



Jack Eberhard

A TSC (Tri-State Connection from South Carolina) player dives for the ball in 50 Major-Plus action against Arizona Elite.

## RECORD 480 TEAMS IN LAS VEGAS

### World Masters Championships Sets Record, 4 Teams Win Triple Grand Slam

By Ross McCulligan, Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – In 2012, the inaugural World Masters Championships attracted a record 446 teams, making it the largest tournament in the history of Senior Softball.

If you're wondering if that was just a one-time occurrence, think again. The 2013 World Masters Championships (WMC) drew 480

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Wounded Warriors Wow Crowd: [Page 20](#)

East, West Champs Vie in US National Games: [Page 22](#)

11 Inducted into National Hall of Fame: [Page 23](#)

MVPs/All Tournament Players: [Page 23](#)

## China, Japan, Taiwan, US Launch Pacific Rim Tourney

Softball News Report

BEIJING – Representatives from national softball organizations in Japan, Taiwan, China and the USA have reached a tentative agreement on a rotating Pacific Rim Championships in the four countries to promote the sport in the Far East.

Under the agreement, the 2014 Championships will be in Japan, and  
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## Face Masks, Home Runs Top List of New SSUSA Rules for 2014

Softball News Report

CONCORD, N.C. – Mandatory facemasks for pitchers, a change in home run rules, a phasing out of underage exemptions in 75 and 80 divisions, and the adoption of a new trans-gender player policy highlighted action by the SSUSA Rules Committee

here during the annual ISA/SSUSA Convention in early December.

Although the Agenda was somewhat shorter than in recent years, the approved amendments to the Playing and Eligibility Rules have generated the usual high level of interest within the SSUSA member-

ship. The effective date of the rules amendments is December 6, 2013, unless otherwise stated in the changes:

**PITCHERS** (Rule § 6.17) – The Rules Committee has mandated that all pitchers wear protection for the face. The previous

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Your Passport to Senior Softball Travel for the Season



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# NewsBriefing

## CARL'S CORNER

By Carl Gustafson

### No Player Left Behind

Remember when politicians jumped on the “No child left behind” school slogan bandwagon? To not be for it would have been political suicide.

But the reality was, is, and always has been that lots of children are left behind.

Some of them so far behind they drop out of school, end up in prison, or dead. Some who hold a high school diploma can't even read or write.

Here's the untenable concept: If you make sure no child is behind, then you have to hold back everybody in front of the last child—and that's not going to happen, and didn't happen.

Because some students put their nose to the grindstone and others don't.

For many years I've watched some among us spend prodigious energy on trying to win via bellyaching about unfair rules and policies.

But in case you haven't noticed, regardless of rules, some teams still win a lot and others lose a lot; some drop out; some reform and start over.

There's a reason for this and it has little to do with legislation. It has a lot to do with effective practice and focused commitment.

The best sluggers in our game work the hardest at perfecting their technique, almost without exception. For them, the thought of not going out to a vacant field and hitting many dozens of balls every week — is simply not an option.

For example, Clyde “Poindexter” Phillips, invented a machine that holds softballs on air pressure where he hits them into an indoor net on his lunch break at work, by the dozens, every day.

So softball is like anything else in life.

Achievement goes to those who

**Continued on Page 4**

## SSUSA Inducts 3 into Hall of Fame

By Jack Sirard and  
Ross McCulligan  
Softball News Report

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Senior Softball-USA has inducted three new members into its Hall of Fame during the organization's annual convention here in December.

Among those inducted were Terry Hennessy, chief executive officer of SSUSA; Benny Villaverde, the architect of the senior softball in Hawaii and Steve Simmons, a SSUSA national director who developed the national senior clubs and leagues program.

Both Steve Simmons and Benny Villaverde died last year.

In addition, Guy Grasso was inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame in Las Vegas during the Southwest



Senior Softball-USA inducted, from left, Terry Hennessy, Steve Simmons and Benny Villaverde.

Championships this spring because of a serious family illness prevented him from traveling here.

The Senior Softball Hall of Fame was launched in 2009 to honor those who have made significant contributions to the game both on and off the field.

Hennessy, who chaired the convention, was caught off guard by

his election. Fran Dowell, executive director, put the wheels in motion months before the convention took place, even flying Hennessy's daughter, Jayme, in to attend the banquet.

Hennessy began his career at Senior Softball in 1994 and became

**Continued on Page 5**

## SPA's Sparkplug Layla Bryan Dies at 71

### Softball News Report

Layla Bryan, well known throughout the senior softball world, passed away October 24 after having suffered a heart attack and stroke the previous week.

As the Assistant Executive



Layla Bryan

Director of SPA, Bryan helped shape both the women's and men's programs with SPA Executive Director Ridge Hooks for several years.

“Layla was a very young 71,” said Ridge Hooks, “she is known and loved by players throughout the country. We will miss her greatly.”

Bryan, of Goldthwaite, Texas, had been a player, coach and administrator over the course of her two decades in the sport and was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame. Bryan was

known as a fierce competitor on the Lady Texans, for her sense of humor, and for the depth of her experience in the sport.

“Layla was a vibrant force in our sport, a good friend to many and will be sorely missed,” said

Terry Hennessy, Senior Softball-USA CEO. She is survived by her husband, Jon; her daughter Laura Mitchell; step-son Randy Bryan; a step-daughter Suzanne Culbertson; 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

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# Want to Hit Farther? Underspin Is the Key

By Art Eversole

Senior Softball Contributor

We've all observed a well-struck home run that just seems to keep rising and then landing out in the parking lot some 350 feet or more away from home plate. How did he do that, we ask?

Well, aerodynamics may have had a lot to do with it.

What's this say about the hitter? With the same bat speed a hitter can essentially hit the ball farther using the same effort by under-spinning the ball.

The long ball hitter typically chooses to let the incoming pitched ball descend to about waist high or slightly above.

Swinging level at the bottom of the ball will provide the necessary back-spin (or under-spin) which creates what physicists refer to as the Magnus effect or force.

There is a mistaken belief held by many that if you desire to hit the ball up in the air trying for a home run, you must swing up at the ball and lift it into the air.

This is an absolute falsehood.

All that's needed to hit the ball up in the air is to strike the bottom portion of the ball.

Understand that where the bar-

## Carl: Want to Win? Work at It

Continued from Page 3

are willing to work, to sacrifice, to focus. If your off-tournament regimen consists of sitting in front of a TV, eating pizza, drinking beer, growing fatter and slower by the day, complaining about your increasing list of ailments, that's fine—but then be content to come in second, or third, or last.

But don't belch mightily, scratch your swollen tummy, and then lobby to make rules against achievers so you won't be left behind.



rel of the bat meets the edge of the ball is what actually determines whether your hit goes up in the air, on a line, or on the ground by either hitting the upper hemisphere, at the equator, or the lower hemisphere of the softball.

Another common misconception with hitters is that those guys who launch long home runs are just doing it with superior bat speed. A more analytical explanation would be that their hitting mechanics should be given a lot of the credit. By applying an under-spin action to the softball allows the ball to travel farther as compared with an over-spin or a knuckling type hit as the atmospheric differential pressures above and below the ball will keep it aloft longer.

A slight downward swing at the ball also allows gravity to assist and add to the hitter's bat speed and at the same time creating that good backspin on the softball that makes it go up, up and away. Never drag the barrel head upwards to strike the ball.

What exactly is the Magnus force? It's the same phenomena

that make a curveball curve in baseball. Physicists explain it as follows: "a spinning ball moving through the air with spin creates a boundary of air that clings to the surface as the ball continues its flight. On the underside of the under-spinning ball, the boundary layer of air collides with the air passing by causing a high pressure to form. On the top side of the ball, the boundary layer is going in the same direction as the air passing by, so there is no collision and the air moves collectively faster setting up a low-pressure zone."

This high-pressure zone on one side of the ball and the low-pressure zone on the other side creates a lift force as the Magnus effect causes the ball to move in the direction of the pressure differential keeping the ball flying farther down the field. Under-spinning the softball has advantages other than just home runs. Line drives will now rise over the infielder's heads and not right at them for outs. Drives between the outfielders will carry farther getting to the fence quicker without being cut-off.

So why does the Magnus force make the softball rise? It's due to the fundamental physical law that air pressure flows until it finds an equalization position; higher pressure areas are always drawn towards lower pressure areas until equilibrium is established resulting in the ball lifting and seemingly defying gravity thus travelling farther down field when underspin has been applied.

An everyday example of the Magnus force is an airplane wing that's designed with a particular shape that creates a pressure differential below and above causing the wing to provide a lifting force thus keeping the plane airborne. The weather maps on TV show high pressure and low pressure regions and how highs flow to lows causing winds.

So how can a player learn and incorporate this technique of under-spin into their game? I would start by hitting the ball off the tee (a high tee preferably) to obtain a feel for how more effectively the ball flight is for long fly balls when striking the lower portion of the ball producing an underspin Magnus force. Then move to doing the same in batting practice hitting the bottom portion of the ball until you're ready to try it in a game.

To understand how the Magnus force actually works in nature, I've included a link to Wendy Sadler's demonstration with conjoined Styrofoam cups and a rubber band. She shows how the Magnus force lifts and keeps the cups in the air. When Wendy releases the elastic energy of the rubber band, the cups begin to rise as higher pressure below the cups and lower pressure above them causes a lifting effect. It's almost like magic.

Magnus demo link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIO774GyRrw>



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# Hall of Fame: Guy Grasso Inducted in Las Vegas

Continued from Page 3

executive director under then owner Bob Mitchell in 1997. In 2002, Hennessy and partner Bill Ruth purchased the organization from Mitchell, with Hennessy becoming CEO.

Even through some tough economic times Hennessy has managed to keep Senior Softball alive and well throughout the country as it has grown to become the largest softball organization in the world. He has also had a critical part in extending the SSUSA boundaries internationally.

Senior Softball-USA has brought international tournament teams to Europe, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Australia and New Zealand. Hennessy has also played in Japan for nearly a decade as part of a program with Japan's Ministry of Health and Sports.

In speaking of her father, Jayme Hennessy said that "my dad has always said if you live life with integrity, honesty, and fairness, that everything will work out.

"My father's love for baseball started at a young age, as soon as he was able to hold a ball. He grew up



**Guy Grasso**

in St. Paul, MN, playing ball in back yards, empty fields, and alleys with his brothers and other neighborhood kids." She noted that after 25 years in the newspaper business, "Senior Softball USA captured his heart: he understood it to be a special and unique organization, seeing what it stood for and imagining what it could be."

Senior Softball lost one of the champions of the sport last year when Steve Simmons died at age 67 after a tragic accident.

He was an SSUSA National Director, but he meant much more than that to the organization – and to the sport itself.

Simmons had been instrumental in every facet of senior softball. He was a major force in the National Senior Softball Summit, helped create the SSUSA Clubs and Leagues program, created the very popular Recreational Tournament Circuits, was an exceptional tournament director, a member of the National Rules Committee – and, most important – he loved to play softball.

Simmons' team, Minnesota Prize Co., this year won the 65 Division World Masters Championships in Las Vegas. Simmons was a fierce competitor, an avid softball player and a talented director who enjoyed running senior softball tournaments all over the country. He played baseball or softball every year of his life since he was a child.

The third inductee, Benny Villaverde, was called one of the ambassadors of Senior Softball and was inducted into the Hall of Fame posthumously. Benny, 85, died a year ago in Honolulu.

