



Photos by Jack Eberhard

# LAS VEGAS ROLLS AGAIN!

**9 INDUCTED**  
Into National Hall  
of Fame  
Page 13

**ALL TOURNAMENT PLAYERS**  
and MVPs  
Page 17

**9 WIN**  
Triple Grand  
Slam  
Page 16

**US, CHINA, JAPAN, TAIWAN**  
Compete in Third Pacific  
Rim Championships  
Page 21

## 546 Teams: 4th Record in a Row

By Ross McCulligan and Anthony Ramos  
Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – The World Masters Championships made an indelible mark on this gambling mecca attracting a record 546 teams from across the nation and many foreign ports.

The largest tournament in senior softball his-  
Please See Page 12

## SSUSA's Softball Tour in Italy Needs No Translation for Youngsters

### Softball News Report

ROME – Most of the young boys here had never seen a bat or glove or a softball before a glorious recent October afternoon.

They had just finished a sport they DID understand – soccer – on a nearby field at the Olympic Complex here, when they spotted Don “Ike” Eichten, 77, from Minnesota.

Ike had just finished winning the Julius Caesar Softball Tournament with the USA Blue team made up

of SSUSA players from throughout America at the site of the 1960 Olympics.

The boys exuberantly ran – as only 10-year-olds can move – to their new grandpa-aged friend who was showing them the strange objects of his sport. In just a few moments their uninhibited enthusiasm washed over Ike, who was laughing and emptying his bat bag, telling the boys to take a closer look at tools of softball.

Please See Page 22



Photo by Ann Neckers

"Ike" Eichten with his new Italian friends.

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### INSIDE:



**WINTER WORLDS**  
in Phoenix  
Draws 178 Teams  
Page 8-9



**WINTER NATIONALS**  
in Florida  
Kicks Off 2015  
Page 18-19



**NORTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Last TOC Tournament  
of 2015  
Page 20

**LLBSP \$219.95 ea.**  
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 Balanced, 13" Barrel, 34" • 26-29 oz.

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 2015 Miken Ultra II Big Cat Mike  
 Macenko Endload 34" • 26-30 oz.

**SPU2M \$209.95 ea.**  
 2014 Miken Ultra II Maxload  
 Two-Piece 13.5" Barrel,  
 34" • 26-30 oz.

**SPU2S \$209.95 ea.**  
 2014 Miken Ultra II Maxload  
 Two-Piece 13.5" Barrel,  
 34" • 26-30 oz.

**MSU2 \$189.95 ea.**  
 MIKEN ULTRA II  
 34" • 27-30 oz.

**TWLSP1 \$99.95 ea.**  
 2012 Combat Sports Twilight, End  
 load and Balanced available,  
 11.5" BARREL, 34" • 26-28 OZ.

**SEN-GR2 \$99.95 ea.**  
 2012 Combat Sports Mike Macenko  
 Senior Gear 2, End load and  
 Balanced available, 13" Barrel,  
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# News Briefing

## CARL'S CORNER

By Carl Gustafson

*There's no crying in baseball*  
--Tom Hank's character in  
"A League of Their Own."

Well cry I did anyway, like a housewife watching a Hallmark channel movie about orphans. And it was all the fault of our fearless leader, Terry Hennessy.

In the final address of the 2015 convention, this man from whom I've always and only seen strength, determination, decisiveness, and courage, allowed us to catch a glimpse of the fear he is feeling about this fragile existence we call life. In emotional words, he asked us to give him some time to focus on his fight against cancer.

Allowing himself to be vulnerable before us all was courageous in itself because most men want to hold on to the image of indestructibility with its bravado that struts undaunted, in order to save face.

But then Hennessy has always faced adversity with blunt honesty, and the courage associated with accountability. The old Truman adage of "The Buck Stops Here," could easily have sat on his desk because Hennessy's way has not been to point the finger, make excuses, or "pass the buck."

Rather than wallow in self pity before us, he chose to put the spotlight on all of you who have sent him encouragement, and then pointed to the precious appreciation of life depicted by Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World."

This is our leader, and whether you've disagreed with him, loved him, or wanted to put him on the dunk tank and plunge him, he has marched forth assertively and wisely over the years giving all us ball players much joy and fulfillment.

How about we all take a moment to stop what we are doing and take a listen to the song that is giving him

**Continued on Page 10**

## SSUSA Opens Northeast Region

Convention Acts on Deaf Teams, Lowers Age for 75, 80s

### Softball News Report

RENO – Senior Softball USA adopted a number of rule changes here in December, including changing regional requirements for teams for the first time in 15 years, opening the door for deaf teams to play, allowing 75 and 80 division teams to pick up younger players, and making the "flip-flop" rule mandatory in all games.

In addition at the ninth annual SSUSA/ISA Convention, three people were inducted into the SSUSA International Hall of Fame (Bill Ruth of Washington for Lifetime Achievements, Michael Boone of New Jersey as 2015 Player and Chuck Towne of Texas as 2015 Manager).

Audie Hollis of Florida and Clyde "Poindexter" Phillips of California were voted into the 2016 SSUSA Hall of Fame as players and Al Murray of Florida was elected in the 2016 manager category.

"We had some great rules discussions this year, sparked by suggestions from players, managers, tournament directors, Senior Softball staff and umpires," said Donna McGuire, Chair



**Al Murray, left photo, was elected into the SSUSA Hall of Fame as a Manager, and Audie Hollis, top left, and Clyde "Poindexter" Phillips, top right, were elected as SSUSA Hall of Fame Players.**

of the Rules Committee. "Because our rules already were in good shape, most of the discussion involved tweaking existing rules rather than creating new ones.

"We thank everyone who provided input, and we are pleased to see that the early feedback has been positive," said McGuire, who was unanimously elected Rules Chair for 2016.

Perhaps the biggest move by the SSUSA Rules Committee was to open the door to new regions for teams. The committee ruled that the Northeast states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont be merged with New York to form a single

"Northeast State."

SSUSA staff was instructed to study other potential regional changes based on player population densities and report back to the committee by June, opening the door for changes in other playing regions.

In other action, the committee confirmed Cornerstone of Oregon as the winner of the 50 Major division in the 2015 World Masters Championships following a protest of the team's roster. The committee found the team complied with all requirements listed in the 2015 SSUSA Official Rulebook.

Here is a summary of Rules Committee action (for a full listing, please

**Continued on Page 5**

## Softball Back in Olympics in Tokyo 2020?

TOKYO \_ Softball and baseball may soon be returning to the Olympic games following a recommendation by Japanese officials that they as well as four other sports be added to the 2020 Tokyo Summer Games.

In addition to softball and baseball, Olympic officials here want to add surfing, skateboarding, karate and sport climbing to the Games. If all goes as expected, the additions would bring in 18 events and add 474 athletes to the Games.

The sports that did not make the cut this time around included bowling and squash.

The International Olympic Committee will make the final selections, but the sports that they approve will be included in 2020, but not for permanent status as yet.

Softball and baseball are counted as one sport by the International Olympic Committee. They were both dropped from competitions in 2008 and have tried to get back into the games ever since. It was expected that they would have a good chance in 2020 due to Japan's love of the game.

"Tokyo 2020's decision to propose our sport is a 'home run' and giant leap forward for baseball and

softball," said World Baseball Softball Confederation President Riccardo Fraccari. "On behalf of WBSC and our athletes, I would like to thank Tokyo 2020 as well as IOC President Thomas Bach, whose Olympic Agenda 2020 vision has paved the way for this extraordinary opportunity.

"The entire baseball and softball world is excited and ready to cross the Olympic home plate. But above all, I am happy for all our male and female athletes who today can see there is a real chance to fulfil their greatest dream of representing their country in the most important sporting spectacle there is -- the Olympic Games."

# How to Choose End Load or Balanced Bat

By Art Eversole

Ever notice that a heavier bat, such as a 30-ounce stick, may seem to swing easier than a 28-ounce bat? How can that be?

It all has to do with what the physics guys like to call the “MOI” or “Moment of Inertia.” MOI in softball terminology is simply how heavy a bat feels when held in your hands and how difficult it is to swing.

(Scientific definition of MOI: “The moment of inertia, or MOI, is also known as the rotational inertia of a rigid body that determines the torque or force needed for a desired angular acceleration about a rotational axis.”)

In our case, the definition relates to the swinging of a softball bat around your body. The law of inertia states that once an object is moving, its inertia will keep it moving until another net force(s) stops it. Also, an object will remain at rest until some other net force(s) overcomes its inertia or MOI.

Okay, so how much force/torque will a batter have to exert on the bat handle to make it go from a resting state to moving fast in an arc? Well, it depends on the bats’ mass/weight distribution and the pivot point on the handle determined by where the batter has placed his or her hands.

It’s not the bat’s absolute weight that appears on the end knob sticker that determines MOI. It’s the distribution of the weight (see figure 1). It’s easier for softball players to discuss this phenomenon using the “swing-weight” of the bat (discussed below) than it is to use the scientific number that is generated in an MOI test.

A familiar question to a hitter: “Is your bat balanced or is it end-loaded? In theory, a balanced bat has more of its weight toward the handle and less weight toward the end; for an end-loaded bat it’s the reverse. Every bat has a balance point (center of mass) that can be measured with a balance scale or even using your finger for a rough estimation. As a rule of thumb, the end-loaded bat has a low handle weight of typically 10 ounces or less and the remainder is considered end-weight.

The distinction between light or heavy swing weight boils down to the location of the balance point on the bat and its moment-of-inertia value. The closer the bat’s balance point is to the handle, the easier it is to swing and vice versa. Therefore, an end-loaded bat will be harder to slow down through the hitting zone than a balanced bat but it’s harder to get started.

Bat speed is always a key factor for hitting the ball with greater force, but don’t overlook the mass or weight of the bat. You can swing a whiffle ball bat really fast, but try hitting the Trump softball any distance at all with its little or no mass.

1. Balanced (no end load)
2. Small End-Load (1/2oz)
3. Large End-Load (1.5oz)

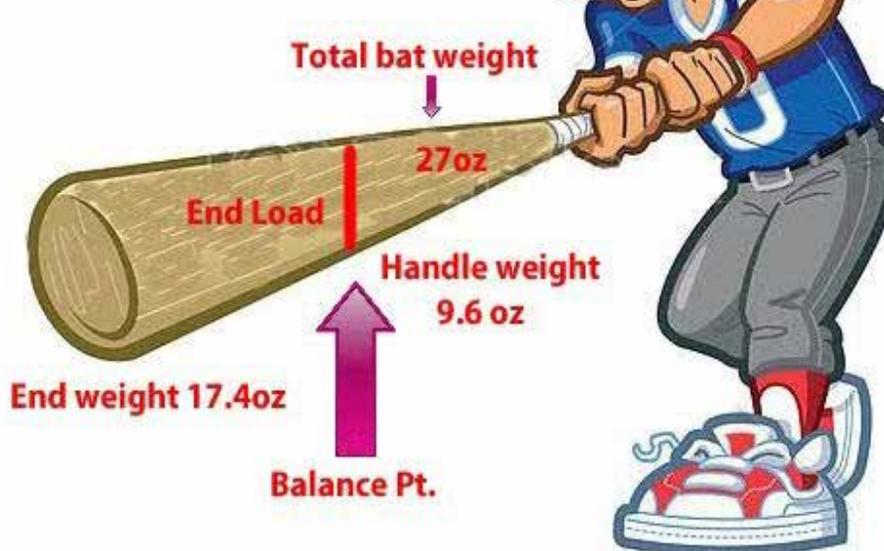


Figure 1

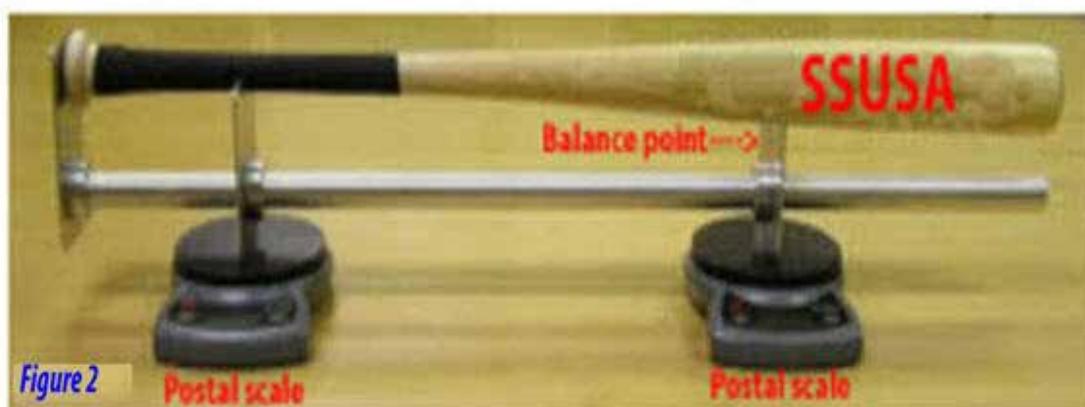


Figure 2

How can the average player measure swing-weight? First, find the balance point with a scale or using your finger. Second, by means of two postage scales, lay the bat on the scales using the center of mass point on the second scale. Then read both scales to find the handle weight and the end weight; should add up close to the bat’s total weight (see figure 2).

Power hitters who are strong tend to prefer bats with a heavy swing weight because they can swing the bat fast enough where the extra inertia of the bat makes for a more active collision with the ball.

Players who are not as strong, or who cannot swing a heavy bat quickly, or desire more bat control, tend to opt for bats with a lighter swing weight. I’m not advocating the usage of either balanced

or end-load as they bring different elements to the softball swing. Remember that swinging bats of different swing-weight can affect your timing as each requires a different force that then determines meeting the ball at the right time. Using varying swing-weights can really mess up your timing. Weigh all your bats jotting down the swing-weight numbers so you can always use comparable bats.

