



Photo by Jack Eberhard

Player from Florida Girls swings away during the 2019 Tournament of Champions.

WMC Truly Going Global

Co-Ed Divisions Spark Int'l Friendships

By Jack Sirard
Senior Writer

LAS VEGAS – The largest slow-pitch tournament in America is going global with its newest division: The International Co-Ed Championships.

“Invitations are going to co-ed teams throughout Europe, the Pacific Rim and North America for teams to

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Player Saves Girl's Life

Ron Flathers' Quick Action Saves a Child

NICE, France – Sometimes the right person is in the right place at the perfect time. And in a harbor restaurant in this Riviera resort city the result was saving a little girl's life.

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2019 Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup Draws 195 Teams

29 Teams Earn TOC Berths

By Anthony Ramos
Softball News Report

RENO, Nev. – The oldest and longest running Senior Softball-USA tournament, the Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup, hosted 195 teams here from May 24 to June 2.



Fifteen states, coming from as far east as Massachusetts and Florida, and outside of the continental United States - Alaska and Hawaii, as well as the Canadian province of British Columbia, were well represented during the tournament.

As an official qualifier for the Tournament of Champions, 29 teams secured their berths for the TOC in Florida in February, 2020.

The tournament began over Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26, with the Women's 40-65 age divisions, and the



Photo by Anthony Ramos

Teams search for their pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Men's 40 and 60 age divisions.

Starting in the Women's 40 Major Division, Fun Bunch (CA) and Smack That (CA) played a best two-out-of-three game series. Smack

That struck first, taking game one 25-23. Fun Bunch evened the series with a 30-22 win in game two, before completing the comeback with a nail-biting 21-20 victory in the

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Int'l Co-Ed Division to Focus on Friendships

Continued from Page 1

play in friendly competition and to give players a chance to make international friends,” said Terry Hennessy, chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA.

Last year, Senior Softball USA launched a trial Co-Ed Division during the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships, attracting teams from Germany, Panama and the United States in the inaugural International 40 Masters Co-Ed Division.

Yes, this is the same tournament that last year attracted a record total of 612 teams from 40 to 85 years old. Altogether there were 33 divisions, including the Co-Ed division, that competed in the 2018 WMC.

The co-ed trial was so successful, that Senior Softball USA received many requests to make it a permanent division.

The reason is simple.

While there are many good reasons to play the game of softball, if we're forced to pick just one, it has to be the opportunity to make new friends...in both dugouts.

You just can't have too many friends. They're the people who make you laugh, pick you up when you're down and are there with open arms, day or night.

And if you're like so many softball players, there's nothing like coming home from a tournament with a bunch of new names to add to your growing list of friends.

If that seems to strike a comfortable chord with you, then this year's World Masters Championships are made to

order. The tournament, which will be played in Las Vegas, is issuing a global invite to co-ed teams to play Oct. 5-6 for the chance to win a ring.

“Since this tournament is about friendship as much as it is about softball, the international co-ed teams must be drawn from the same metropolitan areas to prevent teams from loading and to provide the opportunity for more teams to be able to compete,” Hennessy said.

“We want the International Division to be about even competition and making friends with players from around the world. We are waiving the player registration fee, cutting the tournament to two days and cutting the entry fee in half.”

“We've had encouraging signs from our developing partnerships with several domestic and international softball organizations,” he said. “Each is quite hopeful of sending teams to the World Championships.”

He noted that SSUSA is working directly with the following groups to build up the number of teams playing in the international co-ed tourney:

- Slo-Pitch National (SPN) - Canada
- Independent Sports Association (ISA) - US
- Members of the Pacific Rim Slow-Pitch Softball Association - China, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong
- Nations from recent international tours - Italy, France, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Ireland, Mexico.

In recognition of their championship play, each member on the winning team wins a ring from Josten's, maker of MLB World Series and NFL Super Bowl rings.

The international division will compete Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 5 - 6, 2019. The entry deadline is Sept. 4 and the entry fee is \$395 plus a team registration fee of \$40. For first time players, player registration fee is waived.

Team rosters restricted to respective metropolitan areas. For more information, visit seniorsoftball.com/?event=1388.

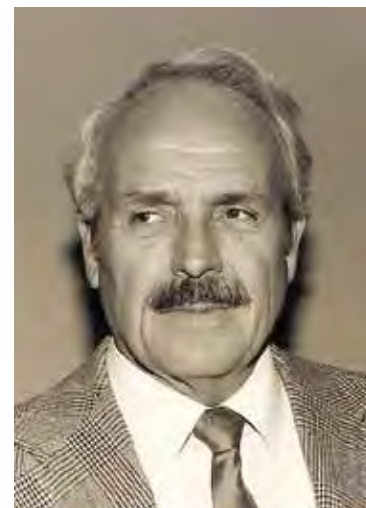
In addition, prospective teams can contact Anthony Ramos at SSUSA, 916-326-5303 or Anthony@seniorsoftball.com.

