



## WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017 PREVIEW:

Our Coverage Includes the  
US National Games List and a Calendar of Events

**PAGES 14-18**



Photo Wall Street Journal

At 86, Paul Tomanio is the oldest player in his senior softball league.

### Softball Bends Rules for Seniors

©The Wall Street Journal

By James R. Hagerty

SOUTH PARK, Pa.—One Thursday evening this month, Paul Tomanio was growing impatient with his slow-pitch-softball teammates in this Pittsburgh suburb. A fly ball had just plopped to the ground between two outfielders, allowing a run to score.

“Somebody should have caught that, right?” muttered Mr. Tomanio, wearing a blue T-shirt with matching bandanna knotted around his neck.

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### BEST STATES TO RETIRE: PART 3

## Arizona, Texas & Washington Among Top Tier SSUSA States

### Softball News Report

**W**ith the dark days of winter rapidly approaching, scores of Senior Softball players are only too happy that they’ve made the move from the chilly climates to states where they can play their favorite game year-round.

In fact, weather and with it great game conditions, has proved to be a key reason for seniors moving to their favorite retirement states.

In our on-going series, “Best States to Retire,” we’ve found that while Florida and California rank at the very top in the num-

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#### Rick Siefman, Arizona

“You can play eight months out of the year in the Phoenix metro area and the other four in the north, as Flagstaff and Prescott are just a two-hour drive away.”



#### Angie Ayala, Arizona

“We get used to the heat living here, and play a lot of league games at night in the evenings.”



#### Bill Ruth, Washington

“The growth has been in the western part of the state, Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia.”

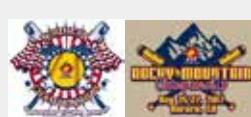
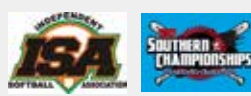
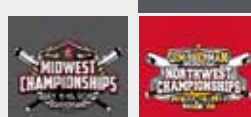
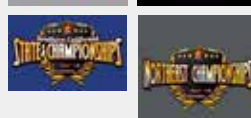
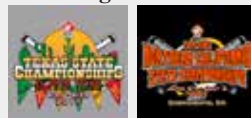


#### Don Brooks, Texas

“Rain outs are short lived as we average nine inches of rain a year.”

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# News Briefing



**Shane Verley**

## SSUSA Mourns Loss of Shane Verley

### Softball News Report

Shane Verley, longtime Senior Softball-USA director, player and Washington State umpire-in-charge, died June 21.

A lifelong Washington State resident, Verley, 61, played for some of the best-known teams in the Northwest: Second Wind, Doerflinger, Wolfpack and the Y Bar & Grill.

As a tournament director, he founded the very popular "Rock at the Rac" in Lacey, which mixed senior softball with classic Rock N Roll, as well as several other annual tournaments in the Northwest.

As the Washington State UIC, Shane has been instrumental in the successful running of some of the sport's premier tournaments, including the Reno tournament, Northwest Championships and the World Masters in Las Vegas.

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## 12 To Be Inducted Into NSSHOF at World Masters Championships

### Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – The National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF) will add 12 members at the 2017 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships (WMC) here in September.

Of the 12 inductees, two players will be inducted during the first WMC session, and 8 players, a manager and a director will be inducted during the second session. This will be the single most inductions into the National Hall of Fame in 2017.

On Sept. 22, at Lorenzi Park Softball Complex, two players, Gary Deaton and Jon "Bully" Kramer, will be enshrined into the NSSHOF during the opening ceremonies of the first session of the WMC.



**Gary Deaton**  
**Player Category**

Playing in his 17th season of senior softball, Deaton tallied 20 points towards the NSSHOF, earning numerous First Team All-American and All-World ac-

colades.

NSSHOF member, Audie Hollis, who Deaton also played for on his 55 and 60 Major Plus teams, stated, "Gary Deaton is the best softball player in the country who is NOT in the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame."



**Jon "Bully" Kramer**  
**Player Category**

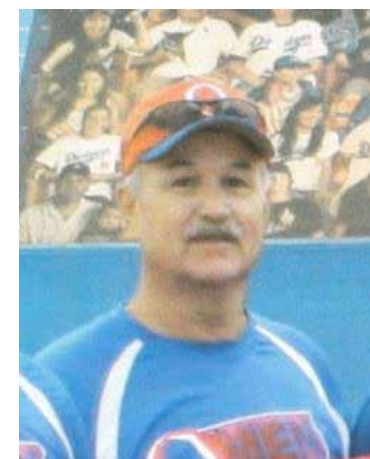
Kramer, who racked up 12 NSSHOF points in his 12 seasons of senior softball with numerous All-Tournament, All-American and All-World selections, began his senior softball career in 2005 with Seacrest Mavericks, a 50 Major Plus team. The team is now Somerville Softball 55 Major Plus.

Don Newhard, manager of the Nighthawks, says of Jon, "probably more impressive than Jon's skills, performance, and achievements on the field is his dedication to the teams he plays for and his enthusiastic support of all of his teammates. He leads by example as well as through encouragement of everyone on his teams. This aspect of Jon is not

always apparent to opponents, but is fully recognized and appreciated by his teammates."

On Sept. 25 at Big League Dreams, during the opening ceremonies of the second session of the WMC, there will be four players, four pioneer players, one manager and one director enshrined into the NSSHOF.

In the Player Category, Ed Carey, Billy Mack Lough, Dale McLaughlin and Bob Ross will be honored.



**Ed Carey**  
**Player Category**

Carey earned eight NSSHOF points over his current 15-year career in senior softball.

Beginning his senior softball career in 2001, Carey played with local teams in Northern California, competing in tournaments in the Northern California Senior Softball Association (NCSSA). In 2009, Ed joined the Old A's and then in 2010 began playing at the national level with the Omen 60 Major Plus team, playing mostly

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# Hall of Fame: Lough, McLaughlin, Ross, Davis and Haltrich Elected to Class of 2017

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third base.

Gary Tryhorn, NSSHOF member says of Carey, "Ed has become the quintessential third baseman delivering a massive ball stopping power and a great throwing arm to cut down runners. His hitting has become so precise that he now is one of the best hitters on our Major Plus 70 team."



**Billy Mack Lough**  
**Player Category**

Earning eight NSSHOF points over his 19 years in senior softball, Lough began his career in 1998 at age 50. He began playing with Coasters, Capital Revisited, GSF, Full Circle and Omen, as well as D&K, Paradise Chevrolet, Palm Springs Heat and B&B.

Bob Woodroof, NSSHOF member says of Lough, "In addition to being a very good player, he was an excellent teammate. He loves the game of softball and the people who play it, whether they are teammates or opponents."

McLaughlin is entering his 23rd season in senior softball, earning 12.5 NSSHOF points, being named to a number of All-American, All-World and All-Tournament teams.



**Dale McLaughlin**  
**Player Category**

McLaughlin began his senior softball career in 1994, playing with Robbi's Pizza in Portland, Ore. In 1999, he began playing on the W. E. Ruth teams in the Major and Major Plus divisions, and in 2007 with the Scrap Iron teams.

"Dale has played a very important role in the success of my Ruth Real Estate teams, and continues to be a key player on his present team with his extraordinary skills," said Bill Ruth.

NSSHOF member Jack Robinson on McLaughlin: "As his many tournament wins and all tournament awards indicate, Dale is a great hitter, especially in the clutch. I played against Dale for many years and he was always one of the players we worried about the most. We played together at the 70 Major Plus level for the last four years and my admiration for his ability and knowledge of the game just gets greater."

Playing in his 14th season in senior softball, Ross earned 9.5 NSSHOF points. He began his senior softball career at age 58 after answering a newspaper ad for tryout for a 55 team. In 2002, he joined the Scrap Iron Softball Club, and was inducted into the

Scrap Iron Hall of Fame in 2009. Ross has played for the Arizona Sidewinders, Master Collision and numerous Scrap Iron teams. Additionally, he has traveled internationally, playing softball in Italy and Cuba as part of Team USA in SSUSA's international tours.



**Bob Ross**  
**Player Category**

NSSHOF member Ranier Martens, speaks highly of Ross, stating, "Bob is an outstanding outfielder with excellent speed, a sure-handed glove, and a strong throwing arm. He is clearly one of the top five outfielders in the country."

Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer, adds, "Bob has competed at the top end of the sport throughout the past two decades. He has played on some of the best teams to come out of Colorado in the Scrap Iron organization, including the Legends, Redux, Legacy and Phiten."

In the Pioneer Player Category, Robert Davis, Norman Haltrich, Kenneth Lockman and James Phillips will be inducted in the class of 2017.

Currently a member of the San Francisco Seals (75 Major Plus), Davis has been participating in senior softball for 25 years.



**Bobby Davis**  
**Pioneer Player Category**

He began playing senior softball in 1992 and was sidelined for 10 years due to knee surgeries beginning in 2000. Davis then returned to accomplish an amazing record, which has included helping lead the Seals to the Triple Grand Slam in 2015 and 2016, as well as earning All-Tournament selections in the WMC in 2015 and 2016.

"No one in the game at our age can turn a single into a double better than Bobby and if it's close, he surprises the fielder with a spectacular slide that excites everyone," said Roger Berryman, teammate and NSSHOF member.



**Norman Haltrich**  
**Pioneer Player Category**

Haltrich, a member of Florida Investment Properties (80 Major), has been playing senior

**Continued on Next Page**



# Hall of Fame: Lockman, Phillips, Carey and Hennessy Round Out Class of 2017

## Continued from Previous Page

softball for 27 years. He's earned numerous All-Tournament selections throughout his career and helped lead Florida Investment Properties to the Triple Grand Slam in 2015.

"Norm has played senior softball since he was 55, and he is now 80," said Warren Watson, teammate and NSSHOF member. "He hits to all fields, always behind the base runner, and hits with power. He is usually in the top five hitters in any given tournament."

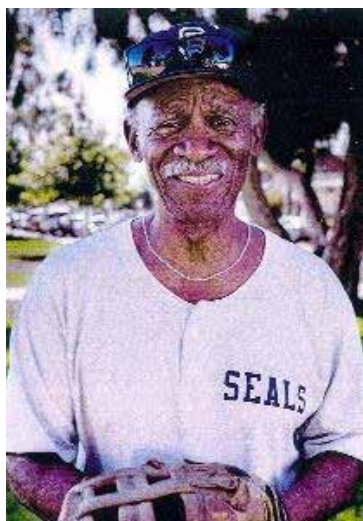


**Ken Lockman**  
**Pioneer Player Category**

Lockman, a member of Fairway Ford (80 Major), has a senior softball career spanning 23 years.

"Ken has played with Fairway Ford softball for five years, leading the team in key hits and RBIs," said Carlos Becerra, a NSSHOF member. "84 years young and he is one of the best on our team, possibly the entire world. This man is always ready to play and gives his all."

Phillips is the second member of San Francisco Seals (75 Major Plus) in the Class of 2017, joining fellow teammate, Bobby Davis. Spanning a 22-year career, Phillips has been a member of nine teams since 1994.

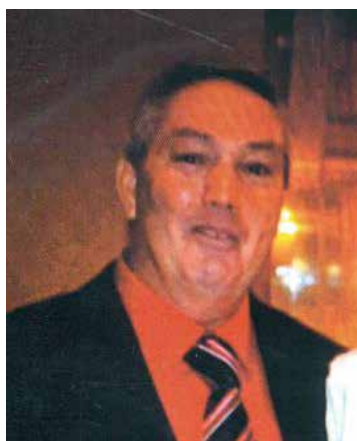


**Jim Phillips**  
**Pioneer Player Category**

Phillips helped lead his teams to five Triple Grand Slam titles, accomplishing the feat in 2008 with NorCal Bluejays and then four-in-a-row with the Seals (2013-2016).

