

## 564 Teams at World Masters Records Shatter Again in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS – The LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships once again set a record in 2016 with 564 teams traveling to Sin City.

Over the course of the 13-day tourna-  
Please See Page 14



Photo  
by Jack  
Eberhard

6 Win Triple Grand Slam: **PAGE 15**  
All Tournament Players: **PAGE 16**

### TRENDS

## Softball Emerging Quickly From Central China

### Softball News Report

BAIJI, CHINA  
– Sometimes, hope comes in the shape of a softball.

This tiny village, not too far from the Island of the Dancing Tea Leaves, is tucked away in the hills of Central China.

It is here, in a small elementary school with only 36 students, that the spark of a sport none had seen before is glowing. The small children here have embraced tee-ball with the unbridled passion of the very



The Baiji tee-ball team (about half the school's students) and coaches.

young.

They are the smallest school in a pilot project in the Yueyang District that last year began intro-

ducing tee-ball and slowpitch softball to 17,683 elementary and secondary students in 334 classes.

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## New Rules for 2017: 1-1 Count for 40-Masters

### Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – Dozens of delegates attending the annual Senior Softball-USA Convention here debated a score of rule changes that ultimately will affect thousands of players

Please See Page 5



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### INSIDE:



**WINTER WORLDS**  
in Phoenix Draws  
Record 209 Teams  
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**WINTER NATIONALS**  
in Florida Starts  
2017 Season  
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# News Briefing

## CARL'S CORNER

By Carl Gustafson

### Thou Shalt Not

Whenever we have a dispute on the field, a small paperback is pulled out of some umpire's pocket and words are read. Those words overrule whatever personality or emotion is present on the field. Without them we soon descend into chaos, confusion, contention, castigation, consternation and catastrophe.

But, once these words are read all goes back to law and order with only the trailing grumble of, "Well, they ought to make a rule against that."

Who is the "they" that ought be making said rule?

It seems like the rule book has always been there, descended from Mount Sinai with Moses as an attachment to the Stone Tablets. Once it is read by the umpire, it seems as though God has spoken.

But let me break it to you gently: God didn't write it and neither did Jesus, Allah, Mohammed, Buddha, or Mahatma Ghandi. And guess what? It is a relatively recent book that never stops being written.

That's right, it is dynamic, not static, and every year it is added to, subtracted from, and more accurately written. And the "they" who does this in the SSUSA...is you.

Now true, there is a rules committee composed of delegates from all corners of the

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## Minnick, Blackwell in 2017 HOF

### Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – Dan Minnick was elected as player and Norm Blackwell as manager into the Senior Softball-USA International Hall of Fame here.

Minnick of Southern California had been selected as an All Tournament player in 21 tournaments and his teams have won 11 National or World titles. In addition, Minnick has been selected Best Offense or MVP several times in his 16 International competitions, beginning in 2003 in Ireland and Scotland.

Blackwell, 83, is one of the most decorated softball players in Northern California, and a manager of teams

winning 90 World, National and Regional titles. Blackwell's Sacramento Gold won the Triple Grand Slam in 2016. Blackwell is a member of seven Hall of Fames.

They will be inducted at the 2017 Convention.

Two players and a manager were inducted during the Hall of Fame Banquet here on Dec. 2.

Audie Hollis Jr. of Florida and Clyde Phillips of California were inducted into the Hall of Fame in the Player category and Al Murray of Florida was inducted in the Manager category.

Hollis, who has competed at the highest level since he began playing senior ball

almost 15 years ago, is also well known as an excellent manager. In addition, Hol-



From Left: Christine Lee, Terry Hennessy, Audie Hollis, Fran Dowell

lis has played internationally and spearheaded donations to help grow softball in several countries.

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## 3-Year Suspension for Ohio Manager

### Softball News Report

A Senior Softball USA Appeals Board has upheld the suspension of the manager of Gem City of Ohio for extreme unsportsmanlike behavior, but cut the suspension from 5 to 3 years.

The 50 Major manager of Gem City, Jamie Vickers, was originally ejected from the World Masters Championships for kicking dirt on an official. He refused to leave until the director told him the police would escort him from the field. Vickers left the field flashing the director the finger and shouting obscenities.

The next day, Vickers en-

tered another ballpark with his team and was told he had been ejected from the tournament and must leave. He again refused to leave until threatened with police escort. Later Vickers snuck back into the park and came out on the field with them for awards after Gem City won the 50 Major Championship.

Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer, originally suspended Vickers for one year for his actions after the initial ejection, one year for refusing to leave the field the next day and three years for defying the ejection order and sneaking back into the

park a third time. Hennessy opted not to forfeit the championship game because he said Vicker's actions should not result in a penalty for his whole team.

In his appeal, Vickers said, "The 5 year suspension is very excessive for what happened. I feel a 1-year probation is more than ample for this reason. If SSUSA tournament director had done his job, none of this would have happened."

The incident involved a rule that allows the offensive team to request the pitcher move six feet left or right of

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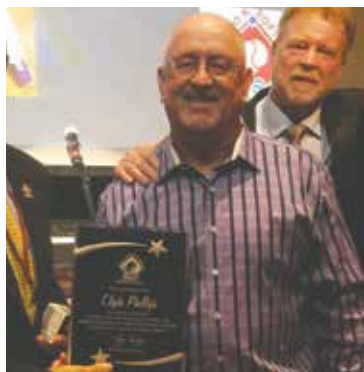
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# Awards: Phillips, Hollis, Murray Inducted

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From Left: Clyde Phillips, Carl Gustafson

Phillips, an outstanding five-tool player from San Diego, is one of the best known players in the Top Gun organization because of his power and consistent hitting. Phillips had to overcome hip replacement surgery and re-learn how to hit, providing

inspiration to other players recovering from significant surgeries and illnesses.

Al Murray, 87, led his Center For Sight team to 56 championships. In 2013, after managing the Center for Sight 80s team for six years, Murray and Hugh Brotherton wanted to extend softball for not only themselves, but for many other senior players who still wanted to play, and helped launch the first 85 team and division in Senior Softball.

Other top awards announced at the Convention included:

**\* Award of Excellence:**

To Dale Eeles of Las Vegas Events for his superb partnership in hosting the World Masters Championships.



From Left: Fran Dowell, Al Murray, Terry Hennessy

**\* Executive Director**

**Award:** To the Sacramento Sports Commission for their help in developing both the Western Nationals and the Northern California Championships.

**\* Tournament Director of the Year:** To National Director Doug Robbins of

Northern California.

**\* Regional Director of the Year:** To Southern California Director Dan Haveron of San Diego.

**\* Umpire of the Year:** To Florida Umpire In Chief Joe Lelievre.

**\* Complex of the Year:** To Princess Anne Athletic Complex in Virginia Beach, Va.

And, in a signature wood-bat game played at Big League Dreams in Las Vegas, the East Team beat the West 10-6. Teams were made up of convention delegates from both ISA and SSUSA.

The next convention will be Nov. 28- Dec. 1, 2017. The location will be announced in January.

## Appeal: Ejected Twice

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the mound if the sun is directly in the eyes of the batter at the option of field director. Vickers argued that the option was up to the pitcher, not the director. He also requested a player representative on the Appeals Board.

The three-member SSUSA Appeals Board was made up of three National Directors, including a player, who were not directly involved with the incident. The Appeals Board agreed that Vickers should be suspended, but ruled that the suspension should be one year for each incident, or three years total suspension.

The Appeal Board ruled: "First of all, Mr. Vickers, once you have been ejected from a tournament, you are not allowed to participate in

any tournament functions, including the AWARDS CEREMONY. Next, you blamed the director for not doing his job. The director's job is to represent all teams' rights in the tournament, and in this case, that is what the director did. Every team pays the same amount to participate in the World tournament, so you are not permitted any special treatment that is not given to all teams.

"Regarding the rule involved: Whether you like a rule or not, you must respect the rule and the director for doing his job ... Mr. Vickers, your unsportsmanlike conduct was not acceptable and will not be tolerated in Senior Softball."

Vickers is suspended until Oct. 31, 2019.

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# Rules: New Rules for 75, 80 and Canada

Continued from Page 1

coast to coast.

By the time that the convention drew to a close in early December a trial 1-1 count for 40 Masters was enacted as well as relaxing the age limit for 75 and 80 teams, creating Major and AAA divisions in the Women's 50s, and new Canada East and Canada West divisions.

