



Planning? It's a Retirement Home Run

By Jack Sirard
Softball News Report

Doug Doolittle started planning for his retirement in his mid-40s, an age when many people are still trying to figure out their careers.

Despite getting the apparent jump-start on retirement planning, Doolittle says that he wished he had started even earlier.

"I'm always telling my

children that you just can't start planning too soon in life. The sooner you put a plan in place, the easier retirement will be for you," says Doolittle, who retired a few years ago as director of regional parks and open space for Washoe County and now is an active participant in senior softball.

Doolittle, who has been playing and manag-

ing softball for many years, currently plays for both the 60 AAA and 65 AAA Last Call teams in Reno, and is a SSUSA tournament director. He says he plays a couple of times a week and usually has a tournament once a month or so.

"I also enjoy fly fishing and volunteer activities with Keep Truckee Meadows

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Photo by Jack Eberhard
Doug Doolittle hits during a game against the Wounded Warriors in the 2013 TOC.

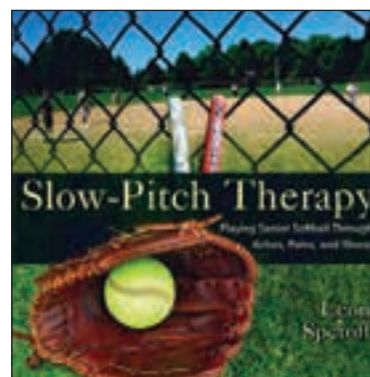
INVESTING
IN YOUR FUTURE

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Book Captures 'Precious Moments' of Senior Softball

Softball News Report

A senior softball player from Oregon has penned a very readable and inspiring book about how the sport helped him through cancer treatment, a double-knee replacement and shoulder surgery.

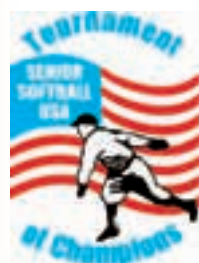
In the pages of "Slow Pitch Therapy," Dr. Leon Sper-

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TOC: Softball's Gem

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Softball News Report

POLK COUNTY, FLA. — Ninety-nine champion teams gathered here in February to celebrate their victories in the most prestigious tournament in

North America.

The Original Tournament of Champions celebrated the winners with an unmatched event that included:

*A free gala banquet for
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Photo by Jack Eberhard

A Windy City Thunder runner slides to avoid a tag on the way to winning the 50AAA finals at the TOC.

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NewsBriefing

CARL'S CORNER

By Carl Gustafson

Last Glimpse of the Silver Hawk

I grew up in Wyoming where a person can lie alone on a Mountaintop and watch a Hawk float effortlessly on an updraft and then drop fast enough to decapitate a dove leaving a burst of floating feathers.

Don Berg played softball like that.

In his younger days he was handsome, agile, and very fast. He was elected to the San Diego Sports Hall of fame at a young age. Meeting Don lulled any competitor into a false sense of safety.

He was a kind man, a beloved teacher, and a gentleman. He floated elegantly above his competitors, always with a genuine smile, but a predator's eye.

When the first pitch reached its apex in any game he played, the Hawk would dive. In 1988, at the age of 67, Don began an unparalleled run of tournament victories and championships that spanned fifteen years.

The team he built was the now legendary Silver Hawks and their tournament record was 180 wins against forty losses. They won 53 tournaments and finished second in twenty-one. Among the various associations they won nineteen world championships.

Most amazing, was that this former PT boat officer, who was torpedoed in World War II by a German U-Boat, was able to dominate in softball at the highest levels for all those years without making enemies or even creating jealousy.

He died April 9 at the age of 92, a proud, yet humble member of the National Softball Hall of Fame.

His long time teammate and friend, John Paulette, suspects that the Silver Hawk hovers on some updraft, waiting for the chance to dive into the ultimate exhilaration.

As softball community members and/or war veterans, let's salute one of our great warriors.

Pati Named Nevada Citizen of Year

Softball News Report

Senior Softball pioneer Frank Pati, a 78-year-old player and director from Mesquite, was chosen to be the first Nevada Senior Citizen of the Year.

The nominees were based on their significant contributions made at the local, state, and/or national level and by excellence achieved through going above and beyond the call of duty, specifically with respect to volunteer work in support of Senior Citizens of Nevada.

Additionally, candidates were evaluated on the scope and impact of their achievements and the extent to which their efforts benefited and provided inspiration to their community and other Senior Citizens, according to Dr. Herb Randall, chair of the Nevada Delegation of the National Silver Haired Congress (NSHC) Selection Committee.

NHSC in partnership with the Aging Services Directors Organization

Indy's Bill Allen Dies at 66

Bill Allen, 66, who has been instrumental playing, managing and developing softball in the Midwest died recently in his hometown in Indianapolis.

"Bill not only loved the game, he helped develop the sport as a director," said Terry Hennessy, chief executive officer of Senior Softball-USA. "We will miss Bill for his contribution to the sport – and for his dry sense of humor."

The person who best knew Bill, his wife Nancy, describes Bill best:

"I guess number one is that Bill never met stranger. He was loved by so many people, and he loved them back. He loved motorcycle riding, skiing, and softball. He was known fondly by many of his players as Coachie."

"There was a senior softball world series when he was in his 40s, and he knew that was something that he really wanted to do. So he put together a team for the 45 and over league



Frank Pati

established the Nevada Senior Citizen of the Year Award earlier this year. Organizers say they plan on making the award an annual event. The governor has been invited to present

the award.

Pati is a pioneer in senior softball and is also known as 'Mr. Senior Softball.' He is the founder and chairman of the Mesquite Senior Games and was instrumental in bringing the SSUSA Spring World Championships to Mesquite.

"Mesquite Senior Games started humbly with a 50+ softball tournament 18 years ago and progressed into the Mesquite Senior Games in 2002," said Mark Wier, mayor of Mesquite.

"Frank has single handedly brought teams from 42 states to participate in a number of Senior Games events each year. Through his vision, commitment and tenacity the program continues to grow and has brought hundreds of senior athletes to our community, many who have made Mesquite their home," said Wier. "The Mesquite Senior Games contribute to the economic vitality and tourism of Mesquite. Frank Pati is 'the Mesquite Senior Games'."

"Frank Pati has been a driving force in developing senior softball in Mesquite and the Southwest," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer. "This is well-deserved recognition for a man who has selflessly worked to provide the opportunity for hundreds of seniors to play ball."

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Batting Practice on Tee Helps Tone Swing

By Art Eversole
Softball News Report

Becoming a better senior softball hitter requires finding the time during your busy day to practice. The utilization of a batting tee can be an efficient use of your time, bringing immediate benefits and requires only you to be present.

Batting practice can come in a variety of forms such as: live-arm batting practice, a batting cage with a pitching machine, soft toss or other ways like hitting off a stationary tee apparatus.

The lesson to be learned here is the more a hitter practices the perfection of hitting, the better hitter they will become.

Hitting off a stationary tee only needs a stop-net or fence to hit into, a bucket of softballs, a senior bat and your dedication. If practiced correctly, a tee can develop good swing mechanics that will be transferable to the game.

The goal is to build muscle memory from practicing on the tee so that in the game you don't have to think, just hit. Correctly executed repetitions during your practice time with a tee can make you a better senior softball hitter. So, become the master of your own swing.

Hitting off a stationary tee:

- Allows for improvement of your softball hitting skills while working alone.

- Allows the hitter to effectively prepare the large muscles of the body for the new season after an extended layoff.

- Helps eliminate swing flaws and weaknesses.

- Allows you to address and fix weaknesses before live game action.

- Allows the hitter to identify weaknesses through self-assessment and the helpful eyes of a hitting partner or a video.

- Teaches a batter to hit-the-other-way to save team home runs and or eliminating the dreaded DBO.

- Teaches a hitter to get to the inside pitch with the barrel of the bat, instead of those handle hits, driving the ball into fair territory.



- Can cure a common weakness of many seniors which is the inability to hit to the off-field (or backside) thereby, moving runners and throwing off the defense.

- Reinforces the hitter squaring the barrel to the ball resulting in the maximization of the bat's trampoline effect.

My batting tee demonstrator is Rod Gibson of the Arizona Elites 50's major plus (see figures 2-6). I met Rod while vacationing in Scottsdale back in early March. Rod and I joined two other 50s major plus players, Don Long and Steve Long (no relation) from the Pacific Northwest Legends for some batting practice at the beautiful community park softball complex in Anthem.

A technique that Ron adopted is to draw in the dirt a half-circle around the strike mat area that tells him to stay behind the ball at all times while practicing. Ron's tee hitting approach is to try and obtain full extension with his arms regardless of which field he's hitting to and then driving the ball hard to all fields (see figure 2).

The proper set-up of the batting tee is paramount in being able to work effectively on the type of pitch you will be hitting such as: inside, outside or middle pitches; each pitch type will have a different batter's foot positioning when striking the ball off the tee.

Next is the adjusting of the tee for pitch height from the top of the "letters" to about your belt buckle area. The basic tee setup along with your physical and psychological approach to the batting drills should create good swing habits that are put to muscle memory and then transferred to game conditions.

What not to do when hitting off a stationary tee:

- Keeping your feet in one location.

- Just striking the softball without purpose (work on game situations).

- Toppling the tee over and over again without making the necessary adjustments.

- Hitting only a few balls and then quitting not making your tee time

worthwhile.

- Hitting every ball just to one field defeating the purpose of hitting off a tee.

If you don't have a tee and you'd like to start using one, you'll need to get a tee that works for slow-pitch adult ball heights; some baseball tees are for the youth and waist high pitches. Get one that will telescope up for the highest pitches. Below is a link to some batting tees available on the market. I would recommend the 'G Tee' type in the ad, or some similar brand of tee that works for the game of slow-pitch softball.

<http://probaseballinsider.com/best-batting-tee/>

Art Eversole is a Senior Softball News Contributor.

Jersey Masters' Harrison Dies After WMC

Oscar Harrison, a member of the Jersey Masters, died on Nov. 18, 2013, just six weeks after playing 12 games at the World Championships in Las Vegas.

Although he was having some discomfort with his legs, he managed to garner his team's MVP award with an .837 batting average and 39 RBIs, thus helping them to a 10-2 record and the runner-up spot in the 65AAA division.

It was after he arrived home from Las Vegas that Oscar learned that his tired legs were the result of blood

clots in both legs.

While being treated for that in the hospital, further tests revealed malignant tumors were evident as well.

Not only was Oscar an outstanding ball player, but he was an extraordinary individual. He always spoke of family, friends, teammates and even the opposing players with respect, caring and genuine love.

He was the ultimate teammate and he'll be dearly missed by the Masters and other teams in Union and Morris counties in New Jersey.



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Retirement: Financial and Social Planning Essential

Continued from Page 1

Beautiful, a nonprofit that works to eliminate illegal dumping and helps clean up the area and I work with the Nevada Land Conservancy," he notes.

Doolittle, age 70, says none of this would have been possible without planning. He says that in addition to Social Security, he has his own deferred compensation program and saved private money to fund his retirement.