"Jim 'Berkeley' Phillips truly epitomizes what our special game is all about...sportsmanship, fellowship, and an attitude that shows his appreciation of being on the field, expressing his love for the game, his teammates as well as his opponents," said Don Farber, NSSHOF member and manager of the Seals.

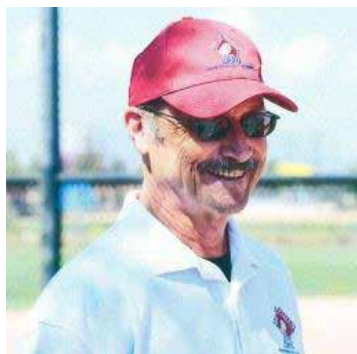
In the Manager Category, Patrick "Kid" Carey, manager of High Street Bucs, has been elected to the NSSHOF. Carey has been involved with senior softball for the past 16 years, as a player/manager. His managerial accomplishments include 28 national titles across all the major associations, championships in over 300 other senior tournaments of varying degrees and multiple second & third place finishes. He began his softball managerial career as manager of his workplace team High Street when he was 35 years old as a player/manager and



**Pat Carey**  
**Manager Category**

added the name Bucs to the team name in his father's memory.

Along with his team championships, Carey has earned individual accolades, earning ISSA'S Manager of the Year on 12 occasions, covering the years 1999-2012. In 2009, The Washington Metropolitan Slow Pitch Softball Hall of Fame recognized The High Street Bucs team for their Outstanding performance over the years.



**Terry Hennessy**  
**Director Category**

Terry Hennessy enters the NSSHOF in the director category. Hennessy joined SSUSA in 1994, as Executive Director and Publisher of Senior Softball News. In 2002, he assumed the position of C.E.O., when he and Bill Ruth acquired SSUSA from Bob

Mitchell. During the past 15-plus years, Hennessy has expanded the presence of SSUSA globally and into China.

Michael Boone, NSSHOF member, on Hennessy: "Terry spends countless hours planning tournaments, and making sure that ALL players are made to feel important to the organization. He has dedicated his efforts to making sure that all teams and players are treated fairly and equally."

Gary Tryhorn, NSSHOF member adds, "through his association with SSUSA, Terry has contributed to the advancement of Senior Softball around the country, and the world. As publisher of the Senior Softball News, and the SSUSA Rulebook, which is the default softball rulebook in leagues and associations across the country."

Fran Dowell, NSSHOF member and SSUSA Executive Director says, "as a testament to Terry's character and leadership, he has based every single judgment and decision within the context of, 'Is this the right thing to do for the benefit of the teams and players?' This is true even when SSUSA's or Terry's individual interests would be better served by a different result."



# Opinions & Letters

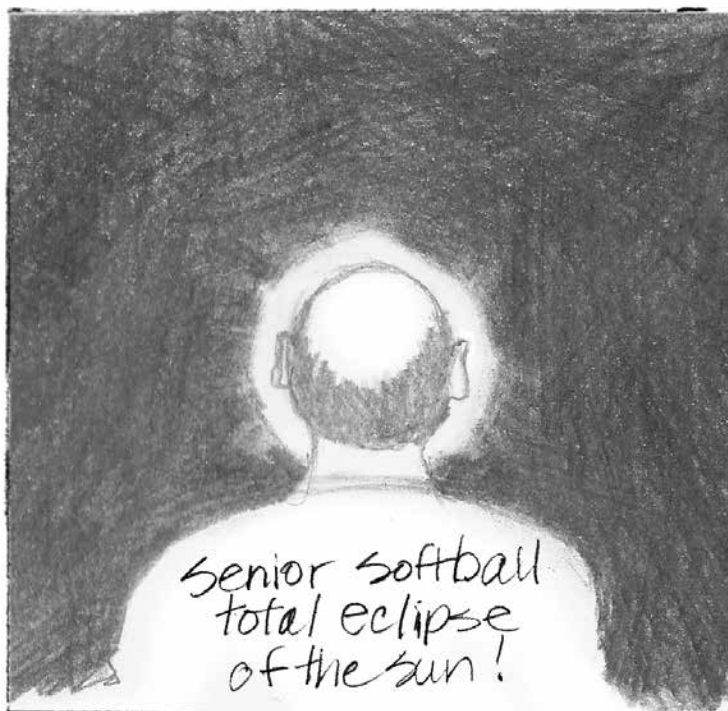
## Guam Shows True Nature of Sports

An inspiring brand of sportsmanship has blossomed in Guam, an island with 210 square miles of beauty in the middle of the Western Pacific Ocean.

Guam has produced seven Masters and Senior teams, both in the Men's and Women's divisions, that continue to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship and provide an example to other teams throughout the sport.

In recognition of their truly inspirational play, the collective teams from Guam have been awarded the 2017 Steve Simmons Memorial Sportsmanship Award which is the top team award presented by Senior Softball USA.

This award transcends the game itself. It stands for all that is good in the sport: passionate competition played with good humor and good fellowship - that is the formula for good sportsmanship. The beauty of good sportsmanship is that it incites a



Sue Ballenger

love of the game for all who witness it.

Their excitement in cheering each other on – and at participating in the World Masters Championships has been remarkable.

The 2017 Sportsmanship Award will be presented to these Guam Teams during the World Masters Championships Opening Ceremonies in Las Vegas:

- Armed Forces Guam
- Bud Light Guam

- Sindalun Guahan
- Guam Seniors
- Guam SOTTA
- Guam Mighty 50
- FIGO Islanders

Through their sportsmanship, these seven teams from an island in the middle of the Pacific are having a major impact on teams throughout America – and on the sport itself.

**Terry Hennessy - Editor**

## Medicine Advances in Cancer Detection

**By Pete Davignon**

The U.S. Federal Drug Administration has approved a cancer treatment that uses a patient's own genetically modified cells to attack a type of leukemia. This opens the door to a new frontier in medicine and clears the way for medical researchers to apply a new approach to fighting cancer

by harnessing the body's immune system.

A process known as CAR T-cell therapy is used in children or young adults fighting an often-fatal recurrence of the most common childhood cancer — B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Most of the time, it is treated successfully with chemotherapy,

radiation, or by transplant of bone marrow which produces blood cells. When these treatments fail to beat back the cancer, the odds of survival fall to 1 in 10.

The new treatment is a one-time infusion developed by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and the pharmaceu-

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## Senior Softball News

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# Receiving the Call of a Lifetime

The call informing me that I had been nominated and elected to the Senior Softball National Hall of Fame came out of the blue as a total surprise.

I am both humbled and honored to be recognized by the people in the sport I love.

And I'll be forever grateful to Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director, for all the work she did in nominating me for such an honor.

As many seniors know, life's path is generally not only crooked but full of surprises.

Little did I realize when Bob Mitchell (the founder of Senior Softball USA) called me to help publish his newspaper in 1994, that I'd have the chance to help shape a sport.

It started slowly.

First we revamped and updated the newspaper, next Bob taught me how to run tournaments, introduced me to the International Softball Tours and, in 1997, he asked me to work full time running

## Covering the Bases By Terry Hennessy

Senior Softball USA as the executive director.

Having worked for more than 30 years as a newspaper reporter and editor, it felt like I was stepping into the deep end of a pool.

It was a refreshing change and challenge. At the time, SSUSA was the second largest of eight national programs offering senior softball tournaments, with about 20 qualifiers leading to the World Championships with about 150 teams.

We continued to build the program, with Bill Ruth and myself buying SSUSA from Mitchell when he retired at the end of 2001.

Flash forward to 2017.

SSUSA now is larger than all of the other senior softball programs combined. SSUSA now has three owners, adding

Executive Director Fran Dowell last year, and offers tournaments in 70 cities, leagues in 300, Regional Championships in 20 cities, a Tournament of Champions in Florida and the World Masters Championships (which we partner with Las Vegas Senior Softball Association) with about 600 teams.

Internationally, we continue to promote the sport through our charter membership in the Pacific Rim Slowpitch Softball Federation, two annual international Softball Tours, and the opening of an office in Beijing to promote softball and tee-ball in schools throughout China.

All of these accomplishments were a team effort. I am very proud of what SSUSA has accomplished as a team dedicated to promoting, expanding and improving the sport we love.

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

# CAN-Sirs: Warning Signs of Cancer

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tical company Novartis. Officially known as chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy (CART-T-cell), it starts with doctors extracting disease-fighting white blood cells, known as T-cells, from a patient's blood. The cells are frozen and shipped to a laboratory where they are genetically engineered to attack a specific protein on the cancerous B cells.

They're then put back into the body, where they seek out and destroy cancer cells. And because the cells were taken from the patient's own body, there is no need for anti-rejection drugs, which are needed after transplants.

It is currently limited to the one children's leukemia, but that platform potentially can be used to benefit many cancer patients

and treat a lot of different types of cancers, particularly blood cancer patients.

## Warning Signs

A recent smart phone app that can screen for pancreatic cancer works by having a person take a selfie to detect signs of jaundice in their eyes. Pancreatic cancer has one of the worst outcomes. The survival rate is 9 percent in part because there are no telltale symptoms to catch a tumor before it spreads. The problem with pancreatic cancer is that the by the time symptoms appear it is frequently too late.

Other warning signs may be far less obvious. Doctors do not have a screening test for all cancers so it is important to know the potential warning signs. Talk with your health care provider if

you experience symptoms during a three-month period. The most common — changes in a mole — is a sign of skin cancer. Other symptoms to be aware of are:

- a chronic cough,
- sore throat or trouble swallowing
- headache, backache or another pain that will not go away
- fever and fatigue
- rapid weight loss
- changes in bowel movement
- unusual bleeding

Some of these can be warning signs of cancer. People who recognize them are more likely to seek care, improving their chances against the disease.

With all the information about awareness and prevention of cancer, a healthy diet, regular exercise, and regular checkups



## CAN-SIRS CORNER By Pete Davignon

with your doctor are still the cornerstones of most health recommendations.

You can reach us at [can-sirs@att.net](mailto:can-sirs@att.net) and visit the CAN-Sirs website at [www.can-sirs.org](http://www.can-sirs.org). Your financial support is welcome, you can donate through PayPal or 2485 Notre Dame Blvd. #370-180, Chico, CA 95928



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# 2.2% Social Security Bump Expected

By Jack Sirard

For the first time in what seems like years, there's a bit of prospective good news looming for Social Security recipients.

In a nutshell, we're likely going to be getting a raise in 2018 and this time it might be enough to actually make a small difference. Those overseeing the program are projecting a cost-of-living raise of about 2.2 percent come January and if that's the case, it will be the biggest bump up in payments since 2011.

If you think 2.2 percent doesn't sound like much, remember that we only got a 0.3 percent increase this year and back in 2016, we didn't get a dime more! Nothing extra at

all.

So for the average Social Security beneficiary, that 2.2 percent works out to about \$30 a month for an individual. The Social Security bosses are expected to make it all official in October.

The reason that these annual cost of living adjustments have been so low is that inflation has been pretty much held in check for the last several years. It's also interesting to note that the Social Security Board of Trustees noted that the fund is projected to be depleted by the year 2034, the same target date they forecast last year.

If nothing is done in Washington to beef up the Social Security fund, benefits

would have to be cut because it is estimated that there will only be enough money coming in to pay for roughly 77 percent of scheduled benefits.

However, the picture has brightened a bit for the solvency of disability and Medicare benefits.

Last year, Social Security said it believed that the disability trust fund would be depleted in 2023, but now it projects it to be good until 2028, with an estimated 93 percent of benefits still payable. The Medicare trust fund is now expected to be OK until 2029, a year later than last year's forecast.

In its 2017 annual Report to Congress, the Social Security Trustees also announced:

- The asset reserves of the combined trust funds increased by \$35 billion in 2016 to a total of \$2.85 trillion.
- The combined trust fund reserves are still growing and will continue to do so through 2021. Beginning in 2022, the total annual cost of the program is projected to exceed income.