In addition, the states of New Jersey and Delaware were merged for roster purposes, the penalty for falsifying credentials was eased from a lifetime ban to 10 years and the committee repealed a rule enacted last year that allowed the pitcher to be moved if the sun was in the batter's eyes.

In a landmark decision for SSUSA, the Rules Committee voted 8-4 to go to a 1-1 count for the 40 Masters Division. In the last two SSUSA surveys, more than 70 percent of the 40 players supported go-

ing to a 1-1 count. The older the players, the less they liked the 1-1 count, with 70 percent or more against it in the 60 and older groups.

"This one-year pilot program will give us an opportunity to evaluate the 1-1 count for the 40 Masters division," said Rick Siefman, who proposed the rule change.

The Rules Committee also voted to go back to SSUSA's underage roster composition for the 75 and 80 divisions. Men's 75+ teams may roster up to seven underage players aged 73 and 74, with not more than three being age 73; and Men's 80+ teams may roster up to seven underage players aged 78 and 79, with not more than three being age 78.

"This change allows the 75s and 80s to form the same rosters for SSUSA and SPA and will hopefully make it easier for these older teams to compete," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief execu-

tive officer.

In another landmark move, SSUSA will adopt two skill divisions, Major and AAA, for the Women's 50 division.

"There is enough of a skill difference – and enough teams—to justify two skill divisions," said George Moreno, SSUSA National Director / Ratings.

The Rules Committee also broke Canada into two regions, East Canada and West Canada, at the Manitoba-Ontario border to help teams draft enough players to form teams.

In addition, Alaska was made part of the West Canada Region. Both the Canadian teams and Alaska teams had requested expanded borders because of the scarcity of senior players in those areas. Previously, Canadian provinces were treated as states and only able to draw players from adjoining provinces and

states.

In another regional shift, the committee merged New Jersey and Delaware into one region to help teams build competitive rosters.

The committee also relaxed the lifetime ban for falsifying credentials. The lifetime ban was amended to a suspension of "up to 10 years from the time the player would have been otherwise eligible to participate in that age group and to allow an appeal for a reduction of the ban only after the expiration of five years from the time of his proper eligibility."

And the committee voted to unanimously repeal a rule enacted last year that allowed for moving the pitcher if the sun was in the batter's eyes.

For a complete list of Rules Committee Action, please see the [Rules](#) page on SeniorSoftball.com.

## Carl: Every Player Is Part of the Process

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United States, but what they bring with them to the annual convention, are the belly-aches, blusterings, blisterings, umpire bashings, complaints, outbursts, outrages, letters, emails, texts, rants, raves, blithers, blathers, backlashes, scoldings, scaldings, blessings, cursings and threats that hell is coming to breakfast.

These then go through a winnowing process eliminating the ridiculous while searching for the legitimate.

When Donna McGuire, a serious, meticulous, and intelligent woman, who is the chair of the rules committee, finally gets everything into a workable number of rules to consider, arguments and discussions ensue and the fun begins.

Every player is a part of it whether they realize it or not. All you have to do is mutter, "They ought to make a rule against that," and you'd be surprised who's listening.

## 2017 Tournament Guide Released

### Softball News Report

The 2017 Tournament Guide has been released electronically to all players on SeniorSoftball.com and hard copies have been mailed out to all managers.

The 2017 edition is packed

with the pertinent information about all Senior Softball-USA tournaments as well as information on events and special things to do in and around our softball host cities.

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# Imlay Launches Hitting Clinic

## Softball News Report

SACRAMENTO – Hall of Fame hitter Steve Imlay launched a West Coast Hitting Academy here Dec. 6 that attracted about 20 players.

The number of players was surprising given the foggy, unseasonably cold morning and seemed to attest to the attraction of the Steven Imlay Slow-pitch Softball Hitting Academy or SLiAcademy.

The clinic combined high-tech aids that measured both bat speed and exit speed with individual instruction and overall lectures. There were instructors for every two players, allowing intensive individual instruction throughout the one-day academy.

“The academy’s main goal is to improve your swing and consistency as a hitter,” said Imlay. “But we also want you to have a better understanding of correct swing mechanics and how to conduct self-analysis to help you for the rest of your softball career by adjusting these concepts to your swing.”

Imlay has participated in slow-pitch softball on a national level for more than 40 years. He has been inducted into the ASA Indiana Hall of Fame, Senior Softball Hall of Fame and the Florida Senior Softball Legends Hall of Fame. He has served as a pro hitting instructor for Softball Magazine’s Senior camp and Spring Training camps. He is a nationally-rated Major Plus player and has signed on as a member of Adidas’ Pro Hitter Staff.

Imlay said the East Coast has a number of hitting clinics, which the West lacked.



The Hitting Academy included individual instruction and measurement of bat speed, exit speed and hitting form.



“The academy is designed to provide new technology so hitters can better understand batting swing physics and how to measure progress,” said Imlay. “The data applies to all aspects of today’s hitting game and will allow hitters to develop a pathway to improvement.”

To improve muscle memory, the academy gives students a lot of swings – hitting off a tee, pitching machine, live pitching and game-situation hitting with a hitting pro overseeing individual and group instruction.

The instruction included:

- Instruction and drills on overall swing mechanics.
- How to effectively utilize a batting tee.
- Hitting instructor analysis of swinging

the bat.

- Video recording of the swing, drills and instruction from Hitting Pros.
- Data and analysis of bat speed (before and after hitting the ball), time to the ball, hand speed, swing path, and exit speed.
- Electronic portfolio of individual lessons, drills and practice learned at the academy to reference at home.
- How to determine the correct bat and if an end load, balance or which size is best for individual batters.

For more information, visit [www.SLiAcademy.com](http://www.SLiAcademy.com).

## Senior Softball News

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# Opinions & Letters

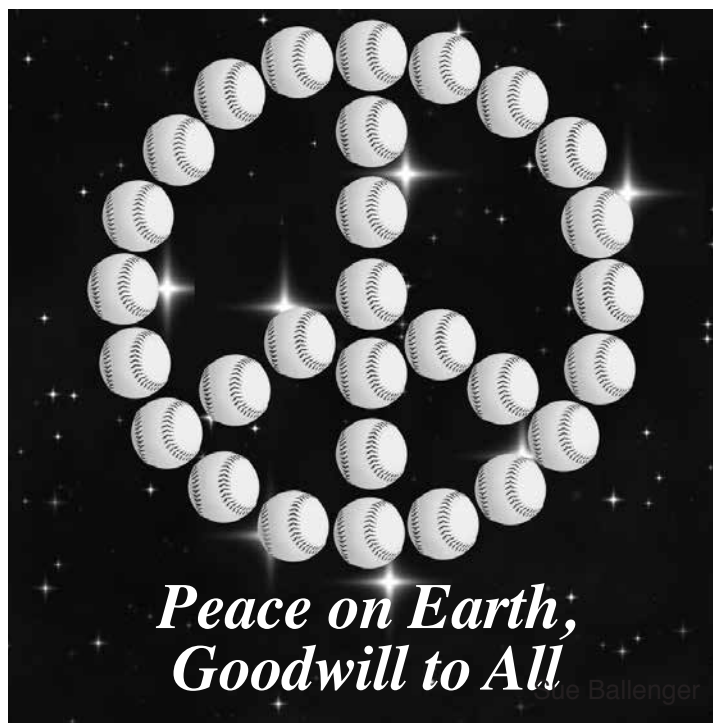
## Softball Ambassadors

Over the past three decades, a number of senior softball players have become ambassadors for our sport, promoting the game, friendship and sportsmanship in countries around the world.

The most recent ambassadors traveled to Taiwan to compete in the Fourth Annual Pacific Rim Championships. While the two US teams didn't win the tournament, they accomplished something much more important – displaying grace and sportsmanship through every game, win or lose, and in the process they laid the foundation for friendships with players from China, Taiwan and Japan.

Some international friendships have been nurtured in competition over several years, with players competing against some of the same foreign players throughout Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, Australia and New Zealand.

These friendships underscore a basic positive attribute of humanity: the ability to develop relationships with others through a common interest or love. It proves, once again, that players can tap into the positive power of our sport to spark



friendships that cross continents and language barriers, political and cultural differences.