He had been the Hawaii state director for 20 years when he was named national director emeritus and official ambassador of Senior Softball in 2005 for his dedication and work in developing and growing senior softball throughout Hawaii.

Villaverde was not only one of the prime movers in developing senior softball, but for many years was an excellent player, which is not surprising given his gifted baseball career in Hawaii.

Over the past 15 years, he was active developing senior softball in Japan, helping to gather teams and acting as SSUSA ambassador at several tournaments in Hawaii. In addition, he attended all of the National Senior Softball Summits and SSUSA/ISA Conventions, adding wit and bringing Hawaiian hospitality.

Guy Grasso, who was inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame in Las Vegas in the Player Category during the Southwest Championships this spring, is 81 years old and lives in Las Vegas. Guy was born in New Jersey and won a baseball scholarship to Stetson University. He was signed with the Yankees as a pitcher in September 1951.

He went on two road trips with the Yankees and pitched batting practice for them in the 1951 World Series. He then served in the Army from 1952-54. In 1954, he was named "Outstanding Rookie Pitcher" of the year with a 15-3 record.

Grasso hurt his arm in 1955 and became a fireman. He got back in the



**Mike Vetovich will be inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame in 2014 as a player. Top Gun Softball Club will also be inducted.**

game with softball in 1985.

He made his mark in senior softball, winning World Championships with the So Cal Knights, D-99, Texas Classics and Center for Sight. Grasso currently plays for the 80-year-old Elk Grove, CA, team.

During most of senior softball career, Grasso played with one kidney, had three major knee surgeries (including 2 new knees), a hip replacement and an implantable heart defibrillator and diabetes.

Guy has played in 6 international tours and is known as one of the most powerful hitters in each age group within which he has competed.

SSUSA's top award for 2013, the Award of Excellence, went to the Las Vegas Senior Softball Association for "excellent partnership in producing the biggest tournament in America."

## Other awards included:

The Executive Director Award to Doug Robbins, National Director from California.

Tournament Director of the Year to Don Brooks, National Director from Texas.

Umpire of the Year to Donna McGuire of Missouri.

Regional Director of the Year to Michael Boone of New Jersey.

2013 Complex of the Year to Papago Softball Complex in Phoenix.

Next Year's Convention will be in Tupelo, Mississippi from Dec. 2-5, 2014.



SSUSA Executive Director Fran Dowell presents the top Award of Excellence to George Fernandes, left, and David Barnes of Las Vegas Senior Softball Association.



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# New SSUSA Bat Policy for 2014

Beginning Jan. 1, Senior Softball-USA will license new senior bats and publish an Approved Bat List for all sanctioned SSUSA Tournaments.

Bats manufactured before 2014 will be grandfathered for use, as long as they have been passed by Dr. Richard Brandt at New York University and meet specifications.

This policy is being implemented to protect our players and the sport.

In the past few years, several entities have begun developing senior bats. This policy provides a significant barrier to bat manufacturers who do not have the wherewithal to establish manufacturing procedures that meet minimum industry standards to ensure bats are consistently meeting safety standards.

The new SSUSA bat policy is simple:

## Covering the Bases By Terry Hennessy

1..Each model and weight must be submitted to Dr. Brandt and be tested and meet the 1.21 bpf standard. Brandt forwards his results directly to SSUSA. The bats must also meet other standards listed in the SSUSA Rulebook, including length.

2. Bat manufacturers are required to name Senior Softball-USA as additionally insured on a \$10 million liability insurance policy. This protects the organization in case of liability issues arising from use of the bat in SSUSA events.

3. After the agreement is reached, and SSUSA receives a copy of the insurance coverage, the bat is added to the Approved SSUSA Bat list and may

be used in all SSUSA tournaments.

This will NOT affect approved bats in use before 2014.

## Change in Senior Women's Tournaments

SSUSA will not be offering Women's 55, 60, 65 or 70 divisions in the Eastern Nationals, the Western Nationals or the World Masters Championships in 2014 unless four or more teams are interested in competing.

This change DOES NOT affect the Women's 40 and 50 divisions.

This is not a decision that came lightly -- or quickly.

It is not punishment because 55-70 women's teams don't come to these three tournaments. This move is protect the few 55-70 women's teams that have signed up for these tournaments and made arrangements to compete only to find out two weeks before the tournament that there are not enough teams.

We want to avoid players suffering financial loss and disheartening cancellations.

For background, we have tried to address the problem in the past by surveying women's teams to find out which tournaments they planned to attend so that we could offer women's divisions in all of those tournaments.

The result: the 55, 60, 65 and 70 Women's teams largely didn't show up at the tournaments they listed (except for Reno and Phoenix).

The 40 Masters and 50 Senior Women division teams have supported the Eastern, Western and World Championships in significant numbers, which is why those divisions are offered at the those three tournaments.

We will continue to offer all women's senior divisions at the Winter Worlds in Phoenix, Reno, and in any other tournament in which four or more teams want to play.

But loyalty is a two-way street. If teams do not support the program, eventually the program will cease to exist.

*Terry Hennessy is chief executive officer of Senior Softball-USA and can be reached at [terryh@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:terryh@seniorsoftball.com).*

## Senior Softball News

2701 K St., Suite 101A  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 326-5303  
(916) 326-5304 FAX  
[www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com)

## Publisher

W.E. Ruth

## Editor

Terry Hennessy

## Contributing Writers

Lisa Cachia, Giovanni Crotti, Jack Eberhard, Pete Davignon, Dave Dowell, Art Everole, Carl Gustafson, Beth Hamilton, Ross McCulligan, George Moreno, Tiffany Peck, Susan Ruth, Jack Sirard

## Internet Director

Scott Flodin

## Art Director

Sue Ballenger

## Marketing Manager

Fran Dowell

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# 75 and 80 Survey: Return to Double Elimination

**By Beth Hamilton**  
**Softball News Report**

In a SSUSA survey, 75+ and 80+ players and managers soundly rejected the round-robin format used this year at the World Masters Championships (WMC) in Las Vegas.

Players surveyed also overwhelmingly requested returning to a double-elimination format.

"Two years ago we used our normal double-elimination format, and the 75 and 80 teams complained that they were forced to play too many games in a day in hot weather," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief executive officer.

"To address their concern this year, we changed to a round-robin format with only the top teams from

each pool advancing to the finals. Obviously that wasn't popular either, so we decided to poll the 75 and 80 managers and players."

The problem arose, Hennessy said, because of the explosive growth in the number of teams in the 75 and 80 divisions in the WMC.

Managers and players were offered three options in the survey. More than 30 percent of the 575 players and managers in the 75 and 80 divisions responded.

The most popular option, which 56 percent of the respondents chose, was to return to the original WMC format of 4 round robin games into a double-elimination bracket final.

(This format could result in some teams playing as many as 4 or 5

games in the last day.)

"Most of us have been happy with the double elimination system since we have been playing," says Jack Light, Manager of Gold Coast 75AAA. "It gives every team a chance to win even after a poor start. There is nothing that hurts more than losing a chance to win because of the luck of the draw."

The option picked has been the format SSUSA have used for years. The only reason Senior Softball had previously decided to try another format was the concerns players had for playing too many games in a single day.

Only 12 percent of the respondents chose the option of the round-robin format used this year at the

WMC. That format broke teams into Subdivisions for 6 seeding games, then a play-off of the top teams. (This format would result in only a few teams advancing to the finals).

About 31 percent of the respondents chose a third option, which included fewer round robin games and a double elimination final.

Under this option, teams would play only 2 or 3 robin games, and then begin the double elimination bracket. (This format would mean some teams would only play 4 or 5 games over the 4 days).

"We would like to thanks the players and managers for their input; it helps us adopt a format that the majority likes," said Hennessy.



**The Mayor of Tacoma and the Pierce County (WA) Executive proclaimed October 27 Joeseppi's Senior Softball Day. Joeseppi's Italian Ristorante team, above, are the 80+ Major World Masters Champions.**

## NorCal Starts First 80+ League in 2014

**Softball News Report**

CARMICHAEL, CALIF. - Carmichael Park has been the host for senior softball leagues for players age 65 and up for many years. In the 2014 season, the league will become the first weekly league for players age 80 and over.

One player, Don Wilson, who will be 92, is the only remaining active player from the first Golden Senior team organized in Sacramento in 1976. He is a testament to how senior softball is a team sport that can help seniors stay active and healthy past age 90.

Visitors are invited to watch the amazing Grand Golden Geezers (80+) play the younger and less experienced Golden Geezers (75-79) on Carmichael Park softball fields 3 and 4 on Thursday mornings during the season that begins on March 6.

Golden Senior Softball is for men age 50+ and women age 45+. Any old geezers 75+ who want to be involved at Carmichael Park are invited to join their practice sessions during the off season on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m., weather permitting. For more information, contact Larry Campbell, 916-485-4843



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# Opinions & Letters

## Competition, Friendship, Fun

In Senior Softball, we celebrate camaraderie not only within teams – but between teams. The best part of the sport, for many, is that it leads to close bonds of friendships on and off the field.

The scene at many Senior tournaments resembles a family reunion.

Certainly tough competition on the field is still there – and there are still arguments over calls in the heat of the game. But, except in rare cases, that is as far as it goes because there is an underlying respect for the sport and for each other.

Unfortunately, there has been a culture change among some younger-age adult softball teams that embrace base intimidation tactics, foul language and disrespect.

Although clearly in a minority, these few teams and players have driven families from the stands and players from the sport.

Tournament directors who have allowed these teams to play say they are afraid to lose teams at their tournaments.

In Senior Softball, we vehemently disagree.

Senior Softball will not allow a few individuals on a few teams – who evidently believe their athletic ability is a license for shameful behavior – to ruin senior tournaments or our sport.

The 40 Masters program is the fastest growing segment of Senior Softball – and most of those teams and players like to play Senior Softball because they can enjoy stiff competition without having to deal with foul language and tactics of intimidation.

We welcome those new players and teams and promise to do our best to ensure the game remains fun, active and competitive – and filled with good sportsmanship, opportunities to build friendships – and a place players can bring their families.



Sue Ballenger

## Local Cancer Support Groups Provide Solid Resource

Recently I had the privilege of presenting the CAN-Sirs program to a newly formed local cancer support group in Chico, CA. MACHO (Men Against Cancer Helping Others) is the support group that replaces an American Cancer Society support program that was mainly for prostate cancer survivors.

This new group provides support and information to men dealing with all kinds of cancer. Enloe Medical Regional Cancer Center is the sponsor of MACHO, under the direction of Rebecca Senoglu. She was instrumental in helping me with the direction and organization of CAN-Sirs.

Like CAN-Sirs, MACHO provides support and education for people with all types of cancers, and their families, but MACHO does it at the local level. I would encourage anyone

### CAN-SIRS CORNER By Pete Davignon

who is interested in forming a MACHO group in their community to contact me and I will put you in touch with Rebecca and the local MACHO coordinators, Ruth and John Hantleman.

This past year saw an expansion of the CAN-Sirs program as the senior softball community has continued to rally behind our cause. We see more team participation in 2014 and are planning for more local teams to help with our mission.

The CAN-Sirs was formed to increase awareness and prevention among the million plus senior softball players and their families. Survivors

of cancer and men who have experienced cancer in their families make themselves available at senior tournaments for one-on-one conversations about their experiences with cancer.

While there are many sources out there talking about cancer, having a fellow player who can bring his personal experiences to help someone who had just learned that cancer has hit close to home can work wonders.