"It is time for the public to engage in the important national conversation about how to keep Social Security

strong," Nancy A. Berryhill, acting commissioner of Social Security, said in a statement. "People understand the value of their earned Social Security benefits and the importance of keeping the program secure for the future."

Other highlights of the Trustees Report include:

- Total income, including interest, to the combined OASDI Trust Funds amounted to \$957 billion in 2016. (\$836 billion in net contributions, \$33 billion from taxation of benefits, and \$88 billion in interest)
- Total expenditures from the combined OASDI Trust Funds amounted to \$922 billion in 2016.
- Social Security paid benefits of \$911 billion in calendar year 2016. There were about 61 million beneficiaries at the end of the calendar year.
- During 2016, an estimated 171 million people had earnings covered by Social Security and paid payroll taxes.

*Jack Sirard is a retired nationally syndicated financial columnist and a senior writer/editor of Senior Softball News*

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SSUSA also provides the best deals on approved softballs with free delivery when ordering six dozen or more. This is a great program that can work for all leagues. Please call our office at 916-326-5303 and ask for Stephanie or Fran for a quote.



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# Avoid Stretching Right Before Playing

By Stan Reents, Senior Softball News Contributor

We've covered aerobic fitness and muscular fitness in the past. Now let's talk about stretching and flexibility.

It is recommended that everyone stretch regularly. (Dogs and cats do it so it must be somewhat beneficial!) Stretching can help prevent some sports injuries, mostly in activities where a muscle is forced to lengthen rapidly: softball, baseball, basketball, football, soccer, tennis, volleyball, etc. Stretching is not very useful in cycling or swimming.

However, stretching should be avoided in the 60-90 minutes prior to competition. This might be confusing. Elite athletes routinely stretch just prior to competition. How can this be bad?

It takes about 60 minutes for a muscle to regain its full strength after it has been stretched. So, do your stretches before you get to the ballpark, not immediately prior to walking up to the plate.

Stretching can be helpful for recovering from minor muscle injuries such as plantar fasciitis or a pulled hamstring.

Stretching techniques include static stretching and ballistic stretching:

- In static stretching, you slowly stretch the muscle group, stopping before it gets painful, and hold that position for 20-30 seconds. Release the stretch and repeat it. This is the preferred technique.
- Ballistic stretching refers to a rapid lengthening of the muscle, as what occurs when you bend down at the waist rapidly in an attempt to touch your toes. This technique is not recommended.

Flexibility is also considered an element of fitness. It can be assessed as follows:

- The sit-and-reach test assesses flexibility in the hamstrings and low back. Here, you'll need a box that is 12-14 inches high and a yardstick. To prevent the box from moving, load it up with heavy books. Tape the yardstick to the top of the box with 15 inches overhanging the edge of the box and pointing towards you.

Sit flat on the floor and place your bare feet about 10-12 inches apart against the box on either side of the extended part of the yardstick.

Now, reach forward with your fingers extended. Exhale and tip your head down to reach as far as you can. Do not bend your knees. Keep your toes pointed up so that you don't push the box away. Measure the farthest point on the yardstick that you can touch with your fingertips.

If you can only reach the end of the yardstick, your reading is zero. If you can reach the edge of the box, your value is 15 inches, and so on.

This test should not be performed by people with severe back pain, an acute back injury, or by people with significant osteoporosis of the spine.

The back-scratch test evaluates flexibility in the shoulders. In this test, you try to touch the fingertips of both hands behind your back. You'll need someone to do the measurement.

Do this in a standing position. One arm goes over the shoulder on that side (the left arm goes over the left shoulder) and the other arm goes under the opposite shoulder. If you can't touch your fingertips, record the distance between them (in inches) as a negative number. If your fingertips overlap, record this distance as a positive number.

You can compare your values to your age group in a reference book like ACSM's "Complete Guide to Fitness & Health."

*ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Stan Reents, PharmD, is a health care professional and certified health coach. He created the web site [www.AthleteInMe.com](http://www.AthleteInMe.com)®, a resource on the health benefits of exercise. He is also the author of the sports medicine text "Sport and Exercise Pharmacology."*

# Faster Hips Mean More Bat Speed

By Art Eversole

Whenever I hold my SEATAC hitting club session, members frequently seek advice on how they can increase their bat speed. A common misconception is to believe that swinging harder is the only way to increase bat speed.

A hitter should be aggressive but have controlled aggression. In golf, the mantra smooth is power comes to mind. Bat speed is actually manufactured from the ground up.

Generating more bat speed involves synchronized sequential movements that transfer stored energy at crucial connection points in the swing.

When a hitter correctly connects the dots while executing their swing, more bat speed will be the result. It's about using the hips and shoulders rotating properly to generate greater bat speed instead of just engaging arms and hands.

The aforementioned methods are referred to as rotational mechanics, using the rotating body forces versus the old school linear mechanics or just using arms straight to the ball for bat-speed.

The swing's kinetic energy combers up from the ground beginning with leg forces that are handed off to the torso (which is the part of the human body from the neck to the groin).

Think of a rotating torso as a beer barrel holding your core muscles. Thus, bat speed is maximized by using the major muscle groups beginning with legs, then torso, transferring those cumulative energies to the arms/hands and ultimately to the bat itself which is what I call connecting the dots.

The softball bat when extended out from the shoulder



Figure 1

Mike Davis Demonstrator



Figure 2

Mike Davis WA Legends



Figure 3

Mike Davis WA Legends



Figure 4

Mike Davis WA Legends

at arm's length creates a speed multiplier ratio of ~4:1 to the hips (i.e., bat-arm 60" to hips 15"). This means the bat will have to move ~4 times as fast as your hips to catch up which creates the accelerated bat speed.

During this torso rotation, fundamental physics maintains if you keep holding onto the bat it will have to catch up to your leading hips (see figure 1). Hence, making the point that the faster you can move your hips, the greater the bat speed you can produce. Slow hip turn yields slow bat speed.

Note that there is very little speed multiplier just using your arms alone to accelerate the bat.

The step sequence must be maintained in the correct order with each of the segments lagging a little bit behind the previous step to take advantage of cumulative energy transfer. The swing sequence is torso (hips-core-

shoulders) then the arms/hands and wrists transferring all this built-up energy to the bat handle to accelerate the barrel.

The swing's back and forward motion:

The back swing, or wind-up, has hips turning to your backside, then the shoulders turning back a bit more than the hips; finally the arms pushing the bat back behind the head (see figure 2).

The forward swing is initiated by a subtle lateral movement of the hips allowing a weight transfer to your front foot landing on your toe first. As soon as the front foot heel goes down then the rotational parts of the swing can start immediately with a quick swivel of the hips.

Next comes the shoulders rotation and lastly the arms; remember to straighten the lead arm at contact (see figure 3).

In order to trap those critical body forces the arms must stay

connected to the torso while rotating your body until the release of the bat to the ball. Rotational mechanics also produces that all important bat snap at the ball which creates underspin to carry the ball farther. The lead arm then extends away from the body into a fluid follow-thru (see figure 4).

In order to maximize bat speed, make a concerted effort to get the bat-head moving as fast as possible using the principles just described to the ball.

You can Google hip speed trainers on the internet that can help in generating more hip speed thereby increasing your bat-speed.

Happy hitting,

Art Eversole can be reached at [Bashman01@earthlink.net](mailto:Bashman01@earthlink.net).



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# Best States: Year-Round Play in AZ & TX

Continued from Page 1

ber of active Senior Softball players, the next three favorites - Arizona, Texas and Washington - have a lot to offer retirees as well.

Using data collected by Wallethub.com's [2017 Best & Worst States to Retire](#) in addition to our own findings, we noted that Arizona which ranks third in the number of SSUSA players with 2,729 also ranked a solid 13th in retiree friendly scores. Texas with 2,607 players ranked fourth and 18th in the same categories and Washington with 1,441 players came in 5th and 16th respectively.

"You can play eight months out of the year in the Phoenix metro area and the other four in the north, as Flagstaff and Prescott are just a two-hour drive away," said Rick Seifman, SSUSA vice president/umpires, and Arizona state director, on playing year round in the Grand Canyon State.

Seifman also mentions the great fields in the area, which allow for access to league and tournament play.

For these reasons, as well as its location to other states with large numbers of SSUSA players, it is no wonder that Arizona is currently home to one of SSUSA's most popular tournaments, the Winter World Championships.

Angie Perez Ayala, manager of Arizona Dream Team, agrees with Seifman, saying, "We can constantly play all year long, playing every weekend. We get used to the heat living here, and play a lot of league games at night."

Ayala also enjoys playing in the northern part of the state, traveling to Flagstaff, Sedona and Prescott.

In addition to weather, established senior softball leagues within retirement communities with residency

*"Softball is about the only activity that is played by a team of seniors."*

-Larry Reed

requirements are also a big draw for players. Arizona scored well in quality of life (16), one of the three dimensions used in the Wallethub study, to go along with affordability and health care. One can argue that the access to senior softball within these retirement communities aid in the quality of life for the residents.

"In active retirement communities, there are lots of activities and sports geared toward the individual - golf, bowling, pickle ball, bocce ball, swimming, tennis, racquetball, etc.," said Larry Reed, a member of Sun Cities Senior Softball Association.

"Softball is about the only activity that is played by a team of seniors. Many of us have fond memories of team sports when we were younger and jump at the chance to rekindle that team spirit again."

"The camaraderie and friendship built through that team activity is hugely important to all of us who participate. I've often heard people say softball is the excuse to go down to the field to enjoy the friendships. There are just a lot of people who believe in the phrase 'You don't stop playing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop playing.'"

Similarly, weather is a main catalyst for the popularity of senior softball in Texas, particularly in the western part of the state that sees drier conditions.

"We very seldom have a rain outs," said Don Brooks, SSUSA national director, who resides in El Paso. "Rain outs are short lived as we average 9 inches of rain a year."

Another reason for the popularity of the sport is the sheer number of players available. "Growth is predicated on population," continued Brooks.

As the second most populous state, it is no surprise that Texas would be among the top states for senior softball, as the Lone Star State claims three of the top 10 largest cities in the nation: Houston, San Antonio and Dallas.

"Senior softball is big in Houston, Austin and San Antonio," said Keith Parker, an SSUSA regional director out of Texas. Parker also helped create Texas Half Century Softball Club in 2008 with a desire to bring more competitive play to the state.

"There are three to four leagues in Houston, as well as leagues in Georgetown, Austin, San Antonio and Tyler," continued Parker. "It really has spread throughout the state."

Parker also mentions how players begin to take on the sport later in life. After playing some sort of sports in high school and/or college, slow pitch allows players to return to an active pastime.

The outlier in the top five states of SSUSA players is Washington. Located in the Pacific Northwest, some would not expect to see the Evergreen State on the same list as California, Florida, Arizona and Texas, states with a more weather friendly atmosphere for year-round play.

"Our season is short," said Bill Ruth, SSUSA president and a key pioneer of the sport in Washington,

Continued on Next Page



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# Best States: Growth Seen in Western States

Continued from Previous Page

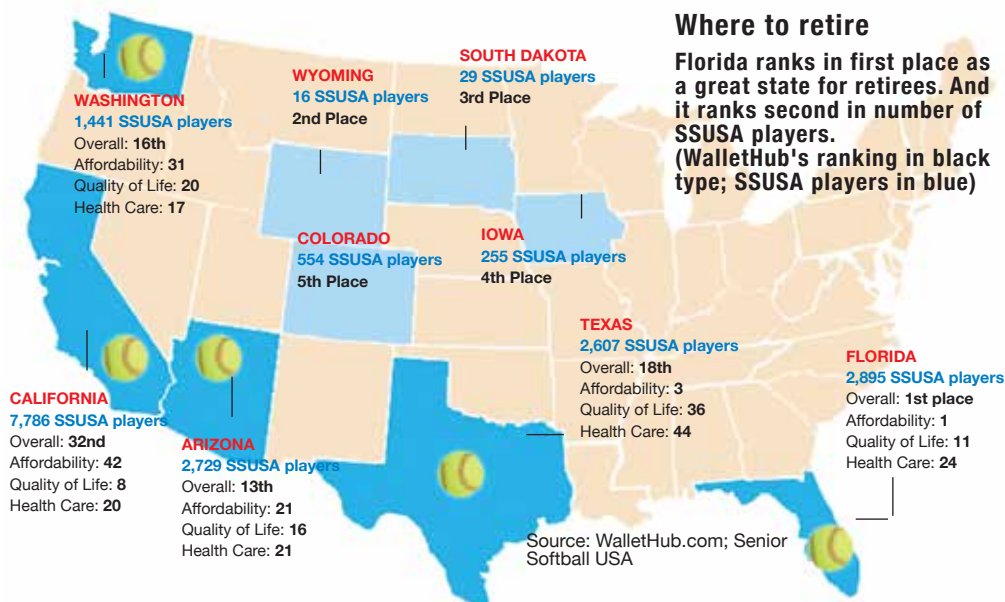
as a player and sponsor. “You can’t get on the field until about April, and have to stop in October.”

