Now my troubles are going to have troubles with me."

Dr. Seuss

# Thinking Outside the Batter's Box

By Donna McGuire  
Senior Softball Report

Last year at the SSUSA World Championships, some players at Big League Dreams found it very difficult to adjust to having painted batter's boxes on the turf fields. In some games, umpires called multiple batters out for being out of the box when they hit the ball.

A slew of players berated their BLD umpires.

One 40+ AAA manager screamed at a director, too.

"Out of the box hasn't been called all year back home," the manager shouted. "It's not right to have it called on us at Worlds when it's not called back home!"

Well, now.

Umpires do not have the right to choose what rules to enforce – or ignore.

Directors do not have that right, either.

Out of the box is out of the box.

So yes, the same scenario likely will happen this year. Directors and umpires-in-chief will tell their umpires to enforce the batter's box rules. Players and managers will complain.

With more and more parks departments around the country installing artificial turf on ball fields, this situation will continue to grow at Senior Softball USA tournaments.

Until and unless the SSUSA National Rules Committee changes the rule, players need to adjust. Period.

Sure, batters get away with being out of the box at parks without lined boxes. And at parks where the chalk disappears by the second or third inning. And while

playing in front of an umpire too timid or untrained to make the call.

But that is not an excuse for looking the other way. The rule should be enforced at all SSUSA tournaments. Players and managers should expect it to be called – and not berate umpires for doing so.

Professional baseball launched in the 1800s without batter's boxes. When rule-makers installed the boxes in 1874, they required batters to be within the lines when striking the ball. Transgressions resulted in outs, just like today in Major League Baseball, which uses a box that is 4 feet wide and 6 feet long.

Most, if not all, slow-pitch softball organizations also have batter's box rules. Box sizes vary. USSSA's box, for example, is 3 feet wide – like most boxes – but only 5 and 1/2 feet long. That is 18 inches shorter in length than most softball association's batter's boxes, including ours. But USSSA has different rules on where a batter can or cannot set up prior to the pitch.

SSUSA's box always has measured 3 feet by 7 feet. A batter cannot step out of the box and step back in to hit the ball. A batter cannot have a foot completely outside the box and touching the ground when hitting the ball. A batter's foot cannot be touching the strike mat when the ball is hit. By rule, the batter should be called out in all those situations.

It is important for players and managers to understand these rules and expect them to be enforced.

At a recent Tournament



## Umpire's Corner

of Champions qualifier in Dalton, Ga., that wasn't always the case. After an umpire called one batter out, his teammates started yelling: "He only had one foot out! That's allowed. It was only one foot!"

Not sure why the players believed that. They were wrong. Neither foot can be out of the box when the batter hits a ball in SSUSA play.

It's also illegal for a batter, manager, or other player to intentionally erase any part of a chalked batter's box. Don't do it. It will cost your team an out.

By the way, SSUSA allows batters to back away from the strike mat more than USA softball does, even though both associations use the same size batter's box. But USA requires batters to set up with both feet entirely within the box. SSUSA requires batters to have both feet touching the box. Most of the foot can be outside the box. Many SSUSA batters take advantage of this extra space.

Even so, players often complain that, by placing the strike mat even with the front of the plate, SSUSA has moved the strike zone

forward 8.5 inches (the distance from the elbow of the plate to the front of the plate) without adjusting the box. That is true. Some players argue that this handicaps batters who love to hit the ball when it is shoulder or chest high. Again, that is true – especially if the player cannot adjust to hit a low pitch.

Rule changes involving this situation have been suggested to the National Rules Committee for several years now. No suggestion has gained enough support to change the rule.

By the way, USA softball also uses a strike mat for its senior slow-pitch play. USA has not adjusted its batter's box forward to compensate for the new strike zone, either.

Bottom line: SSUSA umpires should enforce the batter's box rules as written in all games.

And unless or until the rule changes, batters should adjust – or expect to be called out.

*Donna McGuire is SSUSA's Central Region Umpire in Chief and Chair of the SSUSA National Rules Committee.*



# Senior Softball Moves Foward with New Zealand and Annual Caribbean Tours in 2023

### Softball News Report

Islands can be idyllic – and the next three Senior Softball USA tours have picked some of the best:  
Hawaii in November 2022.  
The Caribbean in February 2023.  
New Zealand North and South Islands in March 2023.

“SSUSA tours offer players and their friends and families a chance to enjoy seeing the world, play with new and old friends from throughout America and meet players from other countries,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA’s chief executive officer. “These are opportunities that create lifetime memories and friends through softball.”

First up is the Play Ball in Paradise tour, with games and a cruise in the Hawaiian Islands.

The 40 people on the tour will play in Oahu against local island teams before boarding the Norwegian Cruise line’s luxury ship Pride of America for seven days.

The SSUSA travelers will be on Island time -- playing softball, shopping and sightseeing on three of the Hawaiian Islands: Maui, The Big Island and Kauai.

On the other side of the world – from Feb. 15-20, 2023 -- there is already heavy interest in the Caribbean Classic. For more information, please see the story on Page 15.



The Indigenous Maori People of New Zealand Mid-Ceremony for Visitors

“This third annual Caribbean Classic International Goodwill Tournament will feature two or three SSUSA teams assembled from the USA and Canada playing against local softball teams from the Dominican Republic, and possibly a team from Venezuela,” said Jim Goff, SSUSA tour director.

SSUSA players and their guests will be staying at the Bavaró Bárcelo Palace all-inclusive beachfront resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The resort's beautiful ballfield is

located just 50 yards from the beachfront accommodations.

For more information on the Caribbean Classic [CLICK HERE](#).

And the following month, players and their friends and family have a chance to journey Down Under to Discover the Magic of New Zealand March 16-28.

Travelers will experience the scenic magic captured for millions in the “Lord of the Rings,” which was filmed on New Zealand’s South Island. And there is much, much more to see and experience on both the North and South Islands – including playing softball against some talented New Zealand teams!

The response and interest have been very strong, according to SSUSA, and space is limited.

For more information on the Magic of New Zealand Tour, [CLIC HERE](#)

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](mailto:nic@seniorsoftball.com).



Punta Cana's Bavaró Bárcelo Palace Beach Front Resort.

# Don't miss the opportunities of a lifetime

## Join us on the Senior Softball USA Tours:



# 2023

Third Annual Caribbean Classic  
in the Dominican Republic  
February 15-20

Discover the Magic of New Zealand  
March 16-28

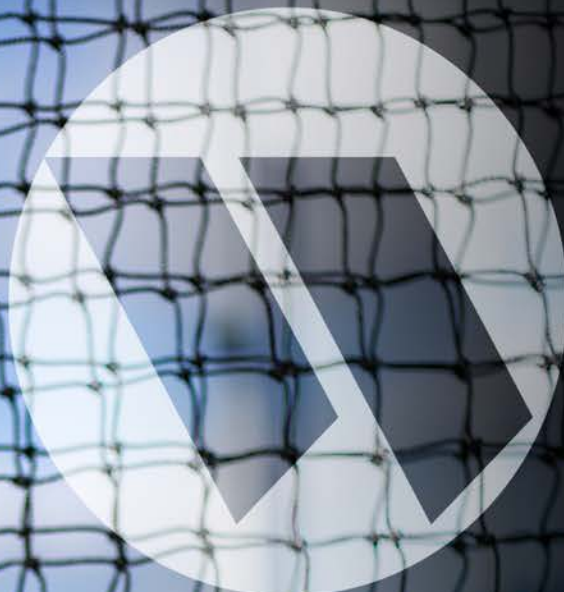
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