Unfortunately, the swing-weight is not made available by most manufacturers, so you’ll have to figure it out yourself. I recommend swinging bats with nearly the same swing-weight, either balanced or end-loaded, both in practice and in the game to maintain good timing. Happy hitting!

*Art Eversole is a Senior Softball News Contributor.*



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# Time to Get in Shape For Next Softball Season

By Lisa Cachia

Summer is long gone and now is the perfect time to shape up for next year.

I know you've been playing ball forever, but the older you get the more important it is to stay focused on fitness including nutrition in order to continue to be healthy, energetic and injury free on and off the field.

Here's some food for thought:

As we age, overall cardiovascular fitness, strength, balance and flexibility tend to diminish. By disciplining oneself to perform a few simple exercises and stretches on a regular basis we can maintain a greater energy and a sense of stability.

I think it's understood that one of the greatest challenges for most of us through the winter is staying active. Let's face it, it's cold and wet outside and our natural instinct is to huddle up.

We also know that performing cardiovascular exercises like walking, jogging, cycling and swimming 30 minutes or more on most days has many health benefits. These benefits include but are not nearly limited to weight management,



## Stretching Limits

By Lisa Cachia

stress management, continued mobility, blood sugar and cholesterol management.

So the question becomes how do we get it done in the rain and sleet and snow?

The truth is you don't need much room to get a good workout in your own home. You just need enough space to step side-to-side and front to back with room overhead to raise your arms and you're in business.

Think side steps, butt kicks, knee raises, squats, lunges, jogging/marching in place, jumping jacks and such done in succession for 10, 15, 30 minutes to achieve an elevated heart rate. Keep the impact low if you've got hip/knee/foot issues to

work around. If you can't really see yourself doing calisthenic exercises at home, invest in a quality piece of cardiovascular training equipment like a treadmill, stationary bike, elliptical trainer or rowing machine.

I use the term invest because better quality equipment does come at some expense, but I believe your health and well-being are priceless.

After you've done the cardio portion of your workout add some push ups, tricep dips with a chair and/or a few dumbbell exercises for upper body strength training.

Bring it all into the center with some core strengthening exercises like the basic half crunch, cross crunch, bicycle crunches, plank and prone back extension to solidify your middle and protect the spine. Round out the program and relax with important stretches of the major muscle groups like hamstrings, quadriceps, piriformis, chest and back.

A gentle spinal twist on the floor can help to get into the pectoral muscles of the chest while addressing some of the hips and low back muscles as well.

A little creativity can go a long way when working out at home but if

you need ideas may I suggest joining a gym. Exercise facilities have lots of equipment for cardiovascular and strength training.

Most also offer a free orientation to new members or have personal trainers available for hire. Some places will even have a heated pool for swimming or water exercise classes; which are great for anyone at any fitness level and especially good for injury recovery.

There are also lots of different land based classes that may actually be fun to try. You just have to get in there!

When it comes to nutrition there is so much information out there it can become confusing. My suggestion is this; keep it simple. Eat real food. Stick to the produce area and the meat counter if you're so inclined. Beans can be a good source of protein.

Minimize the consumption of packaged processed foods. These products tend to be full of white flour, refined sugar; hydrogenated fats, elevated sodium and potentially harmful preservatives. If you can't pronounce most of the ingredients on the package, beware.

Eat whole grains. They provide important nutrients as well as soluble and insoluble fiber, which help to regulate digestion and elimination. Remember small portions can make a big difference.

As always please get regular medical check ups and consult your physician before beginning any diet and/or exercise program including a home based plan.

Keep moving people! Enjoy the winter break and I will catch up with you in the spring.

*Lisa Cachia is an ACSM Certified Personal Trainer/ Group Trainer. Please feel free to send any questions or comments to Lisa at [benefitness@comcast.net](mailto:benefitness@comcast.net).*

## Rules: SSUSA Acts on 'Flip-Flop,' Drinking

Continued from Page 3

see [seniorsoftball.com](http://seniorsoftball.com).)

**Deaf Team Exception:** – A team comprised solely of deaf individuals participated at the 2015 WMC as “Exhibition” in the 50-AA Division. They requested a waiver of the states and bordering states requirements, and offered to play at the next higher level (50-AAA), in the 2016 WMC in order to allow them to secure a sufficient number of players. It was proposed that they be allowed an exception to draw otherwise eligible players from anywhere within the United States.

**75 and 80 Age Eligibility:** – Effective Dec. 3, 2015, Men's 75+ Division – Teams may add not more than four (4) players aged 74 to their rosters. And Men's 80+ Division – Teams may add not more than four (4)

players aged 79 to their rosters.

**Higher Skill Level Team is Home:** – In tournament play where there are mixed brackets, including teams in different rating groups where one team is giving an equalizer, the team giving the equalizer shall be the Home team in all such games.

**Flip-Flop Rule:** – The “flip-flop” rule is amended to be mandatory in any tournament game, seeding pool play or bracket play, when the Visitor is ahead by 10 runs or more at the commencement of the “open inning.”

**Player Rating History for 70+ and Older Players:** – For players age 70+ and older, the player-rating history term for roster eligibility is reduced from the current Season and the two full preceding Seasons to the current Season and the immediately previous

Season. Effective Dec. 4, 2015.

**Sun affecting batters:** – If the sun is affecting the batter's ability to see the ball, the umpire may request that the Field Director allow the pitcher to pitch from up to six feet on either side of the pitching rubber, at the side chosen by the batter as the only remedy. The request, if granted, shall be applied on a full inning basis only.

**Drinking in the Dugout or Field Prohibited:** The consumption of alcoholic beverages in the dugouts or within the confines of the playing field will result in the ejection of the player for the remainder of the team's games for that day.

The 2016 SSUSA/ISA Convention will be in Las Vegas from Nov. 29- Dec. 2.

### Heard in the Dugout

**"Love is blind. friendship tries not to notice."**

-- Otto von Bismarck



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# Year-Long Plan for Financial Freedom

By Jack Sirard  
Softball News Report

With the New Year rapidly approaching, you'll likely see plenty of reports focusing on New Year's resolutions and of course, putting your financial house in order will be at the top of the list.

But financial planning should not be viewed as a goal to achieve in January and let the chips fall where they may the rest of the year. It's far too complicated to get done all at once and as a result, many people just let things slide.

That's why I think you should try and solve one piece of the puzzle each month and over the course of the full year, you'll no doubt get it done.

So let's start out on our month-to-month guide to financial freedom:

## JANUARY

The best way to get this all started is to develop your spending plan for the year, says financial adviser Dan Seidman. The Boston-based expert notes that it's pretty easy to determine your annual source of income, but it's a good idea to break it down as a monthly plan.

He notes that the far trickier part is determining your monthly spending because there are so many bills like insurance, home repairs and taxes that you only pay once a year or every six months. The best was to get an accurate picture of your spending is to log in each day what you spend over a month or two.

## FEBRUARY

It's a short month so take on an easier task. We'd suggest meeting with your financial adviser.

Review all your investments including your IRAs, 401(k)s and individual investments. You want to know what your net worth is. That's done by simply adding up all your investments and subtracting your debts such as your mortgage or car and school loans. If it's time to make a course adjustment, the sooner the better, says Seidman. You also need to make sure you are getting the most out of your 401(k) plan at work. If you got a raise last year, you should put some of that into your retirement plan.

## MARCH

You've got a full 31 days so it's time to clean up all your financial files including your piles of tax returns, receipts and warranties. With tax day, April 15, fast approaching, organizing your files will help a lot. The IRS advises that you keep your records "as long as they may be needed for the administration of any provision of the Internal Revenue Code. Generally, this means you must keep records that support items shown on your return until the period of limitations for that return runs out."

## APRIL

Let's make sure that we get all those taxes filed on time this year. No more making excuses and filing for an extension. If you find out that you once again owe money and it hurts, consider decreasing the number of dependents that you claim on your weekly paycheck, financial adviser Seidman say.

## MAY

Rummage through your desk and find your will and/or living trust. Reread it with your spouse to see if any changes are warranted. Was there a birth, death or divorce in the family that may affect things? If you haven't talked to your attorney since he or she helped you craft these documents, now may be a good time to check in.

## JUNE

Review all of your insurance coverage and for most folks that includes homeowners or renters, auto and health insurance. "If you are turning 50 this year, consider getting long-term care insurance. Getting insurance while you are healthy helps keep the premiums low," Seidman advises. At any rate, give your insurance agent a call to go over all of your policies.

## JULY

Talk to your children about your finances and let them know what you have planned for the rest of your life. Sure things change, but you should be able to talk over what you have laid out in your will or living trust. Make sure those who will be taking care of things after you're gone know what they have to do and where all your documents are.

## AUGUST

Talk to your parents about their finances and their will or trust. This no doubt will be harder to do as they may think you're just trying to figure out what your inheritance will be. But you need to know where they keep their legal papers, where the key is to their safe deposit box and where they have their financial accounts.

It might be time for them to put your name on their bank accounts so you can help handle their finances in the future.

## SEPTEMBER

You've been talking about it for months or maybe even years so it's time to set up that college fund for your grandchildren. It's a pretty simple task and once you've established the account, you can easily add to it on the child's birthday or Christmas instead of buying them a half-dozen toys that they'll soon discard.

## OCTOBER

Since you've already organized your desk, you no doubt found your safe deposit box key. So head on down to your bank and go through each item in the box. You might want to make copies of some things to keep at home and you'll surely want to write down a log of what's there to be kept at home. It's also a good time to take in the pink slip to that car that you paid off three years ago.

## NOVEMBER

It's time to be thankful so before the holiday rush hits you, look over your charitable contributions and donations that you've made in the past year. Do you want to add a new group or charity to your list? You might even want to check out how your selected charities rate by looking online.

## DECEMBER

There's so much to do during the holiday season and so little time, so your assignment for this month is to review the previous 11 months and go back and finish up any task that you came up short on.

If you did it all, then relax and enjoy the holidays.

*Jack Sirard is a national financial writer and senior editor/writer for Softball News.*

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# Opinions & Letters

## Thank You for Support

As many of you know, I've joined the ranks of 15 million other Americans in battling cancer. Although mine has spread from the prostate, it has been caught relatively early and I expect a full recovery.

Until I complete treatment and can fully get back on my feet, Fran Dowell is stepping into my role at Senior Softball-USA. I appreciate any support you can give her and our dedicated staff.

The truth is that finding out there is a cancer inside your body is frightening because it is not a challenge you can handle alone – and it is your own body that has seemingly betrayed you.

However, it does force one to examine life – and to realize the importance of friends and family.

The support many of you have given me is extremely humbling. The prayers, cards, emails and calls have given me an overwhelming positive attitude to overcome this challenge.

The beauty and strength of senior softball players and teams emerge during these times off the field, and I am very thankful and proud to be a part of such a wonderful sport. Thank you.

Terry Hennessy



Sue Ballenger

## CAN-Sirs Enters 6th Year Bringing Hope and Education

Cancer strikes from within. In many cases, there are no outer signs of the disease even though cancer may be raging throughout our bodies. Without proper medical examinations, the disease can spread to all parts of our bodies and advance to higher stages before we find out.

We all know of someone who was diagnosed with cancer this year. Many were in perfect health and yet cancer manifested itself in some manner.

The science community predicts that 50 percent of all men will have some type of cancer in their lifetime. We should follow a healthy diet, exercise and have regular medical check-ups to prevent cancer. Talk to cancer patients and see if they ever thought about getting cancer and if they followed the recommendations for good

### CAN-SIRS CORNER By Pete Davignon

health.

CAN-Sirs Inc. was formed six years ago to bring encouragement and current information on cancer to senior softball players, and to remind them of the importance of self-health. During that time our organization expanded from one team in California to several teams in the United States. We have met and been promoted by many, such as Terry Leiden, author of "Back in the Game," a book about cancer survivors who started a softball team.

The CAN-Sir teams have participated in many Senior Softball USA tournaments with the support of SSUSA and their many fine workers.

Plans are now being finalized for the merger of the Senior Softball USA's NorCal Championships and CAN-Sirs annual Benefit Tournament held May 13-15. This year the SSUSA NorCal Championships will add the CAN-Sirs Benefit tournament locations in Elk Grove, Calif. Teams who wish to qualify for the SSUSA tournaments will be able to do so at the CAN-Sirs May tournament.

Thank you to the many NCSSA teams and tournament directors that continued their support. With the new merger with SSUSA, the CAN-Sirs Benefit Tournament will continue to grow and become a major contributor to the finances of CAN-Sirs.

CAN-Sirs will still have a team in the NCSSA and will participate in tournaments through the season.

We also encourage softball play-

ers who are not on an SSUSA team roster to join the CAN-Sirs Exhibition Teams that enter these tournaments.

Our new website [can-sirs.org](http://can-sirs.org) will keep you up to date on our events and has all the historical data and pictures of all the softball players that have come together as CAN-Sirs Teams.

The 2015 season is over and we are busy planning events for 2016. If you would like to participate or have some ideas that would help our CAN-Sir mission, please let us know.

*Our email address is [can-sirs@att](mailto:can-sirs@att); our phone is 530-680-1614; and our address is CAN-Sirs Inc., 2485 Notre Dame Blvd., #370-180, Chico, CA 95928.*

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# Winter Worlds Shine With Record 178 Teams

## Softball News Report

PHOENIX – The western portion of SSUSA's 2016 Season began Nov. 17 as the Valley of the Sun hosted a record 178 teams for the Winter World Championships. Teams were seeking an early 2016 season championship and coveted berths to the 2017 Tournament of Champions.