Ruth credits the core of senior directors and umpires early on, specifically Jim Sherman, with the implementation of uniform rules and improvement of umpires.

“Washington was a late entry to senior softball,” said Ruth. “Other states were way ahead. The growth has been in the western part of the states, with the larger cities, Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia.”

Divided by the Cascade Range, weather varies drastically between the western and eastern parts of Washington. “I think the top reason (for softball popularity) on the west side of the state are the great complexes, many which have artificial turf, so very few rainouts,” said Ron Grassi, SSUSA’s Northwest umpire-in-chief. “The east side of the state has less rain and hotter weather.”

“I think another reason might be the popularity of slow pitch when this generation was growing up,” contin-



ued Grassi. “As an umpire, I used to work four game sets five days a week because of so many teams. Those players still love the game.”

As the top three states in the nation in terms of population, it makes sense that California, Texas and Florida, would be among the top three states of SSUSA players, as the baby boomers generation continues to be a driving force, along with the growth that has been witnessed within Gen-

eration X as well. Arizona and Washington, among the top 15 states in terms of population, prove the continued popularity and growth of senior softball in the western states.

*Our series will wrap up with the fourth installment in our next edition, in which we will look at the remaining four states that made the “Best States to Retire” list, Wyoming, South Dakota, Iowa and Colorado, second through fifth, respectively.*

## WSJ: Joys of Feeling 12 Years-Old Again

Continued from Page 1

At age 86, Mr. Tomanio is the voice of experience on his senior softball team. His teammates range from late 50s to 80. He isn’t particularly impressed with many of them. “They don’t know where to throw the ball half the time,” he said. One of his teammates, he said, “throws like a girl.”

Yet Mr. Tomanio concedes he, too, is past his prime. No longer as agile as a few years ago, he has been relegated from infield to catcher, a position requiring less mobility. “Oh, the good old days,” he said. “I used to be half decent.”

Senior softball leagues, a fixture across the U.S., have long been a way for

men over 50 to relive boyhood glories. Now, rather than giving up the game after a few years, more are sticking with it into their 80s.

“It kind of rejuvenates people, softball does,” said Bill Klinkenberg, 82, who lives in Lenexa, Kan., and plays for a team called the Antiques, whose rivals include the Chicago Geezers.

There are some senior-women’s softball leagues, but at these older age levels, men vastly outnumber women, organizers say.

Hugh Brotherton, an 85-year-old in Englewood, Fla., who has had both knees replaced, plays softball several times a week, sometimes with 50-year-olds. “I’m

older than the fathers of many of these guys,” he said.

It’s a bittersweet experience for the older players, mixing the joy of feeling 12 years old again with the sorrow of fading abilities. The widening age gap also presents a challenge for softball leagues across the country: how to keep the game fair when the very old are playing with fairly spry sluggers in their 50s—league minimums can be age 50, 55, 60 or sometimes higher.

An estimated 393,000 Americans over 55 regularly play slow-pitch softball, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association. It isn’t clear

Continued from Page 22



2017 WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

More Than 600 Teams Expected In Vegas

Softball News Report

**L**AS VEGAS – The largest senior softball tournament in the world – the Las Vegas Senior Softball Association (LVSSA)/ Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) World Masters Championships - returns to Sin City in 2017 for the sixth straight year.

Last year, a record 564 teams from 41 states (including Alaska and Hawaii), three Canadian provinces (Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario) and Guam (five teams) competed in Senior Softball's largest tournament ever. Over 10,000 players competed, playing in an incredible 1,837 games over the 13-day tournament, across 10 sports complexes and 39 fields.

This year, World Masters Championships (WMC) officials are estimating more than 600 teams will flock to this gambling mecca, setting yet another record.

The 600-plus teams in the WMC translate to over 18,000 people, who will infuse over \$27 million into the local economy.

"It is our pleasure to welcome the more than 600 teams that will make the trip to Las Vegas to compete in the Senior Softball World Masters Championships," said Pat Christenson, president of Las



Player from Bulldogs 60's (OR) rounding third and coming home looking to score. Team finished third in the 2016 WMC.

Photo by Jack Eberhard

Senior Softball World Masters Championships 2017 Calendar of Events



Player from Hawaii Five-O (55 Major) attempting to make the back-hand grab at the 2016 WMC.

Photo by Jack Eberhard

**Thursday, Sept. 21:**  
**5 - 7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel:**  
**Manager's Registration**  
Managers for the Men's 55 and 60 Divisions register and receive their programs and schedules anytime between 5pm and 7pm at the Headquarters Hotel: Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Several vendors will be at registration and the meeting displaying new softball gear and products.



Player from Texas Mavericks looking to hit the cut-off man. Team was runner-up in 2016 WMC.

Photo by Jack Eberhard

U.S. National Championship Games

Beasts From The East vs. Best From The West For National Bragging Rights

The top teams East of the Mississippi battled to represent their region in North Carolina, August 1-6; while their counterparts in the West vied for regional honors in California, July 25-30.

The winners of the Eastern Nationals will play the winners of the Western Nationals in the one game, winner-take-all, U.S. National Championship Game during the 2017 World Masters Championships in Las Vegas.

These games are the second leg of the coveted Triple Grand Slam, as teams winning the U.S. National Game and their division in the World Masters, along with their victory in the Eastern/Western National, complete the feat.

Additionally, teams winning the U.S. National Game are seeded first in their bracket for the World Masters, while the teams losing the U.S. National Game are placed second in their bracket, in divisions of five or more teams.

AGE	DIVISION	WESTERN CHAMPION	EASTERN CHAMPION
MEN			
40	Major Plus	NWP (CA)	NONE
	Major	SofaKing Softball (CA)	East Coast Berserk (MD)
	AAA	No Limit/Fay's Sports (CA)	Color By Design (MD)
50	Major+	J.K.,Inc. (CA)	Mid-Atlantic Softball (VA)
	Major	KM Sportz (CA)	Ohio Elite/A&B Contracting
	AAA	Calhoun/Michael's Toyota (WA)	BP Associates (PA)
55	Major+	Sommerville Softball (CA)	NONE
	Major	Doerflinger Softball (WA)	Woodlawn Funeral (VA)
	AAA	Senior Bend Elks (OR)	Ameriprise Florida Legends
60	AA	Pastimers (WA)	Longshoremen 55 (VA)
	Major+	MTC/Dudley (CA)	Hollis Appraisals 60 (FL)
	Major	Houston Fire (TX)	Omega IT Services (MD)
65	AAA	Mountain Mike's Pizza (CA)	Pompano Crush 60's (FL)
	AA	Fresno Mayhem (CA)	NONE
	Major+	Timberworks/Adidas (CA)	Superior Sr. Softball (VA)
70	Major	NorCal STIXX (CA)	New Jersey Hitmen
	AAA	Oregon Crabs	Northern Virginia Force 65
	AA	Omen 70 (CA)	Venom 70 (FL)
75	Major+	California Wrecking Crew	NONE
	Major	Sacramento Buds (CA)	NONE
	AAA	San Francisco Seals 75 (CA)	NONE
80	Major	General Equipment/PDR (OR)	NONE
	AAA	Triple Play 75 (CA)	NONE
	AA	NONE	FL Investment Properties
WOMEN			
40	Major	Redwood City Gold Rush (CA)	NONE
	AAA		
	AA		
50	Major	Old School (CA)	Kryptonite (FL)
	AAA	Utah Relics	Fireballs (MA)
	AA	B.O.O.B's 40 (CA)	NONE
55	Major		Dreamgirlz 50 (VA)
	AAA		NONE
60	Major		
	AAA		

Please See Page 18

Please See Page 16



# 2017 WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

## Continued from Previous Page 7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel: Man- ager's Meeting

Managers for the Men's 55 and 60 Divisions meet at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Managers will meet the directors of fields, review changes in schedules, hear details of awards, special events of the tournament and will be eligible to win prizes during drawings.

## Friday, Sept. 22:

### 8 am at all fields: The Games Begin

Seeding games for the World Championships begin at all fields. Players check-in before the first game and receive wristbands. Bracket games will be played in some divi-

sions. U.S. National Games are scheduled to be played. **12:30 pm at Lorenzi: Opening Ceremonies**

Two players (Gary Deaton and Jon "Bully" Kramer) will be inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame.

## Saturday, Sept. 23:

### 8 am at all fields: Games Continue

Elimination games played at all fields throughout the day.

## Sunday, Sept. 24:

### 8 am at all fields: Awards Presented

Today is the culmination of play for the Men's 55 and 60 Divisions. Awards will be presented on the field after each of the Championship Games. Winners receive rings.



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## Sunday, Sept. 24:

### 5 - 7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel: Manager's Registration

Managers for the Men's 65, 70, 75, 80 and 85 Divisions receive their programs and schedules anytime between 5 and 7 pm at the Headquarters Hotel: Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Several vendors will be at the registration and meeting displaying new softball gear.

### 7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel: Man- ager's Meeting

Managers for the Men's 65, 70, 75, 80 and 85 Divisions meet at the Boulder Station

Casino and Hotel. Managers will meet the directors of fields, review changes in schedules, hear details of awards, special events of the tournament and will be eligible to win prizes during drawings.

## Monday, Sept. 25:

### 8 am at all fields: The Games Begin

Seeding games for the World Championships begin at all fields. Players check-in before the first game and receive wristbands. Bracket games will be played in some divisions. U.S. National Games are scheduled to be played in Men's 65, 70, 75, 80 and 85

**Continued on Next Page**



# 2017 WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Continued from Previous Page  
Divisions.

## Noon at Big League Dreams: Opening Ceremonies

National Anthem with Nellis Air Force Base Color Guard presenting the colors. Ten players (Terry Hennessy, Pat Carey, Billy Mack Lough, Robert Ross, Ed Carey, Dale McLaughlin, James Phillips, Robert Davis, Ken Lockman, and Norman Haltrich) will be inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame. Honorable Mayor Oscar Goodman will be in attendance.

**Tuesday, Sept. 26 -**

**Wednesday, Sept. 27:**

**8 am at all fields: Games Continue**

Seeding (Tuesday) and Bracket (Wednesday) games played at all fields throughout the day.

**Thursday, Sept. 28:**

**8 am at all fields: Games Conclude & Awards Presented**

Today is the culmination of play for the 65, 70, 75, 80 and 85 Men's Divisions. Awards will be presented in ceremonies on the field after each of the Championship Games. Winners receive rings.

**Thursday, Sept. 28**

**5 - 7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel: Manager's Registration**

Managers for the Men's 50 Division register and receive their programs and schedules anytime between 5 pm and 7 pm at the Headquarters Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Several vendors will be at the Registration and Meeting displaying new softball gear.

**7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel: Manager's Meeting**

Managers for the Men's 50 Division meet at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Managers will meet the directors of fields, review changes in schedules, hear details of awards, special events of the tournament and will be eligible to win prizes during drawings.