Senior Softball USA has been in operation for 31 years and has been the largest senior softball company in the world since 1996. In fact, it is larger than all of its competitors combined.

SSUSA has more than 26,000 registered national players in every state and Canada and hosts the WMC, the largest slowpitch softball tournament – of any age group – in America. In addition, SSUSA runs national qualifiers and regional championships in more than 70 cities and sanctions leagues in 300 cities.

The secret to its success stems from its founding principles of fairness, honesty and integrity. And by having the top team ratings system in the sport, SSUSA continues to build on its successes.

Not only has SSUSA built a firm foundation in the United States, but it has



Bob Mitchell - SSUSA Founder

become a growing force in the international arena as well. For the past 31 years, the organization has been holding goodwill tournaments in countries far and wide, from China and Japan to Italy and France and to more than 30 other nations.

SSUSA is one of the founding members of the Pacific Rim Slowpitch Softball Federation, along with Japan, China and Taiwan. Canada has joined this year and more Pacific Rim countries are expected to join in the future as the sport's popularity continues to blossom.

Bob Mitchell, a retired California Highway Patrol officer who founded Senior Softball-USA, in Sacramento, Calif., in the spring of 1988, did so with the firm belief that everyone is welcome.

Mitchell set the guidelines: “This is a sport that doesn't discriminate. Not by age, not by sex, not by race and not by religion. Our goal is to provide the opportunity for any senior to play softball.”

Masters Co-Ed Teams Compete in Las Vegas!



**If you are 40+
come play with us:**

**The International Co-Ed Division
for the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters
Championships returns in 2019** with
the North American Division (U.S. and
Canada) and International Division.

Last year, teams from Germany,
Panama, and the United States came to play
in the inaugural International Co-Ed Division.
Make sure your team joins in 2019!



**What you need
to know:**

**International Co-Ed Division
2019 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters
Championships**

Las Vegas, Nevada

October 5-6, 2019

Entry Fee: \$395

Entry Deadline:

Thursday, September 5, 2019

For more information:

**Contact Anthony Ramos
anthony@seniorsoftball.com to get
your team set up!**

**FYI - Team rosters will be
restricted to their respective
metropolitan area.**



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USA Senior Teams Win in France, Italy

Softball News Report

Three senior USA teams competed against French, Italian and German teams – and each other -- on the French and Italian Riviera May 2-14.

The tournaments took place in Genoa, Italy, and Nice, France, amid some of the most breathtaking scenery along one of the most fabled coastlines in the world.

The 31st Senior Softball USA International Tour saw 74 players, friends and family play ball, visit historic Cinque Terre (five seaside towns accessible mostly by water), try scents at a French perfume factory, explore Monte Carlo – and three players got a personal visit in the palace with Prince Albert II, the leader of Monaco.

Jerry Scanlon, of California, happens to be a personal friend of Prince Albert II, and was able to set up the visit.

But, of course, softball was the principal draw – for



One of the Cinque Terre towns on the Riviera only accessible by water.

the players.

The three teams – USA/Canada Red, USA White and USA Blue – were made up of players from 15 states. Players ranged from 56 to 87 years old – and from AA to Major-Plus. The teams were balanced according to age, skill level and position.

The one player from Canada, Tony Vaccaro,

tragically lost his wife Vickie shortly before the tour and had to cancel.

The first skirmish was the Genoa (Italy) International Softball Tournament, which pitted the three US teams against the Bavarian Royals from Germany and the Rookies/Eagles from Italy.

The USA/Canada Red Team, managed by Pete Cec-

chini of Florida went a perfect 4-0 to win, with USA White, managed by John Fournier of Florida, coming in second (3-1) and USA Blue, managed by Butch Jones of Washington, came in third (2-2).

The German team had a strong showing, losing two games by a single run, and ended fourth (1-3). The host Italian team was made up of fast pitch and baseball players and steadily improved through the two-day event.

The championship game came when USA White and Red faced each other with identical 3-0 records. USA Red/Canada won 13-11 in a back-and-forth contest.

The field was very small and snuggled between a huge soccer stadium and the busiest street in Genoa so the tournament ball was extremely soft to avoid hurting pedestrians or breaking car windows as they sped by the field. Most home

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Save a Life: Learn Techniques and Step Up

Continued from Page 1

Ron and Marlene Flathers of Goodyear, Arizona, were enjoying lunch during the SSUSA International Softball Tour here in May when a girl at a nearby table jumped up and grabbed her throat.