This indeed is reason to celebrate our future.

**Terry Hennessy - Editor**

## CAN-Sirs Continues Awareness and Prevention Programs

CAN-Sirs as a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention among senior softball players has grown over the past five years. We have stressed the importance of good health. These same health concerns can be applied to preventing heart attack and stroke.

CAN-Sirs calls on players who have a history of cancer to make themselves available to share their story, encourage fellow players to make themselves aware



### CAN-SIRS CORNER

By Pete Davignon

of signs and symptoms, or just listen and offer encouragement.

Senior Softball USA

recognizes that cancer affects thousands of men over the age of 50. These men often have a difficult time talking about health concerns even with their doctors and are slow to report problems. This attitude decreases the chances of an early detection which can result in more aggressive treatment and increased risks. For that reason, SSUSA has supported and participated in the cancer awareness program.

According to the American Cancer Society

nearly 1.7 million new cancer cases were diagnosed in 2016. People over 50 are at an increased risk of developing cancer regardless of family history and more than half of all new cancer diagnoses affect seniors over 65. It is critical that seniors learn about the disease, symptoms, and treatment.

Medical advances are continuing to make extraordinary improvements in early detection, treatment and survivability of most

**Continued on Next Page**



# CAN-Sirs: Better Health Choices Lessens Cancer Risk

Continued from Page 8

forms of cancer. Often the cancer can be completely eradicated or successfully controlled. Survival rates for all cancers is improving every year primarily because of advancements in diagnosis and treatment.

Overall, prostate cancer death rates decreased by 3.5 percent per year from 2003 to 2012. These declines are due to improvements in early detection and treatment. The majority (92 percent) of prostate cancers are discovered at a local or regional stage, for which the five-year relative survival rate approaches 100 percent. Over the past 25 years, the five-year relative survival rate for all cancers combined has increased from 68 to 99 percent, some of which is due to the early detection of the disease. According to the most recent data, 10- and 15-year relative survival rates are 98 and 95 percent, respectively.

The World Cancer Research Fund estimates that about 20 percent of cancers that occur in the United States are due to the combined effects of excess alcohol consumption, poor nutrition, physical inactivity, excess weight and lack of medical checkups.

Known risk factors for cancer include age, exposure to carcinogenic substances, tobacco use, U/V rays, alcohol use, family genetics and obesity and poor diet. It is our hope that senior players will look to their teammates and competitors who volunteer to the CAN-Sirs team for support and information to better help themselves and find the necessary resources for early detection and prevention of cancer.

CAN-Sirs can be found at [www.can-sirs.org](http://www.can-sirs.org), email at [can-sirs@att.net](mailto:can-sirs@att.net) and Phone 530-680-1614.

# Decade-Old Experiment With 40's an Unqualified Success

## Covering the Bases

By Terry Hennessy

More than a decade ago, when Senior Softball-USA leaders began discussing adding a 40 Masters program to our Senior program, the issue of sportsmanship among younger players emerged as a major point of discussion.

A number of directors argued that adding younger players, who were used to using intimidation and foul language in their games, would ruin the ambience of sportsmanship that made Senior Softball so much fun for the players and their families.

Others felt that the 40 Masters would embrace a chance to play in an atmosphere that promoted sportsmanship; a place where they could once again bring their families and enjoy the sport.

And so, the experiment began.

In the first years the division was small -- less than 10 teams -- and the teams were not only great sportsmen, but thankful for a chance to bring their families to a ballpark where they didn't have to worry about foul language and base intimidation.

Word spread and this year, 111 Masters teams competed in the World Masters Championships in Las Vegas.

The vast majority of both Senior and Master players have embraced the sportsmanship and camaraderie that are the hallmarks of Senior Softball. Consider that of the almost 10,000 players who competed during the World Masters Championships in Las Vegas this fall, only two were disciplined for unsportsmanlike behavior (see story on page X).

The experiment has been a resounding success for the players, teams -- and for the sport.

### Why SSUSA Limits Qualifiers

Every year at this time SSUSA publishes our annual Tournament Guide,

which provides rich detail on major TOC tournaments and our list of National Qualifiers.

We also get numerous requests to add major tournaments in cities throughout the United States. While we would love to add tournaments in all of the cities that request one, we have to be careful that they do not conflict with existing tournaments in the same region.

We also try, if at all possible, to avoid dates conflicting with senior tournaments run by competitors in the same region. Conflicting dates result in lower team turnouts for all the tournaments -- everyone loses.

The sport is nearing saturation of senior tournaments in several regions of the country -- and it serves the sport, teams and players well when senior organizations work together to avoid date conflicts.

### Registration Fees Increasing

SSUSA is increasing both team and player registration fees \$5 this year. The reason for the increase is the steadily rising costs of providing services. It has been more than five years since the last registration price increase.

The increase goes into effect Jan. 1, 2017. Players and teams registering before Jan. 1 pay the old fee.

Entry fees remain unchanged.

*Terry Hennessy is Senior Softball-USA's Chief Executive Officer.*

## Heard in the Dugout

**"You've reached middle age  
when your wife tells you to  
pull in your stomach-and you  
already have"**

**--Franklin P. Jones**



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Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

# Shedding Those Scaly Alligator Arms

By Art Eversole

Have you ever walked back to the dugout after making a weak out and you hear a teammate say: “You had alligator arms”? So, what does it mean for a hitter to have alligator arms when swinging the bat (See figure 1)?

A good guess might be it has to be a guy with naturally short arms as we know gators are arm-length challenged. But what if you were born with normal or even long arms and you hear those words applied to your previous at bat?

Let’s say you’re at dinner with your teammates in Las Vegas at the SSUSA Worlds and the check has landed in the center of the table. Strangely none of your teammates can seem to reach the bill and you then blurt out – “Alright, I’ll get it, I can see that all of you guys have alligator arms”.

Hence, if a person is accused of having alligator arms in the restaurant, it may be an indication that that he or she is a cheapskate. Cheapskate arms are just too short to reach the bill on the table or their wallet in the back-pocket (See figure 2).

Having alligator arms in other sports like football mean arms that were not sufficiently extended to catch a pass when the pass receiver heard footsteps. In softball/baseball, alligator arms means a whole other thing.

Many batters when tackling the middle-in pitch will make an errant adjustment to get the barrel on the ball by bringing their arms in tight to the body and then swinging with the proverbial alligator arms.

The inside pitch or middle-in pitch

depending on how close you take your batting stance from the strike mat, is the prime spot where alligator arms usually manifest themselves. Pitches that are middle or middle-out normally allow the arms to be naturally extended.

The lead arm is typically the main culprit in having alligator arms in your swing. It should flex a bit when taking your hitting position and then extend out during the course of your swing to the ball. Make certain not to arm-barred (i.e. locked and straight) the lead arm as this position is a serious mechanics flaw and will impede the maximization of bat speed.

Your backside arm should tuck neatly into the area of the obliques or as many like to say, “in the slot” while taking your swing. An extended lead arm acts as the primary lever in the swing that is essential for providing leverage for creating power.

When going to the ball the lead arm must be extended out when making contact with the incoming pitch. If you don’t perform the lead arm extension and keep your lead arm bent at contact, you’re more likely to get jammed. Getting jammed usually is a handle or label contact thereby missing the sweet spot and not allowing the best barrel trampoline effect. Check out this link to a YouTube instructional video on this lead arm subject that has some drills to try: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThO5Zy3QUrM>

To make good contact on an inside pitch, I suggest to open up the hips by stepping with the landing foot more toward the foul line. This way the lead arm

can be made longer allowing the hands to clear the hips avoiding the jam. This method is not to be confused with stepping in the bucket, as that term applies to all pitch locations to a batter who is afraid of the ball.

When the lead arm is too flexed during the swing, leverage is lost and bat speed is diminished resulting in weaker hits (See figure 3).

By taking your hands directly to the pitched ball and then extending the lead arm the barrel should square up nicely at contact (See figure 4). The trick here and it takes some practice, is in keeping the ball in fair territory on the inside pitch with the lead arm extended. The batter should try and keep the barrel of the bat in a direction down the line. It may not be your most powerful hit but good enough to stay fair and with pace on it and not be jammed.

The nearer the pitch is to the inside corner the more you should open up in hitting the ball. Now if you’re one of those guys who stands way off the plate then this does not apply to you, but you’ll have your issues with the middle-out pitches which is another article.