"You certainly can't depend fully on Social Security for your retirement funds, but it's a great fall-back if other things don't work out. You really need other sources of income so that's why I tell my kids to get fully involved in their company's 401(k) plans and to take full advantage of the company's matching funds. There's nothing better than free money," he says.

But even if you haven't started planning for retirement and you're in your 50s or 60s, it's never too late, Doolittle says. "Even late planning can pay off if you really stick to it," he says.

He has one non-financial warning for would-be retirees: "When you see your retirement date looming in the near future, you better have a plan of what the heck you're going to do when you do retire. You'll have a lot of free time on your hands and if you're a social person like me, you're going to want to do something...or many things," he adds.

"That's why softball and team sports work out so well for filling your social needs in retirement."

Doolittle says he has used professional money managers, but he still likes to have a hands-on approach for his retirement money. "I like the challenge of it, but I also like to get professional advice when needed," he says.

Sacramento certified financial planner Elfrena Foord echoes Doolittle's concerns about the lack of financial planning on the part of many who are on the cusp of retirement.

"Too many people turn age 62 or 65 and immediately retire without having any financial plan in place,"



Doug Doolittle

says Foord. "They just don't connect the dots and end up with money problems just a few short years into retirement."

She also says that while retirement runs smoothly if you develop a long-term financial plan early in life, it's never too late to get started. "We've had clients come in our office at age 60 without any plan at all and if they have to work until they're 70, they do have 10 years to build their investment portfolio," she adds.

Financial adviser Bob Dreizler notes that when he meets with a new client, the first question is when can they retire.

"I think the word 'comfortably' is implied in this question and for some people, I tell them that they will need to keep working as long as they humanly can.

"For others who have a big public pension or two coming in, plus Social Security and money in retirement account, I tell them not to get frivolous and not to worry too much," Dreizler says.

But most people fall somewhere in between and their best strategy is to spend and invest intelligently, he adds.

"There are so many factors that impact how long your money lasts during your retirement years: longevity, large medical or long-term care expenses, investment performance and inflation," he says.

"In our perpetual microscopic interest-rate environment, it's hard to find safe investments that keep up with inflation. I think that you

have to have a higher portion of your investments in stocks and diversified income-producing mutual funds than in bonds and CDs, but this scares most people."

Dreizler notes that those working longer have the opportunity to build up their retirement savings and can delay taking Social Security thereby giving them a larger payout down the road.

"I think the general rule is that you should wait as long as possible to start taking Social Security, particularly if you are in good health and don't really need the extra money yet. If you have serious health problems or are a whiz at managing money, you might want to start earlier."

Boston money manager Dan Seidman says that those building up their assets for retirement need to look at their complete financial picture.

He says the first step toward a safe financial retirement is to pay down your debts. "You certainly don't want to have any credit card debt on the books and your car should be free and clear as well," Seidman says. "In addition, in a perfect world, you'd own your home outright or only have a few years left paying off the mortgage."

Financial planner Foord agrees and points out that while you may meet the goal of paying off your house, you'll need to have money set aside for repairs and updates. "If you've lived in that same house for 10 to 20 years, chances are you'll want to update the kitchen or put on a new roof and that can be costly so you'll need to have a cash account set up to handle such major expenses in retirement," she says.

Seidman says that in retirement, "you are going to need personal savings, pension and Social Security. Some people won't get a pension so they'll either have to work longer giving them more Social Security income or invest better to achieve higher returns."

Or, he notes, they might have to use their home as part of their financial picture. "By this I mean that they can downsize their home after the kids leave and/or move to a lower-

cost area. If they do so, they'll likely have extra cash that they can either invest or use to pay their bills going forward."

"An investor doesn't have to be aggressive if they have a long-term horizon. If you get a reasonable return, 6 to 8 percent over 30 years, and save regularly via a 401(k), IRA or ROTH IRA, a person should be in reasonable financial condition to retire."

On the flip side, he says "you really cannot bulk up in five years if you have neglected the prior 20 to 25."

His advice for those five years from retirement?

Step one would be to focus on eliminating debt. Then you should maximize all retirement payments into your 401(k). "Once that's done, start an IRA or Roth IRA. You are allowed to make extra payments after age 50, you can contribute \$6,500 per year as opposed to \$5,500 for those not yet 50."

Contrary to what many might think, "your house would be the most likely place to look for extra cash in those last years," Seidman says. "Can you go to a smaller place? Pay cash for that place, and then use the residual as personal savings. You get \$250,000 as an individual or \$500,000 as a couple in 'free appreciation' before capital gains taxes are due," he explains.

The new retirement for many likely involves part-time work and not a life of playing golf day after day. Or it also might mean serving on boards or volunteering, he adds.

While there is not one set path that leads to a comfortable and secure retirement, what the financial experts and those enjoying retirement today do agree on is to have both a financial and lifestyle plan in place long before you exit the workplace.

Jack Sirard is a nationally syndicated business writer, a senior writer for Senior Softball News and Managing Editor of Softball West Magazine.

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85-Year-Olds Division Launched

Softball News Report

SACRAMENTO – In an historic move for the sport, Senior Softball-USA has launched an 85-year-old division.

“We have been discussing adding the 85 division – the oldest division in the sport – for the past year with Hugh Brotherton of the Center For Sight team in Florida,” said Terry Hennessy, chief executive officer of Senior Softball-USA. “This division extends the opportunity to play to the oldest

seniors in the sport.”

In addition, SSUSA added a 75 Major-Plus division this year, citing the clear dominance of three 75 teams.

“Our goal is to ensure that teams in a division have at least a chance to win,” said George Moreno, SSUSA national director of ratings and tournaments. “The scores of games of three 75 Major teams last year clearly indicate the other Major teams did not have a realistic chance to win.”

The three teams raised to Major-

Plus were the San Francisco Seals, Top Gun 75s and Joseph Chevrolet.

The first official 85 team, Center for Sight, played in the Spring Nationals in Polk County, Florida in April.

“We believe there will be more teams, as players hear about the 85 division,” said Hennessy.

The first year, the 85 teams will be allowed five 83-year-old players and five 84-year-old players. For more information, contact Moreno regarding the new division at 916-326-5303.

Time to Shift to Mid-Season Workout

Greetings softball fans!

This season’s journey is just about halfway way complete – and, as competition builds, the story is unfolding of how players and teams traverse the ranks to reach the top of their division. However, after practice, games and certainly tournaments our bodies begin to tell their own tales.

Hopefully your pre-season conditioning routine has paid off and you’re feeling good and injury free. Now is the time to exchange strenuous training workouts for more moderate intensity maintenance activities between games.

If you have already sustained an injury PLEASE lay-off, see the doc, DO any recommended physical therapy and come back slowly. You will avoid the risk of further injury and live to play another day.

To prevent injury and for best performance, players need to pay attention to pre-game warm-ups and post-game cool-downs.

A dynamic warm-up before play prepares the body for more strenuous work and helps prevents injury. Taking the time to perform a series of stretches post practice or game play (while the body is still warm) can really lend itself to maintaining flexibility.

Here are a few ideas to keep in mind when creating your program.

Start warm-ups with a little



Stretching Limits

By Lisa Cachia

walking and/or light jogging (5–10 minutes). Add a lateral steps and/or a few jumping jacks, followed by lateral arm extensions, windmills, stationary knee lifts, half squats, straight leg kicks and lunges (with trunk rotation). Each warm up should be done with control and last about 30 seconds, with a total warm up taking about 15 minutes.

This should go without saying, but some additional time should be spent warming up the throwing arm -- especially for pitchers.

It’s equally as important to stay warm between innings, so doing some of these actions on the sidelines is highly recommended.

After the game, spending just a few minutes performing basic stretches gives players the opportunity to wind down the body and the mind.

Quadriceps, hamstring and psoas stretches, holding each side

for 30–60 seconds can help relieve tired leg muscles. Side stretches; trunk rotation or spinal twist held for 30 –60 seconds in each direction along with back extensor stretching can provide some welcome relief to the upper body.

Taking the time to stretch rests the body not only countering the physical effects of exercise but also provides the opportunity for mental relaxation.

It is ultimately up to each player to keep himself or herself feeling strong and injury-free in life let alone throughout the season. Striking a balance between training (including practice), game play and rest becomes the biggest challenge of the athlete during times of increased work.

Stay in tune with your body. Keep hydrated by drinking plenty of clean, clear water. Be mindful and give your body what it needs even if that means backing off a little.

Your team will understand. In doing so you will be more likely to feel energetic and relatively pain free into playoffs and championship games.

Play Ball!

Please get regular medical examinations. Check with your doctor before beginning any new exercise routine or strenuous activity.

Any questions or comments please contact: Lisa Cachia, ACSM Certified Personal Trainer at Benefitness@comcast.net.

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Spring Nationals Thriving in Polk County, Florida

Softball News Report

POLK COUNTY, FLA. – The Spring Nationals moved back here to its longtime home for the 10th annual event, and made history when the first 85-year-old team competed in the sport.

The Spring Nationals attracted 33 teams from throughout Florida and Georgia that competed in 10 divisions.

The oldest team, Center for Sight 85s, competed in a mixed division in their round-robin games, then broke off for a best-of-three series against the younger Florida Investment Properties 80s.

Although the 85 team did not win a game, they accomplished a lot.

“We have opened the door,” said manager Al Murray, “and we hope to see other 85 teams form to play us from around the country as the season heats up.”

In the youngest and largest group, the 50 Majors, Miami Power gained the No. 2 seed in pool play and went undefeated in the bracket. Miami



Power dominated Good Times 19-2 in the finals for the title.

Team Sonic won the 50 AAA division, beating Brus Room 16-11 in the championship game.

Hollis Appraisals won the 60 Major-Plus division, while Snyder/Lance took the 55 Major title in mixed bracket play.

In 55/60 Gold division playoffs, South Florida Heat defeated Ballbus-

ters 24-19 for the title and Slug-A-Bug beat Elite 60s of Georgia in a lopsided 23-7 contest for the 55/60 Silver championship.

No Stars lost two of their three seeding games, but caught fire in the 60/65 Silver division bracket. No Stars, a 60 AA team, defeated MCC Marketing, a 65 AAA team, for the mixed division title. MCC Marketing won a berth to the TOC for placing first among the 65 AAA teams competing.

In the 65 Platinum division, Murphy's Law defeated Beach Boyz 20-16 for the title and powerhouse Florida Legends/Human Kenetics beat Talon Wealth Management 14-2 in the 70 Major-Plus championship.

And in the 70/75 Platinum division, MCC Marketing defeated Joseph

Chevrolet 11-5 for the title.

After the tournament, SSUSA officials reflected on the tournament site.

“Central Florida's Polk County has so much to offer this time of year. I can't think of a better place to host our spring tournament,” said Fran Dowell, executive director of Senior Softball USA.

Polk County also hosts the most elite tournament in softball: Tournament of Champions in February.

“We're proud to be able to showcase Central Florida's Polk County to Senior Softball's world class athletes,” said Mark Jackson, director of tourism and marketing for Polk County.

Central Florida's Polk County is home to more than 150 sporting events annually including regional, national and world championships.