This past year, the women of senior softball have joined our program. We welcome the comfort and knowledge they bring to the game. My wife Vicki has been battling breast cancer for the last seven months, so we are acutely aware of the need for women to get involved in our program.

Our annual CAN-Sirs Benefit Tournament this coming year welcomes the addition of the Hayward

tournament hosted by Dean Perkins. We have always held our tournaments on the same weekend, this year May 17-18. By joining together we will expand the CAN-Sirs message to many more teams in the Northern California Senior Softball Association.

CAN-Sirs will again enter the major SSUSA tournaments with our exhibition teams. We encourage you to join these teams when we come to SSUSA in your town.

Thank you for your continuing support and I look forward to working for your health.

Pete Davignon, Executive Director, CAN-Sirs, Inc / 2485 Notre Dame Blvd., Suite 370-180 / Chico CA 95928 Website: can-sirs.org email: can-sirs@att.com facebook/can-sirs



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# 150 Teams Escape Winter to Kick Off 2014 Season

By Beth Hamilton  
Softball News Report

PHOENIX – The Western segment of the SSUSA 2014 Tournament Season kicked off in the Valley of the Sun in mid-November with the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter World Championships, marking the second time the tourney was held here after a 10-year run in Las Vegas.

Outstanding weather and even better competition were the norm as 150 teams took to the fields in the hopes of starting the season off successfully.

“Phoenix has long been a favorite of everyone who plays here, with a perfect climate and probably the best playing facilities in the country,” said Tournament Director Dave Dowell. Games were played at Papago Park, which was recently named the SSUSA’s National Softball Complex of the Year.

“Southwestern hospitality is at its finest, there’s a lot to do while not playing the games and it’s always nice to escape winter,” he added.

Nine teams competed in the Men’s 40+ Masters Platinum Division,



ending in an IF game and one-run finish. RTS from Arizona and Team Joose from Nevada made it to the championships, with the underdog Team Joose forcing an IF game in a close 12-11 victory. However RTS came back in the IF game to edge out Team Joose 20-19 for the title.

The 50 Major Plus only had two teams, Arizona Elite and Sommerville Softball, with Sommerville taking the title by winning 26-10 and 27-19. The 50 Major Division top teams were El Paso Spurs and CaliGold Athletics. CaliGold beat the El Paso Spurs 10-6 to force an IF game, which the Spurs won, 20-16.

A new team from Arizona known

as the Total Knuckleheads showed up to play ball in the 50+ AAA Division. After the round-robin games, they entered bracket play as the number one seed. Their top competition turned out to be the Arizona Legends and after a long Championship game, Total Knuckleheads came out on top 28-17.

Six teams were in the 55+ Major Division and So Cal 55 and Doubleplay/Monarch were on a mission to win the title. Doubleplay came in as the number one seed and So Cal was the third. In a long championship game, So Cal won 22-13 which lead to an “IF” game where Doubleplay won 20-19.

Four teams won both of their round-robin games in the 55+ AAA Division. Mountain Mike’s, the No. 2 seed, lost their first bracket game putting them in the loser’s bracket. After multiple games they made it to the championship against Git-R-Done, the No. 3 seed. In the end Git-R-Done won 14-8.

In the 55/50+ AA Division, the top seeded Dallas Spurs 55 faced Scrap Iron 55’s Rockies. After being sent to

the loser’s bracket and working their way back up, Scrap Iron took home the title, winning 14-13 and 26-17.

A team with heart and determination was the Rogue 60’s. After placing 8<sup>th</sup> in the seeding of the 60+ Major Division, they fought their way to the championship game, beating the No. 1 seed and playing a total of six games before making it to the championships. In the championship game, they faced Top Gun 60 Softball, which prevailed in a nail bitter, 13-12.

R & R Stokers were ready to defend their top seeding in the 60+ AAA Division, but they came up short against the Scrap Iron Legends. But R&R bounced back to top the Scrap Iron 22-19 and 20-18 for the title.

The 60+ AA Division consisted of nine teams – but one team stood out: Git-R-Done 60. They took the top seed after round-robin play and held it all the way to the championship game. There they faced Scrap Iron Diamonds and unfortunately lost 14 – 10. But Git-R-Done pulled it together with a

Continued on Page 10

## Winter World Teams Pick All Tournament Players

### 2013 Winter World Championships All Tournament Players:

**Women’s 40 Major:** Old School - Jo Hester, Yvonne Ortiz, Kelly Orberle, Deena Dobbins, Lupe Garcia, Eden Hernandez; Beavers - Carolyn Shanks, Leslie Shingleton, Sue Yamin, Chris Treesh

**Women’s 40 AAA:** Tharaldsons - Jennifer Downing, Lynn Larson, JoAnn Fukuma, Becky Ginn, Lisa Haskell

**Women’s 40 AA:** B.O.O.B.S. - Caroline Saenz, Kari Zamora, Julie German, Elizabeth Espinueva, Michelle Ballard; Madness - Tanya Lucero, Dawn Saunders, Cindy Herr; Northwest Intensity - Angela Lowber, Sharon Hansard

**Women’s 50:** Ladiez Steel Smackin’ - Lyn Brown, Darla Sommerville, Hope Nulf, Gail Locati, Laura Thorpe

**Women’s 55:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wind - Ginger Larsin, Cindy Capistran, Linda Jones, Donna Williams, Kris Andreasen; No Limits - Lois Hand, Chris Jacobson

**Women’s 60:** Castawaz - Terry Sheldon, Lorraine Hebert, Bama Lavis, Nancy Gagnon, Kathy Corwell; California Spirit - Laurie Mills, Betsy Borda, Paula Handrup

**Women’s 65:** Saints Express - Lynn Shutt, Marylou Beban, Annie Gronan, Joni Shirley, Jeanie Gray; Queen Bees - Pam Bedwell, Bev Smith, Glenda Beck; Dream Catchers - Jo Hale, Janet Wood

**Men’s 40 Major:** RTS - Carl Blank, Michael Nieuwenhuis, Tony Holland, James Shano, Allen Gallagher; Reno Elite - Brian Williford, Tim Williamson

**Men’s 50 Major-Plus:** Sommerville Softball - John Heller, Mike Reed, Ron Parnell, Ronni Salcedo, Paul Salow, Keith Benjamin

**Men’s 50 Major:** El Paso Spurs - Matthew “Chief” Perez, Art “Artichoke” Alvarez, George “Chief” Ramos, Manny Gutierrez, Gil “Poncho” Saenz; JU Entertainment - John Rhonemus, Mark Ingersoll

**Men’s 50 AAA:** Knuckleheads - Danny Romero, Charlie Torrez, Mark Martinez, Brian Kieser, Alfred Galindo; AZ Legends - Jim Gainer, Dusty Lee, Scott Porter

**Men’s 55 Major:** Doubleplay/Monarch - Paul Smit, Russ Little, Ray Tarazon, Larry Lorin, Kent (Buzz) Wheeler; SoCal 55 - Peter Oriarte, Deano Kester, Robert Sewell; Four Seasons Screenprinting - Bob Joerg, Herman Bryant

**Men’s 55 AAA:** Git-R-Done - Glenn Stevenson, Tom Jadwin, Mike O’Donnell, Joe Tucker,

Robert Parral; Mountain Mike’s Pizza - Ettore Minor, Ray O’Rear, Jeff Zelsdorf; Hard Tens/Oxnard Rookies - Fred Macias, Jamie Lagos

**Men’s 50/55 AA:** Scrap Iron Rockies - Jesus Bencomo, Rick Shaum, Larry Allard, Don Rieker, Dave Adams; Dallas Spurs - Bill Jennings, David Sampson, Garland Doyle

**Men’s 60 Major:** Top Gun 60 Softball - Don Ludwig, John Woolsey, Don Chandler, Jim Palecek, Dave Seitz; Rogue 60’s - Kenny Vaught, Roger Lawrence, Reyes Gonzales; Gonzalez Insulation - Dan Silkwood, David Perkins

**Men’s 60 AAA:** R & R Stokers - Tom Plucinak, Bill Probasco, Tad Ludes, Gary Bemis, Andy Smith; Scrap Iron Legends - Terry Roberts, Bruce Stricklett, Danny Stricklett; USA Patriots - Oscar Wantiez, Ron Oestmann

**Men’s 60 AA:** Git-R-Done - Brian Allen, Ron Martel, Richard (Frit) Swain, Dennis Norheim, Bill Wilkins; Scrap Iron Diamonds - Jerry Bost, Terry Liverant, Pete Pinotes; Blue Chips - Jack Fitzer, Steve Cotta

**Men’s 65 Major-Plus:** Omen - Fred Purvis, Dennis Dalton, Larry Lopez, Dan Walsworth, Ed Carey; Full Circle - Jerry Scanlin, Conway Waddy, Alan Dial, Rick Monsker

**Men’s 65 Major:** Poncho’s - Terry Schmitgal, Rollin Marion, Don Larson, Marc Alop, Bruce

Stricklett; Tharaldson’s - Gary Tharaldson, Larry Giese

**Men’s 65 AAA:** Scrap Iron Phiten - Tom Reynolds, Greg Broeckelman, Don Carpenter, Dick Schimmels, Alan Wiechmann; R & R 65 - Dick Markota, Phil Stevens, Wes Baker

**Men’s 65 AA:** Duke City Dynamite - Dick Satter, Larry Gialouris, Ray Johnson, Jim McCormick, Ray Ortega; Sunlight Supply - John Bennett, David Harms, Larry Noble; Git-R-Done - Tim Haug, Mark Beizer

**Men’s 70 Major:** Connection - Ken Cornelison, Chuck Meyer, Dennis Nuike, Fred Mittelstaedt, Jerry Herling; Thousand Oaks Panthers - John Brown, Stephen Garceau, Ronnie Guest

**Men’s 70 Silver:** Sidewinder 70’s II - Bob Ross, Ron Johnson, Howard Schaber, Don Bildilli, Larry Heuett; Genco Plumbing - Rod Gauf, Lou Gahto, Tom Neblett; El Paseo Bank - Jim Leatherwood, Ben Plascencia

**Men’s 75 Gold:** Mesa Cardinals - Carrol Shook, Jim Hann, Al Brown, John Anderson, Bill Reeves

**Men’s 80 Gold:** AZ Prospectors - Ron Schwartz, Ron Brown, Don Kucharek, Jay Avery, Lloyd Harper; Fairway Ford - John Fisher, Bob Pucci, Harry Walker



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# San Antonio League Blossoms with 500 Players

## Softball News Report

The San Antonio Senior Softball League has now grown to 30 teams playing in five different age divisions (50+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+) and with more than 500 senior players it may be the largest program in the country.

The league has three seasons (spring, summer, fall) and three league tournaments from March-mid-November every year.

Operating as a charity, the league keeps its fees low so that any senior can afford to participate. There is no paid staff. Volunteers do all of the league's administra-

tion including scheduling, accounting, databases, finances, etc.

The league does pay its umpires and a groundskeeper.

The league has open practices three times a week all year in which both new and league players can hone their skills. Teams also hold their own practices.

The league is growing 10 percent or more every year as interested seniors find out about the program from word-of-mouth and stories written in the Express News, said league officials.

The league has never used a draft to allocate players to teams.

Instead managers recruit players for their teams. To level out competition, the league uses a team-rating system and equalizer runs.