To avoid those ugly alligator arms, I suggest you make a concerted effort to contact the inside pitch further out in front of your body by getting to it early and striding with the front foot more toward the foul line. Remember to always try and maintain a long lead arm lever which will allow for the maximization of bat speed and hitting more balls on the sweet spot.

Happy Hitting.



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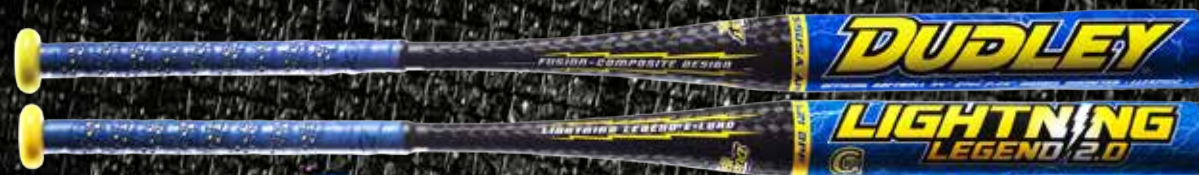
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# Winter Worlds Becomes 2nd Largest SSUSA Tournament With Record 209 Teams

## Softball News Report

PHOENIX, GLENDALE and SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.

– The 2016 Winter World Championships, the first Senior Softball-USA qualifier west of the Mississippi River for the 2017 season, got the new SSUSA campaign off to a solid start setting a record with 209 teams, making it the second largest SSUSA tournament.

Teams competing in the Winter Worlds, sponsored by Adidas, won 26 berths to the original Tournament of Champions (TOC) in February 2018.

One of the highlights of the Winter Worlds was the California Spirit organization sweeping three women's divisions: winning the 60, 65 and 70 brackets during the second session of the tournament.



Another memorable moment came via the numerous donations from the generous players at the Winter World Championships. Debbie Bryan, from Albuquerque and a member of the High Desert Diamonds requested donations from players for her softball league in Mexico, where she lives for much of

the year (Puerto Vallarta). The donations included four bats (one youth weight), 10 gloves (two catcher's mitts and two youth size), three pairs of cleats, one pair of shin guards and around a dozen balls.

Eight complexes were used during the championships: Cesar Chavez Sports Complex, Desert West Sports

Complex, Mountain Vista Park, Papago Park Softball Complex, and Rose Mofford Sports Complex in Phoenix, Saguaro Ranch Park and Victory Lane Sports Complex in Glendale and Chaparral Park in Scottsdale all hosted games.

The tournament began Nov. 15-17 with the first session that included the Men's 65 through 80 age divisions; while the championships concluded with the second session, Nov. 18-20, as the Men's 40 through 60 age divisions, and the entire Women's field (40's through 70 divisions) took the field.

**For complete division wrap-ups, please [CLICK HERE](#).**

## Winter Worlds All Tournament Players Named

### 2016 Winter World Championships All-Tournament Players:

Women's 40 Major:

**TKP/Hunter:** Lisa Bull, Kristi Whitcomb, Jennifer Stewart, Debra DiMeglio, Jeanna Beauchamp; **Twisted Fossils:** Ellen Spruce, Lori Franchina, Lori Palagi

Women's 40AAA:

**Saints:** Amy Anderson, Renne Ochoa, Jenise Mergener, Lydia Acosta, Julie Dale; **Misfits:** Teri Caster, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Socorro Gonzalez

Women's 50: **2nd Wind:** Sheila Caposio, Donna Vandagriff, Deanna Grutz, Teresa Provost, Lois Hand

Women's 60: **California**

**Spirit:** Anne Sneden, Cathy Moon, Steffanie Molley, Marla Edwards, Perri Jacobs; **Cal Express:** Linda Jones, Terry Clark, Fran DePuy, Connie Stonier; **Arizona Castawaz:** Welly Stavarek, Pat Hixon, Sandy Lockwood.

Women's 65: **California Spirit:** Janice Robson, Linda Mohrfeld, Kerrie Webb, Cathy Chavez, Terry Sheldon; **Ye Olde Bats:** Judy Cothran, Judy Leipold, Barb Lang-Ruzic, Carolyn Burgess, Missy Patton; **Fun Bunch:** Donna Varga, Peggy O'Neill, Linda Silman

Women's 70: **California Spirit:** Pam Bedwell, Joni Shirley, Edna Allen, Diane

Toomey, Donna Gualtiere

Men's 40 Major-Plus:

**GTS:** Pat Paschal, Chris Hoshaw, Brian Fong, Joey Smith, Trevor Jones

Men's 40 Major: **K & B Beverage/AG Painting:**

Tony Holland, Chris Gior-dano, Dave Wampler, Ignacio Hurtado, Bart Limas; **SBOB/Voodoo Sports:** Arnold Mares, Sammy Rodriguez, Jimmy De La Riva, Jerry Carpenter

Men's 40AAA: **Texas GI 40:** Roger Garcia, Christopher Simpson, Heriberto Gonzalez

Men's 50/55 Major-Plus:

**L.A.F. 50/DeMarini:** John Patterson, Matt Dobyns, Dave Thompson, Donnie Hudson,

Frank Dean

Men's 50 Major: **No Cal Warriors:** Brad White, Sean Kelly, Sean Morgan, Paul Supat, Paul Wise; **Arizona Alpha Dawgz:** Joe Joice, Dan Hackett, Terry Newhart

Men's 50AAA: **Team SW/Woodies:** Bob Culpepper, Byron Hollister, Mike Lewis, Martin Valdez, Craig Venderlei; **Kamikaze:** James "JD" Durant, Mike Stater, Mark Toma, Tom Whitmore; **No Excuses:** Joe Branch, Terry Moffitt, Clifford Grannaway

Men's 55 Major: **JJ Financial Eagles:** John Johnson, Jim Hanna, Frank

**Continued on Next Page**



# Winter Worlds All Tournament Players Continued

Continued from Page 12

Nickowski

Men's 55AAA: **Hard Tens/Oxnard Rookies:** Pablo Garcia, Doug Hamlet, Tony Mulville, Kico Zaragoza, Fred Macias; **Los Vatos Viejos:** Wayne Barrett, Steve Carson, Tommy Martinez

Men's 60 Major: **Houston Fire:** David Aguilar, Dana Cote, Bob Schulz, Tony Washington, Murray Williams

Men's 60AAA: **Weekend Warriors:** Dave Baydala, Brian Allen, Dave Peterson, Loyd Holland, Richard Bivin; **Mountain Mike's Pizza:** Paul Challburg, Butch Maciel, Ray O'Rear

Men's 60AA: **Scrap Iron Freedom:** Mike Weston, Gregg Pearson, George Wise, Blair Gifford, Pete Piniotes; **New Mexico Warriors:** Julio Rios, Steve Harper, Dennis Rosales, Ralph Richards

Men's 65 Major-Plus: **Old A's:** Mark Barnes, Wayne Galer, Jeff Kolb, Mark Weber

Men's 65 Major: **Top Gun Mavericks:** Geo Anas, Arnold Carlos, Dave Seitz, Jim Tetter

Men's 65AAA: **Hawaii Masters:** Roger White, Charles Peterson, Glenn Morihara, Mike Hildebrandt, George Meyer

Men's 65AA: **Dallas Spurs:** Bill Turney, Tom Par-  
ris, William Kirk, Ray Harty,  
Andy Paris; **Duke City Dyna-  
mite:** Larry Gialouris, Gilbert  
Martinez, Lawrence Chavez,  
Jim McCormack; **Git-R-Do-  
ne:** Ron Flathers, Ed Gestine,  
Bill Deutschman

Men's 70 Major-Plus:  
**Omen:** John Di Re, Ron  
McElyea, Bill Nevis, Bob

Cummings, Joe Cors; **Scrap  
Iron Legacy:** Don Carpenter,  
Gene Smith, Rich Buckland,  
Dale McLaughlin; **Minnesota  
Prize:** Don Goltz, Dennis  
Flanagan, Tim Bothof

Men's 70 Major: **Pon-  
chos:** Brian Hiltz, Larry  
Kaufmann, Bill Kee, Spence  
Preston, Terry Schmitgal; **Th-  
araldsons:** Gary Tharaldson,  
Art Bird, Frank Mower