Spring National All Tourney Players

POLK COUNTY, FL – All Tournament players selected for the Spring National Championships here include:

Men's 50 Major: Miami Power – Kevin Gordon, Jose Armas, Ozzie Canseco, Lino Alvarez, David Bogatz; **Good Times** – Bobby Benton, Donny Burke, Tim Fincher

Men's 50 AAA: Team Sonic – Jimmy Nelson, Rick Hankins, Paul Biocic, Kevin Degnan, Steve Hagerman; **Brus Room 50** – Dave Roehm, Curt Kreisler, Joe Varacchi

Men's 55/60 Platinum: Snyders Lance – Roger Bard, Chuck Comella, Curt Glassman

Men's 55/60 Gold: Ball Busters – Dan

Stewart, Jeff Brown, Dave Horton

Men's 60/65 Silver: No Stars – Bruce Walsh, Ed Robinson, Paul Diperrri, Harry Freedman, Mike Jiran; **MCC Marketing** – Kevin O'Kiefe, John Hayes, Bob Darrah

Men's 65 Major: Murphy's Law – Floyd Williams, Frank Tomlinson, Dennis Schroeder, Tim Wallace, Jeff Hancock

Men's 70 AA: Scrap Iron Force – Harry Elenbaas, Larry Bradsby, Ron Maxwell, Tony Ponda, Bill Frankeberger

Men's 70/75 Platinum: MCC Marketing – Don Williams, Jerry Flannery, Bill Denegar, Paul Gawel, Dennis Hogan

Men's 80/85 Gold: Florida Investment Properties – Dave Bush, Larry McCurdy, Joe Sykes, Bill Weddle, Ray Bossetti;

Center For Sight – Melvin Zombro, Don Gsell, Ed Scholtz

Late All Tourney Players Listed

2013 Worlds Masters

Woman's 40 AAA: SoCal Toxic – Debbie Baye, Franie Rojas

Woman's 50/55: Dreamgirls - Deborah Franklin, Lydia Crandall, Shirley Snell

Men's 50 AAA: Top Gun MVP - Rich Cruz

Men's 55 Major: Gonzales Insulation MVP – Ron Force

Men's 65 Major: Jersey Masters – Joe Maines, Dana Kimmel, Bill McCabe, MVP – Oscar Harrison

Men's 70 AAA: TNT – Fred Tucci, Lloyd Scholl, Jose Cabrera, John Dan-gano, Jeff Thomson

Men's 80 AAA: Texas Classics – Norm Shugar, Merle Bunde, Babe Darnell, Jimmy Richardson, Alonso Trevino

2013 Winter Nationals

Men's 55 Major: Steve Levin – Terry Hitt, Mike Kelley, Jennis Sills, Leonard Simmons, Dave McDermott

Men's 55 AAA: Roadhouse Blues – Phil Tumminello, Duane Impeciati, Doug Hartzok

Northeast Championships

Men's 65 Major: Jersey Masters – Dana Kimmel, Bill McCabe, Oscar Harrison



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Opinions & Letters

The Responsibility of Free Speech

The rapid eruption of reaction to racist comments by L.A. Clippers' owner Donald Sterling resulted in fast and severe penalties from the National Basketball Association.

Some opposed the NBA sanctions, citing Sterling's right to the freedom of speech – no matter how objectionable the statements.

Freedom of speech means freedom to speak your opinion without fear of government prosecution. Period. A person has the right to speak his or her mind – but they also are responsible for the tenor and content of their message – especially if they are in position of leadership.

In the best of all worlds, sports should be a sanctuary from the prejudices too often faced in life. This is a world in which players and teams are judged on the merits of their accomplishments, not on the color of their skin, their race or religion.

While Sterling may have been simply relating his view of "how the world works," it is essential for those in positions of leadership in sports to forcefully champion fairness for all; for this is the basic tenet that sets sports apart – and at times above – many other aspects of life.

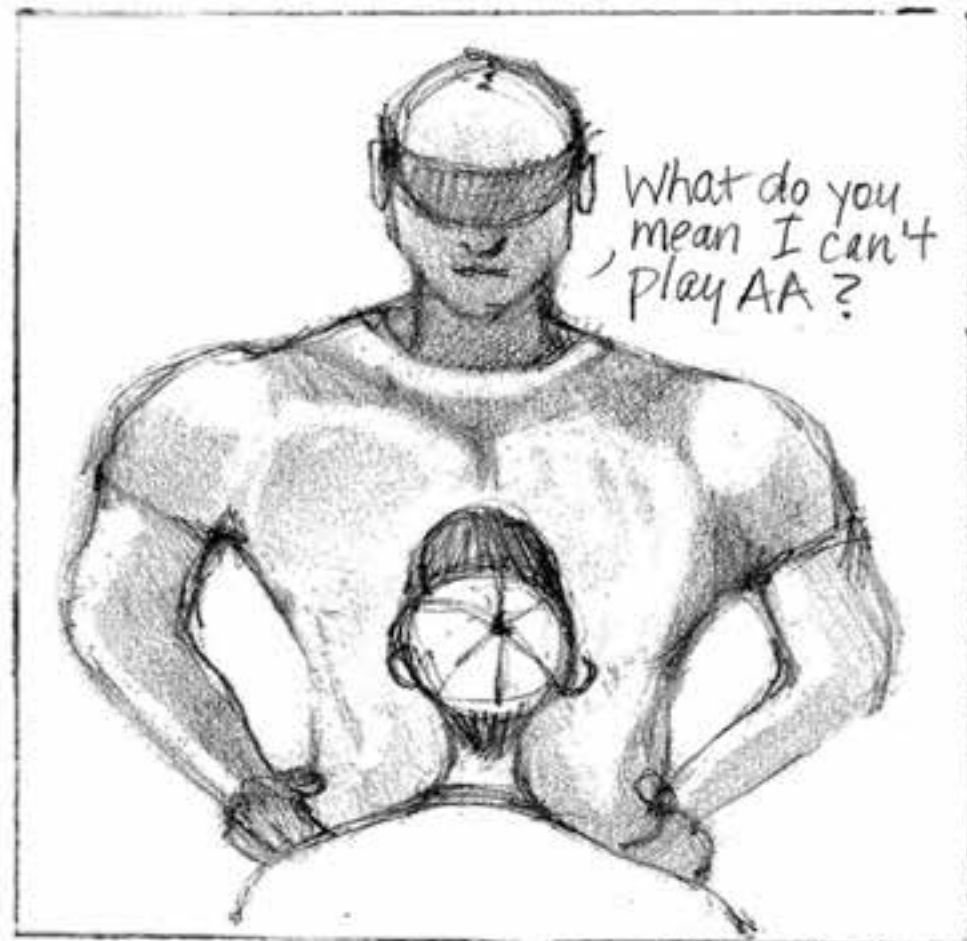
News accounts of the rich or famous or politically connected receiving preferential treatment incite anger in most Americans. Why?

Unfairness.

Americans are famous for rooting for the underdog, a symbol of fighting for a fair chance to win against the odds.

That is one of the main reasons Americans – and most of the rest of the world – love sports. And that is why even the suggestion of prejudiced-inspired social actions in sports ignited such a firestorm of reaction.

Sterling has a right to voice his opinion – and that right is accompanied by the obligation to accept the reaction.



Sue Ballenger

Words of Inspiration Come From Teams, Players

"Playing Senior Softball Through Aches, Pains, and Illness"

These words are on the cover of the book "Slow Pitch Therapy" by senior softball player Leon Speroff, a doctor (see story on Page 1).

His book is a journal of his battle with lymphoma which accounts for about 5 percent of all cancers in the United States. There are several types of lymphoma, the most recognized is Hodgkin's Disease. It is diagnosed with blood tests. It starts as an anemia, common in the bone marrow. Some indicators are pain in the lower legs, night sweats and fatigue.

Speroff began playing senior softball in 2006 and at the urging of his wife kept a diary. This became a book published the following year, "A Slow-pitch Summer, My Rookie Senior Softball Season."

CAN-SIRS CORNER

By Pete Davignon

This book, along with "Back in the Game" written by cancer survivor and attorney Terry Leiden, are filled with inspiration and hope for anyone facing cancer, and are educational for any senior softball player.

CAN-Sirs Enters 4th Year

CAN-Sirs is beginning its fourth year promoting awareness and prevention of cancer among senior softball players. It has been most encouraging to have the support of so many players, teams, leagues and supporters.

We will not be expanding our cancer survivor teams. It has become

quite labor intensive and expensive to field teams in so many tournaments across the nation. As many people know, CAN-Sirs is my wife Vicki and myself working out of our home. We are both cancer survivors and we passionately believe in what we are doing.

We ask senior teams in all age groups to consider wearing our CAN-Sirs jerseys one day of a tournament that the team has entered. You would still enter as your team, but by wearing our jerseys for one day you will be actively promoting cancer awareness among teams at the tournament. If you would like to participate in this program, please contact me at the address below.

This year CAN-Sirs held its 4th Annual Benefit Softball Tournament in Elk Grove, CA. 48 teams from

California and Nevada participated.

We seniors are a softball family. What happens when one of us with a health problem steps on to the field? Our teammates surround us with concern and support. Other teams in the league soon learn of our struggle. They have comforting words for us and a kind of understanding look in their eyes. We feel a warm camaraderie among all our fellow players.

These emotions and connections are basic to our health. Thousands of senior ballplayers have met a player who is a cancer survivor and said to themselves, "it could be me."

Contact: Pete Davignon, Director, 2485 Notre Dame Blvd #370-180, Chico, CA 95928 Phone: 530-680-1614. Email: can-sirs@att.net



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Therapy: Playing Softball is Small Part of Benefits

Continued from Page 1

off chronicles how fellow senior softball players provided essential support through “aches, pains and illness.”

One of the biggest benefits of senior softball, according to Speroff, is not batting, or fielding or running: “There are more man-to-man hugs during and after a senior softball game than at any other time in most men’s lives. Senior softball is a vehicle for emotion, providing excuses and circumstances for manly interactions that are hard to do anywhere else.

“The older one becomes, the more precious are these moments, and when struggling with an illness, the support of fellow senior ball players is precious.”

After going through extensive chemotherapy treatment for a Lym-

phoma, here is Speroff’s idea of the perfect psychological treatment:

“Five for five in my first games back after a difficult month! What a difference it made after eight units of transfusions, to have a good red blood cell level.... no leg discomfort; no shortness of breath; and the strength to swing the bat with coordination and strength! There is no better therapy for the chemotherapy blues!”

There are several senior softball truisms that emerge in Speroff’s book, including the desire to swing the best possible bat:

“Every player is constantly seeking to find a new edge, usually in a new bat (I have had six in six years). The bats are always improving. ... (and) I like to remind my teammates of a saying from T. Boone Pickens: ‘At my age, a dollar saved, is a dollar wasted.’ ”

And this about why players lie to their managers about injuries from Speroff, (Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Oregon Health and Science University):

“(A manager) told me before each game he asks various players: ‘How is your arm? How about your knees,

How do you feel? And do you know what? They lie!’