Bill Altman, San Antonio Senior Softball League chairman, reports that it signed a 10-year rental agreement with the city of San Antonio in 2009 to use two fields at the Normoyle Softball Complex to conduct our program.

"We took over fields that were in deplorable condition and converted them into two regulation softball fields. We raised money through donations and player fees to make more than \$60,000 in im-

provements," he said.

In return for the improvements, "the city gave us rental credits, which we used to offset all field rental. Rental credits have paid for all field rentals since inception of our contract and we have enough credits to carry us to term of the contract. We also expect to make additional improvements in the next year," he added.

For more information, go to [www.sassl.org](http://www.sassl.org) for details on the league including a brief history, purpose, active schedules, league standings, and board members.

## Winter Worlds: 30 Women's Teams Compete in Phoenix

### Continued from Page 9

16-13 win in the "IF" game for the title.

The 65+ Platinum combined Major Plus and Major teams. After splitting into brackets, the Major Plus was left with Omen 65 and Full Circle 65 with Omen winning the title. The 65 Majors was a different story with six teams. The teams that made it into the championships were Ponchos and Rusty's. After a heated battle, Ponchos won 20-13.

After losing their first two round-robin games in the 65+ AAA Division, Scrap Iron Phiten knew they had to make a comeback. After taking out the first, second and third seeds, they faced the R & R 65's in the championships. Scrap Iron coasted to an easy 18-5 win.

Only four teams competed in the 65+ AA Division, but that didn't make it any less exciting. The lowest seed, the Duke City Dynamite, decided they weren't ready to give up and made their way to the championships where they beat the Sunlight Supply by a single run for the title.

The 70+ Platinum was a battle between the top two seeded teams: the Thousand Oaks Panthers and Connection. After Thousand Oaks lost their first game, they had to

win both games for the title. The Thousand Oaks won the first game, but Connection came back to win the "IF" game 12-4 for the title.

Sidewinders II made it look easy to win the 70+ Silver Division title. After taking top seed, they only had to win three games for the title. In the end they beat Ginfo Plumbing 10-7 for the championship.

With only three teams in 75+ Gold Division and three in the 80+ Gold Division it was bound to be an interesting bracket. The AZ Cardinals

beat the Sun Lakes 75 to win the title of 75+ Gold by a 13-12 score. The 80+ Gold was between AZ Prospectors 80 and Fairway Ford. The final was close, but the Arizona Prospectors 80 won 19-17.

Eleven teams competes in the 40 Women's Masters division.

After combined round-robin play, the Old School of California and the Beavers of Michigan broke off for a best-of-three championships. Old School won two lopsided victories for the title: 14-8 and 17-2.

In the Women's 40 AAA, Tharaldson's double-dipped the Saints 10-3 and 13-2.

And in the Women's 40 AA, B.O.O.Bs of California edged Madness of New Mexico 13-12.

The Women's 50+ Division had five teams. Ladiez Steel Smackin' was in it for the win. They made it to the championship game where they went up against Arizona Dream Team 50. The final score was 17-14 in favor of the Ladiez Steel Smackin'.

Eight teams competed in the Women's 55/60+ Division. Although they would eventually break off into their own divisions, they started out playing together. Second Wind and California Spirit 55 battled in the championship with Second Wind taking the crown, 14-2.

The 60+ Women came down to Arizona Castawaz and California Spirit 60 with the Castawaz winning 12-8 for the title.

Six teams competed in the Women's 65+ Division. Saints Express proved to be the team to beat as they won both their round-robin games. Then after two more games, they were in the championships with the Queen Bees. In the end, Saints Express won 19-3.

## Previous Tournament Players Named

### 2013 Rock 'n Reno

**Men's 65 Major-Plus:** Tharaldson's - Roy Coston, Bob Hough

**Men's 70 Major:** Scrap Iron 70 Legacy - Dennis Lutz, Larry Patrick, JC Moore, Kent Loutensock, Don Pierson

### 2013 Texas Championships

**Men's 70 AA:** Hill Contracting - John Beard, Eli Garze, Rick Hammock, Terry Watts, Terry Wong

### 2013 California Cup Championships

**Men's 65/70 Major-Plus:** Streamline Circuits - John Chacon, Bill Wilson, Gordon Bell

### 2013 Western National Championships

**Men's 60 Major-Plus:** Joe Brown's All Stars - Marvin Mielke, Bob Bainbridge, Mark Weber  
**Men's 70 Major-Plus:** Streamline Circuits - John Chacon, Bill Wilson, Mike Leitner, LeRoy Gallardo

### 2013 Rocky Mountain Championships

**Men's 70 AA:** Scrap Iron Force - Bob DeGroot, Larry Bradsky

**Men's 80 AAA:** Scrap Iron 80 - Mel Schiebel, Stephen Aponte, Bruce Reddig

### 2013 Northern Championships

**Men's 50 AA:** Milwaukee Magic - Ronald Radcliff, Michael Causey, Gerald Hobbs, Odean Jackson, Lovelle Johnnikin

### 2013 Northeast Championships

**Men's 60 AA:** NY Capitals - Pete Miccio, Tom Lane, Stu Kaplan, Joe Romeo, Howard Woliner

**Men's 65/70 AA:** Syracuse Cyclones 70 - Mark Montoney, Gene Signor, Harold White, Milo Richmond, Jack Barker



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# 2014 Rules: SSUSA Mandates Pitcher Face Masks

## Continued from Page 1

requirement that pitchers must wear head gear and shin guards has been changed from a mandate to a recommendation. The amendments in this area also strongly recommend that pitchers wear protection for the chest/heart area.

With the new mandate, pitchers will no longer be required to sign waiver forms.

The primary rationale for this change is that softball, and any sport that involves high velocity hard objects in play, has an inherent risk of potential injury to participants from those objects – especially pitchers because they are closest to the batter.

The model for the Committee was the National Hockey League, which instituted their mandatory helmet rule with the 1979 Draft Class. While there was some initial resistance, helmets in hockey are seldom even noticed today and are regarded as a sensible standard equipment item.

The Committee anticipates the same for Senior Softball in regards to face protection.

**HOME RUNS (§8.4)** – Any changes to the home run rules seem to generate the most interest, and this year is no exception. Home runs over the limit in each skill division and across ages from 40-Masters through 70+ will now be Dead Ball Outs (“DBO”). This has been the rule for the Men’s 40-Masters division since the inception of their program in the early 2000s. Age 75+ and older men and Senior Women 50+ and older do not have home run limits.

Home run rules, especially in the Major-Plus division, have varied considerably in recent years.

The changes made this year to the Major-Plus and Major home runs were designed to shorten the chasm between divisions – especially the Major and Major-Plus divisions, so that more teams can be moved up because they will be able to compete at the higher level.

Another significant factor involved in the decision for change was the desire to have the best players in

Senior Softball has a virtually identical playing rule set as the best players in the world, the Team USA Softball squad. Team USA plays with a maximum number (10) of allowed home runs with DBO’s thereafter.

Lastly, committee members said the new rules would discourage the “home run offense only” game of simply hitting as many home runs as possible. This home run derby play is, in the Committee’s view, not in the best interests of the game.

Members said they hoped the rule change would re-emphasize the importance of putting the ball in play, precision placement hitting and sound defensive skills. The Committee is confident these changes will help restore some of the balance between offense and defense in the Senior Softball game.

In a minor related rule change, SSUSA has now allowed for the practice of “hit and sit” following any over-the-fence home run.

## MEN’S 75+ & 80+ ROSTERS

(Rule § 14. 2) – Several years ago, the number of 75+ and 80+ players was extremely limited. In an effort to increase teams in both age groups, teams were allowed to add a few younger players.

However, SSUSA staff reported that the numbers of 75 and 80 players had increased to the point where the younger age player exemptions were no longer necessary.

The committee delayed the changes until the 2015 Season to prevent disrupting the rosters of teams that have already been assembled for the 2014 Season.

For the Men’s 75+ Division, the current allowance of five age 74 players is retained for the 2014 Season and is eliminated for the 2015 Season and thereafter.

For the Men’s 80+ Division, the current allowance of seven underage players, no more than three of whom may be age 78, is retained for the 2014 Season.

For the 2015 Season, the allowance is reduced to three players, all of whom must be age 79, and for

the 2016 Season and thereafter, the allowance is eliminated, requiring all players to be age 80.

## TRANS-GENDER PLAYERS

(§14.2(6) – NEW) -- The Rules Committee was requested to consider the issue of trans-gender athletes in Senior Softball to ensure that no athlete is excluded from the opportunity to participate, but that eligibility standards are established to ensure the safety of women players and to maintain fairness in competition. The Rules Committee has adopted the standards used by the International Olympic Committee (“IOC”) to govern the eligibility of trans-gender athletes.

Challenges to eligibility under this provision will be treated as with any other eligibility protest, such as residency or minimum age. Should the athlete be required to comply with

the IOC standards, any diagnostic or laboratory testing costs will vest solely with the athlete.

Other Playing Rules amended by the Rules Committee included:

- \* Moving the commitment line from 20 feet to 30 feet from home plate (§1.15),

- \* Removing from play any bat that exhibits significant cracking or other deformity (§3.4),

- \* Prohibiting a base runner attempting to score from running over or through the batter’s boxes (§8.9).

- \* Allowing the use of a secondary scoring plate at facilities that are so equipped (§8.10).

For a complete analysis of all actions of the 2013 Rules Committee, including the actual language of the Rulebook section amendments, please refer to the references on the SSUSA web site at [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com).

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# WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP

## WMC: 50 AAA Attracts Huge 47-Team Division

Continued from Page 1

teams from 42 states, including 24 teams from Hawaii. In addition five Canadian provinces were represented and four teams came from Guam for the largest tournament the sport has to offer.

In the U.S. National Championship competition, played during the WMC, the East and West teams evenly split the 12 games played. However Eastern teams dominated the Triple Grand Slam, with three from the East and only one from the West winning all three premier tournaments: the East or West Nationals, US Nationals and WMC (See US National story on Page 22).

Teams winning the Triple Grand Slam include Hamel Builders/Superior Senior Softball of Virginia (65 M+), Ohio Silverados (60 AA), San Francisco Seals 75 (75 M) and Dreamgirlz 50 of Virginia (Women's 50).

Practically every softball field in Las Vegas was used: Fourteen complexes, amounting to 37 fields, hosted 1,627 games. There were 36 age and skill divisions competing during the 10-day span, requiring 115 umpires, 60 tournament officials, and over 150 field maintenance staff.

The largest division of the tournament was the 47-team 50 AAA division. Tied for second were the 50 Major and 60 AAA with 39 teams each. Competition was fierce as a multitude of one-run games littered the tournament and nine teams forced "IF"



Photos by Jack Eberhard

**The Sacramento Buds and Scrap Iron 65 Classics share a light moment in 65 AA action.**

games throughout the 36 divisions.

The Wounded Warriors, a team of veterans who lost limbs in combat, provided one of the main highlights of the tournament when they played an All-Star/Celebrity game on Oct. 4 at Big League Dreams.

Along with local radio and TV personalities, the Wounded Warriors played a split squad game in front of a packed house on Fenway diamond. As a token of appreciation, the Wounded Warriors

**Continued on next page**



Photos by Jack Eberhard

**L.A.F. Diversified of California player leaps to throw in a 50 Major game, left, while a 40-Masters Major Hafta Play player gets ready to make a play at second base in the third WMC session.**



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# CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



## WMC: 40 Men's Masters Explodes With 45 Teams

Continued from Page 14

were presented with complimentary World Masters Championship tournament rings, courtesy of Jostens Inc.

