

# Unraveling Your Social Security Options

By Jack Sirard  
Softball News Report

Fifty-nine million Americans – including tens of thousands of senior softball players nationwide – currently receive Social Security benefits in one form or another.

On top of that another 250 million to 300 million Americans

or so are highly hopeful of joining them one day.

How important is Social Security to the economic fabric of America? Consider the following:

- Nine out of ten individuals age 65 and older receive Social Security benefits.
- Social Security benefits represent about 38 percent of the

## INSIDE:

Home renovations for aging Baby Boomers.

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income of the elderly.

- Among elderly Social Security beneficiaries, 52 percent of married couples and 74 percent of unmarried persons receive 50

percent or more of their income from Social Security.

No doubt about it, the benefits program is massive by any measurement and no doubt far exceeds what its proponents expected when it was created back in 1935.

When you listen in on practically any conversation about So-

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## INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

### PART 1

Planning? It's a Retirement Home Run

### PART 2

Understanding Your Social Security Options

### PART 3

Why the First Year of Retirement Is So Costly

### PART 4

Tips on What to Do — and How to Give Back to Your Community



Timothy Sabin

## A Unique Quest: To Umpire in Every State

By Ross McCulligan  
Softball News Report

In 1997, fueled by his love of sport and life, Timothy Sabin embarked on the adventure of a lifetime: He resolved to travel the United States and umpire at least one game in each of the 50 states.

Sabin's quest involved something that few, if any, ever have attempted. Over the last 18 years Sabin, a

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Photos by Senior Games Photos

The Sacramento Flash second baseman tags a 50 Shades of Gray runner during a close play in 50 AAA action.



## 206 Teams Battle in Reno



By Ross McCulligan  
Softball News Report

RENO – For the 27<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Senior Softball-USA returned here for its second largest tournament of the year. 206 teams made their way to the outskirts of the Sierra Nevada to compete for the spot as division champion.

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# NewsBriefing

## CARL'S CORNER

By Carl Gustafson

### Lack of Hitting Not Why You Are Losing

When you ask most players why their team lost a particular game, the answer is often, "We just couldn't hit."

They go on to tell you their team usually hits the hide off the ball, adding, "I don't know what happened, just one of those days."

There are better reasons why a team doesn't hit than a strange day hexing the team. It usually has more to do with the pitching and defense of the winning team, along with bad base running on the losing team.

Good defenses give you three outs only, and no free bases, while most defenses allow four or five outs per inning and a free base or two. Good defense isn't dependent upon spectacular plays either.

Players who make unbelievable plays often make equally horrid mistakes allowing the ball to go to the wall and clear the bases.

When a team knows whether or not to throw behind the runner to stop the batter from turning first and going on to second, or throw ahead of the runner and nail him, it can shut down the inning.

When the base coach sends a runner to die at home plate with an .800 power hitter coming up, it can not only end an inning or a rally, but it can destroy momentum, morale, and lose the game.

I constantly see third baseman standing six feet off the base to receive an outfield throw allowing the runner to arrive safely when the ball actually beat him. The guy will blame the throw never seeming to realize that the outfielder is probably throwing at him assuming he is on the bag, or so he doesn't throw to an undefended bag.

When you get beat by a team with good fundamentals nothing stands out because they find many little ways to beat you and make it look routine. It's so nondescript that in reflecting on the game all you can come up with is, "Sheeze, we just didn't hit today."

No, you didn't get four or five outs an inning and free extra bases.

## Film Captures Grit, Heart of Players

By Joseph Ruggiero  
Softball News Report

DAYTON, Ohio – When Jennifer Taylor Clarke, local music photographer, first met Tim Gebard, local singer/songwriter, she shared some photos she had taken of him during one of his performances. Little did they know how Clarke's kind gesture would act as a catalyst for a remarkable creative opportunity.

Clarke introduced Gebard, also a Senior Softball player, to other local musicians who bonded over music and eventually one common desire: to make a documentary film. Unsure of the subject of their film, they found their inspiration when Gebard, while talking about the recreational Senior Softball league he played in, remarked, "everybody in the senior leagues is a survivor who has a story to tell".

This remark began an extensive



Filming for the documentary "The Fall League" began in the 2013.

adventure for Clarke, Gebard and a team of local musicians/artists into the world of Senior Softball. Their documentary film, The Fall League, endeavors to show how the men and

women that the documentary follows love the game and everything that goes with it. The Fall League began filming in the 2013 season.

Continued on Page 4

## Kansas City Legend Gary Sloan Dies at 69

Softball News Report

Gary Lawrence Sloan, 69, of Kansas, a commanding hitter and skilled pitcher, suffered from a heart attack and passed away at his home on June 28.

Gary played for the Kansas City Fire 65 team since 2012 and was one of their leading hitters. At six feet four inches tall, Gary was confident on the mound and intimidated opposing batters. "We all enjoyed playing with Gary. He was always dependable and one of the best hitters on the team. A good .700 hitter even at 69," said his manager Jim Jenkins.

Gary was well known in the Kansas City softball community as well and considered a legend; hitting a home run out of the Royals Stadium in 1980 during a Home Run hitting contest.

His love of softball, beer and blues was well known by his teammates, family, and friends.

Gary was also passionate about education and the written word. He

received his undergraduate degree and law degrees from UMKC and managed a successful law practice.

Gary served in the U.S. Army as a signal corps officer and First Lieutenant in Vietnam. His love of sports showed through even then as he

served as a Sports Information Officer in Saigon.

He is survived by his wife, Anna; children, Kelly, Bryan, Michelle and Julie; grandchildren, Jordan, Taylor and Parker; mother, Elizabeth; and siblings, Bruce, Norma, Jill and Jan.

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# Perspective Is Key in Fitness Training

None who play the game can deny that softball is fun. Really, what's not to love? We gather outdoors with other players; swing the bat, throw the ball, run the bases and cheer for our teammates.

The emotional and physical ride from first pitch to game's end is exhilarating. But when the game is also competitive, the emotional pressure combined with physical exertion can take a toll on players.

So how do we strike a balance

between working hard to perform our best while maintaining health and preserving the fun of the game?

It's all about perspective.

Awareness of our strengths is a great place to start. I believe it's in the nature of the athlete and inherent to the competitive athletic process to push and be pushed. However, recognizing and appropriately reacting to the thresholds within that process is equally as important to reaching peak performance,

as is training.

Focusing on our strengths can help us to realize our individual contribution to the success of our team. It can lend itself to time and energy management during training and allow us to ease the pressure to excel in areas outside our immediate area of expertise.

Acceptance of the idea that each day and each game is different is liberating. No matter how much we strive for consistency, variations in energy level and performance will occur.

Of course the competitive athlete shows up with the intention to deliver their best. But life is a moving target and the best preparation and intention cannot change the fact that sometimes things don't go the way we want.

Having a bad day doesn't take away from all the good days nor does it diminish the effort put forth. All it does is let you know you're human and maybe need some extra rest.

Value your strengths people and



## Stretching Limits By Lisa Cachia

work on areas of needed improvement. Be confident in giving your best effort each day and give yourself a break when you're feeling off center. Doing so can help you to see the big picture, provide some levity during challenging times and keep the game fun.

Play Ball!!!

*Any questions or comments please contact: Lisa Cachia, ACSM Certified Personal Trainer at [Benefitness@comcast.net](mailto:Benefitness@comcast.net).*

## Documentary: Ohio League Stars in Film Depicting Senior Softball

Continued from Page 3

The team includes the director, Clarke; producer, Gebard; co-producer, Dean Vincent; interviewer/narrator, Todd (who preferred not to use his last name); and writer Julia Hiatt Dalton.

The Fall League explores the history of Dayton's Cuny/Zink Senior Slow-Pitch league. Gebard explained that "Senior Softball grew out of the vision of two men: George Cuny and Jim Zink. In the 1960s, both played on the Springfield-based Stroh's teams (precursors of today's super majors). After aging out of the open leagues, they founded the first 50+ league in the Dayton region."

Cuny and Zink's modest vision grew tremendously over time and currently includes eight 50+ recreation leagues, each with four to eight teams and eventually spawned the Dayton Legends softball club – a group of six select traveling tournament teams.

Dayton now acts as a select hub for recreational Senior Softball in Ohio as players come from as far as Cincinnati and Columbus to play. The film showcases countless senior players from diverse backgrounds and professions who were surveyed before filming started.

The survey discovered many interesting facts about the player's lives. One player fought in the Normandy invasion. Many had completed marathons after the age of 65, while others had never played softball until they joined the senior league.

Despite their differences, one fact was shared by all of the players: their love of the game and the camaraderie that comes with it, especially when facing the many challenges of aging.

In an effort to tell the full story of its players and the importance senior softball plays in their lives; the film includes direct interviews with players, player's wives and specialists.

Author and advocate of the therapeutic value of senior softball, Leon Speroff, joined The Fall League's team during filming and appears in the film. Dr. Kathy Platoni, who focuses on veterans issues, also interviewed in the film, speaks to "the importance of slow-pitch and other team sports in relation to a well-balanced and healthy environment for seniors".

As Gebard and his team put it, "While The Fall League is about a specific period of time in one place and in one season, it also considers historical perspectives, parallels between team sport and veteran's experience, and refers to a broader perspective – how these players are redefining their later years in terms of activity, relationships, and acceptance (or lack thereof) of the limitations of the aging process".

A preview of the film is currently available at <http://www.thefallleague.com/>, Youtube (search "The Fall League Preview") and future information will be posted as the project is completed. The team behind The Fall League hopes to complete the film by mid-September.

## Cal Cup All-Tourney Players Announced

Men's 40 Major - **R&R 40oz:** Jerry Stringer, Jerry Edemann, Rich Tepezano  
50AAA - **Top Gun Thunder:** John Failla, Steve Vincurek

55 Major - **So Cal 55:** Sam Ferri, Mol Hill, James Villarreal, Wayne Galer, Curtis Akers; **Wongs:** Eric Overstreet, Rick Adams, Joe Aranda; **Git-R-Done:** Tony Buyak, Joel Hawk

55 Silver - **Lights Out:** Steve Mendenhall, Eloy Chavez, Mark Bailey  
60 Platinum - **So Cal 60:** Shigeru Asato, Rudy Duran, Edward McElroy;  
**Top Gun 60 Softball:** John Woolsey, Dave Seitz

60 AAA - **Cal Extreme:** Al Garnica, Bruce Marschall, Jon Forbes, Tom Steinhauer, Steve Martinez; **OC Mustangs:** Jerry McIntyre, Pepe Siniard, Al Gingerelli; **Git-R-Done:** Jim Mangiapane, David Delgadillo

60 AA - **Sacramento Islanders:** Rick Bingham, Ron Cornwell, Craig Nakahara, Mel Tennyson, Jack Wabinga;  
**911 Softball Club:** Hal Joyce, Bob Lipeles, Jim Birk; **Basehaws:** Rich Garcia, Tom Keheley

65 Platinum - **SoCal Gusto:** Greg Penrod, John Sadler, Bob McConnel, Bill Kluck, Chuck Meeks; **Fountain Valley Outlaws:** Bill McPhillips, Bob Varela,

Larry Ekema; **Tharaldsons:** Russ Curtis, Jim Peacock

65 Platinum - **Full Circle:** Gary Cohee, Ron Danoski, Ellwin Jobe, Billy Steele, Conway Waddy; **R & R 65:** Dick Markota, Al Estrada, Art Langlois

65 AAA - **Mustangs:** Frank Coppa, Bob Montalvo

65AA - **Sacramento Buds:** Michael Jordan, Cal Okamoto, Lee Marshall, Bob Riola, Dan Severson; **So Cal Crush:** Steve Trenary, Dave Pokladowski, Carmelo Montanez; **Git-R-Done:** Jim Hansen, Fred Yunt

70 Major - **Thousand Oaks Panthers:** Dave Myers, Dan Minnick, Jim Jackson

70 Silver - **Triple Play:** Bill Svoboda, Don Daily, Jim Grubb, Greg Krebs, Ernie Struman; **El Paseo Bank:** Jeff Gorman, Ben Plascencia, Jim Leatherwood; **Top Gun:** Ron Damschen, George Gutierrez

75/80 Gold - **Top Gun:** Lee Aday, Don McCage, Hank Alberts, Miguel Vasquez, Bill Poe; **Gold Coast:** Jeff Hilgaertner, Bennie Roberts, Jim DeFrates

Women's 40s - **SoCal Toxic:** Becky Hardy, Kathy Shomaker, Natalie Parsons, Frannie Rojas, Stephani Rogers; **Kiss Our Stix:** Aretha Tilley-Pigum, Anjy Divine



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# Cal Cup Heads to SoCal; Draws Record 76 Teams

By Joseph Ruggiero  
Softball News Report

**HEMET, Calif.** – Southern California hosted their first California State Championships here at the young Diamond Valley Lake Park Softball Complex from July 8 to July 13.