Men's 70 Silver: **Chicago  
Strikers:** Chuck Flucas, Rich  
Fleming, Tom Vancura, Jack

Fitzer, Dan Serrato; **Midwest  
Legends:** Mike Coulter,  
Woody Johansen, John Kelly,  
Ed Rastouski; **Git-R-Done:**  
Jimmy Hansen, Dan Milakov-  
ich, Bryan Wilkins

Men's 75 Platinum:  
**Minnesota Masters:** Norm  
Setnicker, Larry Miller,  
Lowell Thompson, Robert  
Lenzmeier, John Remington;  
**PDR Fastsigns:** Tom Brusca,  
Chuck Bergeron, Jack Scott,  
Ron Quarantino

Men's 75AAA: **Hui Oha-**

**na:** Al Apo, Mel Aoki, Robert  
Frye, Stan Jensen, Terry  
Kimura; **Las Vegas Coyotes:**  
Ed Schimmels, Jim Hunyady,  
Larry Miller; **Git-R-Done:**  
Dennis Phistry, Gene Dick,  
Jim Vargeson

Men's 80 Gold: **Emerald:**  
Carroll Shook, Jim Hann,  
Darrell Wise, Bill Winter, Bill  
Reeves; **Arizona Prospec-  
tors:** Norman Brooks, Jim  
Lidster, Fred Donaghy, Hal  
Kime

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# 2016 WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



Photos by Jack Eberhard

## 6 Teams Win Triple Grand Slam, 21 Take US Nationals

### Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – Six teams completed the elusive Triple Grand Slam during the 2016 season, which includes winning the Eastern/Western National Championship, the USA National Championship Game and the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championship.

There were two women's teams that accomplished the feat, Smack That (CA), 40 AAA and Dreamgirlz 50 (VA).

Smack That did it by double-dipping Punisher Sports Apparel (CA) in the Western National, defeating Northern Construction Fireballs (MA) in the USA National Game and winning the World Masters by defeating Above the Law (MO).

Dreamgirlz won their fourth straight Triple Grand Slam title by defeating Northern Construction Fireballs in a mixed bracket at the Eastern National, beating Arizona Dream Team in the USA National Game and finally winning the World Masters by double-dipping Karphone 50's (CA).

On the men's side, Sommerville Softball (CA) 50 Major Plus, Hollis Appraisals (FL) 60 Major Plus, San Francisco Seals (CA) 75 Major Plus and Sacramento Gold (CA) 80 AAA all fulfilled the criteria.

Sommerville captured its second straight Triple Grand Slam crown by defeating JU AfterShock (CA) in the Western National, downing Team USA (MD) in the US National Game and winning the World Masters with its victory over Team 1 Sports/Miken (FL).

After securing a spot in the USA National Game following its play in a mixed division in the Eastern National, Hollis Appraisals defeated Old Dawgs 60 (CA) in the US National Game and then won the World Masters after double-dipping Hendricks Sports Management (TX).

The San Francisco Seals and Sacramento Gold did not have an opponent for their respective USA

Please See Page 17

## WMC: Teams From 42 States

Continued from Page 1

ment, there were an incredible 1,837 games scheduled and played across 10 sports complexes and 39 fields.

The largest tournament in the sport, which featured 32 divisions, was split into four sessions with teams from 42 states. The 40 Men's and Women's Masters and the 50 Women's division kicked off the World Masters Championships (Sept. 16-18), while the Men's 55 and 60 divisions followed (Sept. 23-25). The tournament continued with the Men's 65 through 85 divisions

(Sept. 26-29), while the Men's 50 division concluded the championships (Sept. 30-Oct. 2).

The highlight of the opening session came via the five teams from Guam, along with scores of supporters from the small U.S. Territory in the South Pacific, that brought intense excitement, wild cheers, and great sportsmanship to the WMC.

Umpires, officials and players from other teams all remarked on how inspirational the Guam teams were when they competed. One Guam team competed in the 40 Major Men's, two teams competed in the 40 AAA Men's, one each in the 40 AAA Women's and the 50 Women's divisions.

Session two (Men's 55's and 60's) was the largest of the four sessions with 182 teams, while the largest division occurred in the fourth and final session in the Men's 50's, as 59 teams competed in the 50 AAA division. The 50 AAA division also featured a team that consisted entirely of deaf players from around

the country, Whacko's. The team made a nice run through the bracket, winning three straight after dropping their opening game, before eventually being eliminated by Team 757 from Virginia.

Ten players also were inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame during the championships. SSUSA National Director Michael Boone and manager Mike Trusty were inducted during session two, and Robert Ahal, Hugh Brotherton, Mel Schiebel, Roger Williams, Bob Gregorich, Rick Littlejohn, James McLamb and Bill Nevis were all inducted in session three.

Session three also included the presentation of the 2016 Steve Simmons Sportsmanship Award, which was presented to the San Antonio Silver Streaks (TX), 65 Major, during the opening ceremonies.

For complete division wrap-ups of every division, please click the respective session: [SESSION I](#) [SESSION II](#) [SESSION III](#) [SESSION IV](#)



# 2016 WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

## 2016 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships All-Tournament Players Named

### 2016 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships All Tournament Players:

**Men's 40 Major: Layer Cake Wines:** Robert Cook, Dennis Davis, Tim Landrum, Tony Marelich, Brandon Mendenthal; **Cody Staffing:** Aaron Bayer, Shawn Ebert, Eric Rheume, Greg Smith; **Diablos:** Chris Boggs, Billy Zapata

**Men's 40AAA: Pattie House:** Gary Adams, Ed DeCouto, Tommy Morissette, Ray Plum, Collin Schmidt; **Mach One:** Chris Little, Danny Van Daele

**Men's 50 Major-Plus: Sommerville Softball:** Keith "Benji" Benjamin, Greg Bovero, Jimmy Ferguson, Scott Logan, Paul Salow; **Team 1 Sports/Miken:** Donnie Burke, Junior Gutierrez, Bob O'Brien, Alan Tanner; **Doerflinger/De-Marini:** Lamon Bradshaw, Jerry Garnett

**Men's 50 Major: Texas Mavericks:**



**Tex-Vets Celebrate a victory in 50 Majors.**

Mark Cerny, Kurt Dorf, David Velasquez, Steve Veronie

**Men's 50AAA: Escobar Body Shop:** Paul Alvarez, George Govea, Raul Ortiz, Charlie Russell, Robert Saucedo

**Men's 50AA: Romo's Old School:** Steve Casarez, Steve De LaVega, Victor Flores, Candy Perez, Ernest Reyna; **Minnesota Lumberjacks 50:** Brian "Woody" Armitage, Joe Loos, Ken Nelson, George Zabadal; **Fifty GZ:** Bobby Avant, Steve Canty, Barry Needle; **Manifest 50's:** Walter Firova, Freddie Urrutia

**Men's 55 Major-Plus: MTC 55's:** Dan Arevalos, Dwayne Brekke, Darren Idler, Donnie Long, Charlie Pennes



**Team 757 & Dead Sailors play in the US National Game.**

**Men's 55 Major: High Street Bucs:** Anthony Allen, Chris Fleisch, John Hall, Dave Maertens, Mike White; **Triangle Masters:** Todd Burris, Kenny Hart, Gary Hicks, Fred Latimore

**Men's 55AAA: Southern California Braves:** Art Estrada, Darryl Hunt, Ron Larrieu, Matt Palmer, Ricky Shepard; **Precision Ford:** Jack Morgan, Bobby Holliman

**Men's 55AA: Antiques of Iowa City:** Mike Hartman, Kent Juergens, Steve Paulsen, Kirt Sickels, Brian Williams; **New Mexico Boomers:** Antonio Hernandez, Harvey Ladesma, Richard Rodriguez, Kevin Thompson; **Tucson Buds/Los Buds:** Barry Jackson, David Reece, Wayne Siros; **Pastimers:** Doug Fredrickson, Ed Minshull

**Men's 60 Major-Plus: Hollis Appraisals:** Richard Meltz, Mike Monnier, Dave Motta, Randy Parker, Larence Reedus Jr.; **Hendricks Sports Management:** Curtis Chiasson, Michael Francis Sr., Joe Read, Reggie Simmons; **Kinnco Services:** Steve Rogers, John Van Wagner