"I jumped up and ran to her table," said Ron, a player on the USA White Team. "She was struggling to breathe and turning red."

Meanwhile, the girl's father and little sister began to panic, not knowing what to do to help – and the restaurant with about 100 people erupted as concerned diners began

yelling for help for the girl.

"I got in behind her, attempted the Heimlich Maneuver and missed on first one," he said. "Then I got a good hold at the bottom of her rib cage and pulled up hard – and a piece of cheese the size of a golf ball shot out of her mouth."

"I still remember it hitting with a thud when it landed," said Ron, who served 30 years in law enforcement and was a first responder with EMT training.

For the next several seconds the father and younger sister were crying as the



Marlene and Ron Flathers.

10-year-old girl got her breath.

"Then everybody started hugging," he said.

The restaurant owner came over to translate for the father, who thanked Ron, 71, for saving his daughter's life – and many of the other diners stood up and clapped.

"I told the girl to grow up to be a doctor and save a lot of lives," said Ron.

The moral of the story? "Everyone should learn some basic life-saving techniques, whether it is the Heimlich Maneuver or operating a defibrillator, and then don't be afraid to step up to use it," he said.

This time it saved a 10-year-old French girl's life.



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Vigor Bounce

BW0401

MSRP: \$70



Speed Trainer SMU

B41489

MSRP: \$70



Riviera: Friends Become Family on the Fields



Photo of Monaco taken by Robert Sachs of Arizona.

Continued from Page 6

runs, fortunately, rocketed against the side of the soccer stadium.

The host Italian team used the event to help promote the sport to local officials in hopes of increasing funding for both baseball and softball in Genoa.

If the first field was a small, the second was a giant.

That outing -- the Cavigal International Softball Trophy (Championships) in Nice,

France -- was played on a very large dirt baseball field.

In the one-day tournament, sponsored by the Cavigal Softball Baseball Club, USA White took revenge on USA Red/Canada, winning the championship game by the identical score they lost by in Genoa (13-11).

USA Blue took third and the Cavigal French team came in fourth.

The Mayor of Nice was on hand to give out the awards and invited SSUSA back the



From left: Lenny Guida (FL), Prince Albert II of Monaco, Jerry Scanlan (CA), and Wally Introne (MA).

next year -- or anytime.

"You are our family in sports," said Mayor Christian Estrosi, "Please feel this is your home any time you want to come back to see us."

At the end of the Tour, managers announced top team awards including:

USA White: Best Offense, John Fournier; Best Defense, Chris Miller; MVP Jim Roberts.

USA Blue: Best Offense,

Jorge Carrasco; Best Defense, Steve Calabrese; MVP Craig Hobar.

USA Red/Canada: Best Offense, Wade Hiraga; Best Defense, Steve Murphy; MVP Bill Hill.

"Stay tuned for information on the 2020 International Tour to Eastern Europe in May," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer. "We hope to have details in about two months."

Joe Franco, WA, Enshrined in SSUSA HOF

Softball News Report

LACEY, WASH. -- Joe Franco, 71, known as a hitter with surgical skill and a lifetime .850 batting average, was inducted into the Senior Softball USA International Hall of Fame here June 20, in the Player Category.

About 200 players and family members gathered for the ceremony that was held -- appropriately -- on the softball field at the RAC in Lacey. Franco had played with and

against many of the players attending.

Franco was an impact player throughout the Northwest and an integral member of the W.E. Ruth teams for 30 years. He currently plays on the W.E. Ruth Realty 70 team.

Bill Ruth, team manager, recited Franco's many accomplishments with his club: "Beginning in 1991, Joe was First Team All American in the ASA 40+ Worlds. In 1992, 1993 and 1994 Joe was

named First Team All World in the USSSA 40+ Worlds."

"In 1995 and 1999, Joe aged up and made ASA First Team in both years -- including being the lead hitter in the 1995 ASA Worlds."

"In SSUSA, Joe won All Tournaments for the SSUSA World Championships in 2001, 2002 and 2013. He picked up senior All World honors in USSSA in 2004 and ASA in 2015, where he won the National Championships

Batting title."

In presenting the Hall of Fame plaque and ring, Terry Hennessy, Senior Softball USA chief executive officer, said: "The SSUSA Hall of Fame is about more than ability and accomplishments on the field. Joe has accomplished a great deal on the field -- and made use of his excellent abilities on both offense and defense."