Director Doug Robbins commended the new setting and noted that the event was a “successful change from Northern California.” Robbins added that the “the players were complimentary of the move to Southern California” and the tournament as a whole, which attracted 76 teams this year; 18 more than last year.

Players from California, Nevada and Arizona flocked to Valley-Wide’s eight-field park which opened in 2009. With high, hot temperatures present throughout the tournament, players and fans did their best to stay hydrated, stay cool, and find the shade where they could.

According to Robbins, the last day of tournament play rewarded players and attendees with a pleasant breeze while they caught the finalists compete in what turned out to be gripping second-session play.

The tournament gathered the largest women’s 40 division in recent tournament history. The six-team bracket featured a fiercely competitive set of teams that reflected the high caliber talent and competitive edge always present at the annual event.

In the Women’s 40 Masters Gold Division top seed Old School fell to third seed SoCal Toxic in their first game 18-6. Rising out of the ashes of their first loss, Old School managed a win against Kiss Our Stix 21-10 to clinch a spot in the semifinals. Facing a red hot SoCal Toxic coming off three consecutive wins, Old School triumphed 23-10 to stay alive. With an exciting “If” game deciding the champion, SoCal Toxic beat Old School 23-12 to earn the title.

Forcing another “If” game, the 65 Platinum division featured a rousing rivalry between Full Circle and R&R 65’s. With Full Circle first losing to R&R 16-14 in the second round of play, they picked themselves up to



narrowly defeat Tharaldson’s 19-18. Playing R&R again in the semifinals, Full Circle’s bats got the better of R&R 24-23 to force one last match. Double dipping and flexing their offensive strength, Full Circle defeated R&R 24-14 to win the championship.

The 65 AAA division saw SoCal Gusto dominate the rest of the competition. Playing hard, SoCal faced their stiffest competition with F.V. Outlaws who put up 20 runs to SoCal Gusto’s 21. In their next match, SoCal Gusto demonstrated their offensive prowess beating F.V. Outlaws 20-6 to nab the title.

Unable to stop Sacramento Buds’ success in the 65 AA division, SoCal Crush showed that they wouldn’t go down without a fight. Amassing 21 runs in their first match with Buds, they were unable to keep up as the Buds countered with 25. Playing against Buds in the Semifinals, SoCal Crush put up an impressive 21 runs only to be bested by one run. Buds ended up seizing the title, but SoCal Crush made them work for it.

Trailblazing their opponents, Top Gun 75 won four consecutive games to seize the 75/80 Gold Division title. Beating Gold Coast 17-13 and 17-12, Top Gun 75 sealed the division with ease.

With six teams competing in the 50 Platinum division, several teams fired their offensive cylinders to make for an electrifying bracket. Kicking off the offensive fury, Aftershock rocked the fences with 32 runs to L.A.F.’s notable 24 runs. Losing steam, Aftershock lost to So Cal Vandals 20-13. So Cal Vandals went on to lose a close game to Nor Cal Warriors 20-19, but didn’t let up, quickly dispatching L.A.F. 21-6 to face Nor Cal again in the semifinal game. In a rollicking

offensive bout Nor Cal Warriors outmustered So Cal vandals 22-17 to win the division title.

The 50 AAA division also showcased some excellent ball play, featuring the third “If” game of the tournament and a sensational double dip by top seed Kamikaze 50. Sugamele Golf looked like the clear contender at the start of the tournament beating Triple 7’s 22-19 and Kamikaze 50’s 17-15. Kamikaze 50 altered the narrative however by executing a solid comeback upsetting T.G Thunder 18-16 in order to face off again with Sugamele Golf. Unable to clamp down Kamikaze 50, Sugamele Golf lost 16-12 to force one final rematch. With only one run determining the champion, Kamikaze 50 outplayed Sugamele 26-25 to claim the title.

Third seed Wong’s started strong in the 55 Major division quickly disposing of Git-R-Done 21-10 and LVSSA 55’s 21-16. Unable to fend off the offensive might of SoCal 55 in a painful loss 25-8 Wong’s fell to the elimination bracket. Winning a tough rematch against Git-R-Done 25-18, Wong’s ascended to the semifinals. Once again they were outmatched by SoCal’s offensive streak losing 25-11. SoCal 55 took the title accumulating 71 runs in just three games.

The 55 Silver division saw seven teams compete for the title. AA team and seventh seed Lights Out put on a tremendous performance, overtaking second seed Hard Tens/OXN Rookies 20-17 and third seed Desert Dawgs 25-19. Finally falling to fourth seed Kamikaze 55’s 17-14, Lights Out dug deep to overcome Hard Tens 21-20 to make it to the semifinal game. Kamikaze 55 then lit up the park with an impressive 27 runs to Lights Out’s 11 ending their run to the title. Despite Kamikaze 55 winning the title, Lights Out showed that in softball a little grit and a lot of determination can go a long way.

The 60 Platinum division featured three finalists vying for supremacy. Top Gun III, after losing to Top Gun 60’s 16-11, fell to the loser’s bracket only to overcome Top Gun 60’s 20-10 in an exciting rematch. Facing the

undefeated SoCal 60, Top Gun III proceeded to achieve two lopsided victories against SoCal 60’s 14-7 and 18-9. Both well-earned victories, Top Gun III was the second team of the tournament to double dip and win the division title.

Looking to take the 60 AAA division title, OC Mustangs started strong defeating NG/NG² 19-18 and Cal Xtreme 16-10. Cal Xtreme came back however to overcome OC Mustangs 12-3 forcing the fifth “If” game of the tournament. Cal Xtreme went on to take the division title defeating OC Mustangs 22-9.

The 60 AA division saw the Sacramento Islanders go undefeated to claim the division title. Despite a close match against 911 Softball, the Islanders reigned supreme with a 21-19 win.

Handpicked cleaned house in the 40 Masters Plus division. Picking apart Kraze 24-6 and then handily beating Unforgiven 18-7. Handpicked faced a challenge with an inspired performance by Kraze, but ultimately won the title in a close 23-18 showdown.

The 40 Masters Major division featured two heavyweights in a dramatic showdown. R&R 40 Oz went undefeated until the semifinal game squeezing out Epic 30-22 in the first round and proceeding to rout Rancid 19-8 in their next game. Monstros put up a good fight, but R&R kept on swinging to a 14-10 win. Epic took their initial loss in stride and proceeded to climb their way up the loser’s bracket defeating Monstros 18-17 in a well-matched game. Running the tables on R&R, Epic double dipped and stole the title out from underneath R&R 22-18 and 18-15 respectively.

For complete game results, please visit Senior Softball USA’s tournament page at [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com).

## Heard in the Dugout

**"In all affairs - love, religion, politics, business - it's a healthy idea to hang a question mark on things you have long taken for granted."**

**--Bertrand Russell**



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# Tips on Avoiding Ground-Outs

**Art Eversole**  
**Softball News Report**

Many of us may recall as kids the advice we were given when first handed a cylindrical bat with a round ball: "Make sure you square-it-up when you hit the ball".

Not so easily done but there are ways to approach the striking of the softball with purpose rather than just winding up and letting her rip.

I believe the ground ball is the most troublesome problem senior hitters experience -- even more so than the pop up. With so many teams today playing five-man infields and three-man outfields, or with 11 defenders in older divisions, hitters have found that hitting the ball on the ground can be disastrous.

Runners are now being forced out at 2nd base from either a mid-fielder or someone playing a deep shift taking away a sure base hit.

This can be extremely frustrating to the hitter as well as killing a promising inning. What was once a base-hit to the outfield is now a fielder's choice!

Two questions can be asked:

1) Why I'm hitting so many ground balls?

2) How can I stop?

What area you are striking on the ball's surface is paramount to answering these questions. Rolling up on the top of the softball at contact with your top hand produces "Top-spin" resulting many times in a hot ground ball or a weak bouncer. Understanding both ball spin and

swing angle can help eliminate the ground ball dilemma.

Let's first talk about basic ball spin:

1. Over-spin or Top spin is created by hitting above the ball's equator or the center of the ball.

2. Under-spin or 'cutting the

HITTING THE BALL AT EACH ARROW RESULTS IN THE FOLLOWING:



- ← TOO MUCH TOP-SPIN; causing weak ground balls
- ← TOP-SPIN; humpy line-drives good for base hits
- ← NO-SPIN; knuckleballs resulting in truncated distance
- ← UNDER-SPIN; line-drives, shoot the gaps, longer home runs
- ← TOO MUCH UNDER-SPIN; weak pop outs and short fly balls

ball is created by hitting below the ball's equator.

3. No-spin is created by hitting dead in the middle of the ball (see illustration).

Top spin line drives are good for keeping the ball in the park when you're out of home runs. Under-spin line drives carry over the infielders heads and shoot the gaps quickly.

Sometimes the big boys will hit Under-spin line drives that carry out of the park by mistake resulting in DBO's. A good top-hand action on the ball can result in some very nice "hump-back" line drives that stay in the park.

Your "Swing Plane" is another determinant of where and how your hit is delivered into the field of play. You can swing directly up at the ball, or swing downwards at the ball, or the preferred method of a level swing, staying on plane to the incoming pitch.

Swinging up at the ball (not recommended) can cause a looping fly if you hit below the equator or a Top-spin fly if you strike about the equator. These strikes rarely have enough lift or distance and are typically caught before reaching the warning track. Review my article on the "Magnus effect" which illustrates that hitting with an upswing is not the best way to hit the ball for distance (link found below).

Striking at the ball with purpose allows the hitter to control his or her outcomes and also makes

the batter focus more directly on the ball during their at-bat. A good hitter learns how to control the direction and flight of their ball just like a golfer.

Under-spin gives the hitter the best control and also adds distance to your big flies. Here's the direct link to my previous senior softball articles for reference: <http://www.bashbro1nwseniorsoftball.com/id476.html>

*Art Eversole is a Senior Softball News Contributor.*

## CAN-Sirs Tourney Draws 44 Teams

CAN-Sirs Awareness Team Benefit Tournament was a success with 44 teams from three states competing in eight age brackets. The tournament was May 17, 18, in Elk Grove CA.

In addition, a second Cancer Awareness tournament was held in Hayward CA, which had an additional 36 teams.

This is the fourth year for the event which started with 18 teams and has grown ever since.

This year, the Fort Sutter and Elk Grove Lions clubs provided concessions. The California Grapettes, a girls fast pitch league provided bat girls for all the dugouts. The donations raised by these two groups went to the "bookbags for needy students" program in Elk Grove.

Next year's tournament dates have been set at May 16-17 in Elk Grove CA.

## Senior Softball News

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# Columbus Hosts 7 States, Canada at ISA Worlds

## Softball News Report

COLUMBUS, IND. – The 2014 ISA Senior World Tournament returned here with 38 teams fighting to claim a world title and a berth in the Tournament of Champions. The tournament proved to be a world class event as teams from seven states and Canada battled it out on the lovely Lincoln Park fields.

The teams, eager to chase after a world title, played their first games early in the morning before the thunderstorms hit.

Despite the contentious weather, the tournament fielded a total of 121 games played over a three-day period. With 16 one-run ball games, 26 two-run ball games and 31 games that ended with a three-run differential or less, the close contests showed once again that Columbus and softball go

hand in hand.

Amid the exciting gameplay on Friday afternoon, disaster almost struck during a seeding game when an Indiana Legends outfielder went down after an inning ending play. Unconscious and without a pulse, 911 was immediately called and within seconds a nurse/spectator, Sonya (daughter of an Indiana Legends player), and site director, Melissa Maiel, arrived to assist the player. Thanks to the AED and CPR the player was revived on the field before EMTs arrived. The player was taken to a nearby hospital and is now home resting and doing well, according to his teammates.