**Men's 60 Major: J.G. Drywall:** Rickey Catalogna, James Daley, Bennie Peterson, Mike Todd, Ronald Wissinger; **NCI Finish Strong 60:** Kenny Bice, Gary Bronner, Lonnie Magnusen, Chuck McKenney; **TRI-C-Machine:** Gary Holmes, Roy Reid, Darryl Watson; **Hannington 60's:** Marvin Sims, Thomas Tashea

**Men's 60AAA: Bellevue Mer-**

**chants:** Dave Archer, Steve Green, Karl LeBret, Ron Mullberg, Rich Orrison; **Bulldogs:** Larry Bue, Jim Engels, Robert Webb; **Fierce Firearms:** Cliff Howard, Kyle Holdaway

**Men's 60AA: Base Hawgs:** Mario Borroel, Mike Boyer, Steve Koontz, Rick Patterson, Tony Russo; **Family:** Brad Fawcett, Mike Gazarek

**Men's 65 Major-Plus: Hamel Builders/Superior Senior Softball:** John Davide, Vance Gudmundsen, Johnny Scruggs, Andy Zitnay; **Old A's:** Dave Briones, Tom Ott, Bob Rohatch; **Omen:** Brian Rooney, Jerry Scanlon

**Men's 65 Major: R & R 65's:** Dick Markota, Duke Nash, Hank Ornelaz, Mike Quigley, Mike Young; **Red Heat:** Charlie Bell, Steve Brand, Roy Oak, Grant Snary; **Handeland Flooring:** Ron Bruce, Carl Budnik, Bill Dolphin; **Minnesota Masters/Ancell:** Dick Kuyath, Lud Nordahl



**Joseph "Candy" Candelaria crosses the scoring line in 70 Major play.**

**Men's 65AAA: KC Kids:** Jack Basure, Dennis Clauder, Gary Conner, Lonnie Smith, Chuck Tipton; **Sidewinders 65's:** Orie McDonald, Jim Montgomery, Bob Peck, Bob Schmidt; **Auto Accessory Dist.:** Al DeAngelis, Gary Tauscher, Richard Wheeler

**Men's 65AA: Texas Rattlers:** Marty Cavazos, Ron Freund, Billy Gollihar, Larry Parrack, Terry Wong

**Men's 70 Major-Plus: Venon:** Dan Beard, Frank Krawczyk, Tols Milhailoff, Bob Schreyer, Robert Swindle; **Omen**

Continued on Next Page

# 2016 WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

## 2016 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships All-Tournament Players Continued

Continued from Page 16

**70:** Ed Cary, Otis Menasco, Gary Tryhorn

Men's 70 Major: **Minnesota Prize 70's:** Curt Callstrom, Bob Goldstrand, Keith Irlbeck, Larry Orth, Steve Strommen; **Tri-State Diamondbacks:** Roger Assink, Ray Maxey, Les Poland, Ernie Tafoya; **Hooters Casino/Ginco:** Don Larson, Bernie Tymko, Erwin Wiens



Norm Blackwell accepts the 1st place trophy in the 80AAA division.

Men's 70AAA: **Sons of Pitches:** Prentiss Byrd, Carl Craft, Bob Leatherwood, Chris Mills, Dave Taylor; **Scrap Iron 70 Reds:** Joe Burton, Bob Sims, Skip Walker; **Masters Marauders:** Euerette Holmes, Frank Laky

Men's 70AA: **Silver City Brewers:** Bob Ayers, Ordell Gustafson, Dave Hare, Dale Linklater, Laurie Sianchuk; **Texas Classics:** Jack Boykin, Roy Bull, Steve Kent, Billy Lantrip; **Mid-America Patri-**

**ots:** Joe Barrientos, Cletus Linenberger, Charles Workman

Men's 75 Major-Plus: **San Francisco Seals:** Bobby Davis, Leroy Gallardo, Mike Leitner, Jim Phillips, Fred Santos; **PDR Fastsigns:** John Fournier, Tom Imming, Dan Minnick, Bob Quarantino

Men's 75 Major: **Pfeiffer/Doc's Boys:** Barry Griffin, Ron Hellier, Larry Martin, Bob Willoughby, Bill Wolf; **Top Gun 75 Classics:** Dave Duarte, Tony Iavarone, Bob Kapeller, Larry Thompson; **Scrap Iron Beans:** Joe DeCristofaro, Ronnie Guest, John Wunderli; **State Roofing Systems:** Arnie Bray, Noel Lancot

Men's 75AAA: **Minnesota Masters 75:** Earle Anderson, Ken Bentfield, Tom Daniel, Howard Schaber, Norman Setnick; **Kokopelli Eye Scorpions:** John Bellavia, Al Grefsheim, Wayne Poindexter, John Seigla; **Top Gun Silver 75's:** Ron Chapman, Paul Johnson

Men's 80 Major: **Fairway Ford:** John Chacon, Al Kumm, Frank Perdue, Jack Scott, Duf Sfredo; **Florida Investment Properties:** Hutch Attenberger, Dave Bush, Bob Johnson, Frank Murth, Jake Wood; **Jimmy's MN Legends 80:** Bob Damadio, Darryl Laschen, Willie Wood

Men's 80AAA: **Sacramento Gold:** Norman Blackwell Jr., Dave Fairchild, Ray Newman, Howard Smith, Roland Stiarwalt; **Redwood City Chiefs 80's:**

Charlie Adams, Al Fiori

Men's 85 Major: **Jimmy's Legends 85's:** David Bray, Larry Herickhoff, Ray Keller, Norm Robinson, Bob Rose; **Southwest Stars 85's:** Dominick Greco, Paul Janke, John (Jack) Vaughn; **Center for Sight:** Hugh Brotherton, Kit Kittrell

Women's 40 Major: **TKP 40's:** Stephanie Fryar, Kim Roter, Jen Stewart, Kristi Whitcomb, Davette Williams; **Kryptonite:** Kellie Berning, Sonya Brooks-White, Valorie Mullins, Veronica "V" Shaw



Smack That completed their quest for the Triple Grand Slam winning the Women's 40AAA division.

Women's 40AAA: **Smack That:** Vera Arellano, Jodi Howe, Janelle Ito-Orille, Heather Richards, Trina Valencia

Women's 50: **Dreamgirlz:** Deborah Franklin, Fay Jennings, Mona Onyemelukwe, Shirley Snell, Debra Tucker; **Arizona Dream Team:** Kim Moore, Cynthia Nelson, Kristy Palmer

## Triple Grand Slam: SF Seals, Sacramento Gold Take Title

Continued from Page 15

National Championship Game.

The San Francisco Seals defeated PDR Fastsigns (OR) in the Western National and later defeated PDR Fastsigns once again in the World Masters.

Sacramento Gold secured its first step towards the Triple Grand Slam after playing in a mixed bracket in the Western Nationals and went on to capture the title following its win over Davis & Associates (CA) in the World Masters.

The USA National Championship

Game is scheduled during seeding play at the World Masters Championships. It pits the champion from the Eastern and Western National Championship in each division. If the champion from the Eastern/Western Nationals does not attend the World Masters, the runner-up from the respective age division can play in the USA National Game and represent the division.

There were 21 USA National Championship Games during the 2016 World Masters Championships, with nine cham-

pions from the East and 12 champions from the West. There were 11 divisions with no USA National Championship Games (Men's 40 Major Plus, Men's 40 AAA, Men's 50 AA, Men's 65 AA, Men's 70 Major, Men's 70 AA, Men's 75 Major Plus, Men's 75 Major, Men's 75 AAA, Men's 80 AAA, Men's 85 Major).

For a complete list of USA National Championship Games, with results, please [CLICK HERE](#)



# 127 Teams Kick Off First Major TOC Qualifier of 2017 Season

## Softball News Report

FT. MYERS, CAPE CORAL & NAPLES, FL – The first Tournament of Champions (TOC) qualifier of the new season, and the largest SSUSA tournament east of the Mississippi River, the Winter National Championships saw 127 teams, from 18 states and Canada, compete across 14 divisions.

The six-day championship event was held in three complexes: Lee County Sports Complex (Ft. Myers), North Collier Regional Park (Naples) and Northwest Sports Complex (Cape Coral).

The Men's 65 through 85 age divisions started off the tournament, Nov.



1-3, while the Men's 40 through the 60 age divisions concluded the championships, Nov. 4-6.