The WMC kicked off on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> with an outstanding rendition of the U.S. National Anthem, accompanied with a formal Color Guard salute.

Senior Softball-USA also used the World Masters Championships as a forum to recognize newly inducted National Senior Softball Hall of Fame members. Friends and family of each inductee were invited to witness the prestigious award presentation during the opening ceremonies of each session.

Along with the Hall of Fame inductees, SSUSA also presented the 2013 Steve Simmons Memorial Sportsmanship Award to Hannington's 55 of Massachusetts. This award, named after late tournament director Steve Simmons, was designed to recognize a commitment to competition, respect, and a love for the game.

The popularity of the World Masters Championships provided for large divisions and intense competition. Unfortunately, that intensity boiled



over between Team Braves and J.K. Inc. during an incident in the 40 Major-Plus championship game.

J.K. Inc. won the championship, 30-14, over Team Braves, however all players on both rosters were originally suspended by SSUSA. An SSUSA Appeals Panel later overturned the entire team suspensions, upholding suspensions for the 2014 season for five managers and players directly involved in the incident (See Story on Page 21).

On a positive note, the Men's 40 division is rapidly growing. This year 28 teams made their

way here in the 40 Major division. No. 8 seed Virginia Masters won a tight ballgame, 24-23, over Boomtime in the quarter-finals. Facing ASP in the 'IF' game, the Virginia Masters battled for a 26-23 victory to claim the division championship.

The 40 AAA division was well represented with nine teams from seven states as well as Canada and Guam. Loose Cannon, out of Washington, started sluggish, dropping their two opening seeding games.

Photos by  
Jack Eberhard

**Forced into an "IF" game in the 39-team 50 Major division, the East Bay Oldies came back to win against Mid-Atlantic 22-12. After the final play at first (top photo left), the team reacts to the win of the season.**

Continued on next page



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## WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

# WMC: Hawaii Wins 50 AA, 2nd in 55 AA

Continued from Page 15

They would then catch fire in bracket play and run off four consecutive victories, eventually defeating Pattie House 27-16 to claim the championship.

Eleven teams battled in the 50 Major-Plus division with No. 5 seed Nazzareno Electric claiming the title. Nazzareno scored an average of 27 runs a game on their way to victory, eventually defeating Arizona Elite 33-10 in the finals.

The highly competitive 50 Major division was comprised of 39 teams, forcing bracket play to be split into two divisions, American and National. Mid-Atlantic Softball climbed out of the American division to face East Bay Oldies, winners of the National division, in the championships. Mid-Atlantic was able to force an "IF" game against East Bay Oldies 21-14. In the "IF" EBO came out strong and was able to defeat Mid-Atlantic 22-12 for the division championship.

The Men's 50 AAA division was the largest division of the tournament with 47 teams and was also forced to be split into an American and National division. No. 2 seed OH MY, hailing from California faced the Tucson Bandits in the finals. OH MY double dipped the Bandits 22-7 and 16-13 for the World Championship title.

Hawaiians took the trophy home across the Pacific after defeating Northern Exposure 24-10 for the 50 AA division championship. Hawaiians drew the eight seed in a 10-team bracket forcing them to win five straight games while scoring an average of 22 runs per game on their way to the title.

One of the smallest divisions of the tournament was the 55 Major-Plus division consisting of five teams from four states. The top seeded MTC dropped a tight ballgame to Summy's Nighthawks in the third round of bracket play 28-27. However MTC would defeat Hendricks Sports Management 24-22 to claw their way into the championship and then go on to double-dip the Nighthawks 19-14 and 22-7 for the 55 Major-Plus division.

The 55 Major division consisted of 29 teams. No. 2 seed Goodman Racing was bested by No. 6 seed R&R Double Nickels 23-14 in the fourth round of bracket play. However, No. 9 seed Motown Stars defeated R&R 24-22 to find themselves in the championship against Goodman who had



Photos by Jack Eberhard

The Hawaii Masters and Ryan's Way of Utah compete in the 60 Major division.



A Silver Clout of Illinois batter (left photo) swings away in 60 AA action, while a Bryson's Pub fielder from Pennsylvania makes a leaping throw in 50 Major-Plus competition.

fought their way out of the loser's bracket. Motown Stars slugged their way to victory over Goodman Racing 25-20.

The 55 AAA division consisted of 30 teams from 19 states. Dan Wiebold Ford, hailing from Idaho, grabbed the No. 10 seed out of pool play and ran off six straight victories for an impressive championship win. Dan Wiebold Ford defeated Git-R-Done 17-12 in the championship game.

Advanced Auto Transport went 1-1 in pool play and was seeded No. 6 heading into the bracket games of the 15-team 55 AA division. Advanced Auto pounded the No. 2 seed Hawaiians 20-4 in the third round of play and also defeat them in a much closer ball game for the championship 14-12.

The 60 Major-Plus division consisted of nine

Continued on Page 17

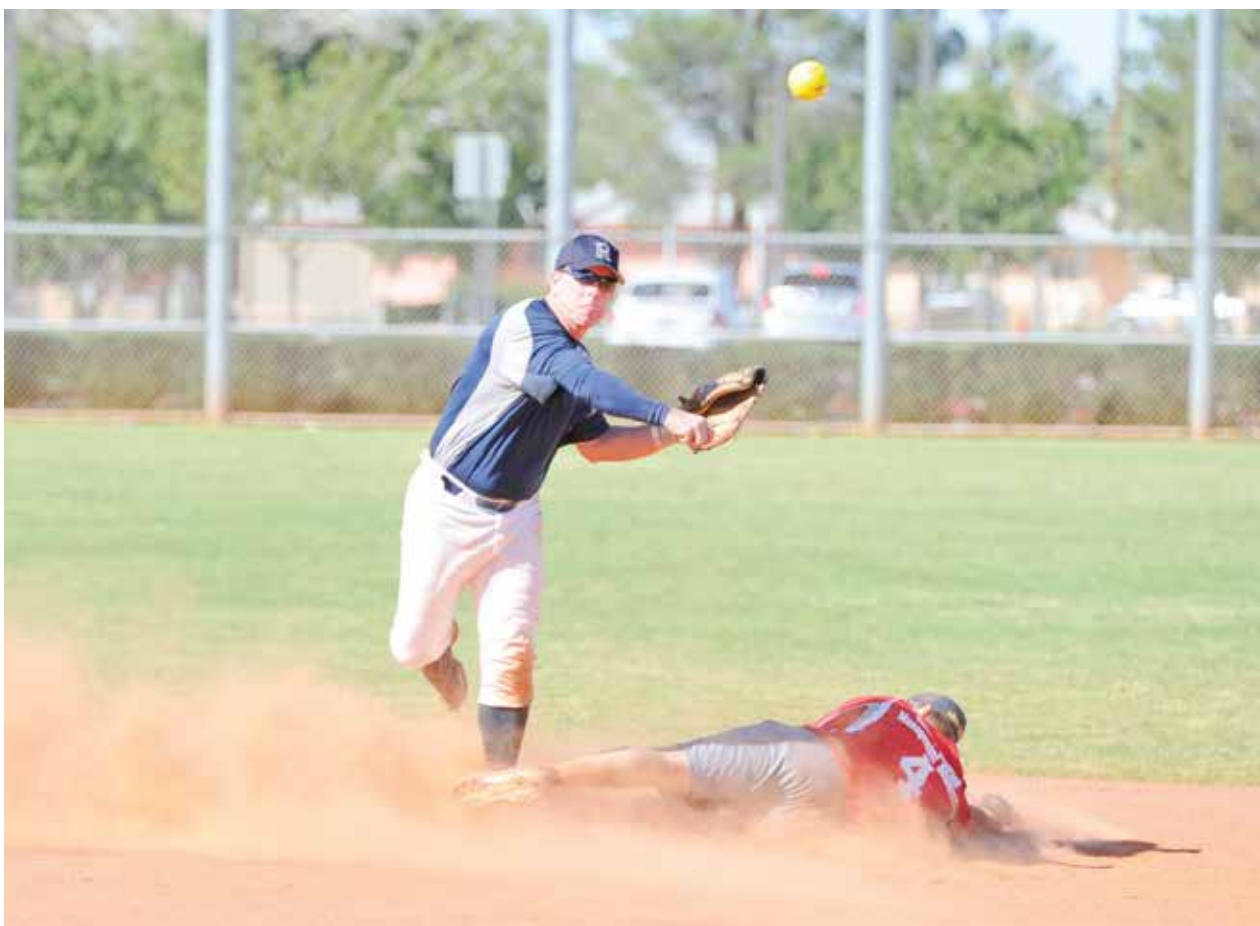


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# WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



Photos by Jack Eberhard

The view overlooking Las Vegas at the Shadow Rock Complex, left, was majestic, while a Top Gun infielder makes a double-play throw in a 50 AAA game against Relentless from Texas at the Lorenzi Complex.

## WMC: Fossils Win Big 60 AAA; Silverados take 60 AA



A Not Done Yet Ladies batter swings away in 40 Women Masters AAA action at the World Masters Championships.

### Continued from Page 17

teams from seven states. No. 3 seed Hollis Appraisals battled with No. 2 seed Old Dawgs for the championship. Hollis defeated the Old Dawgs 38-16 in the second round sending them to the loser's bracket. Old Dawgs clawed their way back to the finals and force an, "IF" game against Hollis, 30-11. The "IF" game was full of offense as Hollis defeated Old Dawgs 33-27 to win the championship.

The 60 Major division was conquered by Minnesota Masters as the No. 5 seed in a 14-team bracket. The Masters won five straight games to claim the division – winning three of those games by only one run, including the championship, 28-27, over Chain Link.

The huge 39-team 60 AAA division was broken into the National and American brackets. As the No. 5 seed in the American bracket, Fossils/

Miken emerged to face Stefco Silver Stix, the No. 11 seed in the National bracket. Fossils defeated Stefco 15-13 to send them to the loser's bracket and then beat them once again 12-6 in the division championship game.

The Ohio Silverados won the 22-team 60 AA. The Silverados scored no less than 20 runs in five consecutive victories on their way to the championship. With the win, the Silverados captured the prestigious Triple Grand Slam award.

Another Triple Grand Slam winner emerged from the 65 Major-Plus division, consisting of five teams. Hamel Builders/Superior defeated Omen in the U.S. National Game to grab the top seed. Hamel would then defeat Omen in back-to-back bracket games, 25-16 and 27-22 for the division championship and the Triple Grand Slam.

Continued on Page 19



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## WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

# WMC: Butch's Wins 17-Team 40 AAA Women Title

Continued from Page 17

In the 14-team 65 Major division, Ruth Realty battled Minnesota Prize for the championship. Ruth knocked the Prize into the loser's bracket in the third round. Minnesota Prize made their way back to face Ruth Realty in the finals and were able to double dip Ruth Realty, 21-13 and 16-15 to win the championship.

Twenty-four teams made up the 65 AAA division with Michaels, hailing from Wisconsin, emerging victorious. As the No. 3 seed, Michaels was awarded a bye in the first round and faced the Silver Sox in the second round match-up. Michaels edged out the Silver Sox 15-14 and never looked back. Michaels won their next four games by an average of 13 runs on their way to winning the division.