They lie, said Speroff, “because their personal desire to play is so strong.... (and) players want to be part of the team and do not want to let the team down.” “*Softball Therapy*” is available through Kindle.

Amputee Thanks Players for Support

Softball News Report

Theotis Griswold wants to thank the T.A.G. softball team and all teams and player at the S.P.A. National Championship in Dalton, Ga.; as well as those at the SSUSA Southern Championships in Birmingham, Ala. and the S.P.A. Winter National in Pensacola, Fla., for their generous support.

Griswold had his leg amputated in

2013 incurring medical and prosthetic financial obligations. He thanks all those involved in fundraisers at the events to help alleviate some of his medical expenses.

“The senior softball community is very special,” he says. “I don’t know of any other organization across this country that would exemplify the love, caring and concern you all have shown.”

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"I've been to Cuba, Barcelona, here and there playing this sport, and Hawai'i is the best."
-Jack Aaronson, two-time tournament home run champion

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Sugar Sweetens Risk of Death

MARQUETTE, MICH. – Dr. James A. Surrell, a leading proponent of reducing added sugar in your diet to lose weight and improve your health, says that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now concludes that lowering the intake of added sugars can save your life.

A new major study just released by the CDC establishes that consuming too much added sugar (refined sugar), found in regular soda, cakes, cookies and candies significantly increases the risk of death from heart disease, he says.

“The risk of cardiovascular disease death increases exponentially as you increase your consumption of added sugar,” says the study’s lead author, Quanhe Yang, a senior scientist with the CDC.

Yang and his research team reviewed data from more than 31,000 people who participated in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, which evaluates dietary habits based on in-person interviews.

Among Yang’s findings that were published online by the Journal of the American Medical Association, are that:

People who consumed more than 21 percent of daily calories from added sugar had double the risk of death from heart disease as those who consumed less than 10 percent of calories from added sugars.

A person on a 2,000-calorie diet who consumes 21 percent of their daily calories from added sugar would be eating 420 calories from added sugar, which would be roughly three cans of regular soda.

People who consumed seven or more servings a week of sugar-sweetened beverages were at a 29 percent higher risk of death from heart disease than those who consumed one serving or less.

“I always advise my patients, medical colleagues, family and friends, and just about everybody I meet to avoid these added sugars,” says Dr. Surrell, a board certified colon and rectal surgeon. “There is way too much sugar added to our food and drinks available today, including non-diet soft drinks, candy, cookies, cakes, fruit drinks, and many other items as well. Read all labels and avoid high sugar.”

Thousands of weight conscious persons have followed a low-sugar approach after reading Surrell’s book SOS (Stop Only Sugar) Diet (ISBN 978-0-9825601-8-1, www.sosdietbook.com 144 pages, \$19.95).

His weight-loss approach is not really a diet but a lifestyle choice. The choice is simple: Low Sugar, High Fiber, No More Rules!

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WANTED 1.21

This Two-Piece design will provide effortless power every at bat! Combat's exclusive HIT technology featured on all Combat two-piece designs provides zero sting while maintaining an optimal stiffness profile in the taper. Best suited for the player with a smooth, effortless swing looking for a sting free feel.

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS



TOC: Teams From 27 States Compete



Robert Hudson of TSC in South Carolina, above, was the 40/50 Division Power Hitting Champion, winning an Ultra II bat and certificate. See story on Page 14.

Continued from Page 1

1,500 players and their families.

* Free rings for division champions.

* A Special Edition TOC Miken Ultra II bat for the MVP of each division.

* Free Hitting Clinics with some of the best hitters in the country.

* Free Skills contests with top prizes for each age division, including bats, shoes and fielders gloves.

* An All Star Game featuring the top player from each team.

* A TOC shirt and certificate for each player on each of the 99 participating teams.

"Only winners of the top 20 SSUSA Championships were invited to the TOC – the most elite tournament in the sport," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer, "which resulted in thrilling games between the best teams of the year in each division."

Teams from 27 states and Canada

competed in 23 divisions – and hundreds of players participated in the free hitting clinics, skills contests and the warm-up mini-tournament.

And, after the real competition began, there were some tight games in several divisions as the best of the best played.

The division competition was close, with almost half of the games coming down to the "If needed" game. Of the 11 "If" games, only two teams successfully came through the loser's division to win their divisions.

Advanced Auto from Arizona emerged from the 50 AAA loser's bracket to beat the Dallas Spurs 17-12, forcing an "If" game and beating Dallas again 13-4.

The Indiana Legends soundly beat top-seeded Hill Contracting / HCI of Texas twice in the 65 AA finals, 22-17 and 30-10 for the championships.

In the 50 Majors, Mid-Atlantic from Virginia forced the "If"

Continued on Page 15



The TOC All Star Game attracted more scores of represent it in the All Star competition. The play and the National All Stars defeated the American player acted as Captain of each team, and the W



Mark Jackson, President of the Florida Softball Association, left p Ceremonies a



The San Antonio 50 Major managers, above, receive the folder with TOC Certificates for each of their players at the TOC Banquet held at the Lakeland Center. The banquet, left photo, entertained a full house of 1,500 players and their families to a full sit-down dinner.



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NS: POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA



visitors to see the best players of the best teams battle it out. Each TOC team chose one player to
ers were divided into National and America All Star teams (both teams posed above before the game),
s 33-15 in a 9-inning game on Wednesday evening of the TOC Week. A Wounded Warrior softball
ounded Warrior Manager, David Van Sleet, co-managed the winning National team.

otos by Jack Eberhard
n, director of Tourism
arketing for Central
hoto, was Master of
at the TOC Banquet.



National Team

Team Managers- Terry Hennessy-SSUSA /
David Van Sleet- Wounded Warriors
Captain: Josh Wege- Wounded Warriors

| Name | Team |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Asato, Shig | Marauders 65(CA) |
| Beard, John | Hill Contracting(TX) |
| Brunschmid, Jack | No Guts, No Glory(CA) |
| Covert, Bob | Mustangs(CA) |
| Dziawora, Pete | Advanced Auto Transport(AZ) |
| Escalante, Frank | Sonoma County Crush(CA) |
| Grubb, Chuck | Integrity Builders(NE) |
| Heck, Doug | Jimmy's/Ancell(MN) |
| Hutton, Tom | TNT(NV) |
| Johnson, Chuck | Jimmy's MN Legends(MN) |
| Jordan, Tony | Scrap Iron 70 Legacy(CO) |
| Kirby, Tim | Scrap Iron Diamonds(CO) |
| Kupiec, Jim | Blue Chips 60(IL) |
| Leamen, Mark | 1st Interiors(IA) |
| Litzenberger, John | Michaels(WI) |
| Miller, Frank | Pfeiffer Gray Sox(MI) |
| Moyer, Karen | High Desert Diamonds(NM) |
| Nelson, Larry | Minnesota Masters White(MN) |
| Orbin, Jack | San Antonio Silver Streaks(TX) |
| Paulsen, Steve | Antiques of Iowa City(IA) |
| Pomerleau, Darin | Loose Cannon(WA) |
| Schoelen, Al | Dallas Spurs(TX) |
| Shaw, Jenny | Northwest Intensity(ID) |
| Shugar, Norm | Texas Classics(TX) |
| Speis, Steve | Rio Grande 50's(NM) |
| Stark, George | Gray Sox 80's(MI) |
| Walsworth, Dan | Timberworks Construction(CA) |
| Watson, Jim | WC Thunder(IL) |
| Wenzel, Paul | Handeland Flooring(WI) |

American Team

Team Managers: Bill Ruth- SSUSA, Sly Sylvester- FL
Captain: Zach Briseno- Wounded Warriors

| Name | Team |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ballard, Tom | Custom Graphics(GA) |
| Boone, Michael | Sweet Construction(NJ) |
| Brotherton, Hugh | Center For Sight(FL) |
| Darrah, Bob | The Grey Geese(FL) |
| Davis, Bobby | Hollis Appraisals(FL) |
| Detore, Chuck | Voice Tech(FL) |
| Ferguson, Sam | Bucs and Bulls 70's, MCC (FL) |
| Gazarek, Ed | Windsor Chiefs(E.Can) |
| Hamilton, Tom | AAG Mustangs(FL) |
| Hunter, Al | Hamel Builders(MD) |
| Ibert, Paul | Syracuse Cyclones(NY) |
| Jennings, Fay | Dreamgirlz(VA) |
| Kaplan, Stu | N.Y. Capitals(NY) |
| LoCastro, Lenny | Florida Hitmen(FL) |
| Mooney, Tom | Action Auto Parts(RI) |
| Moses, Ken | Syracuse Cyclones 70's (NY) |
| Nicolay, Gary | Rose Enterprises(FL) |
| Nielsen, Darryl | Fat Nancy's/Gubiotti(NY) |
| O'Brien, Norm | Cozy Grill(RI) |
| Presley, Jim | Vacar Stars(VA) |
| Protzman, Ed | Maryland Cougars(MD) |
| Reese, Bob | Indiana Legends/Columbus(IN) |
| Rogers, Steve | Kinnco Services(IN) |
| Russell, Jim | Chesapeake 60's(MD) |
| Sadler, Tim | Mid-Atlantic Softball(VA) |
| Salyer, Ron | Lake Wales Legends(FL) |
| Schroeder, Don | Buffalo Wild Wings(FL) |
| Swanson, Billy | Bradford White 60's(PA) |
| Tashea, Thomas | Hannington 55's(MA) |
| Wacha, James | The Blast(FL) |
| Phillips Jr., James | Cross Cut/Freedom Ranch |



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TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA



The Best in Speed, Pitching and Hitting

The 2014 Tournament of Champions saw hundreds of players compete for supremacy in four special competitions:

Speed Contest

Winners of the Speed Contest (fastest time around the bases) received a pair of Tanel shoes.