With just three teams in the 50 Major division, Brickyard Classic 50 took the top spot coming out of seed play. Southside 50 and Polyviou Dental started off the bracket with a 20-19

Southside victory. Playing Brickyard Classic 50 next, Southside achieved a close 24-20 victory to kick Brickyard Classic 50 into the loser's bracket. Beating Polyviou Dental, Brickyard Classic 50 forced a rematch against Southside who ended up claiming the title 24-23.

The 50 AAA division, the largest of the tournament, featured eight teams duking it out for the title. Team 050 knocked the top-seeded team into the loser's bracket, while Pope Transport fought their way through the winner's bracket to take their place in the championship game. After battling through four games in the loser's bracket, the Dayton Legends Hitmen forced a rematch against Pope Transport. The bats of Pope Transport proved too hot for the Dayton Legends Hitmen however, and Pope Transport seized the championship 24-19.

The 55 Major division was home to four teams that played a double elimination format. Old Style/Windy City faced off against Banker and Mann Softball on Saturday with Old Style winning 19-17. Kinnco Services beat out Six Pac 22-14.

Banker and Mann then muscled their way through the loser's bracket to play Kinnco Services for the championship. With a final score of 19-12, Kinnco Services won the title.

The 55 AAA division showcased five teams. Despite losing to BSN/DeClaire/PMB 23-22 in a close showdown, the Milwaukee Merchants climbed their way up through the loser's bracket to reach the championship game.

The undefeated Central Illinois Chiefs dominated the winner's bracket dusting off Antique Roadshow 22-21 and BSN/DeClaire/PMB 29-12 to advance to the championship game. Maintaining their winning streak, the Chiefs triumphed over the Merchants 24-15 to take their division championship.

In the 60 Major division, two teams played three seeding games mixed with the 55 AAA and then broke out into a best of three bracket. The Indiana Legends 60's won the

first match up against Jim & Joe's Icemen 16-14. In the championship game, Indiana Legends 60's showed their dominance delivering a 25-9 win to take the championship.

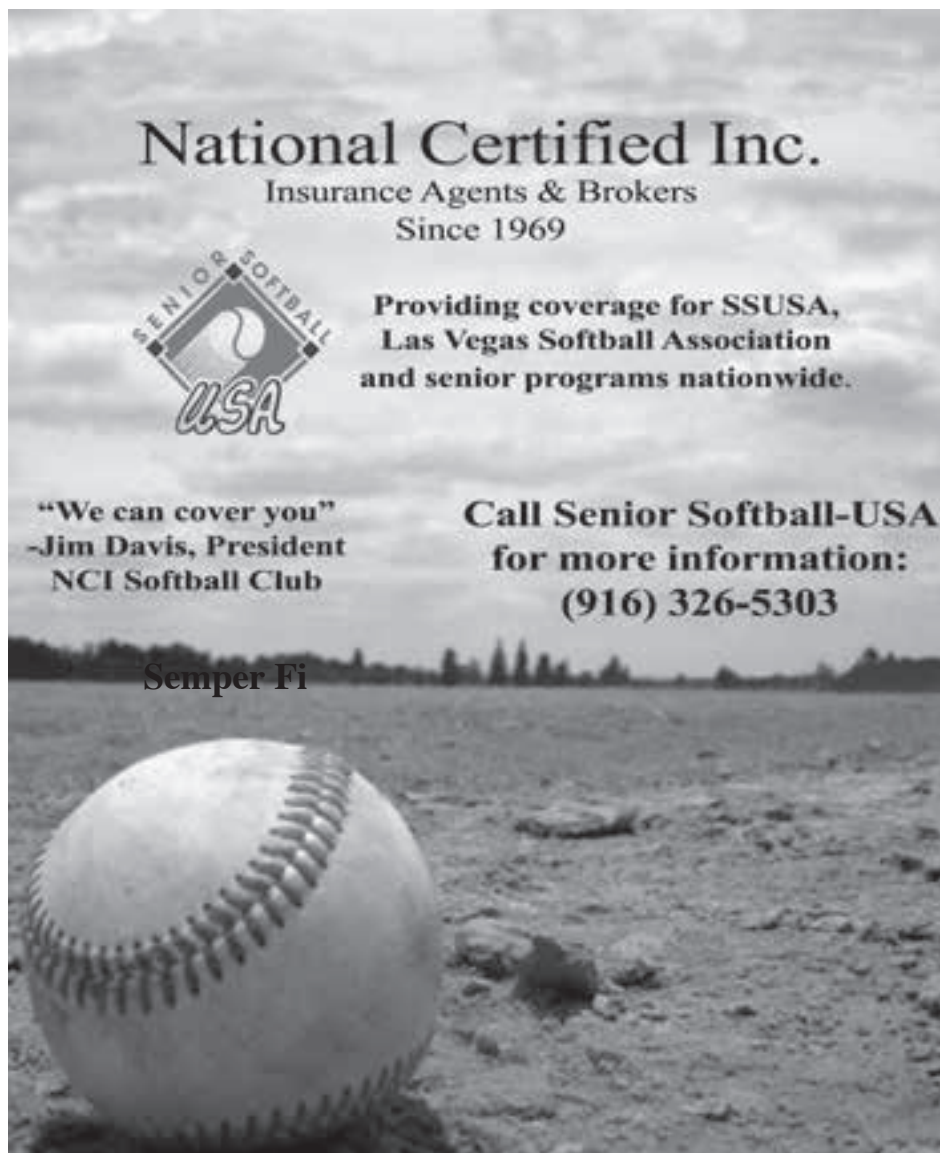
The 60/65 Gold division featured some close and competitive play. DeClaire Knee/Ortho started strong as they swung their way to the championship game defeating Dayton Legends 60's 19-14 and American Scaffolding 17-16. American Scaffolding wouldn't allow the narrow loss to dampen their spirits though as they managed to knock off the Dayton Legends 12-11 and advance to the championship game. Beating DeClaire Knee/Ortho 20-7 in a decisive victory, American Scaffolding forced the "If" game only to lose 16-10. After some superb play, DeClaire Knee/Ortho pulled through to claim the title.

The 65/70 Gold division was the second largest division in the tournament drawing seven teams. The top seeded Windsor Chiefs outplayed their rivals right out of the gate as they defeated US Jobs 26-20 and Michaels/Libbys 70's 24-22 to clinch a spot in the championship game.

Narrowly overcoming Mid State Seniors 14-13 and beating Michaels/Libbys 70, US Jobs rallied to earn the chance to avenge their loss to the Windsor Chiefs. Putting on an offensive hailstorm, US Jobs beat Windsor 17-13 to force the "If" game but fell short of the championship title when the Windsor Chiefs took the "If" game 21-17.

Six teams tussled for the 65/70 Silver division championship. The Indiana Legends proved triumphant however as they overwhelmed two of the stronger teams at their first meeting with victories over Kentuckiana 16-15 and Dayton Legends 20-10.

Staying alive in the loser's bracket, Kentuckiana persisted despite their initial loss only to be bested by Dayton Legends 29-23. Claiming the final spot in the championship game, Dayton Legends were outmatched 19-9 as the undefeated Indiana Legends took the victory and the 2014 title.



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# Opinions & Letters

## The Sanctuary of Sports

As missiles fly in the Middle East and the pull of political power degenerates to war in Eastern Europe, sports offer a sanctuary of sanity.

Teams compete using accepted rules of play to determine a winner. No one dies and teams retain respect for opposing players.

The concept of peaceful international competition is best embodied in the Olympics. Sports also has been used as a bridge between feuding powers. Ping Pong opened relations between the United States and China in the 1970s, for example.

For the past 25 years, Senior Softball-USA has taken teams to more than 35 countries to promote the sport and more important to promote international friendship through sports. In the past few years SSUSA has taken teams to Cuba and China and has developed invaluable friendships through our sport.

We do not pretend that small steps like these will stop a war, however, even these tiny steps lay a foundation of understanding through a common love of a sport – and that provides a weary world with hope for the future.



Sue Ballenger

## Fellow Players Can Help Ease Stress of Cancer Survivors

Two recent studies indicate the number one problem of men having survived cancer is high distress. The study shows there are serious stress issues that may not start until months or even a year after the physical healing has finished.

In a study of men with prostate, GI, lung, and head and neck cancers, the top problems for requested assistance were all classified as high distress. Sleep was the number one complaint for all the cancers. The second was related to fatigue, third was finances and then stress-related issues. This study was done through personal interviews by the City of Hope Cancer Research Center.

Severe anxiety, depression, irritability, short temper, anger, withdrawal, sexual dysfunction, apathy, and ignoring and denying feelings of need are the symptoms according to the National Cancer Institute and are defined as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Men with histories of cancer are considered to be at risk for PTSD. The

### CAN-SIRS CORNER

By Pete Davignon

physical and mental shock of having a life-threatening disease, the treatments for cancer, and living with repeated threats to one's body and life are traumatic experiences for many cancer patients.

The symptoms experienced by cancer survivors are similar to other situations such as military combat, violent personal attacks, or other life threatening events.

Because the cancer experience involves so many upsetting events, it is more difficult to single out one event as the cause of stress than it is for other traumas.

Symptoms that last for a month or more and cause significant problems in the man's personal relationships, employment, or other important area of daily life are considered high distress.

The challenges concerning dealing with high distress (PTSD) in men who have survived cancer is to recognize the value of sharing their stress issues with their medical professionals and to understand the connection between talking to fellow survivors and positive outcomes.

Survivors sometimes pull away from others. They may ignore or deny feelings of loneliness, lack of interest in things they normally enjoyed. They need to make themselves consciously aware of the internal conflicts that demand macho reactions and bring themselves to interact with their fellow survivors.

The stresses are best treated with therapy and medications. Stress levels can be brought under control with time.

Fellow senior softball players, here is where we can help our fellow players.

If you know a cancer survivor on your team or league that seems to withdraw from fellowship or loses

interest in playing softball, ask them if they want to talk. Men will ask for and accept help in a male friendly environment.

By engaging them in discussions, distress can be decreased. If one of your fellow ballplayers has cancer, heart problems, heart stroke, or other bodily injury such as bad knees, hip, or shoulders, we all come to them with wishes for a quick recovery.

If the problem shows itself as irritability, anger, shortness of temper, irrational conversations, we frequently ignore and avoid these situations. Instead, try empathy and compassion for fellow players who show systems of high distress and PTSD.

You can get more information on PTSD and Cancer at the City of Hope or the National Institute for Cancer, or just Google "cancer and stress."

Pete Davignon, CAN-Sirs Awareness Team, 2485 Notre Dame Blvd #370-180, Chico CA 95928 / Can-Sirs@att.net



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# Umpire: Officiated in 44 States . . . and Counting

Continued from Page 1

tax preparer by trade, and his wife have flown, taken trains, and driven countless miles across the country.

It's been a long ride whose end is not yet in sight.

The couple, who live in Gatlinburg, Tenn., has been to 44 states so far with only Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, New Mexico, North Carolina and Utah remaining.

Sacrifice is a part of life and their journey has been no different.

Sabin's wife only travels with him about half the time. Although she doesn't make every trip, she enjoys the journey and has been extremely supportive of his dream.

They have stayed in countless number of hotel rooms and on their last trip they even slept on a blowup mattress in the bed of their F150 pickup in Wal-Mart parking lots.

Few of us ever truly realize our dreams, life gets in the way. Each of our goals and aspirations are

unique yet the obstacles to obtaining them remain the same.

Work, school, finances, family, commitments, and even disease are undeniable facts of life, yet inspiration can be drawn by those who chose to break the mold and seek their own happiness, whatever that may be.

Timothy Sabin is one of those individuals.

"I'm a sports fan," says Sabin. His true love is officiating. He has been officiating for the better part of 20 years.

He referees/umpires a multitude of sports including basketball, soccer, field hockey, and of course softball. Sabin has officiated for ASA, NCAA, and various organizations since he began.

One of Sabin's fondest memories occurred about seven years ago while umpiring in Jackson, Mississippi.