"Phoenix is possibly the finest assembly of playing facilities in one location anywhere, and the 2016 Winter World's enjoyed clear blue skies and the usual terrific Arizona fall weather," said Tournament Director Dave Dowell.

Session No. 1 included a session record 51 teams and expanded to three facilities for the Men's 65+ and more senior groups. Competition was balanced, with multiple divisions being decided in "If needed" games.

The first of those was in the Men's 65-Major+ at Rose Mofford, where Timberworks Construction (CA) and Omen 70 (CA) waged a thrilling three-game set, with Timberworks prevailing in the "If" game (28-6) after the teams had split the Winners' bracket final (Timberworks: 26-20) and Championship game (Omen 21-20). The Men's 65-Major at Papago Park also needed an extra game as Centex (TX) dropped its first bracket game to Arizona Ancient before reeling off seven consecutive wins

for the title, the last two as pay back over Arizona Ancient, 21-20 in the championship game and 18-10 in the "If" game.

The Men's 65-AAA and 65-AA at Desert West took a more conventional approach, settling things in their respective championship games. In the 10-team 65-AAA, Prime Time (CA) swept through the bracket unbeaten from the No. 9 Seed position with wins over No Guts. No Glory (CA) in the winners' bracket final (17-16) championship game (17-15). In the 65-AA, Duke City Dynamite (NM) completed an unbeaten week with wins over Git-R-Done 65 (CA), 13-11 in the winners' bracket final and 19-14 in the championship game to claim the trophy.

The Men's 70-Major+ division saw the Scrap Iron 70 Legacy (CO) sweep the first two of their Best 2 of 3 championship series with Tharaldson's (NV), 22-7 and a thrilling 11-10 on Wednesday. The Men's 70-Major was another division that went to extra innings. Home town Poncho's 70 (AZ) stumbled to Top Gun Swat (CA) in the championship game (13-9) before bouncing back to take the "If" game (19-7) to come out on top. In the eight-team 70-AAA at Papago Park, Hooikaika Kinipopo (HI) became another of the teams to complete an unbeaten week as they swept Sons of Pitches (CA) in the winner's bracket final (23-8) and the cham-

pionship game (20-6). Also at Papago Park, Git-R-Done 70 (CA) swept the first two of their Best 2 of 3 Championship series with Yavapai Casino (AZ), 17-10 and 24-9 for the Men's 70-AA title.

The most senior of divisions, the Men's 75's and 80's, played their usual highly skilled and competitive games at Rose Mofford. In the Men's 75-Platinum division, the 75-Major Scrap Iron 75's (CO) swept their Best 2 of 3 Championship Series from 75-Major+ PDR FastSigns (OR) by scores of 18-11 and 20-18. In the 75/80-Gold Division, the Kokopelli Eye Institute Scorpions (AZ) swept through the bracket unbeaten from the No. seed position, culminating in a championship game victory (9-7) over the Fairway Ford 80's (CA).

Friday morning arrived with another 127 teams taking to the Phoenix facilities and the eight-field Big League Dreams Sports Park in Gilbert. In the six-team 50-Platinum division at Rose Mofford, 50-Major+ Arizona Elite completed an unbeaten weekend with similar wins over 50-Major Champion J.U. Entertainment (CA) in both the winners' bracket final (20-12) and championship game (20-9). Both teams earned first place awards and T.O.C. 2017 bids in their respective divisions. At Papago Park, the 13-team 50-AAA was yet another "if" game bracket. Hawaii Five-0 dropped the winners' bracket final (23-22) to Down & Dirty/ComBat (NM) before bouncing back to defeat them in both the championship (28-10) and "If" needed games (22-9).

The combined four-team Men's 50/55-AA yielded another team completing the week unbeaten as Tucson Buds/Los Buds (AZ) cruised to the title with their 20-15 victory in the championship game.

The 10-team Men's 55/60-Platinum and 14-team 55-AAA divisions began play at the beautiful Big League Dreams Sports Park in Gilbert on Friday before finishing at Cesar Chavez Park over the weekend. The 55/60-Platinum saw the L.A.F./Life After Fifty (CA) slip by the R&R Stokers 55 (CA) in the winners' bracket final (25-24) before comfortably winning the title with a 20-6 championship game victory. The 55-AAA also took the long way to the end as the Sidewinders 55 (AZ) stayed unbeaten until the championship game before suffering a loss (17-9) to the OG Outlaws (NM). But they bounced back in the "If" game with a thrilling 18-17 last at-bat win.

Rose Mofford hosted the seven-team 60-Major and 13-team 60-AAA with both divisions proving highly competitive. In the 60-Major, Gonzales Insulation (TX) strung together three consecutive one-run elimination bracket wins to force two games against the Desert Dawgs 60's (CA), defeating them in both the championship (18-17) and "If"

Continued on next page

## Winter World All Tourney Players Named

Here are the All Tournament players selected by the teams for the 2015 Winter World Championships:

Men's 50 Major-Plus- **Arizona Elite/Demarini**: Curtis Horger, Scott Spalding, Jeff White, Joe Gonzales, Dominick Calise; **Arizona Old School**: Randy Pongratz, Greg Vanhoy; **Phoenix Bulldawgz**: Randy Tompkins, Barry Midthun, and Robby Tucker

Men's 50 AAA- **Hawaii Five-O**: Scott Murray, Tom McCarthy, Vern Ramie, Chris Ray, Felix Mendiola; **Down & Dirty/Team Combat**: Frank Smith, Randy Case, Joe Chavez, and Robert Sanchez; **Sugamele- No Excuses**: Danny Gutierrez, Paul Gutierrez, and Rusty Astgen

Men's 55 AAA- **Sidewinders**: Kerry Krueger, Tom Petrizzio, Craig Hauger, Emery Hunt, and Jim Walter; **Mr. Softball**: Arty Alvarez, Lasaro Salgado, Mike Gonzales; **Braves**: Ron Larriu, Art Estrada

Men's 55/60 Platinum- **Arizona Old School**: Jeff Marine, Gino Fiascnhem Dave Vandehey; **R & R Stokers**: Rick Vogel, Mick Swen, Richard Moreno, Rocky Colbern; **L.A.F.**: Frank Dean, Matt Dobyns, Chuck McKenney, Mike O'Donnell, Chip Brakeville

Men's 50/55 AA- **Scrap Iron Coyotes**: Pete Ayotte, Bruce Brothis, Rick Frahm

Men's 60 AAA- **Rocco's**: Joe A. Simental, Lonnie Ashley, Duane Hopkins, Edward Sanchez; **Agway Steelers**: Jeff Morton, Steve Garvin, Glen Auch, Steve Vasseur, Tony Reda; **Just 4 Fun**: Boyd Miller, Jeff Kay; **New Mexico Boomers**: Louie Ortega, Bill French, Julio Rios, Steve Armstrong, Bob Chesney; **Stagecoach Saloon**: Tom Brown, Steve Tucker, Jon Birk, Gary Tauscher

Men's 60 AA- **New Mexico Warriors**: Dennis Rosales, John Arviso; **YMC/Keith Enterprises**: Joe Lathrop, Stu Prince, Doug Keith

Men's 65 Major-Plus- **Omen**: Steve Callan, Pat McGuire, Dan Walsworth, Conway Waddy; **Timberworks**: Doak Whitley, George Robinson, Marvin Mielke, Rick Hines, and Don Hayashida; **Enviro-Vac Marauders**: Ron Beck, Leonard Gann, and O.J. Moe

Men's 65 Major- **Scrap Iron Phiten**: Mike Edwards, Mike Ebbing, Mark Soloway; **High Desert Roadrunners**: Kent (Lucky) Near, Ed Andrews; **AZ Ancient**: Jerry Mason, Ken Sheffield, Bob Vogt, Al Hawkinson

Men's 65 AAA- **Fountain Valley Outlaws**: Bob Varela, Steve Harabedian, Rob Albert

Men's 65 AA- **Duke City Dynamite**: Ray Ortega, Rich Doney, Mike Sinnott, Joe Chavez, and Larry Gialouris; **Git-R-Done**: Bill Rugh, Donnie Drehsen, Jim Ziemer, and Artie Hartington

Men's 70 Major-Plus- **Scrap Iron Legacy**: Dale McLaughlin, Stan Snichta, Gene Smith, Don Carpenter, Mike Hofberg

Men's 70 Major- **Ponchos**: Manny Hurtado, Brian Hiltz, Bill Kee, Dennis Bernalche, and Dennis De Verise; **Silver Sox**: Jack Lantz, Bob Borchard; **Nick's Diner**: Jay Larson, Steve Rustman, and Don Joesten

Men's 70 AAA- **Sons Of Pitches**: Roger Wisslead, Bob Sutton, Chris Mills, Bob Leatherwood; **Hooikaika Kinipopo**: John Hirota, Dwight Fujii, Dennis Holland, Al Apo, Bobby Damaso; **Chicago Strikers**: Dan Tuftee, Tony Inzerillo, Jack Zuzak

Men's 70 AA- **Git-R-Done**: James Hansen, Jerry McGee, Jon Newell, Ed Nilsen, Mike Welch; **Yavapai Casino**: Larry Cathey, Julian Jarquez, Denny Williams, Doug Lee

Men's 75 Platinum- **Scrap Iron Beams**: Don McGill, Bob Lennon, Carroll Shook, Ronnie Guest, John Wunderli; **PDR Fastsigns**: John Fournier, Dan Miniick, Tom Imming, Bob Quarantino

Men's 75 AAA- **Kokopelli Eye Institute Scorpions**: George Harrell, Gene Monk, Ken Ponzio, Larry Richey, Ed Romero

Men's 75/80 Gold- **Fairway Ford**: Jim Douglas, John Fisher, Frank Purdue, Jim Arena; **Sidewinders**: Frank Williams, Ron Johnson, and Gene Boettcher; **Git-R-Done**: Gene Dick, Mike Wiemer

Women's 40 Major- **Kryptonite**: Sara Payne, Karen Hunger; **Kiss Our Stix**: Jennifer Stewart, Patti Affriseso, Linda Ikami, Laura Bernardino, and Aretha Tilley

Women's 40 AAA- **SoCal Toxic**: Melanie Grieco, Becky Hardy, Heather Michaelis, Danelle Sticklin; **Texas Crush**: Kim Ott, Debra Jean Lowry

Women's 55/60- **Skormor**: Terry Chavez Spraggs, Yvonne Delk, Barb Shanley; **Cal Express**: Fran DePuy, Jane Smith, Sue Prentice, Nancy Moniger, Kathy Hawk

Women's 65/70- **Queen Bees**: Mo Deys, June Cord; **Ye Olde Bats**: Linda Sampson, Dottie Johnson, Kathy Smith; **Saints Express**: Sue Cary, Sharon Amer, Bev Burger, Sis Iorio; **Fun Bunch**: Jill Smith, Kathy Lord, Cyndi Kelly, Susan Thompson, Marcia Hiltabidle



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# Hawaiian Player Saves Teammate's Life in Phoenix

By Mileka Lincoln

Courtesy of Hawaii News Now

PHOENIX, ARIZ. – Half way through his first game at the Winter Worlds here, Fred Entilla began to feel tired, but brushed it off figuring that he hadn't been playing much and was just trying to catch his breath between innings.



Entilla

“We went back on the field and the next thing I knew I was in the ambulance on the way to the hospital,” Entilla said. The 69-year-old softball player from Hawaii had suffered a major heart attack during the game and credits a teammate with saving his life.

Entilla plays for Hooikaika Kinipopo, a traveling team comprised of players from Oahu, Maui, Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island. Seventeen of them made the trek here for the Winter World Series.

“I think the scariest thing was when we heard that there was no pulse and that's when Bobby Damaso jumped in and proceeded to do CPR until he (Entilla) came back,” said 70-year-old Butch Tenn, Hooikaika Kinipopo's coach.

“When it seemed like Freddy was gone, Bobby



Photo by Tim McElroy

**Bobby Damaso, standing behind the team 5th from right in the last row, saved teammate Fred Entilla's life (inset photo left), while playing with their Kinipopo team from Hawaii.**

wouldn't give up. Bobby refused to give up. The rest of us were all standing there praying and Bobby was working as hard as he possibly could,” said Kinipopo teammate, 70-year-old Jerry Hersh.

Damaso's 30 years of experience as a firefighter on Oahu immediately kicked in as he started administering CPR.

“Oh, it seemed like eternity. It was like seven to eight minutes, 12 minutes and finally as I was compressing \_ one time, I just popped his chest and he just gasped. He took a deep breath and I knew already that was a good sign,” described 70-year-old Damaso.

Entilla was rushed to the hospital and has since undergone triple bypass surgery, but is expected

to make a full recovery. “Thank you. I think I told him a thousand times when I was in the hospital,” said Entilla. For his role as pitcher and paramedic, Damaso was awarded MVP of the tournament.

“We did everything for Freddy. When we went into the huddle we'd yell for Freddy, we did everything and we just did our best and we ended up going undefeated and won the tournament,” said Damaso.

“Bobby was not only MVP of our team, but as far as I'm concerned he was my hero and my MVP in life because he stepped up when a lot of others wouldn't or couldn't or didn't know how -- and there was never a moment of hesitation in what Bobby did,” said Hersh.