- Women's 50/60 Division: Ellyn Wong (High Desert Diamonds, NM)
- Men's 40/50 Division: Tim Sadler (Mid-Atlantic Softball, VA)
- Men's 60 Division: Gene Thompson (High 5, MN)
- Men's 70/80 Division: Ray Worrell (Pittsburgh Gold, PA)

Pitching Contest

- Winners of the Pitching Contest (most balls into a bucket at home plate) received a fielder's glove.
- Men's 40/50 Division: Scott Sanford (Jimmy's/Ancell 55s, MN)
 - Men's 60 Division: Shigeru Asato (Marauders, CA)
 - Men's 70 Division: Larry Shotwell (Vacar Stars, VA)
 - Men's 80 / Women's 50 Division: Angie Ayala (Arizona Dream Team)

Precision Hitting Contest

- Winners of the Precision Hitting Contest (most balls in hit in sequence between cones in the outfield) received an Ultra II bat.
- Men's 40/50 Division: Byron Hollister (Rio Grande 50s, NM)

- Men's 60 Division: Lonnie Netzel (Central Illinois Chiefs)
- Men's 70 Division: Darrell Lashen (Jimmy's 75 Gold, MN)
- Men's 80 / Women's 50 Division: Hugh Brotherton (Center for Sight 80s, FL)

Power Hitting Contest

- Winners of the Power Hitting Contest (most balls hit over the fence) received an Ultra II bat.
- Men's 40/50 Division: Robert Hudson (TSC, SC)
 - Men's 60 Division: Gary Deaton (Hollis Appraisals, FL)
 - Men's 70 Division: Bill Hunter (Pittsburgh Gold, PA)
 - Men's 80 / Women's 50 Division: Shirley Simmons-Snell (Dreamgirlz 50, VA)

2014 Tournament of Champions MVPs



The Most Valuable Player of each division of the Tournament of Champions received a special-edition Miken TOC Ultra II MVP bat, Left photo. Here are the TOC Most Valuable Players:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Homer Lovers, On, C. Men's 40 | AAA - Bob Poulin |
| AAA - James Bridge | Indiana Legends/Columbus, Men's |
| Team 1 Sports, Fl. Men's 50 Major | 65 AA - Dan Londeree |
| Plus - Alan Tanner | Florida Legends/Human Kinetics, |
| DLB, Wi. Men's 50 Major - Larry | Men's 70 Major Plus - David Decker |
| Tostrud | MCC Marketing, Fl. Men's 70 Major |
| Windy City Thunder, Il. Men's 50 | - Bill Helms |
| AAA - Terry Feeney | Vacar Stars, Va. Men's 70 AAA - |
| The Grey Geese, Fl. Men's 50 AA - | Russell Hunt |
| Kevin Denis | Cozy Grill, Ri. Men's 70 AA - Nor- |
| Kinnco Services, Mi. Men's 55 Ma- | man O'Brien |
| major - George Roberts | Joseph Chevrolet, Fl. Men's 75 Ma- |
| Desert Dawgs 55, Ca. Men's 55 | major Plus - Whole Team |
| AAA - Mike Bortz | Jimmy's Minnesota Gold, Men's 75 |
| Advanced Auto Transport, Az. Men's | AAA - Lowell Thompson |
| 55 AA - Dan Reeves | Florida Investment Properties, Men's |
| Timberworks Construction, Ca. | 80 Major - Roger Thresher |
| Men's 60 Major Plus - Steve Grimm | Jimmy's Minnesota Legends 80, |
| Minnesota Masters/White, Men's 60 | Men's 80 AAA - Robert D'Amadio |
| Major - David Slack | Beavers, Mi. Women's 40 AAA - |
| Florida Hitmen 60, Men's 60 AAA - | Carolyn Shanks |
| Sly Sylvester | Lew's Crew/Exceeding Expecta- |
| Ohio Silverados, Men's 60 AA - | tions, Md. Women's 40 AA - Ernie Turner |
| Wayne Steiner | Dreamgirlz, Va. Women's 50 - Shir- |
| Rose Enterprises, Fl. Men's 65 Ma- | ley Simmons Snell |
| major Plus - Roger Wilt | New York Metros Double Play, |
| Voice Tech Slammers, Fl. Men's 65 | Women's 55 - Arleen King |
| Major - Jimmy Davidson | Sunny Beaches 60, Fl. Women's 60 - |
| Windsor Chiefs, On,C. Men's 65 | Susan Hopkins |



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caption goes here

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA



Photos by Jack Eberhard

The Homer Lovers of Ontario, Canada, topped Loose Cannon, left photo, to win the 40 Major Championships. In the 60 Major-Plus division, right photo, Timberworks of California beat Hollis Appraisals of Florida 27-25 for the title.

TOC: Wisconsin, California, Illinois, Florida Win

Continued from Page 12

game by beating DLB of Wisconsin 14-11 in the championships. But DLB came alive in the finals to win the title 22-15.

And in the 50 AAA, OH MY from California won five straight games from the loser's bracket, including the championship game against Windy City Thunder of Illinois 12-8. In the "If" game, OH

MY came razor-edge close, losing to Windy City 17-16 in the finals.

In the 55 Majors, Doubleplay of California emerged from the loser's bracket to beat Kinnco Services of Michigan 10-8 in a low-scoring contest. Kinnco's bats caught fire in the "If" game, while Doubleplay stayed cold, with Kinnco winning the title 12-4.

It was East Coast versus West Coast in the 60 Major-Plus, with Timberworks of California bouncing back from a 18-2 loss to Hollis Appraisals of Florida to force a playoff, which Timberworks won 27-25.

In the 60 AAA, Columbus LX of Alabama forced the "If" game by beating Florida Hitmen 20-15. Florida Hitmen edged out Columbus 12-11 in the finals to win the title.

Two Florida teams battled it out in the 70 Platinum division, with MCC Marketing coming out of the loser's bracket to beat Florida Legends/Human Kinetics 18-12. The Legends came back in the "If" game, winning the division 14-8.

The 70 AA division was a battle of the Northeast, with the Syracuse Cyclones of New York edging Cozy Grill of Rhode Island 8-7 to force the "If" game. Cozy Grill won the finals – and the division – decisively, 16-8.

In the oldest division, perennial Florida powerhouses Florida Investment Properties and Center for Sight faced off. Center for Sight forced the "If" game, 15-10, but Florida Investment came back to win the division 18-16.

And in the oldest Women's Division, New York Doubleplay forced the "If" game by beating Sunny Beaches of Florida 15-14. But Sunny Beaches came back to win the 55/60 finals 16-7.

Bobby Davis, right photo, was one of three batting instructors offering a free clinic to TOC players on Wednesday of TOC Week. Davis was joined by fellow instructors Dave Reed and Gary Deaton.



Continued on Page 16



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TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA



Photos by Jack Eberhard

Players from the Sunny Beaches 60s (left photo), the oldest women's division won in the 60s, while the Buffalo Wild Wings of Florida (right photo) came in second in the 75 AAA men's divisions finals.

TOC: Canadian, Minnesota Teams Win 2 Divisions

Continued from Page 15

In other division play, Homer Lovers of Ontario, Canada, won the 40 Major division and Team 1 Sports of Florida took the 50 Major-Plus, beating Tri-State Connection of South Carolina in a high scoring 43-42 contest.

In the 50 AA, Grey Geese Softball of Florida defeated the Antiques of Iowa City 9-7 for the title.

In the seven-team 55 AAA division, Desert Dawgs of California beat Integrity Builders of Nebraska 21-11 in the finals for the championship.

In the 60 Majors, Minnesota Masters beat Top Gun of California 15-9 for the title and Rose Enterprises was awarded the 65 Major-Plus title.

The Ohio Silverados capped their perfect run by beating No Guts/ No Glory of California 17-13 for the 60 AA title.

In the 65 Major division, Voice Tech Slammers defeated the Panhandle Hitmen in an all-Florida finals, 18-7.

In one of the largest divisions, the Winsor Chiefs of Ontario, Canada, ended their perfect bracket run by beating the Marauders of California 21-10 to win the eight-team 65 AAA division.

In the 70 AAA, the top-seeded

Vacar Stars of Virginia defeated Pittsburgh Gold in the finals 20-10.

Jimmy's Minnesota Gold beat Buffalo Wild Wings of Florida by a close 16-15 to win the 75 AAA championships.

Not to be outdone by their

younger teammates, Jimmy's Gold of Minnesota won the 80 AAA division, beating the Texas Classics 25-9 in the finals. In the Women's division, Lew's Crew of Maryland won the 40 AA title and the Beavers of Michigan won the 40 AAA title.

Two dream teams faced off in the Women's 50 division, with the Dreamgirlz of Virginia handily beating the Arizona Dream Team 17-9 in the championship game.

For complete game results, please see www.seniorsoftball.com.

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Famous Fatboyz of California, left photo, won the 40 Major-Plus Division in the Southwest Championships in Las Vegas.

Southwest Jumps to 172 Teams; 3rd largest

Senior Softball News

LAS VEGAS – The Southwest Championships here exploded this year, attracting 172 teams to become the third largest senior tournament of the year.

The tournament has swelled for the second year in a row, growing from 112 teams in 2012 to 143 teams in 2013 and 172 teams this year.

Teams from throughout the West and from as far away as Minnesota and Canada competed in men's and women's divisions ranging from 40 years to 80 years. The tournament is a joint effort of Senior Softball-USA and the Las Vegas Senior Softball Association.

The largest senior tournament of the year, the World Masters Cham-

pionships, is expected to draw 500 teams to Las Vegas this fall. The second largest senior tournament is also in Nevada, the Rock 'n' Reno Challenge Cup, which attracted 210 teams this year.

"We are especially happy with our growing 40 Masters Division," said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director. "We had 35 men and women's 40

Masters teams in the Southwest – our single largest growth – which bodes well for the future of senior softball."

In the top men's 40 Masters Major-Plus division, Famous Fattboyz of California fought their way through seven games in the loser's bracket and double-dipped Handpicked of Califor-

Continued on Page 18

Tournament of Champions All-Tourney Players Selected

POLK COUNTY, FL – All Tournament players selected for the Tournament of Champions here include:

Women's 40+: Beavers – Leslie Shingleton, Dawn Pardee, Chris Treesh, Connie Trylong, Jan Johnson, Becky DeHondt, **MVP** Carolyn Shanks; **Kryptonite** – Sara Payne, Colleen Smith, Rhonda Cline
Woman's 40AA: Northwest Intensity – Wendy Shell, Shannon Elrich, Jenny Shaw, Sherri Clark

Women's 50: Dreamgirls – Barbara Foxx, Cynthia Mobley, Sylvia Echols, Lydia Crandall, Mona Onyemelukwe, **MVP** Shirley Snell

Women 55/60: NY Metro's Doubleplay – Maryann Bubelnik, Laura Schiavone, Pam Evans, Anne Diprima, Joan Frimbolt, Arleen King.