They had just begun their league with Sabin behind the plate when it started to rain. The rain interfered just enough to cancel the games but stopped soon after.

The field manager and his son took Sabin cat-fishing for the rest of the afternoon.

"We had an absolute blast," said Sabin, "and they were gracious enough to invite me back to the field the next day."

For a recent trip, Sabin contacted the City of Casper Wyoming's Parks and Rec Department, asking to umpire one of their league nights and they were happy to oblige.

Tim and his wife drove their pickup four hours from Cody to Casper to umpire league night on Tuesday, June 3.

"He did a wonderful job umpiring for us and looked truly happy to be out there," said Brad Raney, recreation supervisor for the City of Casper.

According to Sabin, Hawaii will be his last stop, a finale to the adventure of his lifetime. Timothy Sabin's goal is unique, but his message is universal.

The experience has outweighed the sacrifice, he said. Follow your heart and do what makes you happy.

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# Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota Win in Midwest

By Beth Hamilton  
Softball News Report

SHAWNEE, KAN. – The Midwest Championships proved to be a success for the fifth year in a row here with 55 teams from 12 states competing.

“A complete rainout in Gardner (Celebration Park) on Sunday left many teams disappointed,” said Tournament Director Don Brooks. However all divisions had played enough games Friday and Saturday to determine winners in each division.

Fortunately the second complex used for the tournament, Mid-America Sports Complex, did not lose any games to rain.

Due to a rain out at Celebration Park, the 50+ Major division did not compete the last day. 50 Caliber St. Louis of Missouri won the division by beating Minnesota Merchants 14-10 in the last winner's bracket game.

The Iowa Demons let the 50+AAA teams know they were there to win the division. Coming out of the round robins they were 2-0, but they didn't end their run there. Gliding into



the finals, they defeated Oklahoma Rhinos 16 -7 for the title.

A battle evolved between the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds in the 55+ Major division. MWC of Kansas and Old Style/Windy City of Illinois battled each other early with MWC winning. Determined to do it again, MWC did so by a score of 27-25.

The Integrity Builders of Nebraska won all five of their games in the tournament to take the 50/55+ Silver division champs. They won the championship game against Sports Image of Missouri 13-7.

In the hard-fought Men's 55/60+ AA Division, a five-team battle ensued after bracket play. In the end, interiors

won 22-6 and was crowned 55 AA Champs while Minnesota Blizzard became 60 AA Champs.

In the 60 Majors, Pope Transport of Wisconsin and Chicago Classic Bobcats won the top two bracket spots when play was halted due to the rain. In a late game Saturday Pope Transport defeated CC Bobcats 25-10 for the title.

The 60+ AAA was the only division left to determine a champ because of the rainout. The game moved to Mid-America Complex, with Minnesota Masters/Ancell defeating Redwings of Missouri, 21-9.

Midwest Express from Nebraska set forth on a mission after a 1-1 round-robin results in the 65+ Silver bracket. The only team standing in their way was Kansas City Fire. In the

end Midwest Express squeezed out the win 12-7.

Quad City Old Stars of Iowa came back with a vengeance after a 1-2 round-robin result in the 70+ AAA Division. After making it to the final game, Quad City Old Stars defeated The Crackerbox of Arkansas 12-4.

A split into two bracket finals after combined round-robin games resulted in the Mid-America Patriots of Missouri beating KC Seniors 14-7 and 17-14 to take the 70+ AA division. Then Harris Auction of Arkansas won 22-7 against Antiques of KC for the 75/80+ Gold division title.

**For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Midwest Championships Tournament page at [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com).**

## Midwest All Tourney Players

### 2014 Midwest Championships

50 AAA - **Iowa Demons:** Tim Killam, Harry McFadden, Tony Bergloff, Tim Wolver, Mark Ramsey

50/55 Silver - **Integrity Builders:** Rod Chambers, Mike Fitzgerald, Dennis Steinhauser, Chuck Grubb, Russ Scheffert; **Antiques of Iowa City:** Kevin Rauch, Maynard Gingerich

55 Major - **MWC:** Billy Peck, Steve Krull, Jim Prentice, Marlin McQueen, Mitch Saunders; **Old Style/Windy City Softball:** Brian Campbell, Billy Scales, Kevin Krahn

55 AA - **1<sup>st</sup> Interiors:** Randy Johnson, Merle Hicks, Jim Martin, Eddie Sirfus, Brian Williams

### \$2,939 Raised for Cancer

Senior softball players in Oregon recently took on their toughest opponent – cancer – raising \$2,939 in a tournament at the Hood View Complex in Happy Valley, Ore.

60 Major - **Pope Transport:** Mike Baehman, Steve Neubauer, Bill Dolphin, Jerry Hovseth, Paul Cox; **50 Caliber Silver St Louis:** Bill Merideth, Gary Stahlhut

60 AAA - **Ancell/MN Masters:** Bruce Boyer, Don Hoen, Fritz Wegscheider, John Reagan, Ray Glynn; **Springfield Redwings:** Jim Massey, Nate Nelson, Randy Baldwin

65 Silver - **Midwest Express:** Dean Becker, Sonny Burton, John Kelly, Gary McCoy, Rick Simodines; **Kansas City Fire:** Chuck Stout, Jack Pickert, Jim Jenkins; **US Pallet:** Mike Zimmermann, Matt Laudano

70 AAA - **Quad City Old Stars:** Tom Buck, Pat Murphy, Ralph Groteluschen, Terry VanKlavern, Larry Michels; **The Crackerbox:** Jim Morgan, Mel Stinnett, Chuck Adams

70 AA - **MidAmerica Patriots:** Don Applebaugh, Dick Edington, Frank Perez Jr, Jerry Denzler, Charlie Workman; **KC Seniors:** Walt McKenzie, Jerry Ziegler, Mark VanAuken

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# Reno: Prestige, Kraze Win 40s; Sommerville, CaliGold Take Top 50s

Continued from Page 1

Teams from 15 states and British Columbia competed in the Rock N' Reno Challenge Cup, the longest running national qualifier in America.

"We are extremely proud of the success of this tournament and would like to thank all the teams that continue to support the rich tradition of the Rock N' Reno Challenge," said Fran Dowell, executive director of Senior Softball-USA.

The 10-day event in late May utilized four excellent softball complexes, including Golden Eagle Regional Park, one of the nation's finest all turf fields. The tournament dealt with some strong winds during the week, but the weekends were gorgeous with blue skies and moderate temperatures.

As a Senior Softball National Qualifier, all competing teams are invited to the Western National Championships in Sacramento as well as the World Masters Championships in Las Vegas. In addition, every winning team of the 31 divisions is also invited to the exclusive Tournament of Champions in Florida next year.

Three teams battled in the 40 Major Plus division with Prestige/Premier grabbing the No. 1 seed in the bracket, followed by HandPicked and Louisville Sluggers, respectively. Prestige knocked HandPicked into the loser's bracket with a 22-20 win in the second round. Handpicked then defeated Louisville, 28-26, to face Prestige in the finals. HandPicked ended up double dipping Prestige 26-23 and 28-10 to take the title.

The 40 Major division consisted of 12 teams from California and Nevada. Number 11 seeded Kraze dominated their first four bracket games winning each by an average of 11 runs per game. NorCal Stars was able to force an 'IF' game against Kraze, winning a tight ballgame, 16-

15, in the championship. However, Kraze turned the tables in the 'IF' with a 16-15 victory over NorCal Stars to win the division.

The 50 Major Plus division was extremely competitive with close games throughout the bracket. Number 1 seed Sommerville Softball was knocked to the loser's bracket by the Northwest Legends, 28-26, in the second round. Sommerville battled their way to the championship to once again square off with the Northwest Legends. Sommerville hammered the Legends, 29-13, to force a championship 'IF' game. Both teams played superb in the 'IF' with Sommerville coming out on top 32-28.

CaliGold Athletics used a combination of timely hitting and small-ball to go undefeated in the 50 Major division. They won all six of their games by just 3.5 runs per game, including three one-run ballgames. Their largest margin of victory happened to be in the championship game as they defeated Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder, 30-21.

McU Sports was seeded 10 out of 14 heading into bracket play in the 50 AAA division. McU won four straight extremely close games to find themselves in the finals against Sonoma County Crush. Crush defeated McU, 16-15, to force an 'IF' game, however McU proved to strong winning the 'IF' 22-5.

The 55 Major Plus division consisted of four teams California Energy, Goodman Racing, MTC Softball 55 and Summy's Nighthawks. MTC slugged their way through the bracket to win the division title, defeating their opponents by an average of 10 runs per game.

Ten teams from five states comprised the 55 Major division. San Antonio Softball Club dropped their opening two pool play games and was seeded seven heading into the bracket.



Photos by Senior Games Photos

**The Arizona Dream Team emerged from the elimination bracket to double-dip Steel Smackin and win the 50 Women's Division.**

In their first bracket game, they defeated All-Pro Plumbing 19-2 and then ran off four more consecutive victories to claim the division championship.

The Alaska Kings traveled the farthest to compete in the Men's 55 AAA division but it was well worth it. As the six seed in an eight-team bracket, Alaska Kings won three extremely close games including a, 16-15, victory over Baker Boyz for the division championship.

Mountain Men, Cascade Thunder, and 1<sup>st</sup> draft competed for supremacy in the 55 AA division. Mountain Men grabbed the top seed after a combined pool play with the 55 AAA division. Mountain Men then defeated 1<sup>st</sup> Draft 24-14 and Cascade Thunder 15-7 to win the division.

The 60 Major Plus division consisted of four teams, Chain Link, God's Sports Company, Old Dawgs and Timberworks Construction. The competition was extremely close with five one-run ballgames in pool

play. Old Dawgs grabbed the number one seed but lost to God's Sports Company 16-14 in the second round. Old Dawgs then defeated Chain Link 16-15 to square off with God's Sports Company in the championship. God's Sports Company was able to slug their way to the division title defeating Old Dawgs 19-3 in the championship.

Eight teams competed in the 60 Major division with Enviro-Vac Marauders, out of British Columbia, grabbing the number two seed. Enviro-Vac squared off with number five seed Houston Fire in the fifth round and lost a competitive game, 15-14. Houston Fire defeated Enviro-Vac once again in the championship game, 15-13, to take the division.

Sixteen teams comprised the 60 AAA division, one of the largest in the tournament. Over The Edge won four consecutive close games to fight their way to the championship. They matched up against Royals Softball

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# Reno: San Antonio Wins Huge 65AAA

## Continued from Page 12

Club in the finals and defeated the Royals 22-11 for the championship with their largest margin of victory in the tournament.

Lincoln Hills Coyotes grabbed the number two seed heading into bracket play in the 60 AA division. The Coyotes won all four of their bracket games by a margin of seven runs per game on their way to the division championship.

Full Circle and Omen played a best of three for the 65 Major Plus division. Omen defeated Full Circle, 20-13, in the first game but Full Circle forced an "IF" with a, 22-17, win in the second game. The "IF" was full

of offense with Omen defeating Full Circle, 34-18, to win the division.

High Desert Roadrunners played impressive team softball on their way to victory in the 65 Major division. They were the number four seed heading into the bracket and won four straight with by an average of 1.8 runs, eventually defeating R&R for the championship.

The largest division of the tournament was the 65 AAA division with 19 teams representing eight states. San Antonio Silver Streaks got hot at the right time. As the number five seed, the Silver Streaks won five games in a row to take the division. They faced off with Last Call in their final two games and defeated them 16-

12 and 25-7 respectively.

Sacramento Islanders were pushed to an "IF" game in the 65 AA division by Damaged Goods. Damaged Goods defeated the Islanders, 10-8, to force the "IF" however the Islanders rallied back to win the division, 22-5.

The 70 Major Plus division consisted of an East vs. West battle with Florida Legends squaring off against Stark Street Pizza out of Nevada. In a closely fought ballgame, the Florida Legends outlasted Stark Street Pizza, 18-15, for the championship.

The 70/75 Platinum division was comprised of six teams from the 70 Major division and also the San Francisco Seals, 75 Major Plus team. The Seals were seeded four but saved their best play for the bracket. They lost to CE John in the third round, 12-10, but fought their way back to face CE Johns in the championship game. The Seals defeated CE John, 25-19, and the teams chose not to play the "IF." CE Johns was awarded the 70 Major championship and San Francisco Seals were the 75 Major Plus champion.