In the 65 AA division, Hill Contracting made a surprise run to the championship game as the No. 12 seed in the 15-team division. They squared off against US Jobs/Indy in the championship but were defeated in two straight games, 30-24 and 26-16, as US Jobs took the division title.

The 70 Major-Plus division consisted of three teams, First American Title (WA), FL Legends/Human Kinetics, and Streamline Circuits (CA). As the No. 2 seed, FL Legends scored 22, 24 and 28 runs in three consecutive wins to claim the division championship.

Local Las Vegas team Stark Street Pizza grabbed the No. 2 seed heading into bracket play of the 11-team 70 Major division. Stark Street Pizza showed exceptional defense holding their opponents to an average of six runs per game in four straight victories. They claimed the division title with a win over Scrap Iron Legacy, 7-1.

RWC State Roofing out of California went 2-2 in pool play to grab the No. 6 seed in the 10-team 70 AAA division. State Roofing proved extremely resilient through bracket play by defeating the top-seeded Sidewinders II, 13-12 in the third round and then second-seeded Raptors 14-9 to win the division.

Another local Las Vegas team claimed the 70 AA division title. TNT dominated the 10-team division, grabbing the number one seed and rattling off four consecutive wins for the division. They defeated Crackerbox 12-9 in the championship game.

The 75 Major division consisted of seven teams playing a round-robin format to decide a champion. On Oct. 1, the San Francisco Seals defeated Joseph Chevrolet in the U.S. National Game. In tournament play, the Seals would then be forced to an "IF" game by Joseph Chevrolet only to come out on



Photos by Jack Eberhard

A Sacramento Buds outfielder makes a diving lunge during 65 AA action at the WMC.

A Chicken Coop / Iowa Demons player captures a moment of emotion in a game against Kamikaze of California in the 50 AAA bracket.



top 23-18, to win the division and the Triple Grand Slam.

The 75 AAA division consisted of 14 teams also playing a round-robin format. Jimmy's Minnesota Gold went 6-0 on their way to winning the division. They faced Chicago Geezers in the championship, winning 20-5 for the division title.

The oldest division in the sport, the 80 division, set its own record with 13 teams competing in the WMC.

The 80 Major division consisted of six teams from five states. Joeseppi's, out of Washington, dominated with four wins in pool play grabbing the top seed in bracket play. They then ran off two more wins, defeating Florida Investment Properties 32-21 and Fairway Ford 18-12 to win the division.

The 80 AAA division, comprised of seven teams, played a round-robin format as well with the Texas Classics defeating Scrap Iron 13-8 for the championship.

The Women's 40 Major division drew seven teams from four states. Six seeded TKP/Hunters got hot in bracket play and never looked back, cruising through four straight victories on their way to the championship.

The largest women's division was the 17-team 40 AAA bracket. Butch's Beavers, out of Michigan, won both their seeding games to take the No. 2 seed heading into bracket play. The Beavers continued to roll by winning another four straight and eventually defeating Tharaldson Softball 17-13 for the championship.

The Women's 40 AA division consisted of six teams. Law & Order, hailing from Missouri, was the top seed and won two tight ballgames to make it to the championships. Law & Order was forced to an "IF" game by the Hawaiians 16-12. But the Hawaiians would fall to Law & Order 20-8 in the "IF" giving the championship to the Missouri natives.

The only mixed bracket of the tournament was the Women's 50/55 division, comprised of eight teams. Dreamgirlz 50, from Virginia, was seeded No. 6 in the bracket and ran off four straight wins eventually defeating Cal Spirit 17-6 for the championship. With the division title, Dreamgirlz 50 also became the only women's team to claim the Triple Grand Slam for the year.



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## WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



### Wounded Warriors Win Crowd's Heart



The Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team played with celebrities in one of the highlights of the WMC. The Nellis Air Force Color Guard, started it all off and Jostens presented each Wounded Warrior with a special ring in personal display cases.



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## WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

# 5 Suspended After 40 Major-Plus Title Game

### Ross McCulligan Softball News Report

The wholesale suspension of all players on two 40 Masters teams for unsportsmanlike conduct during the World Masters Championships (WMC) was modified by a SSUSA Appeals Board in December.

Suspensions were upheld for five individuals involved in the incident between Team Braves and J.K., Inc., for the 2014 season. The five also face probation for the 2015 season.

Suspensions were lifted on all other players involved, but they face a zero-tolerance probationary period for the 2014 season, according to the Appeals Board report.

Originally all players on both teams had been suspended; Team Braves for the 2014 season and J.K., Inc., indefinitely.

The suspensions stemmed from an incident on October 6 at Sunset Softball Complex during the "IF" game of the 40 Major Plus division at the WMC. Team Braves forced an "IF" game by defeating J.K., Inc., 30 to 25, in the championship game.

A pattern of disrespect toward their opponents, the umpires and field director began in the championship and continued into the "IF" game, according to reports by umpires and directors filed with SSUSA. An argument over the sun's interference on the field sparked a bench clearing argument laced with physical altercation, swearing and complete disrespect towards the umpires and field director, according to the reports.

After one ejection, the turmoil was managed and the game was moved to another field where J.K., Inc. eventually won the championship, 30 -14.

Prior to the tournament, both managers and players had been warned in an email and at the manager's meeting that unsportsmanlike conduct and tactics of intimidation toward umpires and directors would not be tolerated.

In addition, a copy of the SSUSA

code of conduct had also been sent to each 40 Master player via email prior to the tournament.

"A ballplayer's athletic ability is not a license for shameful behavior. This type of conduct is a disgrace to the sport and there is no place for it in senior softball," wrote Terry Hennessy, SSUSA Chief Executive Officer, in his letter notifying both teams of their original suspensions. Team Braves suspension was effective for the 2014 season only, with a probationary period to follow. J.K., Inc. however had been suspended indefinitely due to a previous team suspension in 2009 for gross unsportsmanlike conduct.

Suspended players and coaches were allowed a written appeal within 30 days of the suspension notice. An Appeals Board of three national directors, who were not present during the matter or involved with the original suspension decision, governed the appeals.

The Appeals Board met during the National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., on December 4 to complete their review of the incident and make a final

ruling. They interviewed individuals directly involved and reviewed each suspended players formal appeal.

One player, Scott Camery of Team Braves, was absolved of blame because he was not present during the incident.

Suspensions were upheld for Team Braves manager Glen Thompson, J.K., Inc. manager Robert Martinez and J.K. Inc., sponsor Jeff Kieffer because of a lack of "institutional control," over their teams.

Kieffer and Martinez were the only two individuals associated with J.K. Inc. during their previous suspension in 2009.

Thompson actually took full responsibility for his team's actions, and recommended his own suspension in lieu of suspending his players.

All three individuals will be suspended for the 2014 season and placed on a probationary period for 2015.

Two players were also suspended. J.K. Inc. player Dennis Rulli and Team Braves player, Silvester Sital, were suspended for the 2014 season for engaging in a physical altercation.

Both players will also be placed on a probationary period for the 2015 season.

In addition to the individual suspensions the Appeals Board has also imposed team penalties to both J.K. Inc., and Team Braves. Should either team decide to play, absent the suspended players and managers, they will be forced to play 'Exhibition' during the 2014 season and only participate in the minimum of guaranteed games. Also, neither team will be allowed to participate in the 2014 Western Nationals or World Masters Championships. The team invitations to the upcoming 2014 Tournament of Champions have been revoked.

In a separate incident, David Reay, manager of the Buc's (50 AAA) has been suspended for the 2014 season following an ejection during the WMC on October 5 at Lorenzi Softball Complex. Reay was ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct while using vulgar language towards officials and needed to be restrained. The suspension was upheld following an appeal by Reay.



### Team of Year

SSUSA presented its top award of the year, the 2013 Steve Simmons Memorial Sportsmanship Award to Hannington's 55 of Massachusetts. The Award recognizes a commitment to competition, respect, and a love for the game.

Photos by Jack Eberhard



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## WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

# US National Games

## East, West Champions Split National Contest With Six Wins Each

**By Ross McCulligan**  
**Softball News Report**

**LAS VEGAS** – The best of the East duelled the best of the West here in the U.S. National Games and when it was all decided, everything looked very even.

While teams from the East looked strong in winning six national titles, so did the West which also captured a half-dozen national championships during tournament play that served as a prelude to the World Masters Championships.

Earlier in the year, teams competed in either the Eastern or Western Regional Championships for a right to play here for the U.S. title. And if the teams that won the Regional Championships were not planning on attending the World Masters an invite was extended to the runners-up from each division.

After the dust settled four teams that won their National Games went on to win the World Masters Championships and the Triple Grand Slam.

Eastern teams dominated the Triple Grand Slam, with three from the East and only one from the West winning all three premier tournaments: the East or West Nationals, US Nationals and WMC.

Teams winning the Triple Grand Slam include Hamel Builders/ Superior Senior Softball of Virginia (65 M+), Ohio Silverados (60 AA), San Francisco Seals 75 (75 M) and Dreamgirlz 50 of Virginia (Women's).

Here's how the U.S. Nationals played out:

In the 50 Major-Plus division, Arizona Elite matched-up with TSC, out of South Carolina. Arizona Elite emerged with the victory in an offensive shootout, 34-29.

Sonoma County Crush of California faced Florida Automated Shade in the 50 AAA National Game with Sonoma eking out a 22-21 victory.



Photos by Jack Eberhard

**Florida Automated Shade lost a close one to Sonoma County Crush of California 22-21 in the 50 AAA US National game.**

The Northwest faced the Northeast in the 55 Major division as Goodman Racing, hailing from Washington, battled Sweet Construction, out of New Jersey. In another competitive ballgame, Sweet Construction took the National Title for the East, 20-19.

The 55 AAA division was a true battle of the coasts with Hannington's 55's from Massachusetts going head to head with Git-R-Done 55 of California. Git-R-Done emerged as the champion with a 24-13 victory over Hannington's at Russell Road Softball Complex.

Superior Senior Softball, hailing from Virginia, faced the Old Dawgs 60's, a California team, in the 60 Major-Plus National Game. Superior edged out the Old Dawgs 20-17 to claim the National title for the East.

New York battled California, as the Syracuse Merchants took on Top Gun 60 Softball in the 60 Major division. In yet another close ballgame, Top Gun bested the Merchants 22-19 for the title of National Champions.

The Ohio Silverados showed

great cohesion defeating Islanders Gold 25-10 in the 60 AA division for the National Championship. The Silverados continued to dominate by running the table in the division to claim the Triple Grand Slam.

Another Triple Grand Slam winner emerged from the 65 Major-Plus division. Hamel Builders/ Superior, Eastern Champions from Virginia, defeated Omen, out of California, 22-20, for the U.S. National victory. Hamel's then won three straight as they slugged their way past Omen once more in the WMC finals, 27-22.

In the 65 AAA division, the Mustangs of California, squared off against the Syracuse Merchants. The trend of close ballgames continued as the Mustangs beat the Merchants 15-11 in a defensive showcase.

The U.S. National Game in the 65 AA division pitted Rip's Country Inn from Maryland against Lincoln Hills Coyotes from California. Rip's defeated the Coyotes 24-20 to claim the title for the East.

The San Francisco Seals continued their dynasty by defeating

Joseph Chevrolet 20-19 in the U.S. National Game. The Seals faced Joseph Chevrolet once again in the finals of the WMC and beat them 23-18 for the division and the Triple Grand Slam.

The final U.S. National Game pitted Florida Investment Properties against Arizona Prospectors in the 80 Major division. Florida snuck by Arizona in a one-run ballgame 17-16 to win the National title.