Men's 40/50 Platinum: Team 1 Sports/Miken – Roger Bard, Patrick Phillips, Chris Bargainer, Kip Grant, Richard Bokinsky, **MVP** Alan Tanner; **TSC** – Billy Hudson, Calvin McCrary, Denol-phus Eason

Men's 50 Major: Mid-Atlantic – Tim Sadler, Eddie James, Dave Patrick; **San Antonio 50's** – Micky Rodriguez, Mike

Garibay

Men's 50 AAA: WC Thunder – Bob Kenney, Dave Fortier, Jim French, Tonny Gilchrist, Keith Bradley; **50 Oh My** – Dan Bandy, Mark Carmichael, Gus Hurtado; **Florida Automated Shade** – Jim Carroll, David Leon

Men's 50 AA: Grey Geese – Stu Rapella, Gary Hatmaker, Stan Adams, Johnny Vaughn, Bob Darrah, Kelly Goswick **MVP** Kevin Denis; **Antiques of Iowa City** – Kevin Rauch, Steve Paulsen, Denny Jenn, Tracy Prouty

Men's 55 Major: Kinnco Services – Bill Osborn, Kevin Kastl, Doug Meek, Leo Osterday, Terry Lee, **MVP** George Roberts; **Doubleplay** – Paul Smit, Al Shelley, Ray Tarazon

Men's 55 AAA: Desert Dawgs – Paul Ortiz, Nolan Spencer, Mark Schevers, Mike Bortz, Roy Ferguson; **Integrity Builders** – Ted Bliss, Chuck Cantoya, Roger Hern

Men's 55 AA: Advanced Auto Transport – Peter Dziawura, Dolan Barkley, John Stamp, Rob Scott, Steve Giese;

Dallas Spurs – Bill Jennings, Fernando Sanchez, Lance Small; **1st Interiors** – Randy Johnson, Reggie Waggoner

Men's 60 Major+: Timberworks Construction – The whole team, **MVP** Steve Grim; **Hollis Appraisals** – Mike Monnier, Chip Cregar, Jack Aronson, Ed Carrington

Men's 60/65 Platinum: MN Masters White – Steve Schletty, Lon Stole, Daryl Cooper, Gary Hamilton, Larry Nelson; **Top Gun 60 Softball** – Don Chandler, Paul Lederman, Dave Seitz

Men's 60 AAA: Florida Hitmen – Rocky Scott, Robert Allen, Lenny Locastro, Dave Cline, Mike Dickson; **Chesapeake 60's** – Jim Barnes, Pat Casey
Men's 60 AA: Ohio Silverados – Jeff Brenneman, Dave Caplinger, Jim Kirby, Ken Spoerndle, Wayne Steiner, **MVP** Wayne Steiner; **No Guts, No Glory** – Dennis McCoy, Rod Schemp, Jack Brunschmid

Men's 65 Major+: Rose Enterprises – Jack Doan, Roger Wilt, Dave Clover, Terry O'Donnell, Ken Young, **MVP** Roger Wilt

Men's 65 Major: Panhandle Hitmen – Eddie Rivera, Billy Shields, Terry Spears

Men's 65 AAA: Custom Graphics – Doug Hixon, Bob Nice

Men's 65 AA: Indiana Legends – Dan Londeree, Dan Reynolds, Jim Ogilvie,

Bob Reese, Steve Taylor; **Sacramento Buds** – Robert Nishimoto, Russell Uda
Men's 70 AAA: Texas Classics – Lanny Horton, Dick Kreger

Men's 70 AA: Cozy Grill – Norman O'Brien, Alfred LaFazia, Michael Lyons, Dexter Patterson, Michael Neri; **TNT** – Ken Victory, Lloyd Scholl

Men's 70/75 Platinum: Florida Legends – Tom Dabbs, Bob Koss, Ramen Valdes, Steve Papalas, Cliff Stratton, **MVP** David Decker; **Joesph Chevolet** – Santi Cacciola, Tom Sides, Richard Lines, James Stones, Robert Johnson

Men's 75 AAA: Jimmys Minnesota Gold – Bob Lenzmeier, Lon Hastert, Lewis Bowstring, Don Carruth, Mert Vaughn; **Buffalo Wild Wings** – Don Schroeder, Doug McLellan, Jack Williams

Men's 80 Major: Florida Investment Properties – Rocco Cambareri, Al DeWerth, Dino Dentale, Everett Arnold, David Robertson; **Center for Sight** – Hugh Brotherton, Dave Bush, Joe Sykes, Bill Weddle

Men's 80 AAA: Texas Classics 80 – Babe Darnell, Dennis Jeter, Charles Gamble; **GraySox 80's** – Doran Quigg, Jim Longman,



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Southwest: LVSSA 55s, GSC, New Mexico Winners

Continued from Page 17

nia 23-14 and 25-9 for the championship.

Softball Junkies swept the large 15-team 40 men's Major division in seven straight games for the title.

In the top 40 women's Major division, TKP/Hunters blanked Hafta Play in a surprising 14-0 romp to win. Angry Birds took the women's 40 AAA division and Northwest Intensity won the women's 40 AA title.

The oldest groups playing, the 75 and 80 divisions, also grew with 13 teams competing.

Fairway Ford of Southern California edged the Arizona Prospectors in the 80 division, 13-12.

In the 75 division, the San Francisco Seals won the Major-Plus, PDR Fastsigns of Oregon won the Majors

and D-99 of Nevada took the 70 AAA title.

The largest single division was the 60 AAA Division, with 17 teams. Over the Edge of California won the division, beating the Arizona Roadrunners 17-11 in the championships.

Team Rawlings of California got hot at the right time, emerging from the 6th seed to top the eight-team 50 Major division.

Arizona Old School slugged it out of the loser's bracket with seven straight wins to double-dip Top Gun of California 14-13 and 15-4 to win the 15-team 50 AAA division championships.

In the 55 Major, Cal Energy made a strong run through the 11-team bracket, including beating Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder 21-10 in the

finals, to win the title.

LVSSA 55s of Las Vegas dominated the 55 AAA division bracket, capping their run with an 18-12 victory over Baker Boyz of California.

The 55 AA division became a rematch of the Spring World pitting Mountain Men against each other. This time the Mountain Men of Utah forced Rocky Mountain Extreme of New Mexico into an "If" game by winning 25-9. New Mexico came back in the finals to win 10-7 and exact revenge for their loss at the Spring Worlds to Utah.

In the 60 Major-Plus, God's Sports Company of California defeated Chain Link of Arizona 20-17 for the championships.

After losing two seeding games, the Rogue of Arizona easily rolled

through the seven-team 60 Major bracket. The Rogue culminated their run with a 19-9 victory over Top Gun of California.

In the 60 AA, two Arizona teams battled for the title, with Bucky's Casino beating Los Vatos Viejos in a tight 15-14 championship matchup.

California powerhouses Full Circle and Omen faced each other in the 65 Major-Plus finals, with Full Circle winning 20-12.

In an extremely close 65 Major division, Tharaldson's of Nevada won the bracket games – and the title – by margins of two runs or less. Tharaldson's capped its run by defeating High Desert Roadrunners of New Mexico 16-14.

In the 65 AAA, the Arizona Sidewinders had a perfect tournament until they met NorCal STIXX in the finals. The STIXX beat the Sidewinders 16-15 and forced an "If" game. The Sidewinders came back in the finals 10-6 to win the 12-team division title.

In the 65 AA, the Scrap Iron Classics of Colorado came out of the loser's bracket to double-dip Git-R-Done of California 10-9 and 15-1.

The older 70 Major-Plus Omen team was successful, beating Stark Street Pizza of Nevada 24-18 in the finals for the division title.

In the 70 Major, the Arizona Sidewinders capped a run of a number of close bracket wins with a 20-12 victory over Thousand Oaks Panthers of California in the finals.

TNT of Nevada blasted through the 70 AAA division bracket, winning the championship game against Top Gun of California 19-10 for the title.

In the 70 AA, Scrap Iron Force of California beat Git-R-Done of California 19-8 for the division championship.

In the 50 Women's division, the High Desert Diamonds of New Mexico won the best-of-three finals against Arizona Dream Team after losing the first game 18-14. New Mexico came back in the last two games, 17-14 and 16-15 to win the title in the close series.

For complete results, please see www.seniorsoftball.com.

Southwest All-Tourney Players Selected

LAS VEGAS – All Tournament players selected for the Southwest Championships here include:

Woman's 40 Major: TKP 40's/Hunters – Deb Dimeglio, Kelli Horton, Carolyn Norman, Deb Cormier, Kim Roter

Woman's 40 AAA: Kiss our Stix – Diamond Lucas, Patti Affriseo, Cinthia Becks

Woman's 40AA: Utah Relics – Heather Bernard, Malia Krogstad, Leslie Varoz, Penny Moore, Kathy Christiansen; **Northwest Intensity** – Jenny Sharp, Jayme Hoyt, Wendy Shell, Natalie Parsons

Woman's 50: High Desert Diamonds – Ellyn Wong, Joyce Helgsen-Montoya, Debbie Reynolds, Sharon Farrell, Nikki Valverde-Maxey, Fran Depuy

Men's 40 Major: Softball Junkies – Raul Ruelas, Tony Ruelas, Jason Pressley, Mike Smoot, Rob Contreras

Men's 50 Major+: AZ Elite – Kris Cenatiempo, Robert Gutierrez, Jim Olson, Curtis Horger, Mike Hoffner

Men's 50 AAA: Arizona Old School – Dave Vandehey, Dave Dahlberg, Jim Ketterling, Bill Davenport, Greg Colyar

Men's 50/55 AA: Rocky Mountain Extreme – Dave Hernandez, Larry Platt, Dick Rupp, Jon Toledo, Andy Gonzales; **Mountain Men** – Ernie Reyes, Clif Nydahl, Stuart Fredman

Men's 55 Major: Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder – Dave Schultz,

Chris McTigue, Mark Haupt

Men's 55 AAA: Baker Boyz – John Rhonemus, John Moncrieff, Steve Holman

Men's 60 Major+: GSC – Mickey Ayala, Vern Fowler, Steve Owens, Jimmy Ross, Buzz Wheeler; **Top Gun 60 Softball** – Tom Lewis, Mike Toomey

Men's 60 Major: Rogue 60's – Rick Terry, Robby Bates, Dave Quenzler, Kenny Vaught, John Vincent; **Top Gun III** – Hank Alonzo, Paul Lederman, Larry Littlejohn; **No Dice** – Tom Stone, Scott Dillon

Men's 60 AAA: Bucky's – Dean Bourghs, Vince Vicari, Doug Royse, Don Gilbert, Doug Lee; **Los Vatos Viejos** – Lope Ribodal, Moises Langoria, Jack Prevailer; **Royals Softball Club** – Joel Arbogast, Ron Lopez

Men's 60 AA: Basehawgs – Mike Laxton, Bob Jackson

Men's 65 Major: Tharaldsons – Jim Peacock, Roy Coston, Paul Callaghan, Rick Denton, Gary Tharaldson; **High Desert Roadrunners** – Ronne Mercer, Willie Walker, Ryanczak; **R&R 65's** – Dennis Carmichael, Mik

Men's 65 AAA: Sidewinders – Mike Lavis, Bob Lerch, Joe Covell, Kent Lindberg; **Nor-Cal Stixx** John Flores, Ed Denoncourt, Steve Etchieson

Men's 65 AA: Scrap Iron Classics – DuWayne Pillard, Steve Haslam, Gayton Albarano, Glenn Bradeford, Rauison Ken-

nedy; **Get-R-Done** – Mark Beizer, John Redner, Bryan Wilkins

Men's 70 Major+: Omen 70 – Lynn Anglin, Tony Miranda, Billy Nevis, Rich Schmidt, John Chacon; **Stark Street Pizza** – John DiRe, Doc DeMarco, Jack Robinson

Men's 70 Major: Sidewinders – John Burns, Buster Dickinson, Bill Lince, Pete Martinez, Howie Schaber; **1000 Oaks Panthers** – Ronnie Guest, Steve Garceau, Dan Minnick; **Tri-State Diamondbacks** – Ed Sullivan, Tom Grubb

Men's 70 AAA: TNT 70 – Jim Hunyady, Lloyd Scholl, Jeff Wagner, Ken Victory, Steve Schrader; **Top Gun** – Frank Sperling, Mike Ingalls, Mike McCssey; **Kokopelli** – John Crenshaw, Wayne Poindexter

Men's 70 AA: Git-R-Done – Dave Porzel, Lannie Kettering, Gene Dick, Steve Motske

Men's 75 Major+: San Francisco Seals – Harry Heller, Bill Ends, Argie Haddock, Jim Phillips, Herb Epple, Steve Salter; **Top Gun 75's** – Dick Williams, Jesus Godoy, Bob Kapeller, Bill Poe; **Men's 75 Major:** California Connection – Gary Adams, Gene Adams, Ralph Schroeder, Gary oo

Men's 75AAA: D-99 – John Bellavia, Al Fry, Bob Bush, John Stacy, Tom Ford; **Men's 80 Gold:** Fairway Ford – Bob Pucci, John Fisher, RJ Jerrels, Hank Mason, Harry Walker



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8th Spring Worlds Grows to 86 Teams

Softball News Report

MESQUITE, NV/ST. GEORGE, UT – The eighth annual Spring Worlds provided a special opportunity to honor the man who brought this tournament – and many more senior softball events – to Mesquite: Frank Pati.