**Friday, Sept. 29**

**8 am at all fields: The Games Begin**

Games begin at all fields. Players register before the first game, receive wristbands. U.S. National Games are scheduled to be played in Men's 50 Division.

**Noon at Big League Dreams: Opening Ceremonies**

National Anthem with Nellis Air Force Base Color Guard presenting the colors. In addition, there will be a special presentation of the 2017 Steve Simmons Sportsman-ship Award to Guam Seniors (Men's 50 AAA).

**Saturday, Sept. 30**

**8 am at all fields: Games Continue**

Seeding games played at all fields throughout the day.

**Sunday, Oct. 1**

**8 am at all fields: Games Conclude & Awards Presented**

Today is the culmination of play for the 50 Men's Division. Awards will be presented in ceremonies on the field after each of the Championship Games. Winners receive

**Continued on Next Page**

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# 2017 WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Continued from Previous Page rings.

## Thursday, Oct. 5

**5 - 7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel: Manager's Registration**  
Managers for the Men's 40 and All Women's Divisions register and receive their programs and schedules anytime between 5pm and 7 pm at the Headquarters Hotel: Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Several vendors will be at the Registration and Meeting displaying new softball gear and products.

## 7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel: Manager's Meeting

Managers for the Men's 40 and All Women's Divisions meet at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Managers will meet the directors of fields, review changes in schedules, hear details of awards, special events of the tournament and will be eligible to win prizes during drawings.

## Friday, Oct. 6

### 8 am at all fields: The Games Begin

Seeding games for the World Championships begin at all fields. Players check-in before the first game and receive wristbands. Bracket games will be played in some divisions. U.S. National Games are scheduled to be played in the Men's 40 and All Women's Divisions.

## Noon at Big League Dreams: Opening Ceremonies

There will be a special presentation of the 2017 Steve Sim-



mons Sportsmanship Award to six Guam teams: Armed Forces Guam (Men's 40 Major), Bud Light Guam (Men's 40 AAA), Sindalun Gualan (Men's 40 AAA), Guam Women's - FIGO Islanders (Women's 40 AAA), Guam Women's - Team SOTTA (Women's 40 AA), and Guam Women's - Team Mighty 50's (Women 50).

## Saturday, Oct. 7:

### 8 am at all fields: Games Continue

Elimination games played at all fields throughout the day.

## Sunday, Oct. 8:

### 8 am at all fields: Games Conclude & Awards Presented

Today is the culmination of play for the Men's 40 and All Women's Division. Awards will be presented in ceremonies on the field after each of the Championship Games. Winners receive Rings.

# WMC: Seven Guam Teams to Be Honored

## Continued from Page 14

Vegas Events. "We hope that all of the participants and fans have a great experience at the ballparks and enjoy everything that Las Vegas has to offer."

Las Vegas Events, the Title Sponsor of the 2017 World Masters Championships, has been instrumental in providing the necessary support to create the largest senior softball tournament in the world.

The WMC will feature 12 National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF) inductions - See story on Page 3 - as well as several U.S. National Championship Games and a chance for teams in 35 divisions to win the largest senior tournament ever.

In addition, the top award given by SSUSA annually, the Steve Simmons Memorial Team Sportsmanship Award, will be presented to the seven teams traveling to Las Vegas from Guam during Opening Ceremonies.

"This award (Steve Sim-

mons Sportsmanship) transcends the game itself," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA CEO. "It stands for all that is good in the sport: passionate competition played with good humor and good fellowship - that is the formula for good sportsmanship. The beauty of good sportsmanship is that it incites a love of the game for all who witness it."

"The teams from Guam have demonstrated the highest level of sportsmanship and provide an example to teams throughout the sport."

Teams qualified for the WMC by playing in one of the nearly 70 SSUSA qualifiers and regional championships. The tournament is a joint venture, administered by SSUSA, with LVSSA supplying many of the field directors and helping secure and maintain the 12 softball facilities and 37 fields used in the tournament throughout Las Vegas, Henderson and Clark County.



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We will spend our first four nights in **Copenhagen**, the capital of Denmark. While there, we will embark on some of the most famous sightseeing the city has to offer including Tivoli Gardens and Christiansborg Palace. Our USA teams will complete against Danish teams during a tournament on June 23rd.

From there we will travel the Oresund Bridge, a nearly 7.5 mile corridor connecting Denmark and Sweden. While in **Stockholm**, players will get to experience a full city tour with local guides, visit the famous VASA Ship Museum and play in a softball tournament against Swedish clubs on June 27th.

Our last stop will be the

#### **Norwegian Fjords**



#### **Copenhagen**

Norwegian capital of **Oslo**. **Oslo** is famous for its majestic fjords which house a maze of islands, narrow sounds and idyllic bays. We will get enjoy a boat tour of these beautiful waterways and also visit many other famous sights of this wonderful city includ-

ing Vigeland Sculpture Park, the Royal Palace and Akerhus Castle. Our third tournament will take place July 1st against Norwegian teams.

In addition to our planned tours, ample free time will be available to players who wish to explore Scandinavia on their own!

Don't miss out on this exciting **Viking Adventure** with Senior Softball-USA!

• For a full itinerary, [CLICK HERE](#)

• Full more information on the tour please contact Ross McCulligan at [Ross@senior-softball.com](mailto:Ross@senior-softball.com) or call (916) 326-5303



**Team photo of USA teams from Germany/Austria Tour**



# Verley Remembered

Continued from Page 3

His funeral service in Centralia, Wash., was packed with ballplayers and umpires from the region. Many spoke about Shane Verley's quiet, but powerful influence on them in the sport – and in their lives.

"Shane is an exceptional example of how senior softball transcends the sport through the life-long friendships that touch so many players, umpires and their families," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer.

"Most important, Shane has been a friend to me and to many of us in the sport," said Hennessy. "His usual calm demeanor – always with a twinkle in his eye – is etched in our memories."


Verley earned a bachelor of science degree in business management and computer science and worked for the Washington Health Care Authority for the past 20 years.

He is survived by his wife, Cynthia; step-children David (wife, Rebecca) and Vanessa (husband, Tom); 3 grandchildren; father; sister, Susan Verley; brother, Steven (wife, Debbie) Verley.



Shane Verley at 2017 Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup

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# WSJ: Leagues Make Allowances for Seniors

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how many are over 70, but league managers around the country say the 70-plus set is a fast-growing segment.

That reflects demographics. There were 13.9 million men aged 70 or over in the U.S. in 2016, up 17% from 2011, according to census estimates. Dr. James Kirkland, director of Mayo Clinic's Kogod Center on Aging, credits medical care that allows more people to survive heart attacks, cancer and strokes.

At a late-September Las Vegas tournament organized by Senior Softball-USA, six teams of men 83 and above are expected to compete in their own bracket. Two decades ago, the tournament's highest age bracket was 70-plus.

As more old men hang on, the skills gap grows. Some still run briskly. Others can barely shuffle to first base.

Managers in the South Hills Senior Softball league, where Mr. Tomanio plays, have been squabbling all summer about rules for using pinch runners. Some managers think only players with a serious disability should qualify for a pinch

runner. Others send in a speedier replacement for anyone considered a slowpoke.

"Guys try to take advantage, you know human nature," said Doug Houston, the league's commissioner. The league has changed its pinch-running rules twice this year to deter excessive use of pinch runners. The latest version: No more than three members of a team may use surrogate runners.

In the South Hills league, all batters must make their way at least to first base before yielding to a pinch runner. Some other leagues now allow the least-mobile players to hit the ball and let someone else run to first.

Many leagues help older players by allowing them an automatic stroll to first base if they manage to hit the ball out of the infield. Some leagues also allow as many as five people to play outfield, so none has to chase a ball very far.

Then there's the matter of making sure everyone is a genuine senior.

In the Cleveland suburbs, the Huff-N-Puffers league last year discovered at the end of the season that its champion team had surreptitiously

fielded two players a year or two below the league's 60-year-old threshold. All team members were stripped of their championship jackets, and the league now requires a photo ID to prove age.

John Teron, league president, said nothing like that had happened in more than three decades of play: "Why would you want to join the senior league if you're not senior?"

In Pittsburgh, Mr. Tomanio is happy to be still competitive as he nears his 87th birthday in December. The retired delivery-truck driver has played baseball or softball since he was 12. Because of a sore back, he gave up the game for a spell in his 50s until one of his brothers prodded him to try senior softball. "Best thing that ever happened to me," Mr. Tomanio said.

Unlike many players his age, he never needs a pinch runner. Though he is on medication for diabetes and cholesterol issues, Mr. Tomanio can still trot swiftly enough to beat out some of his ground balls. His arm is strong enough to throw batters out on the opposite side of the diamond.

"He plays hard and he

knows how to hit," said Ken Meyer, manager of Mr. Tomanio's team. "He's a whiner and complainer, but you live with that. He can perform."

Even so, Mr. Tomanio can't always meet his own expectations. On a recent night, he was struggling to get on base. After striking out and then popping out to shallow center field, he sulked: "This is not my night. I shouldn't have even came."

Then he finally got a single by chipping a ball just over the first baseman's head.

"Yea, Dad!" shouted his daughter, Kathy Weir.

"That was a bloop," Mr. Tomanio said. "I used to hit line drives."

His team lost. "Too many errors," he concluded. "If these people would listen to me, we could win. I tell them what to do but they don't do it."

Write to James R. Hagerty at [bob.hagerty@wsj.com](mailto:bob.hagerty@wsj.com)

Appeared in the August 18, 2017, print edition as 'Who's on First? Great-Grandpa! Softball Alters Rules for Seniors.'

## TOC Qualifier Recaps and All-Tourney Picks

The summer months saw twelve Tournament of Champions (TOC) qualifiers held June through August.

668 teams competed in the dozen TOC qualifiers held throughout the United States.

### Texas State TOC

EL PASO – For the first time in its 10-year history, the Texas State Championships headed toward the western part of the state, after being held exclusively in the eastern part, with Dallas (2008-12), Houston (2013-15)

and Austin (2016) all serving as hosts. Thirty-six teams played here at the El Paso County Sports Complex, June 21-25.

As a Tournament of Champions (TOC) qualifier, 11 teams secured berths to the most prestigious tournament in all senior softball,

the Original TOC, held annually in February in Polk County, Fla.

To read the complete recap, please [click here](#). For complete, game-by-game scores, please [click here](#).

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# Recaps: 668 Teams Compete for TOC Berths

Continued from Previous Page



## Texas State All-Tournament Teams

### Men's 40 Masters Division

Tucson Hammertime 40's (AAA): Tony Carbajal, Fernando Lopez, Jose Moreno, Ralph Wayne Dubois, Jr.

### Men's 50/55 Platinum Division

San Antonio Softball Club (55 Major Plus): Mike Garibay, Juan Navarro, Martin Rodriguez, Tommy Clark, Mike Tepera. / Fully Loaded (50 Major): Humberto Vega, Richard Cooke, Antonio Salazar, Leo Montion.

### Men's 50 AAA Division

ManCave/WorkSteps: Juan Lopez, Jr., Hugh Green, Jr., Michael McKellop, Timothy Worcester, Gregg Shirley. / Graywolves: RJ Jamieson, Ronald Simon, Ron Angst, Bryan Guernsey.

### Men's 50/55/60 Gold Division

SW Outlaws (55 AAA): Enrique "Rick" Marquez, Albert Marujo, Anthony Mitchell, John Hurst, Manuel Gutierrez, Jr. / Gonzalez Insulation (60 Major): Kippy Carr, Robert Garcia, Joe Ramon

### Men's 55/60 Silver Division

Electrifiers (60 AAA): Carl Beyer, Robert Price, Ignacio (Jay) Ibarra, Rodney Westfall. / Texas Thunder (60 AAA): Harold Warden, J. Bailey Nance, John Hughes.