The 21-team 60-AAA division marked the largest division of the Winter Nationals, as No. 11 seed Long Island Jaguars 60's (NY) defeated top seed Slug-A-Bug (FL) in the "if" game 23-9 after falling 18-11 in the championship game.

In total, 18 teams secured a bid to the TOC in February 2018.

For complete division wrap-ups, please [CLICK HERE](#)

## Winter Nationals All Tournament Players Named

### 2016 Winter National Championships All-Tournament Players:

Men's 50/55 Platinum: **Florida Automated Shade 55:** Jimmy Nelson, Donnie Lloyd, Larry Veahmon, Doug Knerler, Hank Culley; **Miami Power:** David Bogaiz, Mike Brock, Richard Clark, Robert Minaya

Men's 50 AAA: **Central Penn Caveman Softball:** Alan Martel, Kevin Crowley, Brian Kratzer, Rob Gratkowski, Rick James; **No Shows:** Frank Nadotti, Donnie Romeo, Duane Flagg, Antonio Adamo

Men's 55 AAA: **Ball Busters:** Les Millman, Ricky Tate, Carlos Moreira, Al Nunez, John Popov

Men's 60 Major Plus: **Team Florida:** Peter Bassignani, Tim Fincher, Ricky Leith, Louis Reyes, Jr

Men's 60 Major: **High Street Bucs:** Ross Roberts, Steve Propert, Tim Salerno, Gary Canoon, Steve Pope; **Golden Vipers:** Ron Beeman, Chuck Maiorana, Dan Fritz

Men's 60 AAA: **Long Island Jaguars:** David Didio, Rick Caravaggio, Jimmy Kiernan, Jimmy McDowell, Michael Cohen; **Slug-A-Bug:** Frank

Straub, Scott Donaldson, Nick Nicometo, Wayne Berryhill; **Spanky's Gang:** Tony Williams, Manny Aneson, Joe Racanelli

Men's 65 Major Plus: **Hamel Builders/Superior Senior Softball:** Ronnie Collins, Billy Cameron, Andy Zitnay, Clarence Ellison, Vance Gudmundsen; **Hollis Appraisals:** Ed Carrington, Jack Lambert, Rocky Scott, John Smutnick; **Beef O'Brady's Southern Trace:** Paul Preuitt, Dave Paterson, Jack Doan

Men's 65 Major: **High Street Bucs:** Mike Snyder, Bill Macuch, Howard Brinkley, Jimmy Muncy, Mike Rohleder; **Jersey Masters Blue:** Mike O'Shea, Rich Tomasik, Harry Lisser

Men's 65 AAA: **Acousti:** Terry McIlrath, Bob Gwiszcz, Dave Jolly, Matt Matson, Joe Pavlock; **Vios Sports:** John Farnen, Bob Raucci, Rob Pentino, John Colonese

Men's 65 AA: **Action Auto Parts:** Al Mello, Ken Sheehan, Tom Purvis, Jim Gemma, Steve Panzini; **Jersey Masters Red:** Larry Berra, Eddie Kushner, Steve Bauer, Frank DeLuca; **Southern Tier Express:** Nick Sheldon, Jim Kruckow, John Burge

Men's 70 Major Plus: **Venom:** Jim

Davidson, Dennis Schroeder, Terry O'Donnell, Bob Schreyer, Mike Marcum

Men's 70 Major: **Bostonian 70's:** Thomas Hall, David Joseph, Raymond LePage, Tom Malvesti, Teddy Wess; **Windsor Chiefs:** Ernie Holden, Gerry Mayea, Wayne Dupuis, Pete Aubry; **TB Financial Group:** Dick Kanyan, Linwood Manning, Floyd Williams

Men's 70 AAA: **Sun Country Cleaners:** Don Benn, Tyce Pearson, Bill Hoover

Men's 75 Major: **Pompano Beach Bums:** Bill Brotherton, Ron Hampton, Carl Sultz, Matt Callahan, Larry Sweet; **Pro Health Care:** Jack Simmons, Bill Rutzinski, Larry Von Rueden, Harry Nelezen

Men's 75 AA: **Senior Red Birds 75:** John Laurenti, Dale Pashea, Rick Rakowski, George Ruh, Lenny Suess

Men's 80/85 Gold: **Florida Investment Properties:** Joe Sykes, Jack Morris, Jake Wood, Bob Johnson, Duffie Stone; **BackOffice Associates:** Jim Parmelee, Vince Van Norman, Jim Van Baalen, Michael Onnembo

# ISA Last Chance Draws 10 Teams

## Softball News Report

WINTER HAVEN, FL ---

Ten teams vied for the elusive Tournament of Champions (TOC) berth at the 2016 ISA Last Chance TOC Qualifier held here at Diamondplex Sports Complex, Sept. 3-4.

Starting off with the 65-AAA division, Oasis 65's and Steve Levin's Old School played a best two-out-of-three game series, with Steve Levin's Old School sweeping Oasis 65's by scores of 14-10 and 21-17, respectively.

In the four-team, 50/55-Major division, last seed Miami Power (50 Major) rolled through bracket play defeating top seed Florida Automated Shade 55, 19-5, and CKM Wealth Management, 22-18, before defeating Florida Automated Shade for a second time, 21-16, in the championship game. Florida Automated Shade's runner-up finish would earn the team a TOC bid as the top finishing 55 Major team in the mixed bracket after emerging from the elimination side of the bracket.

The final division of the ISA Last Chance TOC Qualifier, the four-team, 55/60-AAA division, saw top seed Team Flagler defend its No. 1 spot, going 3-0 in bracket play, including a 9-3 victory in the championship game over No. 3 seed Acousti.

# ISA Last Chance All Tourney Players Named

## 2016 ISA Last Chance TOC Qualifier All Tournament Players:

Men's 50/55+ Major:

**Miami Power:** Mike Brock, Edwin Garcia, Roberto Minaya, Mike Rafferty, Joseph Varachhi Jr.; **Florida**

**Automated Shade 55:** Kip Grant, Jim Nelson, Willard Shope, Tim Workman; **CKM Wealth Management:** Pete Bassignani, Craig Knowles, Manny Quiepo

Men's 55/60AAA: **Team Flagler:** Rick Albert, Steve

Bolter, Tom Knott, Dave Stoverink, Jim Zgorzelski

Men's 65AAA: **Steve**

**Levin Old School:** Don Cabral, Bill Hans, Denny Miller, Al Smith, Pete Tighe; **Oasis 65's:** Rene Carde, Tom Cole, Randy Scott, Randy Weaver

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# Top Gun Celebrates 30th Anniversary in San Diego

## Softball News Report

SAN DIEGO – The Top Gun Softball Association celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by inducting three members into its Hall of Fame here Dec. 4.

Steve Vin Curek, Dave Seitz and Bob Kapeller were inducted in a bittersweet ceremony as Kapeller died two weeks before the induction ceremony.

Top Gun also presented a check for \$1,000 to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Bob Kapeller's widow accepted the induction on behalf of her husband, telling the 100-plus Top Gun attendees that she appreciated the strong support of members after her husband's unexpected death.

The Menifee Valley Upper Division Senior Softball league is hosting a Bob Kapeller Memorial Tournament on Feb. 22, 2017 at the Big League Dreams Sports Park in Perris, CA. This event will honor disabled veterans.

Vin Curek and Seitz both credited Top Gun teammates for much of their success in the sport. Seitz told several humorous stories, having



Top Gun presents donation to Navy-Marine Corps Society. From left: Terry Hennessy, John Spadea, Retna Shaw and Bob Johnson.

played with many Top Gun players over the years, and Vin Curek joked that running was not one of the "five tools" that earned him the Hall of Fame induction.

At its inception 32 years ago in 1984, a small group of softball players in San Diego County decided to do something nice for families of military personnel serving at Miramar Naval Air Station.

So they began holding a benefit senior softball tourna-

ment and donating the proceeds to the Miramar families.

Top Gun has donated thousands of dollars to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, money that all goes to directly help the families of hundreds of sailors and Marines. The \$1,000 donated this year was the result of a raffle at one of the Top Gun/SSUSA tournaments.

The association has grown from the original 60+ team in 1989 to 10 teams and 150

players in 2016.

Top Gun has the distinction of being the first – and only -- organization inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame.