SSUSA also wished to recognize the Eastern and Western champions that did not have an opponent to face in a U.S. National Game. Those teams are:

**Eastern Champions:** Syracuse Cyclones 70 (NY, 70 AA), C.P.B. (MI, Women's 40 Major), Dreamgirlz 50 (VA, Women's 50), Dreamgirlz 55 (VA, Women's 50).

**Western Champions:** Prestige/ Premier (CA, 40 MP), Nor Cal Stars (CA, 40 Major), Nor Cal Warriors (CA, 50 M), MTC Softball Club 55's (CA, 55 MP), Scrap Iron Coyotes (CO, 55 AA), Bay Supporters (CA, 60 AAA), Masters Marauders (BC, C, 65 Major), First American Title (WA, 70 MP), Lincoln Hills Coyotes 70 (CA, 70 Major), Raptors 70 (CA, 70 AAA), State Roofing Systems 75 (CA, 75 AAA), Redwood City Chiefs 80 (CA, 80 AAA), Steel Runnin' (CA, Women's 40 AAA), Bunch Of Old Broads (CA, Women's 40 AA).

## Pace Electronics Loses Drechsler, 60

Al (Alan) Drechsler, who played with Pace Electronics for many seasons, as well as Rochester (N.Y.) 50s, died unexpectedly Nov. 17.

Several players described Drechsler, 60, as a happy guy who loved to play ball and always had a smile on his face.

He was a member of the New York State Softball Hall-of-Fame and member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials Board 60 for more than 35 years.

Drechsler was predeceased by his wife, Trudy and survived by his children, Amy (Matt) Drechsler-Margolis and Alan (Kristi) Drechsler.



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## WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

# 11 Inducted Into National Hall of Fame

**By Ross McCulligan**  
**Softball News Report**

Las Vegas, NV – Senior Softball-USA hosted the induction of 11 new National Hall of Fame members this past September during the World Masters Championships.

The new inductees were recognized during each session's opening ceremonies at the ever-popular Big League Dreams Complex. Many of the player's family and friends were on hand to witness the on-field inductions.

Four inductions took place the first day of the tournament: **Bill Cameron**, who plays on Superior Senior Softball (60 Major-Plus), has previously played on Spicer 33 ½, Northern

Virginia Force, IMS Dogs, and Turn Two/Chavis Softball.

**Vernon Fowler**, of Team Combat/Joe Brown's All Stars (60 Major-Plus). Fowler has played for MTC since 2008 and began playing with Team Combat in 2013.

**Audie Hollis**, of Hollis Appraisals (60 Major-Plus), spent his entire senior softball career as a player/manager of Hollis Appraisals while leading them to many national and world tournament victories.

**Rick Perez**, formerly of Kelly's Sports, has also played for the Las Vegas Legends, Las Vegas Stars and Miken Mavericks.

Seven inductions took place on Sept. 30:

**Dave Barnes**, of Full Circle (65 Major-Plus), is known as both an excellent player (for which he was inducted) and umpire. Since 2009, Barnes has played with Nor-Cal Bluejays, Rehab Assignment, Omen, Ryan's Way, and Stark Street Pizza.

**David Briones**, of Omen (65 Major-Plus), has also played for Old A's/Miken, MTC, and Tri-C-Machine.

**Norman Ellis** plays for Joseph Chevrolet (75 Major) and has played for teams such as Suncoast Orthopedic Surgery, Agility Physical Therapy, Southern Pride, and Agility/Joseph Chevrolet.

**Gil Frelly**, who also plays Omen (65 Major-Plus), has also played with MTC and Omen during his softball

career.

**Jim Phillips**, of the San Francisco Seals (75 Major), has played for teams from California his entire career, including the Seals, Nor-Cal Bluejays, California Classics, and Streamline Circuits.

**Bill Rice** plays for Hamel Builders/Superior Softball (65 Major-Plus) and has played for Turn Two/Haynes/Harris/Elite, Spicers 33 ½, Turn Two/Rock Solid/Elite, Northern Virginia Force, Turn Two/Vemma, Turn Two/Spicer Properties, and Turn Two/Chavis Softball.

**Richard 'Red' Simmons** is a longtime player and manager of Top Gun (75 Major). Simmons also had a brief stint with Fairway Ford in 2012.

# Teams Name All Tournament Players for WMC

## 2013 LVSSA/SSUSA World Master's Championships

**Men's 40 Major-Plus:** Hand Picked - Mark Poston, Sammy Bernstein, MVP-Ryan Bigley

**Men's 40 Major:** Virginia Masters - Jeff Hall, Mark Bowles, Mike Fritter, Paul Sadler, Steve Stone, MVP-John Stillwell

**Men's 40 AAA:** Loose Cannon - David McDaniel, Virgil Archibeque, Cory Chesterfield, Joe Cleveland, Mike Wasse Miller

**Men's 50 Major-Plus:** AZ Elite - Chuck Henninger, Dominick Calise, Rod Gibson, Ronnie Salcedo; NW Legends - Steve Leighton, Rick Bass, MVP/Scott Becker

**Men's 50 Major:** Grant's Posse - Greg Brandt, Pat Imbriale

**Men's 50 AAA:** 50 Oh My! - Lucio Montoya, Tony Miller, Gus Hurtado, George Gonzales, Ed Gracia; Tucson Bandits - James (Dusty) Lee, Walter (Joe) Kellner, Steve Gobrecht; Stanislaus Sluggers - Mark (Zig) Zurilgen, Randy Ehlers

**Men's 50 AA:** Hawaiians - Rick Hayes/MVP, Mike Brown, Dean Hughes, Rankin Kaanoi, Ronnie Mendiola; Northern Exposure - George Ladenburg, Dean Van-Dusseldorp, Steve Marchand

**Men's 55 Major-Plus:** MTC 55 - Gary Robertson/MVP, Roger Underwood, Ron Graves, Dave Matusich, Dave Perillo; Summy's Nighthawks - Jon Kramer, Mike Lorden, Matt Fahring; Hendricks Sports - Joe Read, Joe Standefer

**Men's 55 Major MVP:** Kinnco - George Roberts; Motown Stars - Bob Burns, Eric Lawson, Lawrence Reedus, Steve Roeder, Houston Tipton; 50 Caliber Plus St Louis - Dennis Pugh

**Men's 55 AAA:** Dan Wiebold Ford - Curt Jackson, Harold Killgore, Terry DeMoss, Rick Carringer, Tom Lopez; Git-R-Done - Glenn Stevenson, Mike O'Donnell, Tony Buyak; Houston Fire - Bill Husta, Glen Abrameit, MVP-Ronnie Orsak

**Men's 55 AA:** Advanced Auto Transport - Pete Dziawora, Mark Cline, Walt Kado, Emery Laidlaw, Scott Sawotke

**Men's 60 Major-Plus:** Hollis Appraisals - Bob Davis, Jack Lambert, John Klein, Dave Motta, Mike Monnier; Old Dawgs - Chris Dyack, Curtis Williams, Dan Kibbe; Superior Senior Softball - Tommy Tudor, Ronnie Collins

**Men's 60 Major:** Minnesota Masters White - Mike Haley, Daryl Cooper, Dave Slack, Garry Morris, Lud Nordahl; Chain Link - Mark Walsh, Glen Ryan, Terry Schmitgal; Top Gun 60 Softball - Jim Palecek, Norm Coe

**Men's 60 AAA:** Fossils/Miken - Dave Driscoll, Mike Peterson, Bob Frey, Clem Delagardelle, Roger Haugen; Cal Xtreme - Jon Forbes, Arnold Carlos

**Men's 60 AA:** Ohio Silverados - Dan Gerin, Wayne Steiner, Jim Kirby, Dave Caplinger, Ken Spoerndle; Blue Chips - Philip Kvasnicka, Don Griffin, James Kupec; Team Texas/MVP - Sergio Angulo

**Men's 65 Major-Plus:** Hamel Builders/Superior Senior Softball - Don Clatterbough, Andy Zitnay, Billy Rice, Danny Ballard, James McLamb; Omen 65 - Mel Colwell, George Sylvia, Ed Carey; Full Circle - Alan Dial, Al Melaragno

**Men's 65 Major:** Minnesota Prize 65 - Bob Hartshorn, Don Goltz, Bob Goldstrand, Mark Lilledahl, Bob Hagen; KRT Financial - Ed Sparkman, Al Smith

**Men's 65 AAA:** Michaels 65 - Rod Wilterdink, Al Alt, Mike Michalek, Bert Hempler, Ron Bruce

**Men's 65 AA:** US Jobs/Indy 65 - Pat Sheehan, George Hull, Russell Wilhoit, Jim Rogers, John Roach; Hill Contracting - Gary Kirk, Tom Mecredy, Keith Schnell, MVP/John Beard; Sacramento Buds - Bob Riola, Jim Luttrell, MVP/Russell Uda

**Men's 70 Major-Plus:** Florida Legends/Human Kinetics - Zeb Carter, Bob Conrad, David Decker/MVP, Ron Locke, Michael Pickett; Streamline Circuits - Bill Wilson, John Chacon, Mike Leitner; First American Title - Fred White, Mike Vetovich

**Men's 70 Major:** Stark Street Pizza - Jackie Robinson, Rob Robinson, Nat Rinato, Don Minnick, Bob Gregorich, Steve Duga (In Memorandum); Scrap Iron 70 Legacy - Dennis Lutz, Don Pierson, Fred Searle; Connection - Ralph Bartlett, Max Litt

**Men's 70 AAA:** Redwood City State Roofing - Bruce Hyman, Fred Santos,

Ed Lowe, Charley Sherrill, Bob Sebring; Raptors - Don Odegaard, JC Fox, Charles Aragon

**Men's 70 AA:** The Crackerbox - Mitchell Bass, Jim Fulks, Gerald Lutz; Git-R-Done/MVP-Nick DeRose

**Men's 75 Major-Plus:** San Francisco Seals - Jim Douglas/MVP, Steve Salter, Argie Haddock, Berkeley Phillips, Matt Rocha

**Men's 75 Major:** Joseph Chevrolet - Robert Johnson, Santi Caccicola, Jim Spelbrink; Top Gun - Russ Simily, Dave Duarte

**Men's 75 AAA:** Jimmy's Minnesota Gold - Bruce Fisher, Don Carruth, Lowell Thompson, Dick Ritter, Jerry Filipek; Chicago Geezers - Bill Doell, Jack Simons, Mickey Mills

**Men's 80 Major:** Fairway Ford - Duf Sfredo, Neil Barnes, Roger Williams

**Men's 80 AAA:** Scrap Iron 80 - Ray Keller, Stephen Aponte, Bobby Thompson; Jimmy's Minnesota Legends - Bob D'Amadio/MVP, Norm Robinson

**Women's 40 Major:** TKP/Hunters - Gina Oliver, Carolyn Norman, Tiffany Daniels, Deb Cormier, Kim Potter, MVP/Lisa Bull

**Women's 40 AAA:** Butch's Beavers - Chris Treesh, Carolyn Shanks, Dawn Pardee, Jan Johnson, Sue Yamin

**Women's 40 AA:** B.O.O.B.S. - Caroline Saenz; Utah Relics - Malia Krogstad, Heather Bernard



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# Eastern Teams Flock to Winter Nationals in Florida

By Beth Hamilton  
Softball News Report

FORT MYERS, FLA. – With 132 teams competing here in November, the Winter National Championships has grown in the past decade to become one of the largest senior events east of the Mississippi River.