### Men's 65 Gold Division

Dallas Spurs (65 AA): Kim Harold Sykes, Billy Turney, Tom Parris, Richard Olsen, Bill Bartolucci. / Texas Legends (65 AAA): Terry Silva, Leif Guttormsen, Richard Wilson, Mike Seraphin. / San Antonio Silver Streaks (65 Major): Julian Tamez, Domingo Garcia, Rocky Crews.

### Men's 70/75 Gold Division

El Paso Nine-Elevens (70 AA): Donald Reay, Robert Ramirez, Carlos Sandoval, Hector Molina, Robert Ward.

## Nor Cal State TOC

SACRAMENTO – The third annual Northern California State Championships was another rousing success, as SSUSA and the CAN-Sirs organization once again teamed up to help promote cancer awareness and prevention, with a portion of each team's entry fee, a total of \$2,900, being donated to CAN-Sirs.

Sacramento Softball Complex and Foscett Regional Park hosted 59 teams, June 27-July 2.

Fifteen Tournament of Champions (TOC) bids were awarded at the Northern California State Championships.

To read the complete recap, please [click here](#). For complete, game-by-game scores, please [click here](#).



## Nor Cal All-Tournament Teams

### Women's 40 Silver Division

Old Nasty Curves (40 AAA): Mary Knudsen, Stephanie Pease, Diane Bruss, Christina Jones, Michelle Serna. / B.O.O.B.S (40 AA): Alicia VanHoy, Julie Holcomb, Kandace Knudsen.

### Men's 40 Major Plus Division

Prestige/Elite Sports Orange County: Robert VanLandingham, Johnny Johnson, Derrick Williams, Mike Pena, Patrick (Shane) Garret.

### Men's 40 Major Division

Team ASB/Executive 1: Michael Smith, John Morris, Chris Reyes, Joe Concepcion, Jr.

### Men's 50 Major Plus Division

Nor Cal Warriors: Manny Gutierrez, Sean Morgan, Thomas Lee Wood, Mark Carmichael, Robert Gibbs, Jr.

### Men's 50 Major Division

Bad Seeds: Mario Rios, Marty Daniels, Rob Jacinto, Brian Gregoire.

### Men's 55/60 Gold Division

Tri-C Machine (60 Major): Curtis Williams, Jerome (Berry) Jones, Jose Moreno, Frank Catomerisios, Rex Snowden. / Rebellion (55 AAA): Jeff Jackson, Randy Morriera, George Lamb.

### Men's 60 AAA Division

The Crew: William Eppinga, William Remitz, Duane Williams, Darrell Heim, Paul Drobatz. / Cut Loose: Rudy Valdez, Jonathan Yoshida, Steve Stafford.

### Men's 65 Major Plus Division

Timberworks/Adidas: Steve Hillman, John Cochran, Doak Whitley, Vern Fowler, Dave Briones. / Omen: Richard Mansker, Michael Yancheff, Alvin Tate, Robert Looney.

### Men's 65/70 Gold Division

Animals (65 Major): Larry Starkey, Len Meinecke, Kevin Pringle, Eric Hoff, Gary Garcia. / Sacramento Islanders (65 AAA): Bruce Allen, Ray Lucas, Tim Kesner.

### Men's 70 AAA Division

Sacramento Islanders: Michael Berlant, Richard Edwards, Jon Ellison, Stan Shibata, Dan Sumpter. / Mustangs: Al Oxley, Robert Salinas, Rich Ponce, Steve Schwartz.

### Men's 70 AA Division

Sacramento Buds: Louis Mahinay, Ted LaTona, Michael Jordan, Calvin Okamoto, Robert Nishimoto. / Triple Play: James Grubb, Kenneth James Leppke, Ronald Larsen, Ralph (Chip) Putnam.

### Men's 75/80 Gold Division

Triple Play (75 AAA): Clifford Vierra, Michael Brady, Bill Svoboda, Ernie Stauman. / Sacramento Gold (80 Major): Cloiecc Wade, Ray Newman, Dave Fairchild.

## So Cal State TOC

RIVERSIDE - The 2017 Southern California State Championships was held here, July 7-12, at Big League Dreams in Mira Loma and Chino Hills.

A total of 19 teams secured their bids to the Original Tournament

of Champions, held in February in Florida.

To read the complete recap, please [click here](#). For complete, game-by-game scores, please [click here](#).



## So Cal All-Tournament Teams

### Women's 40 Major Division

TKP/Hunters: Gina Oliver, Kimberly Roter, Debra DiMeglio, Kristi Whitcomb, Vicki Cescato. / SoCal Toxic: Cynthia DeLaFuenta, Becky Hardy, Irene Jones.

### Men's 40 Gold Division

Pony Tail Express: Willie Galaz, Christopher Rabine, Jose Angel Medrano, David Lopez, Edgar Ortiz.

### Men's 50 Major Division

ShowTime So Cal: Ernie Perez, Joseph (Ed) Lujan, Kendrick Bourne, Wesley Patterson, Edward Broussard. / Kamizake: Phil Saenz, Matt Campbell, Lawrence Jump, Lloyd Profitt. / Arizona Old School: Thomas Trieber, Paul Figueroa, Jeff Armbruster.

### Men's 50 AAA Division

Pacific Coast Alliance: Rudy Bondietti, Stephen Fultz, Brandon Mitchell, Greg Metcalf, Greg Fortin.

### Men's 55 Major Division

The Core: Mike Stater, Jack Zoani, David Cherry, Richard Taulli, Doug Fox. / Southern California Braves: Darryl Hunt, Craig Norrbom, Matthew Palmer, Mario Penados. / AZ Legends: James (Dusty) Lee, Alejandro Carrasco, Ken Alger.

### Men's 55 Silver Division

Top Gun Hornets (55 AAA): Brian Buhl, Scott Guthrie, Gary Ballingham, Steven Rubino, Mario Aguinaga. / Kamikaze (55 AAA): Kyle Swensen, Vince Gallo, Matthew Dickey, Mike

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# Recaps: Northeast, Midwest Shine in July

## Continued from Previous Page

Madrid.

### Men's 60 Major

Top Gun Elite: Dan Nunnelee, John Crawford, James Villarreal Sr., Clyde Phillips, Mark Purdy.

### Men's 60 AA Division

So-Cal Titans: Ray Torres, John Cesena, Al Garnica, Fred Gershoff, Mike Ruff. / 911 Softball Club: Frank Asa, Jimmy King, Ron Meyer, Richard Roman.

### Men's 65 Major Division

Top Gun 65 Mavericks: Ray Martinez, Don Chandler, Jim Teeter, George Anas, Dave Seitz. / D & K Softball: Roger Waite, Donald Crenshaw, Ron Hansen, Steven Rose.

### Men's 65 AAA Division

No Guts, No Glory: Randy Van Essen, Jack Brunschmid, Bruce Marschall, Gary Parker, James Mangiapane. / Las Vegas Stars: Felix Mendiola, Bob Bravetti, Ralph Wolf.

### Men's 65 AA Division

Git-R-Done: John Potter, Donny Drehsen, Wayne Arendt, Tim Byrne, Tony Trebaol. / Franklin Loan Center: Dave Emanuelson, David Kallok, Bill Leitch, Bruce Nelson.

### Men's 70 Major Division

Sons of Pitches: Herman Vaught, Jack Wayt, Tom Imming, Robert Jackson, Jr., Prentiss Byrd.

### Men's 70 Silver Division

Doughboys (70 AA): Vinnie Ferrante, Alan Melnick, Ray Belak. / Southern California Crush (70 AAA): James Trez, Carmelo Montanez, Fred Mittelstaedt.

### Men's 75/80 Gold Division

Fairway Ford (80 Major): Vincent (Dave) Duarte, Bertram Haley, Richard (Red) Simmons, Anthony Iavarone, Bill Poe. / California Connection (75 Major): Kenneth Cornelison, Charlie Jame Wiley, Douglas Wiley, Bob Vis. / Git-R-Done (75 AAA): Carl Cordill, Cas Mazet, James Vargeson.

### Men's 80 AAA Division

Davis & Associates: Harold Brown, Arthur Novom, John (Dave) Leek, Charles Marshall.

## Northeast TOC

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The tenth annual Northeast Championships was held here for a sixth consecutive year at Hopkins Road Park July 7-12.

Fifty-two teams from around New England, the Mid-Atlantic and Canada, met here for their shot at earning a Tournament of Champions berth in February.

When all was said and done, 13 teams would go on to secure their TOC berth.

To read the complete recap, please [click here](#). For complete, game-by-game scores, please [click here](#).



### Northeast All-Tournament Teams

#### Men's 40 Gold Division

Thunder/Giantsteel/Miken (Major): Dennis Noury, Angelo Marsella, Carlo Cannone, Ciro Cascella, Anthony Santoanni / JD Oxfords / Bob Johnson Chevrolet (AAA): William Rhodes, Chris Edleman, Mike Almeida, Chirs Lockwood

#### Men's 50/55 Major Division

Elmwood Sports Center 50 (Major): William Kirby Murphy, Mark Moniz, Anthony Tager Jr, Doug Haynes, Mark Anderson / Domino's / Bob Johnson: John Kennedy Fitzgerald, Kevin Hayes, Jeff Silveira, David Tokanel / Hard Hat Café/Latella's/Vio's Sport 50 (Major): Steve Deschene, Mike Fanara, Keith Worthy / Action Auto Parts 55 (Major): Bill Lancelotta, James Rock, William Lee, Bill Laflamme / Frederick Chevrolet 55(Major): Gordon Dale Jr, Grant Meyers, Roger Kummerer

#### Men's 60 Major Division

Agway Steelers 60(Major): Steven Garvin, Jeff Morton, Steve Vasseur, Donald Dash, Rick Garvin / Promotion 60(Major): Robert Solitto, Bill Linnehan, David Giannelli, Mike Santo

#### Men's 60 AAA Division

Talaga Construction 60(AAA): Don Huelsman, Stan Bocek Jr / Spring Ford AA 60+ (AAA): Albert Bryan Basista, William Redman, Benn Miller

#### Men's 60 AA Division

Durham Silver Sixt 60(AA): Michael Batho, Lawrence Taylor, David Neil, Robert Cummins, David Pahl / Syracuse Cyclones 60(AA): Mark Merrell, John Maxwell, Louis Rossi

#### Men's 65 Major Division

Syracuse Merchant 65 (Major): Ron Mitchell, Paul O'Brien, Michael Muldoon, Brett Gorham

#### Men's 65 AAA Division

Anaconda Sports 65: Joe Romeo, Joseph Di-Fabio, Bob Nizlek, Joseph Vancho / Rochester Brewers 65: Michael Callahan, Daniel Ship, Kenneth Snyder

#### Men's 65/70 Silver Division

Tabor Frenchi VFW 70(AAA): Lou Capirchio, Jack Archibald, Dan Pisaturo, Michael Chambers / Bostonian 70 (AAA): Ray LePage, Roger LePage, David Joseph, Mike Perroncino, Ted Wess, Joe Salzano. / Southern Tier Express 65 (AA): Robert Crandall, Gary Marcello, Jim Miller.

#### Men's 70/75+ AAA Division

Bailey Talent Cavaliers 75(AAA): Tony Giannini, Calvin Freedman, Robert Taylor, Jim Davis, Leroy Allen / Monkey Joe's Big Nut Co. 75(AAA): Charlie Howe, William Armstrong, Ralph Morrison, Frank Taverno / Jersey Masters 75(AAA): Robert Knight, Marty Evans, Thomas Pietryk

## Midwest TOC

ROGERS, Ark. – The 12th annual Midwest Championships was held here at Rogers Regional Sports Park for a second consecutive season July 11-16.

Forty-nine teams from around the Midwest, as well as Texas and Oklahoma, competed with 13 teams earning a bid to the Original Tournament of Champions (TOC) in Polk County, Fla., in February.

To read the complete recap, please [click here](#). For complete,

game-by-game scores, please [click here](#).