## Winter Worlds: Nicholson Inducted in Hall of Fame

Continued from Page 8

games (16-5) to emerge victorious. The 60-AAA saw another thrilling championship game as the Agway Steelers (ON) hung on to defeat Rocco's 60 (AZ) 18-17, making the trip back to Canada enjoyable. The 11-team 60-AA at Papago Park resulted in another team completing the week unbeaten as the New Mexico Boomers closed out their run of perfection with a 13-8 championship game win over Stagecoach Saloon (OR).

The Men's and Women's 40-Masters divisions expanded to a three-day format this year in response to the impressive growth in team participation, taking over the Desert West facility. The 14-team Men's 40-Platinum division was marked by close, high-scoring games all weekend as GTS (ID) finished strong with an impressive 29-11 championship game win over Nikon Trucking (CA).

In the Women's 40-Masters Majors, 2015 World Masters and Triple Grand Slam Champion Kiss Our Stix (CA) won their inaugural tournament at their new rating. After losing (17-8) to perennial power

Old School 40's (CA) in the winners' bracket final, they came back to take two in revenge, 16-13 in the championship game and 18-8 in the “If” game. The seven-team Women's 40-Masters AAA had another team complete a perfect weekend as Blue Heat (NM) swept through the tournament unscathed, ending with wins over SoCal Toxic (CA) in the winners' bracket final (14-8) and the championship (13-9) game.

The Senior Women's divisions again grew in the number of teams participating for the fourth year in a row. The 10-team Women's 50+ began on Friday at the Big League Dreams with pool and bracket play before moving for the weekend to the Chaparral Softball Complex in historic Scottsdale.

Eastern powerhouse Dreamgirlz 50 (VA), with three consecutive World Masters and Triple Grand Slam Championships trophies to their name, were upset in their first bracket game by 50 'N Over IT (CA). Undeterred, they reeled off five consecutive elimination bracket wins to get back in the mix. After getting by Sudden Impact (CA) in the champi-

onship game (15-6), Sudden Impact retired, handing the Dreamgirlz a 7-0 forfeit win.

The rest of the Senior Women's divisions have become quite at home at the Mountain Vista complex in southeast Phoenix, having the park to themselves again this year. In the six-team Women's 55/60+ division, the California Express ladies edged the Arizona Castawaz (10-7) in an exciting championship game. The eight-team Women's 65/70+ division had the last of the teams to play a perfect unbeaten weekend. The Fun Bunch (MO) extended their dominance in Phoenix, defending their 2014 title with wins over Saints Express (CA) in the winners' bracket final (10-8) and championship (12-1).

On Saturday at Mountain Vista, the final member of the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame Class of 2015, Cathy Nicholson of California Spirit 60, was inducted to the Hall. Cathy gave a “spirited” acceptance speech that was the highlight of the day.

Complete game scores and bracket results are available at [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com).



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# A Short Course Explaining How SSUSA Rates Teams

Ratings and rules: Those are by far the most common topics of conversation in the dugout.

Most players agree that proper ratings and good rules are essential in establishing fair competition.

That is usually where the agreement ends.

Depending on the game and the score, one of the most common comments heard in the dugout is "Why is that team in our division? It is obviously too strong (or too weak)."

During the 20 years that SSUSA has rated teams, there have been a number of very insightful recommendations on improving ratings, as well as some that were not so insightful.

And while there unfortunately is no perfect rating system, the current system has evolved considerably in two decades and has – mostly – resulted in competitive divisions.

## Covering the Bases

By Terry Hennessy

The ratings system is designed to rank teams based initially on rosters and later on performance. It is also the primary purpose of ratings to protect teams in the lower divisions.

Most teams want to be re-rated if they have a losing record. However, if they are losing by a few runs, they are competitive – and they are usually too strong for the next lower skill division.

One of the underlying principles of the SSUSA rating system is to apply standards as uniformly as possible and to be as transparent as possible.

Here are some of the high points: **Teams that have been re-rated** to a lower skill level are not allowed

to pick up ANY higher skill level players during the season they were re-rated.

**Other teams** may have a maximum of three higher skill level players.

**Player ratings are determined** by the highest skill level in which players competed in the past two years.

**A player's skill level** may be reduced if he or she has had a serious injury or illness that reduced his or her playing ability. This exemption requires a doctor's explanation and is approved on a case-by-case basis.

**These rules apply to the rosters** teams use to play in qualifiers. There are four SSUSA tournaments that require teams to play in a Qualifier **before** they enter: the Western and Eastern Nationals, the World Masters Championships and the Tournament of Champions.

**Adding players to these rosters is restricted** (to prevent loading) and is only allowed if the team falls below a certain number of players. For more information on these restrictions, see our website, [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com), under Ratings Guidelines.

Most of the rules and restrictions have been enacted to prevent a team from creating an unfair competitive advantage. The sole purpose of the ratings and roster rules is to ensure fair competition.

SSUSA does discuss these and other rules – and makes changes – during our Annual Convention, which was in Reno Dec. 2-4. All players and managers were invited to attend. The convention is designed to frankly discuss rules and possible improvements to ensure the game is fair and fun for all who play it.

*Terry Hennessy is the SSUSA chief executive officer.*

## Carl: What a Wonderful World

Continued from Page 3

hope and perspective and makes him think of us, his extended family. Just go to YouTube and click on Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World."

I leave you with a few of its lyrics:

*The colors of the Rainbow, so pretty in the sky  
Are also on the faces of people going by  
I see friends shaking hands saying how do you do  
They're really saying--I love you  
I hear babies crying, I watch them grow  
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know  
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world  
Yes, I think to myself, what a wonderful world.*

Get well, fearless leader, fight on, and know your army is behind you.

## SSUSA League Program Booms

In 2015, Senior Softball-USA had 134 leagues in 24 states, more than doubling from 2009, which had 60 leagues in 13 states.

The vision for SSUSA Clubs and Leagues came from Steve Simmons, a SSUSA National Director, who was killed in a boating accident in 2013.

Playing with SSUSA, leagues are able to use senior bats from the approved Bat Policy along with guidelines from the Senior

Softball USA Rulebook.

SSUSA also provides promotion of leagues on its website ([www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com)), which has provided players a way to identify local leagues in their area. It has been a very successful partnership. SSUSA also provides the best deals on softballs with free delivery when ordering six dozen or more. Please call our office at 916-326-5303 and ask for Stephanie or Fran for a quote.

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# WORLD MASTERS CHAM

**LAS Vegas**

## WMC: Teams From 40 States



Continued from Page 1

tory set records for the fourth straight year with nearly 1,800 games being played across 13 complexes throughout 32 divisions.

The bulk of the tournament took place, Sept. 25-Oct. 4, however, to accommodate the significant growth, all Men's 40 divisions were scheduled Oct. 23-25. The Men's 40 division hosted 62 teams compared with 52 last year.

As a result of the move, the 40's players were able to avoid the blistering heat endured by the other divisions in late September and early October. Consistent temperatures topping the 100-degree mark took their toll on players and umpires alike throughout the first three sessions. Thankfully, aside from a few cases of heat exhaustion, most participants were able to stay well hydrated while playing in the grueling temperatures.

Of the many draws of the tournament, one in particular seems to attract the most attention, the Triple Grand Slam. Teams practice and compete all year in hopes of capturing the prize. The first leg begins in early August at the Eastern and Western National Championships.

Teams that make their way through their respective divisions can conceivably take home the Triple Grand Slam, should the chips fall their way in the U.S. National Game.

This year, nine realized the rare accomplishment of winning their division and capturing the Triple Grand Slam (Story on Page 16).

A highlight of the tournament occurred Sept. 28 with the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame induction ceremonies at Big League Dreams' replicated Fenway Park. With many friends and family members on hand,



The Nellis Air Force Base Color Guard helped kick off Opening Ceremonies for the 2015 World Masters Championships.

those in attendance were welcomed by former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman and his famous showgirls.

Those inducted, Don Cate, John Chacon, Fran Dowell, Argie Hadlock, Marcel Mathieu, Fred Purvis, Jack Robinson, Bob Swarthout and Roger Thresher were presented with honorary plaques for their tremendous accomplishments in the sport of senior softball. Fred Purvis' family accepted the post-humous award on his behalf.

The ceremony was a testament to not only the great players/managers in the sport but also the humble and deserving individuals and personalities the award serves to identify. Congratulations to all.

History was made at the tournament when for the first time one senior softball team competed with an entire roster composed of deaf players. Franz's WVentures competed at the 50 AA level as an exhibition team. The team's manager, Robert Harrison, compiled an entire roster of

deaf players from across the country forcing them to play exhibition due to the bordering states rule. That rule was recently amended during the ISA/SSUSA National Convention that will allow all deaf teams to draw players from across the United States to compete on an equal playing field with those in their respective divisions.

Another first for the World Masters Championships was the introduction of the Pacific Rim International Slow Pitch Championships to the United States. The tournament was previously hosted in China for its inauguration and in Japan in 2014. This year, for the third annual Pacific Rim Championships, three teams from China, Japan and Taiwan made their way to Las Vegas to compete against four teams, Blue, Grey, Red and White, comprised of senior softball players from the United States. The Pacific Rim Championships were a huge success for all involved.

"The spirit of the Pacific Rim

Championships is one of friendship. The bonds that have developed between our organizations through the sport of softball are truly unique," said Terry Hennessy, chief executive officer of SSUSA. Team Grey of USA took home the championship with a 17-16 walk-off victory over Team Red (Story on Page 21).

In other tournament play:

The 40 Masters Major Plus division grew to a record 14 teams that played several one-run ballgames. In the third round of the winner's bracket, J.K. Inc. took on Miken/Voodoo out dueled Miken/Voodoo 23-22 to set up a Northern vs. Southern California showdown with Nor Cal Stars. Strong defense was the theme of the semifinal with J.K. edging out Nor Cal Stars 19-15. Dudley/Prestige then handed J.K. their first loss, 24-22, to force an "IF" game. Both teams were firing on all cylinders during the "IF" but ultimately J.K. prevailed 21-20 to win the division championship.

35 teams from Hawaii to New Jersey squared off in the 40 Masters Major division. Mid-Atlantic Elite, VA, ensured themselves the top seed by defeating Epic, CA in the U.S. National Championship game 22-21. However, Mid-Atlantic's run was short lived after falling to the NorthWest Legends 26-25. The Cinderella story of the division came from Elite/AG Painting as they entered the bracket as the No. 15 seed. Elite/AG Painting bulled their way through the bracket by winning five games in a row by an average of seven runs to claim their spot in the championship. Team Joose, hailing from Nevada, clawed their way from the elimination bracket to face Elite/AG in the championship. Elite/AG Painting continued their offensive roll by defeating Team Joose



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# CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS



Photos by Jack Eberhard

The Git-R-Done Softball Club of Southern California, above, received the top SSUSA team award: The 2015 Steve Simmons Memorial Sportsmanship Award.

## Ceremonies, Awards, Honors . . . and Fun

Former teammate Steve Imlay, with microphone below, speaks about Fred Purvis, who was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame posthumously. Fred Purvis' family listened in the background. At right, former longtime Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman and his Showgirls welcome teams during Opening Ceremonies.



28-15 for their most convincing win of the bracket and the division championship.

The 40 Masters Major division was perhaps the most geographically dispersed with teams from Canada, Guam and Hawaii comprising six of the 13 teams in the division. Defend Pono of Hawaii and R&R Pumping Unit, CA earned the top seeds respectively heading into the bracket. R&R

faced a stern test right off the bat against Pattie House. Pattie House plated 18 runs against R&R but fell short in losing 19-18. R&R and Defend Pono continued their unbeaten streaks and found themselves up against one another in the semifinals. R&R dropped Defend Pono into the elimination bracket with a 20-11 victory only to meet them once again in the championship. Defend Pono cer-

tainly defended with two consecutive victories over R&R 19-18 and 24-17 to take home the division championship.

In the 50 Major Plus division, 13 teams from 11 states vied for their shot at the division title. Sommerville Softball dispatched Proven Legends Express 31-9 and Brysons Pub/Veltri/AIA 30-16, in the seeding round to earn the number one seed in the

bracket. Sommerville sustained their dominance with three consecutive victories by an average of 13 runs per game over Proven Legends, Mid-Atlantic Softball and Arizona Elite. Sommerville and Arizona Elite faced each other once again in the championship and Sommerville once again prevailed 24-17 to go undefeated in

Continued on Page 14



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## WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS

# WMC: 68 Teams in 50 AAA Sets Record; PDC Wins

### Continued from Page 13

winning the championship. With the win, Sommerville etched their name in senior softball lore by earning the coveted Triple Grand Slam.

One of the largest divisions of the tournament was the 50 Major division with 40 teams. Due to the size of the division, bracket play was split into two 20-team pods, American and National, with divisions merging Sunday for the championship finals.

Cornerstone defeated Doerflinger 20-15 to win the National Bracket and Aftershock squeaked by Team USA 23-22 in the American Bracket final. Cornerstone went on to beat Aftershock 26-16 and claim their spot in the championship game.

MTC 50's persevered through the elimination bracket with 10 consecutive victories to defeat Aftershock in the third place game and face Cornerstone in the championship. MTC's remarkable run fell short against Cornerstone when they ran out of gas and retired in the bottom of the fourth inning trailing, 20-2.

The 50 AAA division set marks with the largest division in the history of senior softball at 68 teams. Due to the enormous amount of teams, the division had to be split into American and National pods for bracket play, with divisions merging Sunday for the championship finals.

KC Naturals took down Carolina Five-O (23-10) in the National bracket final. Tucson Hammertime handled Chi Town 21-12 in the American bracket final to set up a showdown with KC Naturals. KC Naturals continued their dominant ways with a 23-15 victory over Hammertime.