"The SSUSA Hall of Fame recognition of Top Gun was the result of the association not only accomplishing its mission statement so exceptionally well, but in sharing with others since its inception," SSUSA Chief Executive Officer Terry Hennessy told the Top Gun members at the induction ceremony.

The mission statement of Top Gun Softball is to enhance the health and well-being of San Diego seniors through the promotion of softball and other participatory activities.

In 2012, the Top Gun Senior Softball Association joined forces with SSUSA to offer high quality qualifying tournaments. The popularity of the Winter Classic and Summer Classic tournaments can be best illustrated by both tournaments filling up within five days of advertising the tournament.

## Past All Tournament Players Named

### All Tournament players selected by the teams for Past Tournaments listed in the Newspaper:

**2014 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships:** Relentless: Richard Battle, Mike Davis, Joe Dayoc, Art Thompson

**2016 CAN-Sirs/SSUSA Nor-Cal Championships:** Men's 40 Major: Layer Cake Wines/Dudley/Elite Sports

USA: Robert Cook, Andy Hankins, Bobby Jordan, James Kaul, Tony Marelich

**2016 Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup:** Men's 40 Major: Layer Cake Wines/Dudley/Elite Sports USA: Robert Cook, Raul Cornier Jr., Andy Hankins, Bobby Jordan, James Kaul

**2016 Southern California Championships:** Men's 40 Gold: Layer Cake Wines/

Dudley/Elite Sports USA: Robert Cook, Dennis Davis, Andy Hankins, Timothy Landrum, Deratio White

**2016 Western National Championships:** Men's 65AAA: Kokopelli Eye Scorpions: John Bellavia, Bob Cord, Al Grefsheim, Ken Ponzio, John Seigla

**2016 Eastern National Championships:** 55 Major: High Street Bucs: Mark

Frastak, Dave Maertens, Don Seyffarth

**2016 Rocky Mountain Championships:** Men's 50AAA: Never Say Never: Courtney Cluff, Jim Hansen, Tim Ryan, Kelly Taylor; Men's 65/70 Silver: Dallas Spurs 65: Terry Cross, Ray Harty, Tom Parris, Jaime Villarreal



# *The ORIGINAL* 2017 TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

**THE ORIGINAL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS!**

## February 8-12, 2017 in Polk County, Florida



### CONGRATULATIONS

To all of the teams that have won a berth to the Tournament of Champions. Your team has won the privilege of competing against the very best Senior Softball teams in the country: the Champions of all 24 of Senior Softball-USA's Regional, National and World Championships and the ISA Senior World Champions as well as the Canadian SPN National Championships, the Pacific Rim Championships.

**You are in a very select group:  
ONLY CHAMPIONS OF TOP  
TOURNAMENTS ARE INVITED.**



**The Tournament of Champions, sponsored by Senior Softball-USA and Central Florida's Polk County Sports Marketing, is designed to celebrate the Champions of Senior Softball in the most exclusive and spectacular event of the season! Topped off with a gala banquet for 1,500 people!**



The Tournament of Champions includes two days of Special Events before the games begin, including a Hitting/Fielding Clinic, an All Star Game, and skills contests. Don't miss the inspiring Louisville Slugger Warriors game on Saturday.

Each player receives a free TOC shirt.

And there's a Special Edition Miken Ultra II bat for the MVP of each division.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE SENIOR SOFTBALL-USA WEBSITE:**

**[www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com)**



# China: Softball Pilot Program Taking Shape

Continued from Page 1

The tee-ball progress has been so remarkable that the national Chinese government has taken notice and is considering expanding the program to kindergarteners throughout the country.

Ironically, seniors from the United States are partners in this program to introduce tee-ball and softball to some of the youngest students in China.

Senior Softball-USA has developed the training guides and worked with the International Career Sports Research Association (ICSRA) to train teachers and provide equipment for the program.

"The future of softball and baseball in China, I believe, will depend on giving youngsters the opportunity to learn the sport," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief executive officer. "Introducing tee-ball and slow-pitch softball in schools throughout China is the perfect way to introduce a sport that will bring not only physical benefits – but will help students learn to work together in a positive way toward a common goal."

The longtime one-child policy in China, which was recently relaxed, has had a significant impact on Chinese society, according to researchers in that country.

Children are cherished and heavily protected by parents and Chinese schools have been severely limited in offering physical activities with even a hint of danger.

The result is these only children develop "non-appropriate personalities in dealing with people," according to Zhaoli Chen, who is spearheading the program.

"We feel these kids need to be integrated into the mass majority of society through certain types of sport team activities," said Chen, who is a researcher at Waseda University in Japan, a Board Member of the Teeball Committee of China and heads China's Teeball National Research project Committee.

Why teeball and softball?

"They introduce U.S. sports culture into our physical teaching courses,



**SSUSA CEO Terry Hennessy gives out pins to Chinese middle school students**



**The staff at Baiji school.**

teaching the students sports concepts that can benefit their lives and society," said Chen.

The tee-ball and softball classes started in the schools in October 2015. The rapid success that caught the eye of sports officials in Beijing was the 5-6 grade tee-ball class in Yongji Middle School from the Yueyang District. This middle school team captured second place in national competition only 10 months after starting the program.

"This program has shown amazing results," said Dr. Xu Yang, secretary-general of the Chinese Softball Association. "We think it could be a good model for our other schools."

The pilot program focuses on training teachers, many of whom had never seen a baseball or softball, much less played the game. The training is twofold, using training guides and generating excitement by bringing in experts.



**Young student holds up training guide.**

Last year softball and baseball college players from Japan held seminars in the schools for teachers and this year SSUSA sent a representative to review the training program and generate excitement.

In addition, the Chinese Softball Association and SSUSA are working on a training agreement that would extend Zhaoli Chen's program to schools throughout the country. There are approximately 200 million primary and secondary students in China.

"Next year, we hope to hold an exhibition and training session using U.S. players coming to China to compete in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Rim Championships in China," said Hennessy. The Pacific Rim Championships are planned for Langzhou on Oct. 14-15, 2017. SSUSA officials said details would be available sometime in January.

# *SSUSA International Tours presents:* **The 2017 Alpine Fairytale Tour** *June 22nd – July 4th, 2017*

**Only a few spots left! Deadline is December 31, 2016**

**D**on't miss this magical opportunity to explore the natural beauty, famous architectural wonders, quaint shops and fabulous music of Bavaria, Innsbruck, Salzburg, and wonderful Vienna – and, of course, there will be softball tournaments.

After visiting the Bavarian capital of Munich and watching the Glockenspiel, we scale the Alps in our luxury motorcoach to Neuschwanstein – the famous Fairytale Castle that inspired Walt Disney.

Our adventure is just starting as we visit the amazing alpine city of Innsbruck and view the spectacular vistas from Hitler's Eagle's Nest retreat.

We head to Salzburg through the land that "Sound of Music" made famous and the city where Mozart was born. Then we are off to the fabulous Melk Abbey, one of the most beautiful abbeys in Europe that has stood since 1089.

Our final stop is Vienna, where we will be immersed in the culture of one of the most memorable cities in Europe before taking a cruise on the Danube River. Our farewell dinner, fittingly, will be in the historic wine village of Grinzing. And, of course, the main feature of the Tour is softball. In Munich, we'll play the Bavarian Championships against some spirited German teams sponsored by the Freising



Grizzlies and have a chance to meet them during a players party on Saturday afternoon.

The last weekend of the Tour, we will compete in the Vienna Classic, sponsored by the largest softball/baseball club in Austria called the Home Runners. A special event Saturday night will include music provided by the Austrian club's own excellent band.

Our Alpine Fairytale Tour will create memories – and friendships – that will last a lifetime. The registration deadline is December 31st, so sign up and don't miss your chance to join the adventure!

■ Go to <https://seniorsoftball.com/?page=35> for full itinerary and cost.



The 5th Annual Pacific Rim Championships will be played in Lanzhou, China – October 14th and 15th, 2017. A complete itinerary for SSUSA's Pacific Rim Championships Tour will be released shortly. Join us and be a part of the friendship and sightseeing the Pacific Rim Championships have to offer.

■ For more information on the tour please contact Ross McCulligan at [Ross@SeniorSoftball.com](mailto:Ross@SeniorSoftball.com), or call 916-326-5303 for more information.





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