### Midwest All-Tournament Teams

#### Men's 50 Platinum Division

KC Classic (50 Major): Jeff Henning, Doug Ewert, Jimmy Bolles, Jon McLallen, Tim Hubert.

#### Men's 50 AAA Division

Team O50: Richmond Lingard, Charles Earvin, Hesse Stevenson, Ronald Banks, James Haynes. / Midwest Connection: James Loberg, Jerry Imig, Patrick Stessman.

#### Men's 55 Major Division

Midwest Driving School: Ron Lipps, Craig Childress, Steve Krull, Lloyd Brent Pate, Perry Hannon. / 50 Caliber Plus – St. Louis: Murray Wortman, Mark Luttmann, Randy Werneke, Joseph Laws.

#### Men's 55 AAA Division

Nebraska Silver Bullets: Gerald McCaw, Patrick Sweaney, Scott Emery, Douglas Lewis, Robert Knowles. / KC Monarchs 55: Kevin Moore, Chauncey Roulette, Willie Holmes.

#### Men's 60 Major Division

Sports Image: Ted Creech, Paul Oblein, Steve Angelo, Joe Scaturro, Mike Taylor. / Nebraska 60's: Dennis Steinhauser, Roger Hein, John Salerno, Russ Scheffert. / Pope Transport: Michael Baehman, Hugh Gnatzig, Paul Cox.

#### Men's 60 AAA Division

Carriage Homes: Doug Blohm, Mike Jacobs, Jimmy Pennington, Steve McNeil, Doug Rodgers.

#### Men's 60 AA Division

Dallas Spurs: David Sampson, Michael Beard, Gerald Schimcek, Wade Moran, Clarence McCraw. / R&K Drywall: George Basore, Billy Hovarter, Phil Ross.

#### Men's 65 Major Division

Continued on Next Page



# Recaps: Northwest, ISA Seniors, Southern

## Continued from Previous Page

Boyd Metals: Bob Clements, Mike Comstock, Michael Taylor, Phil Honeycutt, Jerry Clawson. / Handeland Flooring: Ron Bruce, Michael Baehman, Bert Hempler, Tim Whiting.

### Men's 65 AAA Division

Texas Legends: Jim Gibbons, Michael Seraphin, Richard Wilson, Leif Guttormsen, Terry Silva.

### Men's 65 AA Division

Dallas Spurs: James Morgan, Ray Harty, Gregory Jollay, Jeff Ratkowski, John Schmeisser. / Oklahoma City Relics: Victor Seidel, David Puglisi, Alvin Crossley.

### Men's 70 AAA Division

Midwest Express 70's: Duane Carolus, Clyde Fry, John Kelly, Larry Stolte, Edward Rastovski.

### Men's 75/80 Gold Division

Midwest Driving School: Fred Fleming, Ted Stringer, Vernon Coates, Dennis Ibbotson. / Mid-America Patriots: Frank Perez, Frank Mar, Ken Stock, Charles Workman.

### Men's 80 AAA Division

Texas Greyhounds: Edward Petlak, Jay Lavarney, Eddie Glover, Joe Housley, Ed Hardy. / Roadrunners: A. Dee Chasteen, Ronald Stanley, John Cowan, Ron Perdue.



## Northwest TOC

SALEM, Ore. – Forty-four teams from around the Pacific Northwest, as well as Canada, met here for the second straight year at Wallace Marine Park Softball Complex, July 11-16, for the 12th annual Jim Sherman Memorial/ Northwest Championships.

As the TOC qualifier for the Northwest region, 13 teams were

able to lock up an invitation to the Original Tournament of Champions in February.

To read the complete recap, please [click here](#). For complete, game-by-game scores, please [click here](#).

### Northwest All- Tournament Teams

#### Men's 40+ Gold Division

Mach One 40(AAA): Rico Alvarado, Russ Clark, Jamie Tworowski, Christian Smith

#### Men's 50/55+ Major Division

Bulldogs 55(Major): Mike Winn, Dan Bue, Jim Nethercott / Doerflinger 55(Major): Loren Dalesky, Bret Pavlicek, Emory Lunsford, Jim Perry

#### Men's 50/55 Major+ Division

NW Legends 55(Major+): Steve Leighton, Ken Block, Robert Wilkens, Darren Idler.

#### Men's 60+ Major Division

Goodman Racing 60 (Major): Marlin Harris, Henry Musgrove, Marc Stock, Gary Kearney, Rick Parker / Second Wind Resurrected 60 (Mayor): Mike Ronk, George Ladenburg, Lloyd Kirner, Keith Keese

#### Men's 65 Gold Division

Enviro- VAC Marauder 65(Major): Dave Dockstader, Michael Plunkett, David Dorsey, Robert Mireau / Stagecoach Saloon 65 (AAA): Dennis York, Rodney Both, Tom Linham.

#### Men's 70/75+ Gold Division

Silver City Brewers 70 (AAA): Bill Nelson, Bob Hayes, Ben Zlateff / General Equipment 75(Major): Bill Johnson, Jay Brack, Mike Alley, Jerry Ronk / Suburban Auto Group 70 (AAA): Wendell Neumeyer, Leslie Gipe, Ron Teninty, Wesley Anderson, Thomas Dalrymple.

#### Men's 70/75+ Platinum Division

Master Marauders 70's(major): Allan Didrikson, Alan Heath, Everett Holmes, Richard Moore.

## ISA TOC

COLUMBUS, Ind. - The 2017 ISA Senior World Series, an Original Tournament of Champions (TOC) qualifier, was held here at Dunn Sports Complex and Lincoln Park July 28-30.

Forty-six teams played across 12 divisions, with the grand prize of an elusive Tournament of Champions bid on the line.

To read the complete recap, please [click here](#).



### ISA All-Tournament Teams

#### Men's 50 Major Division

LS/WB: Jeffrey Grate, Lee Hoover, Robert Leete, Tim Willis, Raymond Collyear. / Brickyard Classics: Tim Smith, Mark Thompson, Paul Hanley. / Motor City Thunder: Milton Douglas, Johnny Spratling.

#### Men's 55 Major Division

Six Pac 55's: William Chesher, Robert Hauke, Tom Steilberg. / Speedwerx: Paul Todd Zemke, Donald Hoffman.

#### Men's 55 AAA Division

Jackson Merchants: Mark Lipscomb, David Layne, Greg Maddelein.

#### Men's 60 Major Division

Motown Stars: Houston Tipton, Randy Jackson, Gary Deaton, Bob Burns, Mike Sullivan. / AMR/Clean Planet: Bob Stewart, Mickey Maddy, Floyd Ellis.

#### Men's 60 AAA Division

Milwaukee Merchants: Bill Scasny, Don Laine, Scott Herrick, Mark Hurst, Brent Puhle. / Cincinnati 60s: Ted Weingartner, Gary Neihsel.

#### Men's 60 AA Division

All in: Don Griffin, Bruce Biedron, Dave Schmidt, Robert McShane, Rob Jesk. / Indy Fog: Bob Oakley, Chuck Newton, Gary Shireman

#### Men's 65 Major Plus Division

Minnesota Masters/Ancell: Randy Jorgenson, Mike Haley.

#### Men's 65 Major Division

Handeland Flooring: Mike Baehman, Bert Hempler, Brad Mueller, Paul Cox, Greg Hudack.

#### Men's 65/70 Gold Division

Hendricks Sports Management (70 Major): Larry Lopez, Jim Sharp, John Melton, Fred

Hunt, Harry Bain.

### Men's 65 AA Division

Chicago Hitmen: Jim Kupiec, Mike Chastain, Phil Whitman, Mike Sabatino, Warren York.

## Southern TOC

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The 11th annual Southern Championships was held here Aug. 9-13 at Liberty Park Sports Complex. Twelve teams from around the Southeast region, including Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia and Florida, converged onto The Magic City for the opportunity at earning a berth to the 2018 Original Tournament of Champions in Florida in February.

In the end, five teams would go on to earn TOC berths.

To read the complete recap, please [click here](#). For complete, game-by-game scores, please [click here](#).



### Southern All- Tournament Teams

#### Men's 50/55+ Major Division

Master Softball 50(Major): Anthony Hart, Daniel Cloud, Al Beyersdorf / Master Reloaded 50(Major): Rod Roland, Terry Smith, David Phillips, Anthony Myles, Earl DuBose

#### Men's 65 Platinum Division

(by) Grace Redeemed 65(AAA): Gary Wilkinson, Carl Hall, Ronnie Woodall, Ronald Lentz

#### Men's 65 AAA Division

Edge Softball 65(Major +): Glenn Smith, Ben Sheffield, Andy Harbin, Leonidas Koulo-

**Continued on Next Page**

# Recaps: Northern, Rocky Mountain, West/East

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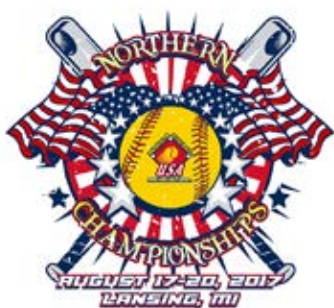
gians, Steve Snow / Matador 65 (Major): Rick Sarli, Jack Baker, Nate Doss, Dennis Rowell.

## Northern TOC

LANSING, Mich. – The 12th annual Northern Championships was held here for the ninth straight season, as East Lansing Sports Complex and Lake Alliance Softball Complex hosted 49 teams Aug. 17-20.

As a regional TOC qualifier, 11 teams would go on to earn their invitation to the marquee Senior Softball event of the year in February.

To read the complete recap, please [click here](#). For complete, game-by-game scores, please [click here](#).



### Northern All- Tournament Teams

#### Men's 50 Silver Division

Buddies Sampson Olivet Merchants 50(AA): Joe Hartman, Todd Gonser, Scott Coolidge, Justin Bowerman, Dana Haggins

#### Men's 50/55+ Major Division

Brickyard Classics 50(Major): Timothy Smith, Mark Thompson, Eric Fouce

#### Men's 50/55 AAA Division

Old Stars 55(AAA): Tim Cannon, Harold Johnson, Jerry Howard / TMS Michigan 55 (AAA): Dale Witezak, Rick Berridge, Joseph Gould, Kevin Haarsma, Scott Fineout / Lansing Legends Softball Club 50(AAA): Kirk Nelson, Nate Walker, Michael Latunsky

#### Men's 55/60 Platinum Division

Doug and Don's Auto Care 55(Major): Jeff Kocsis, Bill Simmonds, Jim Vickers, Edward

Lehnertz, Kevin Jacobs / Kinnco Services 60(Mayor +): Kevin Kastl, Charlie Schwartz, George Roberts

#### Men's 60 AAA

Minutemen/Pepco/SFS: Paul Synek, Alan Attewell, David Reifschneider, Moe Perez. / Roc City 60's: Mark Langan, Daniel Ship, Tony DelVecchio

#### Men's 60 AA Division

McMahon-Coyne-Vitantonio Funeral Home: Jon Catalano, Steven Laurenty, John Zayicek, John Ross, Larry Jones

#### Men's 65 AAA Division

Michigan Lakers: Rick Neerken, Jerry De Jongh, George Vanderhyde, John Feuerstein, Rick Bode. / Ohio Silverados: Larry Chimento, Lawrence O'Malley, John Waldsmith, David Caplinger.

#### Men's 70/75 Gold Division

Life Guard Financial/Pepco 70(AAA): Timothy Klodnick, Roger Richardson, Martin Emerman, Charlie Cash, Richard DeGraff.

/ Canterbury Cruisers 75 (Major): Vaughn Covert, Ronald Sanner, Bob Willoughby, Ray Dye. / Chicago Gray Sox 70(AAA): Jerry Santerelli, Wayne Markett, Harry Rakers.

#### Men's 70 Major Division

Chicago Strikers: Dan Tuftee, Chuck Flucas, Dan Serrato, Ron Kleinein, Richard Fleming.