The 70 AAA division came down to number four seed, Direct Flooring, and number two seed, Triple Play, squaring off for the division. Both teams fought hard in an excellent game with Triple Play coming out on top, 20-19, to win the division.

The 70 AA division consisted of six teams including the CAN-SIRS Exhibition team. One seed, Git-R-Done was defeated by two seed, Scrap Iron Force, 14-6, in the third round. The two teams squared off again in the final with Scrap Iron edging out another victory, 18-17, to the win the division championship.

The 75 Major division played a best of three between PDR FastSign and Silver Tips. PDR dominated the bracket with convincing wins, 21-9 and 19-8, to win the division.

State Roofing Systems, out of California, grabbed the number three seed in the bracket and slugged their way to the division championship. State Roofing defeated the Oregon Roadrunners in the third round and once again in the final, 16-12.



**Stark Street Pizza of Nevada, above, lost to Florida Legends/ Human Kenetics in the 70 Major-Plus Division finals.**

The 80 AAA division had a great turnout with five teams from California and Oregon. The Elk Grove Renegades were the number one seed but dropped their opening game, 11-6, to the Oregon Roadrunners. The Renegades then won their next four games to force an "IF" against Oregon City Sports. Despite the Renegades effort, they were unable to complete the comeback losing to Oregon City Sports, 16-7, in the "IF" game.

Angry Birds and Tharaldson Softball went head-to-head in a best of three for the Women's 40 Major division championship. Angry Birds handled Tharaldson, 18-10 and 22-6, to win the championship.

As the number one seed in the Women's 40 AAA division, Kiss Our Stixx improved with each game they played. They defeated Steel Runnin, Lone Star Elite, and Old Nasty Curves in consecutive victories to win the division.

The Women's 40 AA division was also a best of three between

**Continued on Page 14**



Photos by Senior Games Photos

**The San Francisco Seals won the 70/ 75 Platinum Division, beating Bonaventure / CE Johns of Washington 25-19 in the finals.**



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# Reno: Arizona, Missouri, Cal., Nevada Win Large Women's Divisions

## Continued from Page 13

B.O.O.B.'s and Northwest Intensity. B.O.O.B.'s defeated Northwest Intensity, 23-11, in the first round game. Northwest Intensity made it much more competitive in the second game only to come up short to B.O.O.B.'s, 14-13, in the championship.

As the number one seed in the Women's 50 division, Arizona Dream Team was knocked into the loser's bracket by Ladiez Steel Smackin, 21-19. AZ Dream Team defeated Oregon Reign to claw back into the championship and once again face Ladiez Steel Smackin. AZ Dream Team forced an 'IF' game and eventually defeated Ladiez, 8-6, to win claim the division.

Nevada Sage faced off with Santa Cruz Blues in the Women's 55 division. Nevada Sage played strong winning two in a row for the championship, 13-7 and 6-2, respectively.

A large division of seven teams from California, Nevada, and Oregon comprised the Women's 60 division. The Arizona Castawayz had a slight scare in the second round winning a defensive minded game, 5-4, over Fun Bunch. The Castawayz would face off with the Fun Bunch once again in the championship, this time slugging their way to a, 16-5, victory and the division title.

Fun Bunch was able to prove their supremacy over three other teams in the Women's 65 division. Fun Bunch scored no less than 16 runs in six straight victories, ultimately winning the division, 23-7, over Saints Express.

**For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Rock N' Reno Tournament page at [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com).**

Here are the All-Tournament Team selections for the Rock 'n' Reno Challenge Cup:

**Women's 40 Major - Angry Birds:** Marci Refuerzo, Mitzi Aguilera, Heather Richard, Dalene Sarret, Cari Zieske

**Women's 40 AAA - Kiss our Stix:** Aretha Tilley-Pigum, Carlene Garcia, Diamond Lucas, Becky Robertson, Deena Dobbins; **Old Nasty Curves:** Carmen Chavez, Stephanie Pease, Shelly Serna

**Women's 40 AA - B.O.O.B.S:** Christine Eakins, Michelle Ballard, Courtney Brophy, Sharyn Ruff, Kari Zamori

**Women's 50 - Az Dream Team:** Angie Ayala, Louise O'Donnell, Terri Davis, Jane Smith, Linda Witt

**Women's 55 - Nevada Sage:** Peggy Nelson-Aguilar, Kathy Drummond, Angie Klein, Kim Bradshaw, Pat Hixson

**Women's 60 - Az Castawaz:** Carolyn Lavis, Terry Sheldon, Cynthia Lutz, Nancy Gagnon, Gloria Smith; **Fun Bunch:** Teri Merickel, Carol Sutherland, Star Golia; **Calif, Spirit:** Cheryl Harrington, Kerrie Webb

**Women's 65 - Fun Bunch:** Chris Wallace, Karen Darnell, Cyndi Kelly, Susan Thompson, Marcia Hiltabidle; **Saints Express:** Jeanie Gray, Joan Shirley, Bev VanGundy; **LV Neons:** Sue Westlake, Sue Silcott

**Men's 40 Major - Kraze:** Olonzo Woodfin, Steve Kwon, Paul Durham, Andy Edwards, Dan Arevalos; **Nor-Cal Stars:** Al Belker, Don McKay, Jesse Mata

**Men's 50 Major+ - Sommerville Softball:** Mike Reed, Daryl Beeler, Paul Salow, Chito Alviderez, Brian Hausner; **Pacific NW Legends:** Bret Kreuger, Mike Terrell, Steve Buettner; **AZ Elite:** Bobby Gutierrez, Curtis Horger

**50 Major - CaliGold Athletics:** Rudy Estrada, Mark Olivas, John Murphy, Tony Pereda, Kevin Tugwell; **Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder:** Kurt Keintz, Phil Bryant, Ken Zito; **Cornerstone:** Jeff Acy, Dan Smith

**Men's 50 AAA - McU Sports:** Steve Hallock, Tony Laird, Dennis Cash, Chris Jones, Grant Bebee; **Stanislaus Sluggers:** Mike Radcliff, Rick Kuchan

**Men's 55 Major+ - MTC:** Dave Matusich, Dwayne Brekke, Gary Robertson, Glen Shipley, Wayne Doty

**Men's 55 Major - San Antonio Softball Club:** Mickey Rodriguez, Mark Henson, Ronnie Lang, Donnie Colbath, Rudy Zapata; **Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder:** Michael Mouton,

Brad Edginton, Mark Troxel

**Men's 55 AAA - Alaska Kings:** Dave Zuker, Greg Earl, Mike Lohmann, Dave Marsett, Mike Story; **Baker Boys:** John Rhonemus, Dave Daugherty, Marty Wilcox

**Men's 55 AA - Mountain Men:** Dave Litchfield, Bruce King, Stuart Fredman, Dave Watson, Jamie Miranda

**Men's 6+0 Major+ - GSC 60:** Tom Amundson, Vern Fowler, Steve Imlay, Jimmy Ross, Art Tressler; **Chain Link:** Paul Becker, Gary Simons

**Men's 60 Major - Houston Fire:** Jim Tharp, Bill Husta, Mike Hirth, Terry Litzinger, Bob Schultz; **Superior Water & Air:** Tom Lopez, Terry DeMoss

**Men's 60 AAA - Royals Softball:** Matt Goodrich, Joel Arbogast, Tony Diaz

**Men's 60 AA - Lincoln Hill Coyotes:** Carlos Zavala, Joe Bellah, Biaggio Cannistraci, Brock Dabb, Steve Lambert; **YMC/Keith Enterprises:** Dave Henderson, Stu Prince, Fred Bradley; **Stagecoach Saloon:** John Hyde, Dennis York

**Men's 65 Major+ - OMEN 65:** Dennis Dalton, John Denham, Fred Purvis, George Sylvia, Roland Bleitz, John Dorsett

**Men's 65 Major - High Desert Roadrunners:** Ray Maxey, Willie Walker, Johnny Battaglia, Joe Almadova, Paul Allen; **R&R 65's:** Wes Baker, Tad Ludes, George Anas; **Tharaldson's:** Rick Denton, Rob Taylor

**Men's 65 AAA - San Antonio Silver Streaks:** Rocky Crews, Ronnie Sanders, Chon Fernandez, Domingo Garcia, Chris Schneider; **Last Call:** Gary Landaburu, Lowell Moore, Emerson Read; **Suburban Auto Group:** Larry Koenig, Tim Fissori

**Men's 65 AA - Sacramento Islanders:** Lou Chavez, Monte Watson, George Garcia, Ed Stoessel, Dan Sumpter; **Damaged Goods:** Mike Rupley, Tim Ryan, Jeff West

**Men's 70 Major+ - Florida Legends/Human Kinetics:** Patrick Bidelman, Zeb Carter, Roy Hern, Tols Mihailoff, Mike Pickett; **Stark St, Pizza:** Hank Cluess, Mike Hoffberg, Bob Brown; **Omen 70:** Gerald Ford, Rich Schmidt

**Men's 70 Major - Bonaventura/CE John:** Doug Blatchford, Jerry Henry, Clavis Nickleberry, Art Roper, John Aavhus

**Men's 70 AAA - Triple Play:** De Dewitt, Tom Graham, Orson Curtis, Bob Nicklason, Tom Imming; **Direct Sales:** Fred Plowman, Gary Stevenson, Ruben Vasquez

**Men's 70 AA - Git-R-Done:** Manny Gutierrez, Steve Swartz, Gene Dick; **Sonoma Fog:** Wally Todd, Ted Chamberlain

**Men's 75 Major+ - San Francisco Seals:** Jim Phillips, Harry Heller, Argie Haddick, Pete Conley, Bob Banchemo

**Men's 75 Major - PDR/Fastsigns:** Mike Sisavic, Dick O'Brien, Chuck Bergeron, Tom Barrett, Marv Rueck, Jack Scott; **Silvertips:** Don Person, Les Hanson, Frank Files

**Men's 75 AAA - State Roofing Systems:** Larry Heise, Jim Donohue, Ray Johnson, Bob Elwood, Vic Madden; **Oregon Roadrunners:** Jim Hawkes, Jake Dieter, Pat Henretty; **Lincoln Hills Coyote's:** Larry Manley, Dave Alley

**Men's 80 AAA - Elk Grove Renegades:** Dave Fairchild, Don Fields, Vince Pisani, Darrow Baker, Roland Starwalt

## Late All Tourney Players Listed

### 2014 Southwest Championships

Women's 40 AAA - **SoCal Toxic:** Becky Hardy, Melanie Grieco  
Men's 50 Platinum - **LAF:** Dean Olson, Frank Dean, Wayne Zucker  
55 Major - **Cal Energy:** Rick Cady, Tony Hinojosa, Brad Drennan, Lyman Rose, Dave Munoz, **Sonoma County Crush:** Mark Hobak, Joe Kraft  
65 Major+ - **Omen 65:** Ed Carey, Larry Lopez, Roland Bleitz  
65 Major - **R&R 65's:** Mike Young  
70 Major+ - **Scrap Iron Legacy:** James Contreras, Terry Jordan

80 Gold - **Scrap Iron Gray Berets:** Dick Skinner, Ray Keller

### 2014 Tournament of Champions

Men's 65 Platinum - **Rose Enterprises:** Jack Doan, Roger Witt, Dave Clover, Terry O'Donnell, Ken Young **MVP** Roger Witt

### 2013 Winter Nationals

Men's 70 Major - **Tallon Wealth Mgmt:** Roger Scott, Chino Blanco, Dick Kanyan, John Ramage, Jim Fein



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# Boomers Remodeling to Grow Old at Home

By Roger Roemmich

Home Depot loves aging baby boomers. Every day contractors load pickup trucks with lumber, drywall, paint, bathroom tiles, grab bars, grips, bricks, and all kinds of other home remodeling materials in response to the increased demand for renovations to make houses more conducive to aging in place.

With demographic projections putting 8.7 million seniors at 85 or older by 2030, home modifications for aging in place have become big business. The National Association of Homebuilders estimates that the market for remodeling existing homes to better accommodate aging boomers is between \$20 and \$25 billion, or about 10 percent of the current \$214 billion home improvement industry.