However, the true story of the division was a remarkable showing of grit and determination by PDC from Michigan. After falling to Tucson Hammertime, 18-17, PDC strung together five straight victories in the elimination bracket, setting up a showdown with KC Naturals in the

finals. Showing incredible perseverance, PDC forced an "IF" against the Naturals 24-18 and proved that defense wins championships with an 18-15 victory in the "IF" for their seventh consecutive victory and the division championship.

Twelve teams from across the U.S. including Guam and Hawaii comprised the 50 AA division. Senior Softball-USA's first all deaf team competed as an exhibition team. Tenth seeded Hawaiians, going 0-2 in pool play, were determined to right the ship. The Hawaiians strung together some timely hitting and defeated the Lumberjacks, 15-14, in the opening round of the bracket. In the semifinals Romo's Old School had them on the ropes but the Hawaiians fought back and edged out a 20-18 victory. The championship game set up a rematch with KSS, whom the Hawaiians had previously defeated in the bracket. KSS ran out of gas and came up short, falling to the Hawaiians 18-8 in the championship.

Summy's 55 stole the show in the nine-team 55 Major Plus division. After going 2-0 in pool play with a winning margin of 20 runs in each of those games, Summy's established themselves as the clear favorite. They would not disappoint, Summy's continued their dominance in the bracket with four consecutive wins for the title. The championship win secured a fantastic year for Summy's and earned them the elusive Triple Grand Slam.

The 55 Major division drew 29 teams. A bevy of competitive games were littered throughout the division. Triangle Masters grabbed the number one seed with a victory in the U.S. National game over Wolfpack, 25-17. Triangle Masters won their opening bracket game 25-24 over Softball Club. However, they fell in their next game 32-28 to Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder and were never able to fight their way back. The success story of the division came from Oregon Flatliners who, as the No. 6



Photos by Jack Eberhard

**Aftershock celebrates after winning the American Bracket of the large 50 Major Division. Cornerstone eventually won the division.**

seed, went undefeated through the tournament. The Flatliners defeated Rocky Mountain Thunder 27-20 to claim their spot in the championship only to square off with Rocky Mountain Thunder once again. The Flatliners slugged their way to the division championship, with a 27-16 win.

The trend of large divisions in the 55 age group continued in the AAAs with 45 teams competing. Play was split into National and American pods. Roadhouse Blues took on LVSSA Hitmen in the National pod final, with Roadhouse displaying defensive prowess and taking the ball game 17-9. In the American pod final, Michigan Smash smashed the Beltway Bandits 22-6 setting up a game against the Roadhouse Blues. Roadhouse Blues slapped their way to a 14-12 victory in the first game and again squeaked by Michigan Smash in the championship 22-21 to win the division.

The 55 AA had its share of competitive ballgames throughout the 10-team division. Number one seeded Scrap Iron Coyotes were trounced by El Paso Old School in the second round of the bracket 24-9. Old School then topped 1<sup>st</sup> Interiors 19-13 to gain their way into the championship game. The Coyotes then beat 1<sup>st</sup> Interiors 22-21 to set up a rematch with El Paso Old School. The championship game was solidly played by both teams, but El Paso Old School had momentum and grasped the championship with an

18-13 victory over the Coyotes.

Heading into the nine-team 60 Major Plus bracket many figured that Hollis Appraisals would win the division. But the Old Dawgs were not about to lay down without a fight. The two teams meet on Friday afternoon for their first showdown in the U.S. National Championship Game. In a great ballgame for spectators and players alike, Hollis edged out the Old Dawgs 29-26, grabbing the overall one seed in the bracket. The Old Dawgs, as the two seed, slipped against Superior Senior Softball in the third round of the bracket 19-16. However, the Old Dawgs proceeded to enact revenge against Superior with a 24-23 victory to square off with Hollis again in the finals. Needing two consecutive victories the Old Dawgs dug deep to take down Hollis 32-30 in the championships and then dominated the "IF" 27-11 to win the division.

The 21-team, 60 Major division was dominated by Southern California's Top Gun III. Top Gun went 2-0 in pool play, including a 26-15 victory over Crystal Cobras in the U.S. National Game. By winning the game, Top Gun III earned the top seed for the bracket and rattled off four consecutive wins to find themselves in the championship game. Edge II was the No. 21 seed in the bracket with the odds stacked against them. But Edge II fiercely defied the odds and found themselves in the championship facing



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## WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS

# WMC: Animals Top 30-Team 65AAA Division

Continued from Page 14

Top Gun. Edge won 31-27 to force an "IF," game for the title. One of the best games of the tournament ensued as Top Gun held on by a thread to win the division 20-19 and the Triple Grand Slam.

In the 60 AAA division, 39 teams competed for supremacy in the 60 AAA division, yielding yet another huge draw for the tournament. Like other large division, the bracket was split into American and National pods. Cut Loose took on Dixon ZTR on the American side and Cut Loose prevailed 19-15. The National pod pitted Tubby's Pub against War Eagles with the winner to face Cut Loose for a shot at the division. War Eagles and Tubby's played an extremely close game with the Eagles eking out a 21-20 win. War Eagles carried their momentum into the matchup with Cut Loose, handing them a 16-13 defeat. As a result, Tubby's needed to double dip the Eagles. Tubby's won an offensive shootout against the War Eagles 34-29 but fell short in the "IF," 16-14 and the War Eagles were crowned



The War Eagles topped 39 teams to win the 60 AAA division.



The Guam 50s team watches play in the 50 AA division during the World Masters Championships.

Photos by Jack Eberhard

division champions.

The 60 AA division drew 18 teams from 13 states. The bracket came down to two teams from Hawaii, Fresh Poke and Kona Legends, along with Scrap Iron Freedom, Colorado. Kona Legends outdueled Fresh Poke 10-9 to earn their way into the championship. Scrap Iron Freedom then dispatched Fresh Poke in another tight game, 13-12, setting up a championship matchup with Kona Legends. One of the highest scoring games of the division ensued during the championship with Kona Legends defeating Scrap Iron Freedom, 25-20, for the division title.

In the six-team 65 Major Plus division, the No. 2 seed Hamel Builders/Superior defeated the fifth seeded Omen 29-17 to claim the top spot. Hamel Builders/Superior went a perfect 3-0 in bracket play to earn the title. Omen got off to a solid start with a pair of upsets, downing four seed Team Florida 37-16 and top seed Hitmen 20-19 in a thriller. Omen then fell to Hamel Builders/Superior, 28-7, to drop them into the elimination bracket. Omen once again met up with Team Florida, earning a hard-fought 26-23 victory to set up another matchup against Hamel Builders/Superior. In the end, Hamel Builders/Superior prevailed 29-17 for the title.

The 15-team 65 Major division saw a Cinderella team take the title, as the No. 11 seed Enviro-Vac Marauders, hailing from Canada, went a perfect 5-0 to win the championship. Enviro-Vac began bracket play with a 17-14 win over No. 6 seed R & R 65's, before downing No. 14 seed Southern California Marauders 17-15 in an unlikely matchup of teams with the same names. Enviro-Vac Marauders then upended San Antonio Silver Streaks 16-15 before defeating SW Florida Thunder 21-13 to reach the championship game. In a rematch of an earlier game, Enviro-Vac Marauders once again defeated San Antonio Silver Streaks in a thriller 31-30.

The 65 AAA division attracted 30 competitive teams looking for the title. Coming back to life out of the elimination bracket, the No. 9 seeded Animals outlasted the field to take the top spot. The Animals won their first three games before falling to fourth seeded US Jobs/Indy 20-12 and dropping into the elimination bracket. Once in the elimination bracket, Animals rattled off another three-game winning streak to climb back into the championship picture. Needing two wins to defeat previously unbeaten US Jobs/Indy, the Animals did just that, earning a 23-21 win to force the "IF" game and then a 29-28 triumph in the

final game for the title.

R & D Leverage, the No. 2 seed in the 65 AA division, posted a perfect 4-0 mark to earn the top spot in the 14-team field. R & D Leverage won its first two games to set up a showdown with the top seed Sims 65. R & D Leverage continued its solid play with an 18-12 win to earn a spot in the championship and dropping Sims into the elimination bracket. Sims bounced back with a 21-13 win over Makua Alii to get into the championship game. In the final, R & D Leverage would again get the better of Sims, earning a 26-15 win to claim the title.

The 70 Major Plus division saw two teams battle it out for the right to be called a champion, as Omen 70 swept Scrap Iron 70 Legacy by scores of 12-7 and 19-18. With the division win, Omen was awarded the Triple Grand Slam.

The 70 Major division featured 14 teams with another Cinderella team, the No. 14 seed W.E. Ruth Realty 70 taking the top spot. Despite being the lowest seeded team in the division, Ruth posted a perfect 5-0 record to earn the championship. In their first game, W.E. Ruth clawed out a nail-biter, 13-12, over No. 3 seed AMR

Continued on Page 16



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## WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS

# 9 Win Triple Grand Slam, 18 Take US Nationals

**By Anthony Ramos**  
**Softball News Report**

LAS VEGAS – A record breaking 546 teams flocked to Las Vegas to try to etch their mark in senior softball lore and a handful of those teams had an even larger goal on their mind – the coveted Triple Grand Slam.

The Triple Grand Slam is obtained when a team wins their division in the Eastern or Western National Championships, the U.S. National Game and then their division of the World Master Championships.

Out of all the teams in the country, nine realized this accomplishment: Dreamgirlz 50W, Kiss Our Stix 40W AAA, Sommerville Softball 50M+, Summy's 55M+, Top Gun III 60M,

Omen 70M+, San Francisco Seals 75M+, PDR Fastsigns 75M and Florida Investment Properties 80M.

Triple Grand Slam winners receive a pair of Elite shoes, and option for a specialized Triple Grand Slam ring and their team's name etched on the perpetual Triple Grand Slam Trophy.

In U.S. National games 11 western teams and seven eastern teams won their respective divisions. Each game's winners received a plaque, team bat and jerseys for all players.

Mid-Atlantic Elite 40s of Virginia edged out Epic of California 22-21 in the 40 Major division.

AB Contracting/Nobles Painting of West Virginia defeated Doerflinger

Athletics of Washington 18-13 in the 50 Major division.

Excessive Speed of California defeated Carolina Five-0 of North Carolina 16-14 in the 50 AAA division.

Summy's 55 of California defeated Combat/Next Level 55 of North Carolina 27-12 in the 55 Major Plus division.

Triangle Masters out of North Carolina defeated Wolfpack out of Washington 25-17 in the 55 Major division.

Kamikaze 55 out of California defeated Beltway Bandits from Virginia 16-6 in the 55 AAA division.

Scrap Iron Coyotes from Colorado defeated Longshoremen 55 from Virginia 22-13 in the 55 AA division.

Hollis Appraisals out of Florida defeated Old Dawgs 60 from California 29-26 in the 60 Major Plus division.

Top Gun III out of California defeated Crystal Cobras out of North Carolina 26-15 in the 60 Major division.

Northern Virginia Force 60 defeated Cut Loose out of California 19-10 in the 60 AAA division.

15 Hitmen out of Arizona defeated Hamel Builders/Superior Senior Softball from Virginia 31-26 in the 65 Major Plus division.

Sacramento Islanders out of California slipped past Doc Martens/Ropes Courses out of Michigan 14-13 in the 65 AAA division.

RWC State Roofing System out of California defeated Libby's/Michael's out of Wisconsin 25-13 in the 70 Major division.

California Wrecking Crew defeated Syracuse Cyclones 70 from New York 22-7 in the 70 AAA Division.

Florida Investment Properties defeated Oregon Roadrunners 11-4 in the 80 Major division.

Old School 40's out of California outlasted Team Works out of Virginia 18-17 in the Women's 40 Major division.

Kiss Our Stix from California defeated Northern Construction Fireballs from Massachusetts 25-11 in the Women's 40 AAA division.

Dreamgirlz out of Virginia defeated Arizona Dream Team 9-7 in the Women's 50 division.

The teams that had no opponent and won the U.S. National title are listed below:

Eastern Champions:  
Code Electric, 60AA

Western Champions:

All World, 40M+  
Sommerville Softball, 50M+  
Scrap Iron Phiten, 65M  
Damaged Goods, 65AA  
Omen, 70M+  
San Francisco Seals, 75 M+  
PDR Fastsigns, 75M

## WMC: Ruth in Cinderella Win in 70s

**Continued from Page 15**

South, before taking down 11 seeded Texas Legends 21-13. W.E. Ruth would then secure its second upset of the tournament with a 29-15 win over the second seeded Libby's/Michael's, before picking up another upset, this time over Tharaldon's 18-13 to reach the championship game.

After dropping its first game of the tournament, AMR South ran through the elimination bracket, winning six straight games to get back into the championship game and set up a rematch with W.E. Ruth.

In the end, W.E. Ruth took the final game.

In the 19-team 70 AAA division, the fifth seeded Hooters Casino/Ginco were the top dogs, running through the division with an unblemished 5-0 mark.

Hooters Casino won their first two games with relative ease before edging out top seed California Wrecking Crew 11-10 to advance to the championship round.

Hooters Casino then outlasted six seed Top Gun 13-11, to remain in the driver's seat, before taking out Top Gun again for the title, 20-13.

The seven-team 70 AA division saw No. 1 seeded Top Gun Gold live up to its name, going 3-0 in the division to win the championship.

After winning its first game 19-14 over Git-R-Done 70, Top Gun Gold won back-to-back games over No. 2 seed Silver City Brewers to take home the title.

The 75 Major Plus division featured a best two-out-of-three series with San Francisco Seals sweeping Top Gun 75's by scores of 34-10 and 25-8, earning them a division title and the Triple Grand Slam.