“The Winter Nationals has been a big success because of its location,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA’s executive director. “People come here, in the heart of Florida’s Gulf Coast, to relax while having a chance to play some quality softball. The fields are some of the best around and there are teams from several states.”

Three of the nine teams competing in the 50+ Platinum Division glided through the round-robin games with 2-0 records. After beating the No. 3 and No. 4 seeds, Gulf Coast Softball of Florida faced Steve Levin Financial, the No. 2 seed, in the championship game. Gulf Coast Softball took the title by a sliver: 15 to 14.

In the 50+ AAA bracket, Florida Automated Shade faced Team Sonic in the championships. Team Sonic, the 8<sup>th</sup> seed, was knocked into the loser’s bracket and then won five straight games to make it to the championship. Florida Automated Shade won the title game, 16-11.

In the eight-team 55+ Major bracket, Levin Financial 55’s emerged from 5<sup>th</sup> seed to make it to the championships against Sneaky Pete’s Sports. Levin won 25-19.

Golden Vipers of Michigan dominated the 55 AAA division in bracket play, beating Oshkosh Ambassadors of Wisconsin 18-9, then Roadhouse Blues of Pennsylvania 23-13 and 21-1 to win the championship.

Hollis Appraisals had one thing in mind when it came to the 60+ Major Plus Division -- and that was to win. After winning all three round-robin games, they breezed through the bracket, beating Edge II of Tennessee 21-10, then defeating Minnesota Masters/White 22-14 and 22-13.

In the 60+ Majors, Team Deluxe/Bradford of Delaware was forced into an IF game after losing to Metro Hitmen of New Jersey 18-9. Team De-



The Winter Nationals gave teams a chance to play with their 2014 rosters.

lux rebounded in the IF game, edging the Hitmen 13-12 to win the title.

The 60 AAA division was one of the largest of the tournament with 17 teams, but it boiled down to a contest between the AAG Mustangs of Florida and Chesapeake 60s of Maryland. AAG thrust out of the loser’s bracket to double-dip Chesapeake 12-9 and 18-17 for the title.

The only team to win all three of the 60+ AA seeding games was the Syracuse Cyclones 60. The only issue was that New York Capitals, coming out of the loser’s bracket, wanted the title. The Capitals won the championship game and forced an IF game. But Syracuse finally got the gears moving and beat Capitals by 12 runs (13-1.)

The No. 1 seed Rose Enterprises took an early fall against Beef O’Bradys So. Trace in the 65 Major Plus Division. Rose Enterprises fought its way back into the championships from the loser’s bracket and double-dipped Beef O’Bradys 16-15 and 16-1.

Voice Tech Slammers knew

they were in for a challenge when they started the bracket games. Being one of the four teams in the 65+ Major division, they had to overcome Murphy’s Law 65. These two teams were two and two against each other throughout the round robins and bracket games when it came down to the IF game. Voice Tech held out for a 15-10 victory.

In the large 17-team 65+ AAA, the No. 9 seed Mello Financial of Florida and No. 15 seed Reyes Logistics of Texas battled in the championships, with Mello taking the title 13-5.

Anaconda Sports of New York emerged from the nine-team 65 AA division unbeaten in bracket play to face VFW Tabor- Franchi of Rhode Island in the title game. Anaconda won 17-13.

Men’s 70+ Platinum combined Major and Major Plus divisions for the seeding games, then the two divisions played separate finals.

After the mixed round-robin games, FL Legends/Human Kinetics



and Premium Seats USA faced each other in a best-of-three for the Major-Plus title. The Legends easily swept the first two games, 24-9 and 27-3, for the championships.

In the 70 Major finals, Talon Wealth Management stood out the entire tournament and capped its run by defeating MCC Marketing 70s in the finals 17-16.

The oldest team won the large 13-team 70/75 Gold Division in five straight bracket games. Joseph Chevrolet 75 Majors of Florida was the only 75 team in the bracket and defeated each of the 70 AAA teams it faced. In the finals, the Chicago Gray Sox came close, but could not overtake Joseph Chevrolet, losing 19-17.

Cozy Grill of Rhode Island was looking good in the six-team 70+ AA Division. After taking the first seed, they won two games to make it to the championships and went on to defeat Blaze/Southwest Florida 18-9 for the title.

Two Florida teams battled it out for the title in the seven-team 75 AAA+ Division. The Bucs & Bulls came out of the loser’s bracket to double dip Fort Myers Tax Town, 17-1 and 15-6, for the championship.

Last but not least was the 80 Gold Division, consisting of four teams. Two Major and two AAA mixed it up in the round robins and then split for the finals.

In the 80 Major best-of-three, Center for Sight of Florida fell short with Florida Investment Properties winning 24-8 and 20-5.

In the 80 AAA, two Midwest teams battled it out. ProHealth Care of Wisconsin beat Jimmy’s Minnesota Legends 27-15 and 20-6 for the title.



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# All Tournament Players Selected for Winter Nationals

## 2013 Winter National Championships All Tournament Players:

**Men's 50 Major:** GulfCoast Softball - Jeff Frey, Clarke Farrell, Hank Garriss II, John Bennis, Don Burke; Steve Levin Fin. Plan 1 - Donnie Lloyd, Mike Hart, Reggi Brown

**Men's 50 AAA:** Florida Automated Shade - Dave Leon, John Riley, Steve Rubin, Jim Carroll, Kurt Musial; Team Sonic - Kevin Degnan, Rick Hankins, Jimmy Nelson; Cross-Cut - Harold Smith, Bobby Michaels

**Men's 55 Major:** Sneaky Pete Sports - Richard Kohn, Jay Wood, Tim Salerno; Six Pac - George Roberts, Frank Hardin

**Men's 55 AAA:** Golden Vipers - John Johnson, Paul Maiorana, Rob Schneider, Oscar Zamora, Tony Gabriel; Ball Busters - Les Millman, Hector Ramos

**Men's 60 Major-Plus:** Hollis Appraisals - Chip Cregar, Jack Aronson, Steve Dorrell, Jack Lambert, Mike Monnier; Minnesota Masters White/Miken - Daryl Cooper, Dave

Mattson, Dave Slack; High Street Bucs - Mike Seraphin, Ricky Grimm

**Men's 60 Major:** Team Deluxe/Bradford White - Henry Culley, Charlie Christopher, Doug Westcott, Billy Geissinger, Robert Griffith; Metro Hitmen - Dave Hawkins, Tom Funk, Franklin Gantz

**Men's 60 AAA:** AAG Mustangs - David Dennison, Tom Hamilton, Robert Humphrey, Kevin Ottman, Kerry Charlet; Chesapeake 60's - Vaughn Dubs, Pete Ture, Dwight Entwistle

**Men's 60 AA:** Syracuse Cyclones - Steve Tompkins, Roger Merritt, Chris Bell, Bob Darnell, Pete Mazza; NY Capitals - Jerry Smith, Joseph DiFabio, Stuart Kaplan; Southern Tier Express - Kenny Elston, Jim Guild

**Men's 65 Major-Plus:** Rose Enterprises - Chip Cregar, Eddie Rivera, Phil Biedronski, Dan Maus, Terry O'Donnell; Beef O'Brady's - Linwood Manning, Steve Wilson, Steve Long

**Men's 65 Major:** Voice Tech Slammers - Jim Davidson, Jim Kahn, Jim Anderson, Pat MacDonald, Hank Giulian; Murphy's Law - Stewart Casterline, Sonny Johnston, Marv Swosinski

**Men's 65 AAA:** Lake Wales Legends - Don Held, Ron Salyer

**Men's 65 AA:** Anaconda Sports - Joe Romeo, Doug Delle Cave, Joe Vancho, Scott Rapp, Ed Weber; VFW Tabor-Franchi - Frank Pallotta, James McMahon, Harvey DuPerry; Indiana Legends/Columbus - Dan Londeree, James Norris

**Men's 70 Major-Plus:** Florida Legends/Human Kinetics - Patrick Bidelman, Zeb Carter, Bob Conrad, David Decker, Bob Koss, Tols Mihailoff; Premium Seats USA - Tom Ladd, Rich McCann, Scott Logan, Steve Almes

**Men's 70 Major:** Michael's/Libby's - Rod Wilterdink, Ron Davis

**Men's 70 AA:** Cozy Grill - Fred LaFazia, Mike Neri, Felix Decesare, Jerry DeMello, George St. Vincent; Columbus Silver Sticks - Don Dickherber, Joe Andrew

**Men's 70/75 Gold:** Joseph Chevrolet - Robert Johnson, Vinnie Romson, Mel Eubank, Frank Vargo, Walt Taylor; Chicago Gray Sox - Rich Douglas, Jim Ducharme, Wayne Markett

**Men's 75 AAA:** Bucs and Bulls - Ed Kline, Tom Axtell, Bill Miller, Wayne Mundy, Doug McLellan; Ft Myers Tax Town - Lou Warren, Lee Estelle, Charlie Hofer; Chicago Geezers - Jack Miller, Jerry Handel

**Men's 80 Major:** Florida Investment Properties - Everett Arnold, Rocco Cambareri, Warren Watson, Norman Haltrich, Roger Thresher; Center For Sight - Ferrell Sparks, Jack Lewis, Hugh Brotherton, Joe Sykes

**Men's 80 AAA:** ProHealth Care - Jim O'Connor, Willie Wood, Don Schreiner, Blake Waterhouse, Robert Anderson, Dick Steinmetz

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The Forbidden City in Beijing.

## Pacific Rim: USA Team Wins China Tournament

Continued from Page 1

Senior Softball-USA will offer an International Division at its World Masters Championships in Las Vegas.

The agreement came during a promotional trip in October after SSUSA was asked to promote softball in China. The trip included an International Joyful Slow-Pitch Tournament in Beijing that attracted two teams from Taiwan, one from Japan, five from China and two from the USA.

The USA 50s Team, coached by Bobby Davis of Florida, won the tournament.

The finals pitted the Beijing team against the USA 50s team, made up of SSUSA players from seven states, including Washington, California, Texas, Florida, New York, Minnesota and Louisiana.

The USA 50s team won 9-1 against much younger competition. The USA 60s team, coached by Chuck Towne of Texas, came in fourth.

The two USA senior teams' participation in the Beijing tournament was part of an agreement between SSUSA and the Chinese government to consult in building the sport of senior slow-pitch softball throughout China.

USA players acted as instructors at a local high school, which is developing a softball program, and as ambassadors among the new Chinese teams participating in the tournament.

"We are very happy with this

initial trip to promote softball in China and look forward to working with our Chinese counterparts in the years to come," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer and manager of both US teams.

MVP for the USA 50s team was John Moncrieff of California, Best Offense was Jim Hansen of California and Best Defense was Bob Stollsteimer of Louisiana. MVP for the USA 60 team was Ron Tatti of California, Best Offense was Allen Burns of Texas and Best Defense was Bob Haim of New York.

The Pacific Rim Championships in Japan is expected to be played in November, with the Japanese softball association announcing exact dates in January. After the dates are estab-

lished, details will be announced by International Sports Holidays via e-mail, on [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com) and on Facebook at International Softball-SSUSA.



The USA teams visited the Great Wall.



Hundreds of Teracotta soldiers stand guard in Xi'an.

Photos  
by  
Linda Towne



The first place USA team poses with the runner-up team from Beijing. Shanghai Temple, right.



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