That's a lot of loot, but it's well worth it for seniors who wish to grow old at home. A MetLife Mature Market Institute report, Aging in Place 2.0, suggests that a senior putting out

\$10,000 for renovations will recoup the expenses in 14 months just by staying at home and paying for limited custodial on-site adult daily services.

Three months in assisted living would likely eat up the \$10,000. With median long-term care costs at \$81,030 per year, according to a Genworth Cost of Care Survey, the alternative of aging in place is not only desirable for most seniors, but it's also cost-effective.

Modifications run the gamut from chair lifts to ramps, but removing trip hazards is the place to spend first. Falls account for 75 percent of all accidental deaths among people over 65, and they are the chief cause of forced entry into assisted living or a skilled nursing care facility.

It's financially sensible to install grab bars in bathrooms, modify tile floors with non-skid coatings and to fit stairways with handrails on both sides. Building walk-in showers with seating and widening doors for easier

wheelchair use is also common. The MetLife report puts costs for full bathroom remodeling and door widening anywhere from \$4,300 to \$36,200. Naturally, costs vary widely based on need and location.

Many seniors wait too long to make renovations because they're afraid to spend money. The downside risk is the cost of receiving needed custodial and health service outside the home. Zillow Real Estate Research says 21 percent of seniors age 65 to 74 don't have mortgages. The number drops to 18 percent for seniors between the ages of 74 and 84. In today's low-interest environment, a home equity loan at a little over 4 percent is a viable option to cover the renovation expenses.

As for ongoing costs for aging in place, there's something called the Federal Housing Administration Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program. It can allow seniors to access the equity in their homes as income.

Also, an increasing number of neighborhoods are falling into a category of housing called "naturally occurring retirement communities," or NORCs (it rhymes with fork).

A NORC is any geographically defined community where 40 percent or more of the population is over 60 and still living in their own homes. The U.S. Administration on Aging says 17 percent of seniors live in NORCs, but AARP puts the figure as high as 36 percent. NORC residents band together to partner with providers to receive services at bulk rates, making aging in place less expensive for individuals.

*Roger Roemmich works as a chief investment officer for ROKA Wealth Strategies and lives in Georgia. Roemmich recently published his retirement assistance guide, "Don't Eat Dog Food When You're Old."*

## Texas All Tourney Players

50 Major-Plus - **Texas Players:** Mike Cuellar, Brad Rudolph, Corey Gomel, Joey Gillaspay, Gene Hensarling

50/55 Gold - **Texas Elite:** Perry Penn, Steve Vinson, Jerry Wilkes, Derek Harris, Mike Raines; **Team Blast:** Robert Saucedo, Rick Mendoza

50/55 Platinum - **Texas Mavericks:** Al Roth, Herb Oliver, Mike Tepera, Bud Weathers

50/55 Silver - **Mayhem:** Alan Gohlke, Bill Hancock, Bob Sandlin, Gayland Richardson, Mark Williams; **Romo's Old School:** Joe Bernal, Candy Perez

60 Major - **Gonzalez Insulation:** Billy Blake, Ken Morgan, Steve Burris, Julian Tamez, David Perkins; **Houston Fire:** Ronnie Orsak, Bill Husta, Brian McLeroy

60 Silver - **Texas Thunder:** Jerry O'Neill, Mike Ambers, Tim Solis, Gordon Walters, Butch Warden; **Randy Smith 60's:** Randy Smith, Ricky Latiolais, Harley Shuff

65 Gold - **Texas Legends:** Steve Smith, Jim Gibbons, Howdy Melton, Dewayne Thomas, Randy Jackson; **San Antonio Silver Streaks:** Rudy Guzman, Richard Kielholtz

70 Silver - **Hill Contracting:** Ken Brown, Mickey Donahoo, Earl King, Ken McCutchen, Bill Welch

75 AAA - **Hill Contracting:** Jerry Mills, Everett Sims, Rosco Smith, Jim Tinelli, Ed Bailey

80 Major - **Texas Classics:** Henry Morgan, Eldon Brast, Charles Gamble, Tom Godwin, Tom Norman

## Players, Mavericks, Elite, Win in Texas

By Beth Hamilton  
Softball News Report

HOUSTON – For the second year in a row, the Houston Sportsplex hosted the Texas State Championships. Weather started perfect but as the week went on, the heat and humidity took a toll on nearly everyone.

Nor-Tex and Texas Players battled in a best-of-three finals after a mixed round robin. Nor-Tex tried to put up a fight but after two close games, Texas Players took the 50+ Major Plus division 24-23 and 19-18.

Pushing an IF game, Team Arkansas proved a point to Texas Mavericks in the 50/55+ Platinum Division. Texas Mavericks, the number one seed going into the championships game, lost their championship game 8-7 requiring an IF game. In the end Texas Mavericks won 20-15.

Starting from a third place seeding in the bracket, the Texas Elite glided their way to the championship game in the 50/55+ Gold Division.

The only other team that wanted



the title was the Bullets of Texas. After losing early in the bracket, the

Bullets made their way back to the championships. In the end, Texas Elite had the power to win 20-10.

A battle between the number one and two seeds decided the 50/55+ Silver Division. Mayhem 55 of Oklahoma, the two seed, made sure Lake Charles of Louisiana, the one seed, wasn't going to win. After a close battle, Mayhem 55 won by two runs, 10-8.

In the 60+ Major division, Gonzalez Insulation took home the win

against Houston Fire by a score of 26-14. Then in the 60+ Silver division, Texas Thunder won when Randy Smith 60's of Louisiana forfeited.

Unlike any other bracket, the 65+ Gold was based purely on complete round-robin games. Two teams had a 5-1 record, with Texas Legends edging the Louisiana Legends in the tie breaker (least runs scored against).

The large round-robin mix of Men's 70/75/80+ divisions split into a series of single-elimination finals.

In the 75AAA, Hill Contracting 75 of Texas beat Harris Auction 75 of Arkansas 18-9.

In the 80 Majors, Texas Classics 80 defeated the Southwest Stars 18-7 for the title.

And the 70+ Silver Division champs Hill Contracting 70s beat Texas Greyhounds 21-9.

**For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Texas Championships Tournament page at [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com).**



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# Atlantic Championships Dodge Rain in VA

By Beth Hamilton  
Softball News Report

LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA – The Atlantic Coast Championships proved to be a place to be with 75 teams from eight states making it one of the larger senior softball tournaments east of the Mississippi River.

The rain threatened to stop the tournament on Friday morning, but luckily officials were still able to make a weekend out of it.

“The work the field staff members did after the rain was very commend-

able,” said Don Brooks, tournament director. “They made it so every field was prepped and ready to go in a very timely fashion.”

Five teams were mixed in the round robin to create the 40/50+ Platinum Division. Afterwards they split into two brackets. In one, Hauck Construction of Maryland and Mid-Atlantic Elite of Virginia battled it out in a best-of-three series, with Hauck Construction winning 25-24 and 22-13. In the other bracket of three teams, Bryson's Pub/Veltri/AIA of New Jersey took out Mid-Atlantic Softball of Virginia in a close match of 15-14.

After random selections of seeding because of a rain out of the round-robin games in the 50+ Major Division, two teams emerged for the title game. Team USA of Maryland edged Northeast Storm/Team Combat of New York 21-20 for the title.

In the 50 AAA division, rain also forced the cancelation of the round robin games and resulted in random seeding. Team Elite/CC/Miken of Maryland capped its run through the 9-team bracket by beating THC Financial Group of Pennsylvania 25-24 for the title.

The High Street Bucs 55 of Maryland won three games in a row and landed in the championship game against Tri-State Merchants of Penn-



sylvania in the rain-shortened 55+ Major Division finals. High Street Bucs 55 kept their streak going and took the division with a 15-7 win over Tri-State.

In the rain-shortened 55/60+ Gold Division, Sportsman Shop of Virginia emerged from the loser's bracket to face the Beltways Bandits 55 of Virginia in the title game. However, in a close match, Beltway Bandits came out on top, 20-19.

Hamel Builders/Superior of Virginia, maintained a steady pace in the 65+ Platinum Division. After coming first in the seeding, they made it to the final game against the High Street Bucs of Maryland. In a very close match, Hamel Builders kept up the fight and won 15-14.

Spicer Properties 65 of Maryland placed last in the seeding after losing both games in the 65+AAA Division round robin. Determined to not let that

hold them back, they pushed their way to the championship game, where they battled Mid Atlantic Cav's of Virginia and won 17-9.

The number one seed, Vacar Stars of Virginia, lost their second bracket game to Jersey Masters and fell into the 70+ AAA Division elimination bracket. The Vacar Stars weren't ready to quit, coming back from the loser's bracket to face Jersey Masters again. Forcing an IF game, Vacar stars won 10-3 and 18-14 for the title.

In the 70+ Silver division, the Syracuse Cyclones 70 of New York took out the Boys of Summer of New Jersey 15-7 and 21-2 to win. In the 75+ Major Division, Hamel Builders beat Syracuse Cyclones 75s 19-6 and 21-4 for the division title.

In the Women's 40+ Masters, the number two and three seeds battled it out in the championship. Chill 40 Below of Maryland defeated Lew's Crew/Exceeding Expectations of Maryland in the first bracket game, 23-16, and in the finals, 16-15, for the title.

For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Atlantic Championships Tournament page at [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com).

## Free Beer, TV, Good Softball in Omaha

OMAHA, NEB. - The annual Cornbelt Classic was held here May 31 through June 1 and with free beer on Friday night and Saturday, no one left thirsty.

The four new teams in the tournament were RECO of Omaha, Bob Antz Distribution of South Dakota, and two Scrap Iron teams, the Diamonds and the Coyotes.

In addition to some great play on the field, L.G. Haden, who plays for the Scrap Iron Diamonds, a 60AAA team, won a large screen LCD television. The Diamonds finished in a three-way tie with Dixon's of Omaha and Dugout's out of Kansas for their division. Unfortunately they lost to Dixon on runs allowed tiebreaker.

The 50 AAA division was also a three-way tie among the Natural's from Missouri, Iowa Demons and A & C from Omaha. The Demon's won the division by tie breaker.

The KC Classics and the Outlaws 50 major played for the division championship. The Outlaws saved their best game for the end and won the division in the last game.

The KC Renegades and Integrity Builders of Omaha battled for yet another championship. This time Integrity came out on top.

Next year's tournament is May 30-31, according to Gary Kruse, Cornbelt Classic director.