The 75 Major division featured a five-game round robin format in the six-team field. PDR Fastsigns and Harris Auction each finished with identical 4-1 records, with PDR Fastsigns earning the head-to-head tie-breaker via its 16-8 victory over Harris Auction.

The victory earned PDR the Triple Grand Slam.

The 75 AAA division featured eight teams divided into two pools. The division was set up as a modified single elimination bracket with a consolation bracket.

Hill Contracting 75s, the second seed in Pool B, defeated the top seed

in Pool B, New York Statesmen in back-to-back games by scores of 18-6 and 23-3 respectively, to win the title. Buzzards, the top seed in Pool A, took home the third place game over Pool A second seed, Arizona 75, 12-7.

Both the Men's 80 Major Division and 80 AAA Division featured five teams each, with a full four-game round robin to seed the championship playoffs.

In the 80 Major division, Florida Investment Properties defeated Fairway Ford 29-10 to force an "IF" game, avenging a loss earlier in the tournament when Fairway Ford defeated Florida Investment Properties 14-7.

Florida Investment completed its comeback, winning the final game 22-18 over Fairway Ford. The victory earned Florida Investment Properties the elusive Triple Grand Slam.

The 80 AAA division saw the Scrap Iron Gray Berets edge out C & M Softball Club 16-15 for the title victory. In the third place game, Texas Classics downed Hawaii Seniors 80+ 18-12.

The three-team 85 Major division

**Continued on Page 17**



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## WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS

# 2015 WMC All Tournament Players Selected

Here are the All Tournament players selected by the teams for the 2015 World Masters Championships:

Men's 40 Major Plus- **B&B Drywall/World Gym:** Marc Edington, Trent Cole  
 Men's 40 Major- **Elite/AG Painting:** Chad Shultz, Joe Perez, David DeWitt, Ignacio Hurtado, Brad Petersen; **R&R 40 Oz:** Todd Chiappini, Rich Tepezano, David Ranney  
 Men's 40 AAA- **Defend Pono:** Peter Kaina, Ronald Ramirez, Elwin Mattson, Kalei Awai, Burt Santella; **Bud Light Guam:** Keith Hattig, Laurence Idelbong, Jim Reyes; **Hawaiians 40's:** Jim Maddox, Todd Chun  
 Men's 50 MajorPlus- **Sommerville Softball:** John Heller, Chito Alviderez, Greg Bovero, Mike Reed, Paul Salow  
 Men's 50 Major- **Cornerstone:** Gary Springer, Rick Bass, Gail Hamilton, Jeff Asay, Jeff Block; **MTC 50:** Glen Shipley, Wayne Doty, Kevin Arriola, Rick Ortega  
 Men's 50 AAA- **KC Naturals:** Steve Cartwright, Lee Ashley, Kevin Cheadle, Mike Garner  
 Men's 50 AA- **KSS Kingman Senior Softball:** Armando Caban, Marty Huggins, Glenn Jordan, Tomas Wilson  
 Men's 55 MajorPlus- **Summy's:** Gary Springer, Scott Camery, Dave Dahilig, Aaron Stone, Jimmy Ferguson; **MTC 55:** Dan Arrevelos, Gary Robertson, Darren Idler, Ron Webb  
 Men's 55 Major- **Oregon Flatliners:** Michael Slavenski, Jeff Black, Barney Lewis, Stewart Frantz, Rick Vargas; **Scrap Iron**

**Rocky Mountain Thunder:** Bruce Lostroh, Randy Kankel, Brad Edginton, Michael Whitlow; **Wolfpack:** Lloyd Kirner, Ken Childress, Terry Clayton

Men's 55 AAA- **Roadhouse Blues:** Bruce Davis, Doug Hartzok, Pat Daley, Randy Brookens, Keith Dolman; **Michigan Smash:** Steve Morin, Doug Edwards, Perry Proffer; **Colorado Home Fitness:** Pat Roach, Steve Antonczyk

Men's 55 AA- **El Paso Old School:** Alex Guardiola, David Castillo, Tavo Oaxaca, Panchito Lara, Raul Nunez; **Scrap Iron Coyotes:** Charley Mylander, Bruce Brothis, Pete Ayotte, Tony Cooper; **1<sup>st</sup> Interiors:** Joe Kayser, Ron Cummins, Mark Leamen; **Longshoremen:** Melvin Evans, Gerald Woods

Men's 60 MajorPlus- **Summy's Night-hawks:** David Story, Bob Raasch, Dane Barriault, Mike Toomey, Jon "Bully" Kramer; **Superior:** Dennis Tuck, Randy Thomas, Clarence Ellison; **Pope Transport:** Mike Brown, Paul Cox

Men's 60 Major- **Top Gun III:** Kevin Evans, Joel Hawk, Clyde Phillips, Scott Wolters, Paul Lederman; **Edge:** Bruce Fairchild, Ben "Chip" Sheffield, Wendell Cheatham, Harold Fincher; **Kinnco:** William Osborn, William Brown, John Gridley; **Wholesale Builder Supply:** Dick Perroz, Jim Jones

Men's 60 AAA- **Cut Loose:** Kerry Payne, Greg Perez, Rudy Valdez; **Dixon ZTR Legends:** Rod Chambers, Ed Tworek

Men's 60 AA- **Kona Legends:** Steve Erenberg, Alvin Sato, Warren Chong, Bill

Chambers, Marshall Tohara; **Scrap Iron Freedom:** Mike Weston, Mick Roemer, John Parisi, Gary Foster; **Royals Contracting:** Danny Alford, Carlo Rosario

Men's 65 Major Plus- **Hamel Builders/Superior Senior Softball:** Don Clatterbough, John Davide, Tom Tudor, John Scruggs, Andrew Pete Smith; **Omen 65:** Don Farber, Larry Younger, Mike Baldonado, Dan Walsworth; **Team Florida:** Jim Shingledecker, Dave Clover, Jim Lyle; **Full Circle:** Rick Mansker, Brian Rooney

Men's 65 Major- **Enviro-Vac Marauder 65:** Ross Evison, Trevors Bjurman, Richard Fink, Peter Sheen, Jim Klassen; **San Antonio Silver Streaks:** Bobby Saenz, Rocky Crews, Domingo Garcia, Chris Schneider; **SW Florida Thunder:** Dave Weber, Marvin Swosinski, Stewart Casterline; **Ryan's Way:** Robert Hough, Robert Taylor

Men's 65 AAA- **US Indy Jobs/Indy 65:** Chuck Loeser, Nash Hernandez, Tom Sornson, Bob Bailey

Men's 65 AA- **R&D Leverage:** Danny Baird, Jim Giesbrecht, Gerry Gibson, Steve Cannon, Howard Helm; **Action Auto Parts 65's:** Makua Alii; Dwight Fujii, Wendell Amoy, Michael Antone; **Texas Rattlers:** Rick Hammock, Ron Freund

Men's 70 MajorPlus- **Omen:** Bill Nevis, Gerald Ford, Larry Patrick, Billy Wilson, Randy Bobby; **Scrap Iron Legacy:** Bob Ross, Stan Suichta, Jim Contreras, Dale McLaughlin

Men's 70 Major- **WE Ruth Real Estate:** Dave Smith, Jerry Ronk, Mike Alley, Billy

Johnson, Jerry Bergquist; **AMR:** Fred Simpson, Vinnie Melagrano, Juan Alecia, Robert Swindel; **Tharaldson's:** Bob Gregorich, Robbie Robinson, Uffe Traeden; **Libby's/Michaels:** Jerry Stremikis, John Truitt

Men's 70 AAA- **Hooters/Ginco:** Lou Galto, John Jones, Larry Godek, Richark Houie, Nick Pashulka; **Top Gun 70:** Dan Haveron, Walt Weber, Frank Sperling, Dan Milakovich; **Minnesota Masters:** Lowell Thompson, Howard Schaber, Norm Setnick; **California Wrecking Crew:** Chet Lane, Ed Ausiello

Men's 70 AA- **Top Gun Gold:** Gary Chapman, Jim Dionne, Ernie Martinez, Bill Hopkins, Johnnie Martinez; **Silver City Brewers:** Gary Gantz, Larry Bodner, Ken Montgomery, Laurie Sianchuk; **Yavapai Casino:** Ernie Jones, Hoyt Jones, Robert Benavides

Men's 75 MajorPlus- **San Francisco Seals:** Bobbie Davis, Jim Phillips (Berkeley), Bill Enos, Jim Phillips (Petaluma), Herb Epple; **Top Gun 75:** Bill Poe, Hank Alberts, Dave Duarte, Dave Buck

Men's 75 Major- **PDR Fastsigns:** Marv Rueck, John Fournier, Del Helzer, Bob Quarantino, Mel Pape; **Harris Auction:** Fred Bedford, Dan Harris, Marlyn Schroepfer, Ed-die Glover

Men's 75 AAA- **Hill Contracting:** Bobby Buisson, Don Swift, Jim Tinelli, Everett Sims, Phillip Holland; **New York Statesmen:** Dick Ochampaugh, Tom Ladd, Jake Dieter, Tom Strickler; **Buzzards:** Marv Droege, Ray Dickerson, Don Hutchinson; **Arizona 75:** Bill Bauder, Rich Hicks

Men's 80 Major- **Florida Investment Properties:** Ferrell Sparks, Ed "Hutch" Attenberger, Rocco Cambareri, Bob Johnson, Dave Bush; **Fairway Ford:** Jack Scott, Frank Perdue, Ray Newman, Lee Aday, Gary Burtzell; **Jimmies MN Legends:** Robert D'Amadio, Don Carruth, Dick Anderson; **Oregon Road Runners:** David Fairchild, Don Fields

Men's 80 AAA- **Texas Classics:** Smiley Trevino, Tom Norman, Henry Morgan, Jack Vaughn, Juan Espinoza; **Hawaii 80:** Jerry Sakamoto, Francis Lum, Steve Aponte, Celestine DeMello; **Scrap Iron Grey Berets:** David Bray, Robert Blainey, Wes Horen; **C & M Softball Club:** Harold Brown, Fred Meyers

Men's 85 Major- **Jimmies MN Legends:** Norm Robinson, Stephen Aponte, John Gratzek, J Robert Rosi, Larry Herickhoff; **Center For Sight:** Don Gsell, Paul McGillicuddy, Ev Arnold, Bill Koob; **Southwest Stars:** John Dansdill, Norm Shugar, Marv Christensen

Women's 40 Major- **Force 40:** Michelle Jacoby Paul, Cara Coughenour, Brittney Canauno-Munoz, Patty Becker, Kim Turpin; **Midwest OG's:** Cami Crisman, Tracy Hasty, Lisa Eastep

Women's 40 AAA- **Kiss Our Stix:** Patti Albrecht, Patti Affriseso, Stefanie Acton, Laura Bernadino, Laura Rider

Women's 50- **Arizona Dream Team:** Terri Davis, Kathy Warman, Teresa Provost

## WMC: Kiss Our Stix Wins 40 AAA

Continued from Page 16

featured a double round robin to seed the championship field, with the two and three seeds playing in the semifinals, with no "IF" game in the championship round.

In the semis, Center for Sight defeated Southwest Stars 85's 16-10 to advance to the final where Jimmy's Legends 85's would win it all 21-13 over Center for Sight.

On the Women's side, the 40 Masters Major division featured a 10-team field, with Force40 winning all four of their games as the fifth seed.

After dropping their first game, top seed Old School 40's rattled off five straight wins to come out of the elimination bracket and reach the championship round. In the end, Old School's come-back attempt fell short

as Force40 completed its perfect tournament run with a 16-12 victory in the final.

The largest Women's division, the 16-team 40 Masters AAA division, saw top seed Kiss Our Stix overcome an early loss to capture the title. After easily taking care of No. 16 seed Guam Women's 40, 27-1,

Kiss Our Stix fell in their second game 15-8 against eight seed Old Nasty Curves. Playing for their tournament lives in the elimination bracket, Kiss Our Stix ran off five straight wins to get back in the championship picture.

Meeting Kiss Our Stix in the championship would be the team that knocked them down earlier, in Old Nasty Curves, who entered the championship undefeated. Needing two wins to win the championship,

Kiss Our Stix did just that, defeating Old Nasty Curves 18-9 and 22-18. The win was that much sweeter as it secured Kiss Our Stix with the Triple Grand Slam.

Going undefeated in the Women's 50 division, top seed Dreamgirlz proved worthy of their number one billing winning all four of their games en-route to capturing the title as well as the Triple Grand Slam.

Dreamgirlz ran through the bracket with relative ease, winning, 14-11, 20-1, 19-10 and 21-8. Three seeded Sudden Impact posted a runner-up finish coming out of the elimination bracket with wins over Mike's Fence/Battleaxe, Karphone 50's and Arizona Dream Team.

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# 15th Winter Nationals Ignites 2016 Season

By Joseph Ruggiero and Anthony Ramos  
Softball News Report

LEE COUNTY, FLA. – The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Nationals hosted 127 teams from all over the eastern United States and as far west as Texas in early November in what was a fitting start to the 2016 season.

Hundreds of players lined up to play ball in some of Florida's most scenic coastline cities including Ft. Myers, Cape Coral and Naples.

Unlike previous years, players and fans were not welcomed to the usual temperate weather present here in the winter season. Instead the tournament saw high heat and high humidity scorch players throughout the six-day tournament. Persevering by staying hydrated and, in some cases keeping a bucket of ice water close at hand, players manned the fields and played some fiercely competitive softball.

"Players handled the heat tremendously," said National Director Jerry Jackson. "The teams were great and the competition was outstanding."

Despite some rain and thunder on Saturday during the second session that delayed games until Sunday, "the tournament proved to be a huge success," said Jackson.