The State of Nevada honored Pati with its first Nevada Senior Citizen of the Year award. (See story on Page 3).

The Spring Worlds grew to 86 teams this year, making it one of the largest early senior tournaments in the country, running from March 18-23.

The games actually went smoothly this year and the weather was great in the daytime – although it did cool off for the few evening games, according to Tournament Directors Don Brooks and Doug Robbins.

Last year, the Spring Worlds was marked by tragedy when Rudy Flores, a player for So Cal 55's, suddenly collapsed in the first base coach's box. Efforts to revive Flores were unsuccessful and he was later pronounced dead at the hospital.

So Cal 55's competed again this year, placing third in the 55 Major



division. Doubleplay/Monarch of California took first place, beating Scrap Iron Mountain Thunder 15-6 in the title game.

The SoCal Knights emerged from the loser's bracket to double-dip Sac Pack of Utah 14-10 and 17-10 to win the 50 Major championships.

Another Cinderella team Jaxx/Bret of Utah in the eight-team 50 AAA division, double-dipped the Arizona Bulldawgs 24-19 and 14-10 in an impressive finish.

And a third Cinderella team, Last Call of Nevada came out of the 65 AAA loser's bracket to defeat the Mustangs of California twice, 17-14

and 19-9, for the title.

In the 55 AAA, Baker Boyz of California defeated LVSSA 55s of Las Vegas 16-10 in the finals. And in the 55 AA, Rocky Mountain Extreme of New Mexico forced an "If" game by beating the Mountain Men of Utah 15-7. However the Mountain Men edged out New Mexico 18-17 in the "If" game to win the championship.

In the 60 Major-Plus, two Northern California teams faced off, with the Old Dawgs defeating Timberworks Construction 22-19 in the finals.

In the 60 Majors, Top Gun III of California beat Superior Water & Air of Idaho 18-12 for the title.

In the largest division, the 10-team 60 AAA, Cal Extreme forced an "If" game by beating Results Realty of Nevada 18-14. However Results Realty came back in the finals to win 21-7.

Scrap Iron Freedom of Colorado soundly defeated The Copper Gang of Utah 26-7 for the 60 AA title.

In the 65 Major division, R&R of California beat Tharaldson's of Nevada 23-16 in the championships.

In the 65 AA, The Sacramento

Islanders Gold edged out Damaged Goods of California 19-18 to win the championships.

In the 70 Major-Plus, Stark Street Pizza of Nevada dominated Scrap Iron Legacy of Colorado 20-5 for the title.

In the 70 Majors, Tri-State D-Backs of New Mexico beat California Connection 13-10 to force the "If" game. Connection came back in the finals to win the final game 23-17.

El Paseo Bank of California beat Top Gun 70s 19-13 to win the 70 AAA division, and in the 70 AA, Scrap Iron force defeated Git-R-Done of California 20-5 in the championship game for the title.

Two California teams battled out for the 75 AAA championships, with Sage Mobile Homes beating Gold Coast by a lopsided 9-1 for the win.

In the oldest division, Fairway Ford of California forced an "If" game by defeating Arizona Prospectors 13-8 in the 80 division championships, but the Prospectors came back in the "If" to defeat Fairway 8-3 for the title.

For complete results, please go to www.seniorsoftball.com.

Spring World All Tournament Players Selected

MESQUITE, NV – All Tournament players selected for the Spring Worlds here include:

Men's 50 Major: So Cal Knights – Greg Rojas, Mike Price, John White, Tom Lang, Cal Calendrino; **Triple 7** – Rick Hilton, Derek Lane

Men's 50 AAA: Jaxx – Jim Hansen, Bart Hubbard, Darryl Roberts, Kirk Taylor, Courtney Cluff; **AZ Bulldawgz** – Darren Cox, Jeff Brandhagen, Manny Ramirez;

Top Gun 50's – Rich Cruz, Patrick Lynch

Men's 55 Major: DoublePlay – Al Shelley, Ray Tarazon, Burt Cochran, Jimmy Williams, Dan Plesetz;

Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder – Randy Kunkel, Michael Mouton, Dave Schultz;

So Cal 55 – Ray Robles, Pete Oriarte

Men's 55 AAA; Baker Boyz – John Moncrieff, Marty Wilcox, Gary Weichelt, Steve Holman, Ray Mascarinas; **LVSSA 55's** – Bill Udart, Mike Flannery, Jim Whipple; **Desert Dawgs** – Roy Ferguson, Mark Schevers

Men's 55AA; Mountain Men – Bruce

King, Jim Sanders, Charlie Reed, Mike Seegmiller, Clif Nydahl;

Men's 60 Major+: Old Dawgs – Rick Cady, Dan Kibbe, Mike Cacy, Steve Grimm, Chris Dyack; **Timberworks Construction** – Gary Garcia, Jeff Rose, Steve Hillmen; **Top Gun 60** – Mark Lawrence, Jim Nunnery

Men's 60 Major: Top Gun III – Clyde Phillips, Paul Lederman, Paul Ortiz, Jim Strickland, Johnny Coombs; **Superior Water&Air** – Jim Sereduk, Wayne Darling, Harold Kilgore; **Ryan's Way** – Rick Nelson, Gary Gosz

Men's 60 AAA: Rezults Realty – Glenn Myers, Dennis Rand, Bob Murray, Ruben Lopez, John Costley; **Cal Xtreme** – Arnold Carlos, Ned Hennigan, Tom Steinhauer

Men's 60 AA: Scrap Iron Freedom – Mick Roemer, Rich Vieira, Asa Jenkins, George Wise, Sebastian Muzio

Men's 65 Major: R&R 65's – Roger Waite, Phil Stevens, Joe Sotelo, Wes Baker, Creighton Crum; **Tharaldsons** – Larry Giese, Paul Callaghan, Cliff Traeden

Men's 65 AAA: Last Call – Willie Williams, Dean Wickizer, Mark Olsen, Jim Scanlan, Jack Ellington; **Mustangs** – Albert Oxley, Greg Guion, Bob Covert; **Scrap Iron Phiten** – Stan Suichta, Tom Reynolds

Men's 65 AA: Sacramento Islanders – Jerry Enfield, George Garcia, Jack Kocunik, John Regala, Monte Watson; **Damaged Goods** – Tom Westlake, Steve Schwartz, Jeff West; **Scrap Iron Classics** – Carl Lusk, Steve Haslam, Glenn Bradford

Men's 70 Major+: Stark St. Pizza – Bob Brown, John DiRe, Bob Gregorich, Bob Williams, Mike Smith, Doc Demarco; **Scrap Iron Legacy** – Larry Heuett, Dennis Lutz, Bob Ross, Barry Sustin

Men's 70 Major: Calif. Connection – Bill Schroeder, Ken Cornelison, Mel Makos, Mike Riveria, Tom Weaver; **Tri-State Diamondbacks** – Billy Kee, Garry Russell, Geno Fernandez; **CE John** – Jim McAbee, Jerry Henry

Men's 70AA: Scrap Iron Force – Harry Elenbaas, Larry Bradsby, Ron Maxwell,

Tont Ponda, Bill Frankeberger; **Git-R-Done** – Gary Carfagno, Gene Dick, Ed Nilsen

Men's 70/75 Gold: Mesa Cardinals – Paul Dvorack, Al Brown, David Boone, Jim Hann, Bill Reeves; **Top Gun 70's** – Mike McCassey, Mike Ingalls

Men's 75 Major: PDR/Fastsigns – Melvin Bentley, Marv Rueck, Del Helzer, George Grant, Arlie Lyons, Jack Scott

Men's 75 AAA: PS75/Sage – Ray Luke, Paul Jones, Gil Leslie, Gordie Johnson, Norm West; **D-99** – Al a Fry, John Bellavia

Men's 80 Gold: Arizona Prospectors – Jim Lidster, Fred Donaghy, Ron Schwartz, Harry Marrs, Jay Avery; **Fairway Ford** – John Fisher, Rod Jerrels, Ken Lockman

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-- Frank Clark



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A Peak Inside at How Team Ratings Work

One of the most controversial topics in senior softball is team ratings. Our only goal at Senior Softball-USA is to ensure fair competition; there is no other agenda.

Here is the process:

Two times a year – in June and at the end of the year – George Moreno, SSUSA national director / ratings and tournament, reviews the results of all SSUSA tournaments. He looks at teams winning and coming in second at the World Masters, teams that are beating or losing to teams by five or more runs (on average), number of home runs, director and umpire recommendations, and he reviews team rating appeals.

George and I review his initial findings and send a list of recommendations to our ratings advisers around

Covering the Bases

By Terry Hennessy

the country. The advisers make recommendations and send them back to us. George and I review the recommendations and compile the final list of teams to be moved up or down (or not moved at all). The managers are notified and the list is published.

We review almost 1,000 teams and generally move between 160 and 200. We do this complete review twice a year. However, if it becomes apparent that a team is too strong or too weak, we reserve the right to move that team at any time.

In addition, while we do look for patterns and like to see a team play in three tournaments, there are times when this is not possible and we have

to make decisions based on fewer than three tournaments.

The bottom line is that teams think they are not competitive unless they have a good chance to win and place in the top of their divisions.

This is not our definition.

Our definition is that on a good day, when a team gets breaks, they have the opportunity to win.

Our primary goal is to protect the lower segments of each division. If we allow teams to continue to play down, it drives out the teams on the lower end of the division. We saw the result of this process (in which directors were more interested in attracting teams than putting them in the proper classification) in younger age softball.

There are almost no more A or B teams....all of those teams are playing

down – and have driven out literally thousands of legitimate C, D and E teams in younger age groups. This has fostered, over the past 20 years, the culture in softball that teams always want to play down at the lowest possible level to virtually assure themselves a chance to win.

We will not allow this to happen in senior ball.

This “play-down” attitude is exactly what decimated younger age group softball and it is really not even sporting. Every team wants to win, but what is the point if you aren’t playing at the highest possible level for your team?

Terry Hennessy is chief executive officer of Senior Softball-USA and can be reached at terryh@seniorsoftball.com.

Obituaries:

International Player Frank Vincenzo, 73

Frank William Vincenzo, 72, who played for a number of senior softball teams from 2004 to 2009 in Oregon, died at home in Hood River in late January.