## Atlantic Coast All-Tourney Players Selected

**Women's 40 - Chill 40 Below:** Heather Pandullo, Debbie Macejka, Laura Grunert, Holly Hladycz, Cathy Nicodemus; **Sportsman Shop:** Cary Outland, Terry Jerman

**Men's 50 Major+ - Mid-Atlantic:** Tim Sadler, Ed James, Dan Martine

**Men's 50 Major - Team USA:** Daryl Shamble, Steve Dunlap, Devin Lutz, Ron Wilson, Jeff Frey; **Northeast Storm:** Leon Curiel, Dave Norval, Ron Hargrove; **BH Maintenance:** Cam Duggan, Scott Luckenbaugh

**Men's 50 AAA - Team Elite/Miken:** Ray Jones, Sam Manns, Barry Lynn, Randy Lott, Jim Gallagher; **THC Financial Group:** Greg Donophan, Denny Russo, Bruce Davis

**Men's 55 Major - High Street:** Bobby Coleman, Baer Chandler, Mark Frastak, Gerry George, Anthony Allen; **Tri-State Merchants:** Pat Daley, James Terry, John

Moore; **Fat Nancy's:** Pat Kelly, Bob Fedrizzi

**Men's 55/60 Gold - Beltway Bandits:** Mike Aevertmann, Billy Williams, Jeff Harrison, Bob Smith, Doug Morris; **Syracuse Merchants:** Butch Sweeney, Jim McLaughlin

**Men's 60 AAA - Hannington's 60:** Wayman Lee, Kenneth Day, Joseph Frongello, Kevin Lipsett, Marvin Sims; **Hamel 60's:** Ralph Hamlin, Eric Johnson, Rob Joyner;

**Steel Dawgs:** Ron Zankay, Earry Bothwell  
**Men's 60 AA - Syracuse Cyclones:** Steve Tompkins, Paul Lapan, Roger Merritt, Joe Versace, Jim Ranucci

**Men's 65 Platinum - Hamel Builders:** Andrew Smith, Phil Biedronski, Tommy Dommel, Danny Ballard, John Davide;

**Hawks Nest:** Ron Coligan, John Hillgrove

**Men's 65 Major - High Street Bucs:** Mike Seraphin, Bill Macuch, Pat Carey, Mike Shriner, Jimmy Boone

**Men's 65 AAA - Spicer:** Joe Lycett, Ron Miller, John Knott, Jack Ogert, James Ross; **Mid-Atlantic Cav's:** Sam Smith, Bobby Krum, Tom McCure; **Syracuse Cyclones:** Joe Brown, Steve Gelsey

**Men's 70 AAA - Vacar Stars:** Al Avant, Jim Presley, Terry Peters, Frank Shotwell, Ron Milam; **Jersey Masters:** Blace Kopala, John Forames, Bill Hankins; **Monkey Joe's:** Frank Gordon, Jim Harris

**Men's 70 AA - Syracuse Cyclones:** Gene Signor, Gary Hoover, Andy Endsley, Doc Ohler, Mike Richmond; **Boys of Summer:** Mike McLaughlin, Charlie Lehman, Pete DeRosa

**Men's 75 Major - Hamel Builders:** Bill Nalley, Bill Bahnmaier, Ray Winner, Frank Carlman, Richard Sherman; **Syracuse Cyclones:** Ted Sniffen, Mike Fitzgerald, Rich Poliquin



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# Teams from 6 States, Canada Compete in Northwest

By Joseph Ruggiero  
Softball News Report

PORTLAND – The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Jim Sherman Memorial Northwest Championships returned here to test the talent and resolve of Northwest's senior players. With 43 teams competing, nine more than last year and doubling the participation of the 2012 tournament, the Northwest Championships showed that senior players were eager to play ball despite lackluster weather conditions.

Teams gathered from Alaska, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Canada to spar at the beautiful William B. Owens Softball Complex June 24-29.

Though the rainy weather shortened some of the first session play, co-director Ron Grasse, applauded the players' persistence and professionalism as they played through the rain and drenched fields. Grasse noted that "the rain was a disaster, but the field guys did a fabulous job. They must have used over a 100 bags [of field-dry compound] to keep the fields dry".

The tournament's division competition was close, producing several one-run wins. Co-director Doug Robbins stated that the second session "was exciting because the divisions were pretty balanced." Of the four "If" games, two teams fought their way through the elimination bracket to win their division.

The 40 Masters Division illustrated Robbin's account of the tournament as top seed Team Combat lost to second seed Hara's Dynasty 36-13 at their first meeting. After beating All Mayhem handedly 24-8, Team Combat then rallied their way out of the elimination bracket to double-dip Hara Dynasty 19-16 and 21-20 to take the division championship.

The 50/55 Platinum division featured thrilling competition as Goodman Racing eked out two close wins against Cornerstone 22-21 and then So. Oregon Flatliners 21-20 to make it the semifinals. Undaunted by their first loss, Flatliners went on to beat Cornerstone 17-15 only to face Goodman Racing again in the finals. Goodman Racing proved their mettle 15-9 decisively ending Flatliners run.



Despite the loss, Flatliners took the 50 Major championships because they were the top-finishing 50 Major team and Goodman Racing won the 55 Major championship.

The 50 AAA division tested the strength of 1<sup>st</sup> seed Dead Sailors and showcased an exciting comeback from 3<sup>rd</sup> seed Michael's Toyota. Losing to Dead Sailors 20-16, Michael's Toyota fell into the elimination bracket only to face Dead Sailors again in the semifinals after beating Alaska Kings 14-12. In a close semifinal game, Michael's Toyota narrowly defeated Dead Sailors 19-18 compelling an "If" game. Not undone by the loss, Dead Sailors earned the division championship by beating Michael's Toyota 18-13.

In the 55/60 Platinum division, top-seeded Wolfpack outperformed the competition with two sound wins. After beating Timberworks 13-9, Wolfpack faced 3<sup>rd</sup> seed Four Seasons and came out on top 19-17 to take the division championship.

Wilson and Sons Auto dominated the 50/55 Silver division and took home the championship. However, Vancouver 50 showed great resolve after losing to X-Men 19-7 only to triumph in the their rematch against X-Men 18-17 to receive a shot at Wilson Auto in the semifinals. In an offensive rout, Wilson Auto defeated Vancouver 50s 27-19.

With only two teams in the 55 AA Division, Vancouver 55 and Cascade Thunder played some exhilarating ball. After barely losing to Vancouver

55s 14-13, Cascade Thunder went on to win two consecutive games against Vancouver 55s by 17-11 and 17-13 to take the "If" game and seal the division title.

Three evenly matched teams faced off in the 60 AA Division. Stagecoach rebounded after a close first round loss 14-15 to Vancouver 60. In a close 2nd round rematch, Stagecoach beat Vancouver 60s 21-20 in a nail-biter of a game. Stagecoach went on to beat Northwest Silver two times 18-14 and 21-16 to take the division championship.

The 60 Gold division showcased an impressive MBA Elites squad. Holding all opponents to less than 10 runs per game, they thoroughly dominated the division.

Last Call lost to MBA Elite 18-4 in the finals, however, both teams were winners, with MBA Elite nabbing the 60 Major championship and Last Call taking the 60-AAA title.

The Men's 65 Platinum division, along with the 65 AA division and 65/70 Gold division, were shortened due to rain outs. **For complete game results, please visit the Northwest Championships tournament page at [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com).**

## 10,000 Lakes teams Battle Rain (Naturally)

Softball News Report

ROCHESTER, Minn. – The Rochester 10,000 Lakes Classic was held June 21-22. Twenty-three teams braved the rain, as usual, to play.

"Rochester received heavy downfalls of rain for six consecutive days before finally letting up on Thursday night. By Saturday the fields were in perfect shape," said Tournament Director Scott Sanford.

Pope Transport defeated the Minnesota Merchants 26-16 to win the 50 Gold Division.

Tasty Pizza 55 moved through the 55/60 Platinum Division with ease, defeating Minnesota Masters/White 22-11 in the finals.

The 50/55 Silver Division was comprised of five teams playing round robins. Milwaukee Merchants went on to win three of their four games with scores 20-13, 14-11 and 24-13 to take the title.

In the 60/65+ Gold Division, Minnesota Masters/Ancell and Wisconsin Masters finished with 2-1 records. In a head-to-head competition, Minnesota Masters/Ancell defeated Wisconsin Masters 24-18 for the title.

In the 60/65 Silver Division, the largest division, six teams played a round-robin format, with Minnesota Masters 65's winning the title by virtue of their 18-15 win earlier in the round robin against Oshkosh Ambassadors.

## Northwest All-Tourney Players Selected

40 Masters - **Team Combat 40:** Danny Clemans, Pat Paschal, Ryan Epp, Jeremy Guillroy, Adam Russell; **All State Mayhem:** Virgil Archibeque, Todd Ray

50 AAA - **Dead Sailors:** Phil Basham, Nick Rogich, Jim Perry, Jeff Small, Sean Simmonds

50/55 Silver - **Wilson & Sons Auto:** Ric Fix, Fred Goode, Randy Mansell, Terry DeMoss, Mike Wilson

55 AA - **Cascade Thunder:** Rod Garrison, Karl Johannsen, Brian Frazier, Gerald Itkin, Woody Statler

55/60 Platinum - **Goodman Racing:** Rick Littlejohn, Marlin Harris, Scott Riley, Lenny Hover, Reggie Bonn; **Southern Oregon Flatliners:** Mike Slevenski, Barney Lewis, Ron Staniforth Jr

60 Gold - **MDA Elite 60:** Frank Catomerisios, David Gonzales, Larry Younger, Dave Donnan, George Robinson

60 AA - **Stagecoach Saloon:** Dennis York, Tom Brown, Ken Rueck, John Hyde, Rick Nikkila

65 Platinum - **Enviro Vac 65:** Ross Evison, Wayne Meek, Jim Heintz, Jim Klassen, Trevors Bjurman; **Masters Marauders:** Jim Palombi, Craig Barraclough, Ev Homles

65AA - **Sunlight Supply:** Larry Noble, Rick Harrington, Les Gipe

65/70 Gold - **Last Call:** Jim Scanlan, Doug Doolittle, Dean Wickizer, Mark Olsen, Gary Landaburu; **Bonaventure Sr Living/CE Johns:** Jim Jackson, Doug Blatchford, John Aarhus; **Sacramento Islanders:** Sid Spencer, Bruce Gilmore



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# Northeast Champs Grows 30% in 2014

By Joseph Ruggiero  
Softball News Report

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The Northeast Championships returned here to play ball at the magnificent Hopkins Road Park Softball Complex from July 11 to July 16.

Forty-three teams attended the tournament, a 30 percent increase from the previous year, hailing from all over the Northeast including Canada, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

Co-director, Chuck Sharkee, remarked that “he and the teams were impressed with the complex, which held up despite the rain.” Sharkee added that he was glad to see that three Canadian teams including Durham Silver Stix, Stefcu Silver Stix and Brantford Nissan Seniors chose to compete.

Sharkee commented that overall “the tournament hosted a highly competitive group of teams with of a lot of close scores.”

The tournament also garnered the attention of local Channel 9 News on the first day of play. Several team members of the Back Office Associates were interviewed, along with several umpires. Sharkee explained that the reporters were impressed that players at that age were still competing including an 84 year-old player.

With only three teams facing off



in the 50 Platinum division, Rochester 50's took the competition by surprise. Handily defeating Sportscenter 18-12 and prevailing against Elmwood 15-14, Rochester 50's went on to face Sportscenter again in the championship game. In a fantastic offensive display, Rochester 50's came out on top beating Sportscenter 26-20 to gain the division title.

In the 50 AAA division, Elite Miken easily fought their way to the division title. Facing some stiff competition from Custom Logo in the first round, Elite Miken came out with a 16-10 win. Elite Miken dispatched their next opponent with swift confidence defeating K&B Construction 22-8 and 20-3.

The 55 Major division showcased an exciting and competitive set of teams. Director Sharkee commented that “it was an impressive bracket as

all six teams stayed alive going into Sunday play.” Tri-State Merchants 55 proved triumphant however, as the undefeated team delivered a fatal blow to Fat Nancy's in their first match 22-17. Determined to win, Fat Nancy's clawed their way up the loser's bracket by overcoming Action Auto 22-20 to repeat a close face-off with Tri-State Merchants. Tri-State Merchants managed a 14-10 win to take the division title.

The 55/60 Gold Division also provided some close, inspiring gameplay. Deep Purple defeated Roadhouse with ease in the first round 10-2 and went on to achieve a well-earned victory against Team Deluxe 14-11. Meanwhile, top-seed Syracuse Merchants after losing a well-matched game against Team Deluxe 13-11 managed to win consecutive games in the elimination bracket, defeating Roadhouse 11-8 and narrowly surviving Team Deluxe 22-21. Unable to keep up their momentum, Syracuse Merchants fell to Deep Purple 22-6 in the championship game. Deep Purple came away with the 55 AAA championship, while Syracuse Merchants earned the 60 Major championship.

Eight teams competed in the 60 AAA division with Hannington and Rochester Merchants/Smash It vying for supremacy. After losing to Rochester Merchants/Smash It 19-7, Hannington swiftly climbed their way up the elimination bracket by

overwhelming Jersey Masters 26-9. In a thrilling championship game, Rochester Merchants barely overcame Hannington 15-14.

The 55/60 AA division saw Roc City 55 doing their best to upset Talaga Construction. In a close first contest, Talaga Construction pulled through defeating Roc City 14-9. Despite the loss, Roc City persevered 22-16 over formidable opponent, Syracuse Cyclones, to get a shot at the championship. Despite their best efforts, Roc City lost 14-9 and Talaga Construction seized the division title.

Rochester Classics and Brantford Nissan Seniors played some respectable ball in the 65 Gold division. After losing to Brantford 19-8, Rochester Classic came back to narrowly defeat Brantford 19-18. Forcing a compelling “If” game, Brantford Nissan showed their true grit winning 11-9 to earn the championship.