The Men's 50/55 Platinum Division saw eight highly competitive teams go all out to determine the division champion. Team 1 Sports/Miken, hailing from Florida, proved to be the team to beat as bracket play saw them put away their first opponents, Genesee Rochester 21-17 and Good Times 14-12.

Team Ohio made a valiant effort to thwart Team 1 Sport/Miken's momentum only to be bested 18-8. After overcoming a scrappy Good Times ball club 17-10 in the elimination bracket, Team Ohio earned an opportunity to avenge Team 1 in the championship bout. Losing 20-8, Team Ohio surrendered the championship to a solid Team 1 Sports/Miken squad.

With only seven teams vying for the championship in the 50 AAA Division, Vero Scorpions seemed poised to vanquish their opponents with ease after early success during bracket play defeating South Florida Hawks 21-7. Unglued by the offensive precision of GAP Sports 16-9, Vero Scorpions fell to the elimination bracket only to be decimated by 50 Caliber Florida 20-5 ending their run for the weekend.

Fifty Caliber Florida, on the other hand, overcame their first 15-12 loss to South Florida Hawks by winning four consecutive games in the elimination bracket to face off against GAP Sports in the championship. GAP Sports ended up the division champions by defeating 50 Caliber Florida 21-9.



Going undefeated during seeding play, TNT Sports Club out of Pennsylvania easily swept the competition in the 55 AAA Division. With only four teams playing, TNT Sports Club picked off their opponents one by one on their way to the championship game defeating Oshkosh Ambassadors 55's 25-11 and Ballbusters 23-14, respectively.

Determined to not go down without a fight, Ballbusters beat Hartford County LV 16-11 to earn a spot in the championship game, but could not muster enough runs to put out TNT Sport's dynamite offense losing 22-9. Outscoring their opponents 104-55 and going undefeated throughout the tournament, TNT Sports handily earned the 55 AAA Division title.

The Men's 60 AA Division saw No Stars go undefeated through the tournament to take the title. Easily dispatching Texoma MB Flying 18-4, No Stars faced a stronger opponent in Southern Tier Express but still managed a 15-11 win. Earning a spot in the championship bout, Southern Tier Express overcame Oshkosh Ambassadors 60's 8-4 in the elimination bracket only to lose to No Stars yet again, 18-9.

Eleven teams competed in the Men's 55/60 Platinum Division with first seed and undefeated Florida Automated Shade dominating the competition. Burying Action Auto Parts 27-8 during their first game of bracket play, Florida Automated Shade went on to put away CKM Wealth Management 21-13. Third seed Levin Financial 55's put up a good fight but Automated Shade came away with a thin 14-13 victory to knock them into the elimination bracket. Black and blue but not down for the count, Levin Financial 55's managed a one-run win against Six Pac 55's 15-14 to climb their way back to the championship bout. In a well matched game, Florida Automated Shade delivered a close 12-8 victory to

seize the title.

Only five teams participated in the highly competitive Men's 60 Major Division that featured the only "If" game of the tournament. With no clear contender for the title after seeding play, Golden Vipers quickly emerged as the team to beat after defeating High Street Bucs 60's 14-8 and Hannington's 60's 13-6. Knocked into the elimination bracket, High Street Bucs 60's overcame Rochester/Smash It 11-3 to face off against Hannington's 60's only to fall short in a tough 11-7 loss. In an exciting rematch, Hannington's 60's pulled off a narrow 7-6 win against Golden Vipers to compel an "If" game to determine the champion. In another one-run game, Golden Vipers eked out a 12-11 victory to take the rubber match and the division title.

The Men's 60 AAA Division featured one of the largest divisions in the Winter Nationals with 19 teams vying for the crown. The No. 3 seeded RedHawks out of Florida ran through the division unblemished to take the top spot. The RedHawks eased their way through its first two games, 16-0 and 15-5, respectively, before upsetting No. 2 seed Northern Virginia Force 60's, 17-10, and setting up a match against top seed and in-state foe Slug-A-Bug (FL). In a battle of unbeaten, the RedHawks outlasted Slug-A-Bug, 14-12, to earn their spot in the title game. Falling into the elimination bracket, Slug-A-Bug ousted Cardiac Kids (FL) in a high-scoring affair, 23-19, to set up a rematch with the RedHawks who made it two-for-two against the top seed, taking the final game 17-8.

The 10-team Men's 65 Platinum Division saw 10 teams compete, with two 65-Major Plus teams playing a best two-out-of-three series. After dropping a nail-biter in game one, 18-16, Hamel Builders/Superior (VA) came back with a vengeance in game two by punishing Team Florida, 20-3, to force the "If" game. In the rubber match, Hamel Builders/Superior prevailed 17-12.

The eight-team bracket for the 65 Major Division saw numerous upsets with the No. 6 seed So. State Services (FL) posting a perfect record. So. State Services won their opening game, 16-5 over No. 3 seed High Street Bucs 65 (MD) before edging out the No. 7 seed Florida Hitmen 65, 11-10. The eventual champions then outslugged No. 4 seed De-Claire LaMacchia Orth. (MI), 19-16, en route to the championship game, where So. State Services again brought out the bats to edge out Syracuse Merchants (NY), 18-17.

The second 19-team field of the championships came in the 65/70 Gold Division, as the second-seeded Red Heat (FL) lived up to its high seeding

Continued on next page



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# Florida: Red Heat, Jags, Merchants Winners in Nationals

Continued from Page 18

by playing flawlessly through the bracket. Red Heat opened up bracket play with a convincing 21-5 victory, before earning a hard-fought, 7-5, win in its next game to push through the bracket and into the semifinals. In a matchup of two of the top three teams, Red Heat got the better of No. 3 seed Florida Mustangs 17-11 to get one step closer to the championship. Red Heat faced a surprising team in their next game, as up-start Socrates/Vios (CT), the No. 8 seed, pulled off back-to-back upsets, taking down the No. 1 and No. 5 seeds. But Socrates/Vios was unable to make it three-in-a-row as Red Heat won with ease, 23-7.

After suffering a loss to Socrates/Vios in the semifinals, Ohio Silverados defeated the KC Kids (KS) 14-13, Florida Mustangs 7-6 and a revenge win over Socrates/Vios 11-7 to make it to the championship game. Red Heat ended the Silverados run with a 17-2 win in the final.

The Long Island Jags 65 White (NY) proved worthy of their No. 1 seed by going undefeated in the five-team Men's 65 AA Division. The Jags 65 White eked out an 18-16 win in their opener, before taking a 24-15 victory in their second game. LI Jags then defeated Action Auto Parts 65's (RI) 12-5 in the final.

The Men's 70 AAA Division saw another top seed take the title, as Florida Merchants 70's powered through the 13-team field to win it all. Going a perfect 4-0, Florida Merchants won by scores of 17-10, 13-6 and 11-9, before defeating the No. 4 seed CC Medical Services (NY) 16-7 in the final. After being upset in their first game by the No. 13 seed Chicago Gray Sox (IL), CC Medical ran through the elimination bracket defeating Chadwell Supply (FL), Cozy Grill (RI), Senior Red Birds (MO), Cape Cod Whalers (MA) and Bostonian 70's (MA), before coming up short in the final.

The Men's 70/75 Gold Division featured 11 teams, with three of those teams playing in the 75 Major Division. ProHealth Care 75 (WI) won the division with ease, by winning 13-7 and 36-15. The other eight teams played in the Men's 70/75 Silver Division with Columbus Silver Sticks (IN) taking the top spot by posting a perfect 4-0 record. As the No. 2 seed, Columbus Silver Sticks opened bracket play with a pair of convincing victories, 15-3 and 22-7, setting up a showdown with top seed BackOffice Assoc. 75 (MA). The Silver Sticks continued



**Southern States Service won six in a row to take the 65 Major Championships.**

their strong play by claiming a 15-2 win sending BackOffice into the elimination bracket. BackOffice staved off elimination with a 10-3 win over Indy Crowns/Jos. Auto (IN) to set up a re-match against the Silver Sticks. In the end, Columbus Silver Sticks prevailed 22-8.

Three teams played in the Men's 80 Major Division, with three other teams playing in the Men's 80/85 Gold Division. Florida Investment Properties

dominated the 80 Major division, by claiming a pair of victories, 12-8 and 22-10, both over Jimmy MN Legends 80's. BackOffice Assoc. 80 (MA) took the 80/85 Gold Division by also going 2-0, with wins over Indiana Silver Foxes (IN), 17-8, and Center for Sight 85's (FL).

For complete game results of the 2015 SSUSA Winter National Championships, please visit [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com)

## Winter National All-Tourney Players

Here are the All Tournament selections for the 2015 Winter Nationals:

Men's 50/55 Platinum- **Good Times:** Tim Grundmann, Dave Johnson, Jim Monroe

Men's 50 Major- **Florida Automated Shade:** Lazaro Morales, Larry Goehrig

Men's 50 AAA- **GAP Sports:** Keith Buss, Billy Cressman, Donnie Kesmock, Pete Leto, Mark Bamberger; **50 Caliber:** Steve Ward, Lou Serrano, Will Perez, Steve Brennon; **Vero Scorpions:** Skip Ryan, Andy Packard, Gerry DuGuay; **South Florida Hawks:** Joseph Candela, Bryan Douglas; **Team Xtreme:** Will Morin, Mike Contino

Men's 50/55 AA- **Silver Foxes:** Danny Woodcom, Paul Gril-lot, Billy Oblaczynski, Dan Covey, Chris Okolichandy

Men's 55 AAA- **Ball Busters:** Les Millman, Scott Woods, Cef Barros, Dave Horton; **Harford County LV:** Joe Nosler, Tim Mowery, Mike Furetletti; **OshKosh Ambassadors:** Randy Pribek

Men's 55/60 Platinum- **Florida Automated Shade:** Jimmy Nelson, Harry Seward, Jeff Farley, Brett Porche, Bob Kopperude; **Levin 55:** John Miles, Leonard Simmons, Manny Quiepo, Greg Highfield

Men's 60 Major- **Golden Vipers:** Dave Erdmann, John Johnson, Mel Kendzioriski, Chuck Maiorana, Paul Maiorana

Men's 60 AAA- **Redhawks:** Earl Robbins, Bob Putnam, John MacFarlane, Billy Hill, Randy Burford; **Cardiac Kids:** Bob Vogt, Tom Olrmann, Ray Brown

Men's 60 AA- **No Stars:** Tom Gottlieb, David Bessent, Paul DiPerri, Phil Shaffer, Bruce Walsh; **Southern Tier Express:** Bob Crandell, Gary Williamson, Dick Gunderman, Bruce Grenell;

**Texoma MB Flying:** Joe Ylida, Joe Denomy

Men's 65 MajorPlus- **Hamel Builders/Superior:** Ronnie Collins, Phil Biedronski, Don Clatterbough, Andy Zitnay, John Davide

Men's 65 Major- **Southern State:** Mike Walsh, Chuck

Malton, Bill Magley, Jim Kahn, Terry O'Donnell; **Syracuse Merchants:** Ron Mitchell, Paul O'Brien, Mike Muldoon, Mike Murphy; **Jersey Masters:** Ray "Hap" Poyer, Don Montefusco  
Men's 65 AAA- **Socrates/Vios:** Bobby Raucci, Stan Bocek, Rob Pentino

Men's 65 AA- **Long Island Jaguars:** Tim Shanley, Guy Losito, Butch Jensen, Ron Christian, Kevin Thompson; **Action Auto Parts:** Ken Sheehan, Wayne Medeiros, Gerry Deschaies, Jim Gemma, Bob Peirce; **Kentuckiana:** Rick Heil, Terry Stallard, Damion Able; **Dallas Spurs:** Jeff Ratkowski, Rich Kirk

Men's 65/70 Gold- **Red Heat:** Larry Ball, Rich Murrey, Tom Mackey, Steve Karman, Craig Bizner; **Florida Mustangs:** Gary DeFalco, Donald Witmer

Men's 70 AAA- **Florida Merchants:** Bill Massey, Al Smith, Tom Alston, Jay Paldin, Dennis Tierney; **CC Medical Services:** Joe Gibney, Pete McClelland, Jerry Salata, Phil Grimes; **Bostonian:** Stu Gray, Ed Finnegan, Ted Hess; **Cape Cod Whalers:** Dave Clark, Ray Beaupre

Men's 70 AA- **Columbus Silver Sticks:** Roger Gildersleeve, Doug King, Ron Cochran, Bill Foist, Ron Callison

Men's 75 Major- **ProHealthcare:** Gary Maier, Gary Koehler, Jack Simons, Jack Seguin, Fred Kopp; **Bucs & Bulls:** Ron Bugg, Dave Henley, John Ormsby, Bill Pichler, Doug McLellan; **New York Statesmen:** Tom Ladd, John Toritoa, Vinnie Ramson

Men's 75 AAA- **Back Office Associates:** Bob Blakeslee, Bob Buck, Charles Crawford

Men's 80 Major- **Florida Investment Properties:** Joe Sykes, Ray Bosetti, Ferrell Sparks, Dewey McVicker, Norm Haltrick; **ProHealth Care:** Norm Ellis, Jim O'Conner

Men's 80/85 Gold- **Back Office Associates:** Jim Parmelee, Tom Daronco, John Ferrie, Gary Blodgett, William Page; **Center For Sight:** Leo Green, Ray Rogers, Hugh Brotherton, Ed Scholtz; **Indiana Silver Foxes:** George Lane, Bob McGee, James Barnett



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# Northerns Wrap Up 2015 TOC Season

By Dave Dowell  
Softball News Report

LANSING, MICH. – The ninth annual Northern Championships returned here for the seventh consecutive year in late August as 42 teams from the Great Lakes region took to the fields in what would become a highly competitive event to mark the end of the 2015 TOC Qualifier Season.