## Rocky Mountain TOC

Aurora, Colo. – Sixty teams entered the 2017 Rocky Mountain Championships seeking a championship and berth to the Original Tournament of Champions (TOC) held in Polk County, Fla., in February. Aurora Sports Park hosted the games Aug. 25-27.

The tournament also featured a second annual skills competition, with home run hitting, precision hitting, and precision pitching contests. All proceeds of the competition benefited the Scrap Iron Softball Club.

After the tournament, sixteen teams would go on to earn the coveted TOC bid.

To read the complete recap,

please [click here](#). For complete, game-by-game scores, please [click here](#).



### Rocky Mtn. All-Tournament Teams

#### Men's 50 Major Division

WC Thunder: Tom Hubek, Keith Bradley, Dan Mueller, Scott Klein, Terry Feeney. / Arizona Old School: Jeff Armbruster, Marcel Spaulding, Daniel Yeck, John (Andy) Garcia.

#### Men's 55 Major Plus

The Core: Doug Fox, Todd Osmundson, Bert Cochran, Mike Stater. / High Street Bucs: Bill Bush, Mark Roberts, David Maertens.

#### Men's 55 Major Division

Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder 55: John (Jack) Donnelly, Kerry Ecker, Markis Harper, Brad Edginton, Mark Haupt.

#### Men's 55 AAA Division

Nebraska Silver Bullets: Scott Emery, Gerald McCaw, Rod Chambers, Scott Opfer, Douglas Lewis.

#### Men's 60 Major

Pope Transport: Michael Baehman, Steve Naubauer, Hugh Gnatzig, Steve Thelen, Mike Brown. / Arizona Old School: Steven Gove, Leslie Thomas, Bill McKnight.

#### Men's 60 AAA Division

Scrap Iron 60's Rockies: Thomas Bechtel, Pete Ayotte, Bruce Brothis, Don Casuse, Eddie Buonaio. / Mountain Men: Ernest Reyes, Stuart Fredman, Arthur Talbot, Charles McStotts.

#### Men's 60 AA Division

Classics: Craig Aramaki, Marty Lopez, Lee Hutson.

#### Men's 65 Major Plus Division

MN Master/Ancell: Gary Hamilton, Ludwig Nordahl, Randy Simonson, Richard Kuyath.

#### Men's 65 AAA Division

Minnesota Masters: Raymond Brown, Mike Trewick, Dennis St. Sauver, Gary Palesh, Tom Ashcraft. / Ryan's Way: Mike Marshall, Dale

Palmer, Daniel LoBue, Roy Dale Reiser.

#### Men's 70 Gold (Major/AAA) Division

Scrap Iron/3N2 (Major): Alan Wiechmann, Bob Darrah, Ken Hiatt, Don Carpenter, Greg Broeckelman. / Scrap Iron 70 Red (AAA): Byard Wayne Fields, Ken Armbuster, Joe Burton, Mel Vaneck, Bob Parella. / Tri-State Diamondbacks (Major): Kent Near, Leslie Poland, Ronne Mercer, Edward Kanda.

#### Men's 75 Gold (Major/AAA) Division

Scrap Iron Beams (75 Major): Larry Bradbsy, Don Pierson, Bob Ross, Don Burden, Ronnie Maxwell. / New Concepts I (75 AAA): Jerry Hartrim, Ron Case, Geno Fernandez, David Freeman. / Mid-America Patriots (75 AAA): Woody Johansen, Bob Williams, Charles Workman.

## West, East TOC

183 teams played in Sacramento and Cary, NC in the Western and Eastern National Championships.

The Western National was held July 25-30, while the Eastern National was held Aug. 1-6.

Winning your division in the Western/Eastern National is the first leg of the Triple Grand Slam, as those winners from the respective divisions meet up in the U.S. National Championship game, the second leg, at the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships. Teams the win the U.S. National Game and then go on to win their division in the World Masters, complete the Triple Grand Slam.

To read the complete recap of the Western National, please [click here](#). For complete, game-by-game scores, please [click here](#).

To read the complete recap of the Eastern National, please [click here](#). For complete, game-by-game scores, please [click here](#).

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# Recaps: Western, Eastern All Tournament

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## West National All-Tourney Teams

### Women's 40 Major Division

Smack That: Rona Stanley, Monica Barajas, Jonnie Lopez, Vera Arellano.

### Women's 40 AAA Division

Utah Relics: Malia Krogstad, Linda Gentry, Baubie Wardrobe-Fox, Tricia Cooke, Penny Varoz. / Old Nasty Curves: Christina Jones, Mary Knudsen, Connie Benavidez, Michelle Serna.

### Women's 40/50 Division

B.O.O.B.S 40: Josie Alferez-Smith, Stacy Linton, Kam Butler, Megan Patterson, Cristina Fernandez.

### Men's 40 Major Division

Classic Glass/One Nation: Bryson Baker, Leo Skattebo, Daniel Comer, Brian Bruguier. / Team ASB/Executive 1: Andy Guzman, Chris Reyes, Ronnell Summers.

### Men's 40 AAA Division

No Limit/Fay's Sports: Jose Rivera, Jeff Davis, Sandro Contreras, Mario Silva, Robert Zuniga.

### Men's 50 Major Plus Division

Nor Cal Warriors: Tommy Langenhurst, Sean Morgan, Manny Gutierrez, Joe Cuneo.

### Men's 50 Major Division

Layer Cake Wines/Crush 50's: Jerome Brown, Christopher King, John Gibbs, Chuck Ruffahr.

### Men's 50 AAA Division

Outlaws of Lincoln: Mark Foster, Mario Fernandez, Gilbert Rodriguez, James Haub.

### Men's 55 Major Division

Doerflinger: Joey Patnode, Kevin Juma, Darren De Boer, Steve Cady, Bobby Bates.

### Men's 55 AAA Division

Kamikaze: Charles Pickett, Tony Valencia, Vince Gallo.

### Men's 60 Major Plus

Summy's Demolition: Paul Smit, Anthony

Baltazar, Brian Urata, Wayne Wilcox.

### Men's 60 Major Division

Houston Fire: Tony Washington, Dana Dean Cote, David Aguilar, Wilford Johnson, William Husta. / Reloaded: Robert Sewell, Ed Rhoads, Tom Lewis, David Sloan. / Goodman Racing: William Stock, Marlin Harris, Rick Parker.

### Men's 60 Silver (AAA/AA) Division

Mountain Mike's Pizza: Mark Fry, Jamie Barron, Paul Challburg, Craig Sweeney, Donald (Butch) Maciel. / Cut Loose: Roger Kroeber, Daryl Austin, Addison (Casey) Clark, Antonio Diaz. / The Crew: Monta Little, William Eppinga, William Remitz.

### Men's 65 Major Plus Division

Timberworks/Adidas: Steve Hillman, Doak Whitley, Ellwin Jobe, Chris Dayak, David Briones. / Omen 65: Barry Oliver, Marlin Harris, Jerry Scanlan, Randy Faulkner.

### Men's 65/70 Platinum Division

Nor-Cal Stixx 65 (Major): Bud Castro, John Flores, Larry Younger, Gopher Gold Harris. / Enviro-Vac Marauder 65 (Major): Rick Parker, Trevors Bjurman, Anthony Goularte.

### Men's 65 AAA Division

Oregon Crabs: Terry Ness, Timothy Fissori, Jeff Powers, Gerald Itkin, Mike Carroll. / Sacramento Islanders 65: Jack Wabinga, Alex Luna, Edward Stoessel.

### Men's 70 Gold (Major/AAA) Division

California Wrecking Crew (Major): Harold Johnson, Johnny Melvin, Cliff Thomas, James Laurenti.

### Men's 70 AA Division

Sacramento Buds: Robert Nishimoto, Lee Marshall, Michael Jordan, Ted LaTona, Robert Jones.

### Men's 75 Major Division

General Equipment: Bill Johnson, James McAbee, Tom Imming, Chuck Bergeron, Richard (Tim) Myers. / State Roofing Systems: Gilbert Jess, Edwin Lowe, John Sebring, Noel Lanctot. / Kokopelli Eye Institute Scorpions 75's: Lani Beach, Larry Richey, Jay Larson.

### Men's 75/80 Gold Division

Redwood City Gold Rush: Ted Alarcon, Bill Guzules, Bob Cushman, Ronald Schwartz, Victor Madden. / Sacramento Gold: Louis Velez, Sam Sekikawa, Ray Newman.

## East National All-Tourney Teams

### Women's 40 Major Division

Kryptonite: Theresa Walburger, Colleen Smith, April Blake, Diane White, Sara Payne.



### Women's 40/50 Division

Dreamgirlz 50: Beverly Lovett, Shirley Simmons Snell, Renee Fuller, Sylvia Echols, Cynthia (Diane) Mobley. / Fireballs (40 AAA): Marie Gaudreau, Michelle Seccina, Val Smith, Kelly Petrowski.

### Men's 40 Major Division

East Coast Berserk: Marshall Grissom, Jamie Barnett, Michael Kuckinski, Bobby Ross, David Lohr. / PA Posse 40's: William Shoemaker, Keith Haugh, Troy Daub, Matt Imboden.

### Men's 40 AAA Division

Y'all Next: Damian Rivera, Shawn Smith, Chris Stamps.

### Men's 50 Major Plus Division

TSC Miken Reloaded: Reginald Barber, Anthony Stafford, Myron Usher.

### Men's 50 AAA Division

BP & Associates/Roadhouse Blues: Farlan (James) Alusik, Jeff Rowe, Rick Shelton, Steve Shellenberger, Tim Hawkins. / Straight Gas: Lieutenant (JR) Hamlett, Clifford Billingslea, Earlon Love, Quincy Morris. / Gaithersburg Rental: Anthony Traylor, Miguel Izquierdo, Robert Ring.

### Men's 50/55 AA Division

Helltown: Mark Reidelbach, Mike Covington, Nick Bischoff, Kenny Hancock.

### Men's 55 AAA Division

Ameriprise FL Legends 55's: Brian Ellis, Chris Coffey, Kerry Mauldin, Mike Mash. / Crossfit/RDU: Edward Sawyer, Richard Cooper, Neil Phillips, Troy Lee Bowling. / Old Stars: Randy Bryson, Leo Vernier, Jerry Howard.

### Men's 55/60 Platinum Division

Hollis Appraisals 60's (Major Plus): TJ Jones, Jeff Frey, Lawrence Reedus, Edward (Clarke) Farrell, David Motta.

### Men's 60 Major Division

Omega IT Services, LLC: Hosea Harris, Charles Clarke, Wade Ellegood, Edward

Parker, Anthony Marlow. / Carolina Cobras:

Gary Ellison, John Scruggs, Ray Hubbe, Wade Bailey Heppert. / Minnesota Cowboys: Duane Johnson, Scott Sanford, Kent Mariska.

### Men's 60 Silver (AAA/AA) Division

Pompano Crush 60's (AAA): Nick Holgash, Mark Stone, Fernando Blanco, Carlos Vico, Bobby Morse. /

Reality Check (AAA): Larry Long, John Douglas Weber, Clarence Lewis.

### Men's 65/70 Platinum Division

Superior Senior Softball (65 Major Plus): Thomas Dommel, Donald Clatterbough, G. Clarence Ellison, Vance Gudmundsen, Stephen Pierson. / Hollis Appraisals 65's: James Wiley, Tony Vodola, Chip Cregar, Norman Edwards.

### Men's 65/70 Gold Division

Spicer Properties (70 Major): Billy Martin, Patrick Murphy, Marty Harahush.

### Men's 75/80 Gold Division

Florida Investment Properties (80 Major): Thomas Sides, Brad Smith, Lawrence McCurdy, David Drakulich, Raymond Bosetti. / Bailey Talent Cavaliers (75 AAA): Calvin Freedman, Bruce Remick, Paul Math, Gary Parks. / Carolina Blue Sky's (75 AAA): Sal Colloca, Frank Shotwell, Jerry Skiles.





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