In the 65/70 Silver division, Hannington's of Massachusetts looked to be the dominant contender at the start of the tournament. Disposing of the Syracuse Cyclones 11-7 and the Jersey Masters 16-9, they seemed poised to gain the title. However, the Syracuse Cyclones remained level-headed despite their first loss, mustering impressive consecutive wins over Brookhouse 19-11, Jersey Masters 19-13 and Hannington's 17-16 in a close semifinal game. The only team to double dip in the tournament, the Syracuse Cyclones, with a strong offensive resurgence, defeated Hannington's 21-11 to take the division title.

With only two teams in the 75 AAA division, the Back Office Associates and Syracuse Cyclones kept it interesting. In the first round, Syracuse Cyclones barely defeated Back Office 17-16. Emboldened by the narrow loss, Back Office came back to upset Syracuse Cyclones 23-11. In a terrific championship bout, Back Office rallied a knock out championship win defeating Syracuse Cyclones 18-14.

For complete game results, please visit Senior Softball USA's Northeast Championships' tournament page at: [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com).

## Northeast All Tournament Players Selected

50 Platinum – **Rochester 50/Bob Johnson Chevrolet:** Tom Mastrodonato, Dave Wallace, John Fitzgerald, Earl Blackmon,

Tony Masciotra; **Sports Center:** Kevin Hayes, Steve Deschene, Robert Lee, Keith Worthly

50AAA – **Team Elite/CC/Miken:** Pops Fleisch, Danny Piper, Daryl Billings, Sam Manns Sr, Brian Weiman; **Custom Logo:** Brian Banic, Randy Stedman

55 Major – **Tri-State Merchants:** James Cain, Paul Hale, Pat Daley, Sonny Davis, John Moore; **Action Auto Parts:** David Muscatelli, Bill Laflamme

55/60 Gold – **Deep Purple Advantage:** Chris Flynn, George Hamilton, Bill Bertrand, Mike Carroll, Mike Faria

55/60 AA – **Talaga Construction:** Dave Kuchinsky, Mike Alpert, Tim O'Neil, Paul Frenette, Ken Bavier; **Roc City:** Steve Keating, Jim Monnat, Gary Rothenberg;

**Syracuse Cyclones:** Tom Maroney, Tom Mirande

60 AAA – **Rochester Merchants:** Bob Cooper, Fred Lohrman, Noe Gonzalez, Khalid Abdus Salaam, Jr Twist; **Hannington's:** Marvin Sims, Joseph Frongello, Thomas Tashea; **Jersey Masters:** Ed Kushner, Mike Santo

65 Gold – **Brantford Nissan:** Jim Banyard, Phil Riley, Tom Gorman, Terry Keys, Brian Kernaghan

65/70 Silver – **Jersey Masters 70:** William Codner, Robert Sachs

75 AAA – **Back Office Associates:** James VanBaaley, Chris Sweeney, Stu Winston, Jim Parmelee, Mike Sullivan; **Syracuse Cyclones:** Ben Dorsey, Harold White, Al Sheridan

## Cardiac Rehab Covered

The AARP Bulletin reports that Medicare has announced it will cover cardiac rehab for some patients who suffer from stable but chronic heart failure, a costly, debilitating condition that could be improved with supervised exercise and counseling. Heart failure is the most common reason Medicare beneficiaries end up in the hospital.



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# Social Security: Best Time to Start Benefits?

Continued from Page 1

cial Security on the softball diamond, you'll likely hear one of two questions being considered:

Will it be there when I am finally eligible for benefits?

When should I start taking Social Security, age 62, 65 or 67?

Clearly, there's no easy answer to either question, but let's start with what's known about the first one.

Social Security originated in 1935 as a benefits program to financially assist those in retirement, but now also includes such wide-ranging programs as Medicare and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

Social Security public affairs specialist Deogracias Santos explains that "Social Security taxes collected from today's workers pay the benefits of today's retirees. The current payout of Social Security benefits in excess of taxes will not have any impact on Social Security benefit payments for many years.

"Current trust fund reserves, along with future taxes, are expected to be sufficient for the full and timely payment of benefits until 2033."

In addition, the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees note that under current conditions SSDI will run out of money in 2016, while Medicare's projected date of depletion is 2030.

Most politicians and financial experts say that's not going to happen and that eventually legislation will be passed to rectify the situation. But there could be drastic changes, either in the tax rate or the age of eligibility or both.

In its annual report, the Social Security trustees say that "lawmakers should address the financial challenges facing Social Security and Medicare as soon as possible. Taking action sooner rather than later will leave more options and more time available to phase in changes so that the public has adequate time to prepare."

The question of when to start taking your benefits is a lot less black and white.

Most financial planners recommend delaying taking it as long as possible but many workers are excited about the chances of finally getting an early and regular monthly paycheck from the government as soon as possible.

Clearly the longer an individual can delay taking benefits, the more money he or she will receive. In a

perfect world, you want to be able to make your decision on when to start receiving benefits based on what you have put away for retirement and what other sources of income you will have, such as a pension.

For example, suppose you are age 62 and qualify to get \$1,200 a month. If you wait until age 66, that will rise to about \$1,600 a month, an increase of 33 percent. And if you wait until age 70, you'll be able to draw slightly more than \$2,100 a month.

Financial experts also note that if you plan to claim benefits based on your spouse's earnings, you'll lose even more by not waiting until you are 66. There are many, many factors to consider and it makes a lot sense to sit down with an expert and carefully plan well before you begin to take your benefits.

Social Security officials say that "since every applicant's situation is different, the best filing date varies as well." The online Benefits Planner at SSA.gov contains a retirement planner, disability planner and survivors planner. Each has valuable information about these benefits and factors that can affect them.

A final note on this: While you can start getting Social Security benefits at age 62, Medicare doesn't kick in until age 65 so you might have to pay for private health insurance if you retire early on Social Security – and that can be costly.

Here are some other interesting questions and answers from the Social Security Administration:

**Q. What's the biggest misconception about Social Security?**

**A.** One common misconception is that filing an application is a lengthy process.

Applying for retirement benefits takes as little as 15 minutes and can be done at a convenient time from the comfort of your home or office. Applying for Medicare takes only about 10 minutes.

The Retirement Estimator allows people to get an immediate and personalized estimate of their future retirement benefits based on their actual Social Security earnings record. The online statement provides safe and convenient access to earnings and benefit information. Workers age 18 and older can get their Social Security Statements online by creating "My Social Security" account, which can be done in a few minutes.

**Q. How far in advance can I sign**

up for Social Security benefits?

**A.** You can apply for Social Security retirement benefits when you are at least 61 years and 9 months of age and want your benefits to start when you hit age 62. Even if you are not ready to retire, you still should sign up for Medicare three months before your 65th birthday.

**Q. What is the most I can get from Social Security?**

**A.** The maximum benefit depends on the age you retire. For example, if you retire at full retirement age in 2014, your maximum benefit would be \$2,642. However, if you retire at age 62 in 2014, your maximum benefit would be \$1,992. If you retire at age 70 in 2014, your maximum benefit would be \$3,425.

**Q. What is the average monthly benefit for a retired worker?**

**A.** The average monthly Social Security retirement benefit for January 2014 was \$1,294. The amount changes monthly.

**Q. Can I get Social Security retirement benefits and military retirement benefits?**

**A.** You can get both Social Security retirement benefits and military retirement. Generally, there is no reduction of Social Security benefits because of your military benefits.

**Q. Will unemployment benefits affect my Social Security benefits?**

**A.** Unemployment benefits are not earnings for Social Security purposes and do not affect your Social Security retirement benefits. However, income from Social Security may reduce your unemployment compensation. Contact your state unemployment office for

information on how your state applies the reduction.

**Q. Can I change the date I receive my benefits?**

**A.** No. If you were receiving or applied for Social Security benefits on or before April 30, 1997, or if you receive both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you receive your benefit on the third of the month. If you receive only SSI, you get your benefit on the first of the month.

If you applied for Social Security benefits after April 30, 1997, the birthday of the person on whose record you receive benefits determines your payment date:

Date of Birth	Payment Day
1 through 10	Second Wednesday
11 through 20	Third Wednesday
After 20	Fourth Wednesday

**Q. Do I have to pay federal income tax on Social Security?**

**A.** You have to pay taxes on your Social Security benefits if you file as an individual and your total income is more than \$25,000. And you have to pay taxes if you and your spouse have more than \$32,000 in total income.

You can use the Internal Revenue Service Notice 703 shown on the back of the Social Security Benefit Statement, SSA Form 1099, to determine if any of your benefits may be taxable.

*Jack Sirard is a nationally syndicated business writer and a senior writer for Senior Softball News.*

**Next: Why the first year of retirement is so costly.**

## 2nd Gila Monster Draws Teams From Texas, New Mexico

### Softball News Report

SILVER CITY, N.M. – The GILA Monster tournament took place June 17-18 at Scott Park which is a 100 percent artificial turfed field. Thirteen teams came to Silver City from Texas and New Mexico.

Silver City is located in the foothills of GILA National Forest at an elevation of 6000+ with temperatures in the mid-80s.

The format was pool play into double elimination brackets.

Eight teams competed in the 50+ division where Texas Softball forced

an IF game against Down & Dirty of New Mexico 28-20. In the end, Down & Dirty won 26-20. New Mexico Boomers took third.

In the 55+ division, Desperados of New Mexico defeated Old School 55's from Texas for the championship 9-8. Diamond Cats of New Mexico took third.

Tournament Director Laurinda Wright and the Town of Silver City would like to thank all teams for making the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual tournament possible.



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# US Seniors Lose in London, Win in Paris

## Softball News Report

Three Senior Softball-USA teams faced off against three strong British teams in London and played French and German teams in Paris with widely divergent results in June.

At the Masters Games in London, the British teams defeated the Americans handily at their new softball complex – one of the few in England – at Farnham Park.

The British teams, mostly in the 20s and 30s, used the London Games as a tune-up for the European Championships.

“They run like deer, hit with power – and really play the game well,” said Bill Ruth, manager of one of the USA teams, whose players ranged from the late 50s to 80 years old.

It was a different story in the Paris Games, where the USA teams faced less experienced French players and an older German team. The German team, which has played International tournaments against the Americans in a number of countries, lost players because of travel difficulties and split up to play with the Americans in the last set of games.

The Americans came in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place in London and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Paris.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Senior Softball-USA International Tour, from June 17-30, also visited the D-Day beaches in Normandy during the goodwill games designed to promote senior softball throughout the world.

“The real purpose of these games – and the tours – is to promote softball and goodwill ... and that was an outstanding success,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA’s chief executive officer.

The tour suffered a tragedy on the ferry from Dover, England, to Calais, France, however.



Photos by Susan Kroeber

**Bobby Davis of the USA Red Team launches a long ball during the Masters Games in London in June.**



**John Fournier waits for throw in the USA Blue game against Great Britain.**

Mona Alarcon, the wife of Reno player Ted Alarcon, was stricken with an apparent heart attack shortly after the ferry departed

and died en route. The couple had been married 57 years.

“Our heartfelt condolences go out to Ted and his family in this tragedy,” said Susan Ruth, director of International Sports Holidays, which runs the tour. “Our players and their families were devastated by the loss.”

The USA Blue team, managed by Susan Ruth, took first place in Paris and fifth place in London. MVP was Roy Ambrose of Illinois, Best Offense was Mike Perua of Illinois and Best Defense was John Fournier of California, Honorable Mention was Larry Feeler of Texas.

The USA Red Team, managed by Hennessy, took second place in Paris and fourth place in London.

MVP was Bob Sachs of New Jersey, Best Offense was Bobby Davis of Florida and Best Defense was Angie Scarcella of Massachusetts., Honorable Mention was Eileen Codner of New Jersey.

The USA White team, managed by Bill Ruth, took third place in Paris and sixth place in London. MVP was Roger Kroeber of California, Best Offense was Roger Trujillo of California, and Best Defense was Larry Herickhoff of Minnesota, Honorable Mention was Julie Bruns.

SSUSA will be playing a tournament in Japan in November and New Zealand in March, 2015.

For more information, please contact Susan Ruth at [susan@weruth.com](mailto:susan@weruth.com), or call 206-930-7091.



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