Play commenced on Thursday in this overlapping format at the East Lansing Softball Complex for the 13 teams aged 65 and older, followed on Friday by the remaining 29 teams starting in the 50 through 60 age groups in East Lansing Sports Complex and the Lake Alliance Softball Complex in Potterville.

On Friday and Saturday, the first session championships were decided as DeClaire/LaMacchia Orthopaedic (MI) was pushed to the "If" game in the 65-Major best two-out-of-three championship series. They closed things out over the Windsor Chiefs (ON) by a 19-9 score after the teams split the first two games.

On Saturday, U.S. Jobs/Indy (IN) became one of only two teams to complete the tournament unbeaten as they sailed through the 65-AAA



bracket as the No. 1 seed by defeating Rush Trucking (MI) 24-15 in the finale. In the 65/70-Silver Division, the Columbus Silver Sticks (IN) defended their 2014 title with a 14-8 win over the Badger Classics (WI) in the championship game.

On Sunday, things became a bit more predictable as no division of play required an "If" game, which was fortunate for the championship game victors. Within 10 minutes of the end of the final games at both East Lansing and Lake Alliance, torrential lightning and thunder storms, accompanied by heavy rains began.

At Lake Alliance, Pope Transport (WI) edged Big Ten/Warner Roofing (IL) in both the 50/55-Platinum division winner's bracket final (27-

26) and the championship game (22-18). All of the teams in this balanced bracket ended seeding pool play with 1-1 records. Also at Lake Alliance, in the 50/55-Gold division, Motor City Push/JJ Financial (MI) swept Fly Time (MI) in both the championship bracket final (20-9) and the championship game thriller (16-13). Motor City Push/JJ Financial capped an impressive 2015 season going into the World Masters Championships with 50-AAA titles at the first (Winter World's in Phoenix) and last TOC Qualifier events of the 2015 Season.

Back at East Lansing, the Michigan Smash completed the only other unbeaten week by handing losses to the Milwaukee Merchants (WI) in the winner's bracket final (12-3) and the championship game (12-8) for the 50/55-Silver trophy. The

60-Major division, Kinnco Services (IN) edged the Chicago Classics Bobcats (17-12) for the title.

And to wrap things up, the 60-AAA championship went to the MP Components/Bomb Squad (MI) who overcame a slow start from the No. 6 seed (of seven) to sweep through the bracket unbeaten, finishing with a 19-10 win over the Cincinnati Sixties in the championship.

For full coverage of the 2015 Northern Championships, please see the Northern Championships Tournament Page at [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com).

Heard in the Dugout

"Ah, the insight of hindsight!"  
-- Thurston N. Davis

## Northern Championships All Tourney Players

Here are the 2015 Northern Championships, Lansing, MI All Tournament selections submitted by the teams:

Men's 50/55 Platinum - Pope Transport: Jeff Anderson, Scott Luke, Dave Roubal, Anthony Dimauro, Greg Prince; Big Ten Softball/Warner Roofing: Doug Barth, Michael McCullough, Kevin Price, Mark Warner; LS/Jackson Nissan: Randy Eades, Curt Bisterfeldt, Ritchie DeLay

Men's 50/55 Gold - Motor City Push: Mike VanDaelen, Johnny Morris, Vinny Pizzo, Alan Schneider, Jeff Johnson; Fly Time: ESPN2, Dave Sanecki, Brandon Lampkin, Chris Smith

Men's 50/55 Silver - Michigan Smash: Mike Kluka, Doug Edwards, Dave Erdmann, Scotty Wilson, Jimmy Uebbing; Milwaukee Merchants: Don Laine, Jeff Lewiston, Bill Scansy, Randy Alf

Men's 60 Major - Kinnco: William Brown, Steve Rogers, John Rickey McDow-

ell, Terry Lee, Gary Myas; Motown Stars:

Robert Scott, Ray McCoy, Ken Stuemke  
Men's 60 AAA - MP Components Bomb Squad: Dick Aapala, Cal Lounds, Albert Russell, John Feuerstein, Jack Griffin; Cincinnati 60: Steve Feck, Terry Conn, Tom Thiel, Ted Weingartner; Minutemen: Dave Reifschneider, Drew Moston, Manny Patton; Flex Strut Ohio: Arthur Coleman, Paul Rebillot

Men's 65 Major - DeClaire LaMacchia Orthopaedic Institute: Dave Rose, Larry Smith, Ralph Cole, Joe Miscavish, Dennis Schroeder

Men's 65 AAA - Chicago Strikers: Tony Inzerillo, Tom Vancura, Chuck Plonczynski; Life Guard/Pepco: Joe Mazie, Phillip Biondo

Men's 65/70 Silver - Columbus Silver Sticks: Don Cohron, Charles Goff, Joe Andrew, Roger Gildersleeve, Ron Cochran; Badger Classics: Al Jorgenson, Bob Ireland, Wayne Stapleford, Larry Peterson

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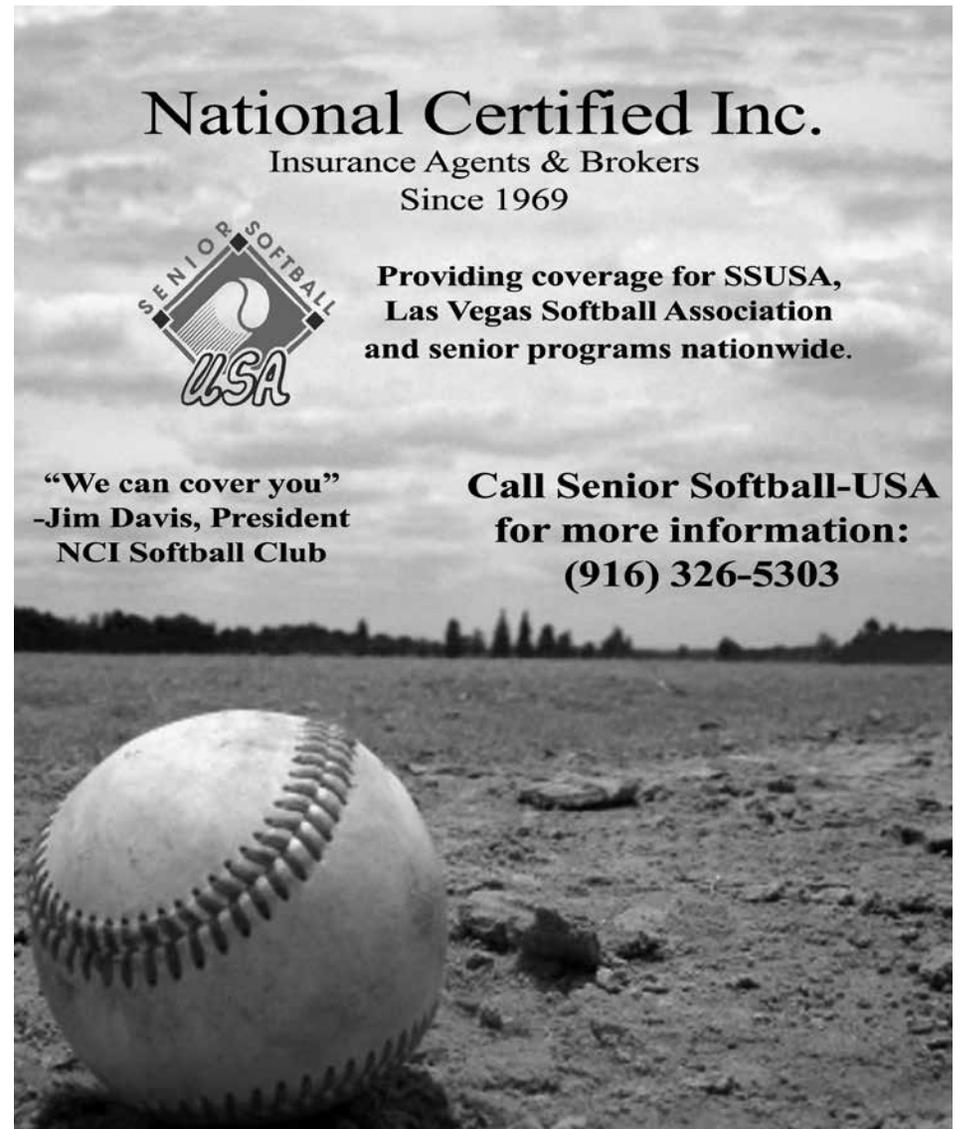
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Photos by Jack Eberhard

The Taiwan team, left photo, compete in Las Vegas. Players from China, Japan, Taiwan and the US get together before the games begin.

# Pacific Rim Games Promote Friendship

## Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – Teams from China, Japan and Taiwan faced off against four USA teams in the Third Annual Pacific Rim Championships here during the World Masters Championships.



Chen

“Our goal is to promote softball through friendly competition and to expand the sport throughout the region,” said Zhaoli Chen, executive director of the Pacific

Rim Slow-Pitch Association.

The friendship games are an annual event held to promote and build slowpitch softball in Pacific Rim Countries and rotates to a different nation each year. Games are played with the

**US Grey team members celebrate after a walk-off home run beat the USA Red team in the Pacific Rim Championships finals.**



Pacific Rim Slow-Pitch Softball Association

Joiful ball, a mushy type ball used in international competition, which is a great equalizer in this competition.

The first games were held in Beijing in 2013, Japan in 2014 and will be in Taiwan in October 2016.

This was the first time the event was hosted on American soil.

After seeding on Oct.1, the field was pretty even heading into the single-elimination bracket on Oct. 2. Team USA Blue and Team USA Grey eliminated Team Japan and Team China in the first round of games respectively. Team Taiwan squeaked by Team USA White 8-7 with a run in the last inning to advance to the second round.

The semifinal round pitted Team Taiwan against Team USA Red and Team USA Grey versus Team USA Blue. In a hard fought game, Team USA Red ousted Team Taiwan 14-10 to advance to the winner take all championship game. Team USA Grey beat Team USA Blue by the slimmest of margins 12-11 to fortify the other spot in the title game.

The winner take all championship game featured a spirited back and forth battle between two USA teams. Down 16-12 heading into the bottom of the 7th inning, Team USA Grey notched five runs against Team USA Red, including a two-run game winning home run to win 17-16.



Matsumoto

“The final scores, however, were secondary to the friendships forged on the field and in a banquet for the teams after the games concluded,” said Shoji Matsumoto, the Japan delegate. “We are friends through the love of this game and look forward to many more years of friendly competition.”

The Pacific Rim Board of Directors voted to open the association to more countries in the region for 2016 and agreed to invite South Korea and Australia to the 2016 games in Taiwan.

# Italy: USA Blue Team Wins Two Tournaments

Continued from Page 1

Soon they looked less like boys and more like a giant litter of puppies who harmlessly bounced off each other as they vied for a better look at Ike and his softball equipment.

The laughter had no accent and needed no interpreter.

“That, by far, was the best part of the whole tour for me,” Ike later said.

The USA Blue team had beat the Red Foxes for the championships and had, in fact, won a tournament in Padova the previous weekend. There were three USA teams (USA Red, USA White and USA Blue) on the two-week Italy tour that included the tournaments in Padova and Rome and excursions to Venice, Pisa, Assisi and Florence (the games were rained out in Florence).

Padova, an ancient city near Venice, hosted the first tournament on Oct. 10-11, which featured spirited games and home-cooked Italian food by the local team, Padova 88.

At the Julius Caesar Tournament in Rome on Oct. 17, SSUSA donated catcher’s equipment, bats and balls to the Roma Red Foxes, which hosted the event, because much of their fast-pitch equipment was stolen earlier in the year.

The 2015 International Tour to Italy was the largest World SSUSA trip in 15 years, with 70 players and their family members.

“This trip gave players and their families the chance to experience the ancient art and history of Italy, as well as meeting players and their families from Italy – and getting to know fellow SSUSA players from throughout the country,” said Susan Ruth, director of SSUSA’s International Sports Holidays.



Photos by Ann Neckers

Players from the three USA teams gather with the two Red Foxes teams after the Julius Caesar Tournament in Rome in October.

Outstanding performances at the tournaments were recognized by each team.

USA Blue: MVP – Daryl Bruns; Best Defense - Brad Spruitenburg; Best Offense – Roger Trujillo. USA White: MVP - Mike Gainer; Best Defense - John Fournier; Best Offense - Angie Scarcella. USA Red: MVP - Jim Hansen; Best Offense - Dave Weinman; Best Defense - Albert Petroni.

SSUSA is planning two tours in 2016: a series of games during a cruise of the Hawaiian Islands in the spring and a trip to Taiwan for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Rim Championships in October. For more information, please contact Susan Ruth at [susan@weruth.com](mailto:susan@weruth.com).



Lory Gorm, left, and Eileen Codner won recognition for their inspiring play on the USA White team during the tour.



The USA Red team and Red Foxes get together after their game in Rome. The Red Foxes won.



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cruising on the beautiful Norwegian Cruise Line Ship **Pride of America** with stops, sightseeing and games in Maui, the Big Island and Kauai. Contact Susan Ruth for details, 206-930-7091 or [susan@weruth.com](mailto:susan@weruth.com). Deadline is Dec. 31.



### Taiwan: Pacific Rim Tournament



**SSUSA** players have been invited to participate in the **4th Annual Pacific Rim Championships** in Mid-October in Taiwan. The

international friendship tournament was played in Las Vegas this past October during the World Masters. Contact **SSUSA** office for details 916-326-5303.



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