He also played with the W.E. Ruth teams that traveled to many foreign countries. He was born Feb. 7, 1941, in Chicago.

Frank grew up in Chicago’s “Little Italy,” and graduated from Chicago St. Ignatius High School in 1959. While in high school, he ran cross country and was a pole vaulter on the track team.

He served in the United States Coast Guard from 1960-62. He was stationed at Treasure Island in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Frank married Charlene Odessa and they had five children: Cheryl, Joe, Tony, Chrissy and Christopher. They divorced in 1977.

He enjoyed softball, golf, scuba diving, jazz music, Woody Allen movies and Civil War history.

Frank married Lyn Shires in 2003 and they enjoyed trips to the Oregon Coast and spending time with family and friends.

Chicago Pitcher, 65, James Brummund

James R. Brummund, a pitcher for the Chicago Classic Bobcats, died on March 14 at age 65. Brummund is survived by his wife, Connie; children, Kelly (Tim) Daly, Danny and future granddaughter, Jaycee James Daly.

He attended Arizona State University on a baseball scholarship, and was an Augustana College graduate. He graduated from Northern Illinois University Law School.

He created and coached the successful Joliet J’s girls softball team for numerous years. He was an assistant softball coach at Joliet Township where he helped coach the 2000 girls state softball cham-

pionship team.

He was an assistant coach for the varsity softball team at Joliet West.

He played senior softball throughout the country and Joliet Park District softball.

Oregon Mayor, Player Miller Duris

Miller Duris, a long-time Senior Softball USA player, died March 23 after a six-year battle with Parkinson’s Disease. He retired after 26 years as an executive with Textronix.

An engaging politician, Miller had served as mayor of Hillsboro, Ore., from 1973-1977 and then as Washington County chairman from 1977 to 1981.

In 1969, Miller organized the Pigtail-Ponytail Girls’ Softball League and served as a manager and on the league board for 20 years. He played senior softball with the Woodland Cardinals, the

Portland 70s, Northwest 75s and finished with the Northwest 80s. He won the Triple Grand Slam in 2004.

Salem, OR, Player Ronald Stevens

Ronald Louis Stevens died on March 14 at the age of 72 in Salem, Ore.

He graduated from Oregon State in 1963 on a baseball scholarship. In 1961, he married Joan, his high school sweetheart, and they have two daughters, Kelly Stevens-Malnar (Rich) and Keri Stevens-Miller (Korey), three grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Ron worked for WESCO as a salesman and manager in Salem, Albany, and Portland, moving to Salem-Keizer in 1968.

He played softball in Salem into his early 60s, most recently for Ruth Realty, Portland Disposal, and Robbi’s.



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Bill Allen's Indy Fog won two World Championships.

Allen: Helped to Launch Brickyard

Continued from Page 3

started in 2000. There were 10 teams that year; it has grown to 50 and is one of the best SSUSA tournaments in the Midwest.

"He played and coached for INDY FOG earning two world championships, but his favorite tournament was in Las Vegas in 2001. The team took 3rd, but we were trapped in Indiana, and other players were trapped in Las Vegas because of 9/11.

"SSUSA gave us a chance to play or not, and they rearranged schedules for any team that had to fly. He and the team decided that the terrorists were not going to take away our right to play softball. So even though there were no flights available when we were scheduled to leave, we took the first flight out of Indianapolis and were one of the first planes landing in Las Vegas.

"At the gate waiting for the plane were our friends the Country Bins, and there were so many hugs and tears of joy. The team was Flying Old Glory that tournament. Butch Drake started playing senior softball that year with the team as our shortstop."

Brickyard Sets Indy Record: 50 Teams

Softball News Report

INDIANAPOLIS – The 2014 Brickyard Invitational marked the 15th year anniversary for the event, but not without some sadness.

Tournament co-founder Bill Allen passed away unexpectedly this spring and his presence, usually noted by him pulling into the complex on his treasured Harley-Davidson motorcycle, was missed.

But in the spirit embraced by Bill, the tournament record 50-team field enjoyed outstanding competition and excellent weather conditions this year.

In the more senior divisions played on Wednesday and Thursday, impressive performances were turned

in by the home-town U.S. Jobs/Indy 65's sweeping through the 65-AAA seeding and bracket unbeaten and by the Chicago Gray Sox, making their debut in the 70-AAA.

The Gray suffered only one loss, to U.S. Jobs in pool play, before sweeping through their bracket unblemished.

In the middle session of 60+ teams, Pope Transport capped an unbeaten run with a close Championship game victory over the Indiana Legends/Accelerated Therapy squad, who suffered their only two losses of the session to Pope.

The weekend brought in an impressive 33-team field of 50's and

55's for long days (and nights) of play.

Most notable at the end of Sunday afternoon was the 55-Major Championship. Banker-Mann trailed Old Style/Windy City 14-2 after six innings before putting up 17 runs in the top of the 7th, then holding off Windy City for the 19-14 win.

Equally impressive was the 55-Major+ bracket, with the Motown Stars and DOC's squaring off for a three game set. Motown won the first game impressively (25-15) before DOC's fought back with 19-11 and 27-25 wins. Complete game scores and bracket results are available online at the SSUSA's web site: www.seniorsoftball.com.

Hockey Firm Buys Easton Softball Division

Softball News Report

Hockey equipment giant Bauer Performance Sports is expanding its baseball gear offerings with the \$330 million purchase of Easton-Bell Sports Inc.'s baseball and softball division.

Exeter, N.H.-based Bauer,

founded in Canada, said the Easton operations add a "significant counter-seasonal business" to its existing revenue stream.

Easton-Bell, which is owned by New York private-equity firm Fenway Partners LLC and Canadian pension fund Ontario Teach-

ers' Pension Plan, confirmed the sale and said it is also in talks with a third party for the sale of its hockey operations.

The California-based company plans to change its name to BRG Sports and focus on football and action sports.

Tourney to Raise Funds for Homeless Vets

Softball News Report

PENSACOLA, FLA. – Yellow Ribbon 4 Veterans, a newly formed foundation that supports homeless veterans, has announced it is having its first annual softball tournament here on May 31 in an effort to

raise funds for its program.

Brad Hamm, director of operations for Yellow Ribbon 4 Veterans, says his group's mission "is to get veterans off the streets and into temporary housing in an effort to give them help and direction. They

dedicated their life to our country and now they have come across some tough times, it's our time to give back to them."

For more details, go to yellowribbon4veterans.com.

84-Year-Old Scores 1,134 Goals

Softball News Report

Senior softball player Michael Kamad, 84, has discovered a great way to keep in shape during the off-season: He plays ice hockey.

And not only does he play in Calgary, Alberta, but he is a scoring machine. Since he started toting up his stats back in 1999, Kamad has scored 1,134 goals and

1,256 assists for a point total of an amazing 2,390.

He has played in 824 games over the past 16 years, averaging 2.8 points per game.

He notes that he had a good tournament in March in Victoria, B.C., where his team won the championship for the third straight time.

ISA National All-Tourney Players

POLK COUNTY, FL – All Tournament players selected for the ISA Winter Nationals here include:

Men's 70 Gold: MCC Insurance – Dennis Hogan, John Volacano, Sam Ferguson, Ray Dye

Men's 70/75 Gold: Bucs and Bulls – Randy Hill, Ron Bugg, Wayne Mundy;

Pompano Beach Bums – David Decker, Phil Johnson



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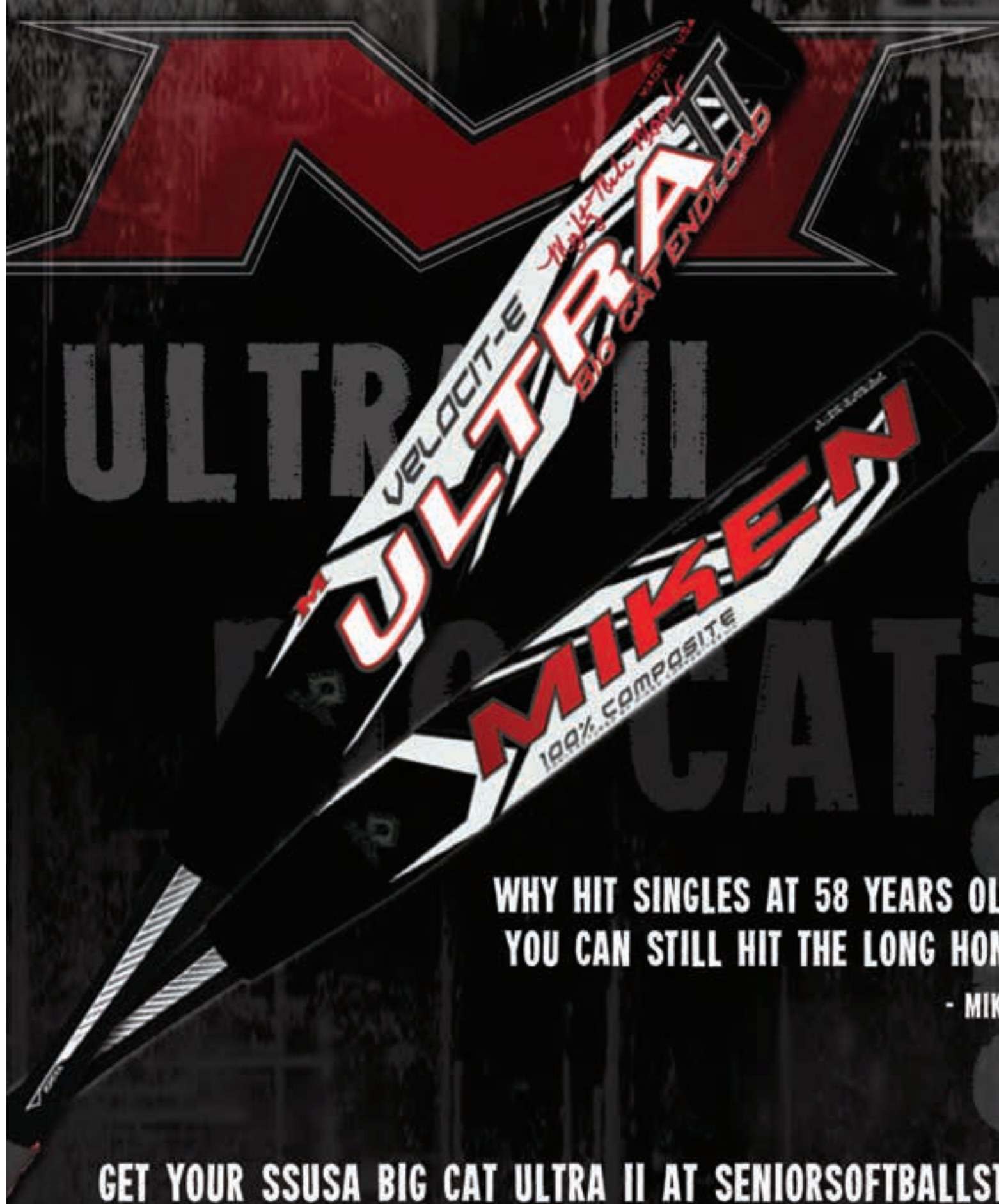


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