"A Hall of Fame player

Continued on Next Page

Franco: Embodies What Is Best About the Sport

Continued from Previous Page

earns the honor on the field, but also gains the responsibility to promote the sport in a positive manner through his actions on and off the field."

"We look for players who embody the skills, accomplishments and personality to represent all of the best in our sport. It gives me great pleasure to welcome Joe Franco into that elite class of athletes – it is a well-deserved honor!"

The remaining SSUSA Hall of Fame Class of 2019 - Rick Seifman of Arizona, Director Category; Ken "Bog-gie" Van Bogaert of Wisconsin, Player Category; and Hugh Brotherton of Florida, Manager Category - will be inducted during the SSUSA National Convention in Las



Joe Franco (middle), with Bill Ruth (left), and Terry Hennessy

Vegas in December.

The annual convention, hosted in conjunction with Independent Sports Association (ISA), will take place Dec.

3 - 6 at Boulder Station Hotel and Casino.

The annual awards dinner will be held on Dec. 6.

SSUSA Int'l Hall of Fame

Class of 2009

Bob Mitchell, CA - Special/Founder
Jim Sherman, WA - Player

Class of 2010

Billie Harris, AZ - Player
Otis Rowland, CA - Director

Class of 2011

JB Barner, FL - Umpires
John Chacon, CA - Player

Class of 2012

Jack Hudson, FL - Manager
John Meeden, IL - Player

Class of 2013

Guy Grasso, NV - Player
Terry Hennessy, CA - Director
Steve Simmons, MN - Director

Class of 2014

Jerry Jackson, IL - Director
Mike Vetovich, WA - Player
Top Gun Softball Club, CA - Organization

Class of 2015

Michael Boone, NJ - Player
Bill Ruth, WA - Lifetime Achievement
Chuck Towne, TX - Manager

Class of 2016

Audie Hollis Jr., FL - Player
Al Murray, FL - Manager
Clyde Phillips, CA - Player
Don Stratton, FL - Director

Class of 2017

Norm Blackwell, CA - Manager
Daniel Minnick, CA - Player

Class of 2018

Bobby Davis, FL - Player
Fran Dowell, CA - Director
Diana Gano, AZ - Manager

Life is a Banquet - Don't Starve to Death

I drove 100 miles in a cold rain to attend a funeral for an 18-year-old boy I had only met one time.

We hadn't even conversed more than a few words. But in the brief time I knew him he gave me a gift. It changed my outlook on life.

Apparently I wasn't the only one he impacted because the church was filled to capacity, then the hallways, the aisles, the foyer and on out the doors.

What can an 18-year-old teach anybody, let alone seasoned veterans of life such as senior softball players? He was a little guy, wasn't rich or famous, never wrote a book, lived in a small town. But when his car missed a turn

CARL'S CORNER By Carl Gustafson

and threw him out, a rare and exciting power vanished into the night air.

Three weeks earlier I had refereed one of his racquetball games at the state tournament. I was drawn to his performance, first from his energy, but later by the sheer verve and bliss that beamed from his face, and finally by the force of life that radiated from his exuberant style.

From somewhere in the closed closets of my memory I remembered what it was like to lose myself in the intoxicating deliciousness of a state of existence called — fun.

Cody Scott's life corus-

cated with it, he could immerse himself in high joy, and then bloom before our eyes in ecstasy of exhilaration.

I have hardened over the years and become desensitized to many of the delights life still offers, playing softball among them. I guess that's how we get the appellations: curmudgeon, crank, crab, grouch, grump, grumbler, griper, old salt, sourpuss, bellyacher, whiner, complainer and old fuddy duddy.

I watched Cody play the rest of his matches at the tournament and not only studied his state of being, I imbibed of it. Without any deliberation or doubt, I walked away knowing that he had changed me profoundly and permanently.

At his services I learned that Cody Scott approached everything in life the way he played racquetball, he was a cornucopia of joy, and it reminded me of Auntie Mame saying, "Life is a banquet, and most of us are content to eat the crumbs under the table."

Carl Gustafson is SSUSA's Southern California Director and member of the SSUSA National Rules Committee.

Heard in the Dugout

"The secret of patience is doing something else in the meanwhile."

The Sun Dial

Opinions & Letters

Breaking Boundaries

Countries, like families, feel a much stronger bond to each other than to outsiders.

That's entirely normal and understandable; after all, survival in past ages depended on those bonds.

So why is International friendship so important?

The more we understand and empathize with people in other countries, the less likely will be unnecessary wars. Simple dialogue can cut through the rancor cause by misunderstandings.

How on earth does sports fit into these hefty issues?

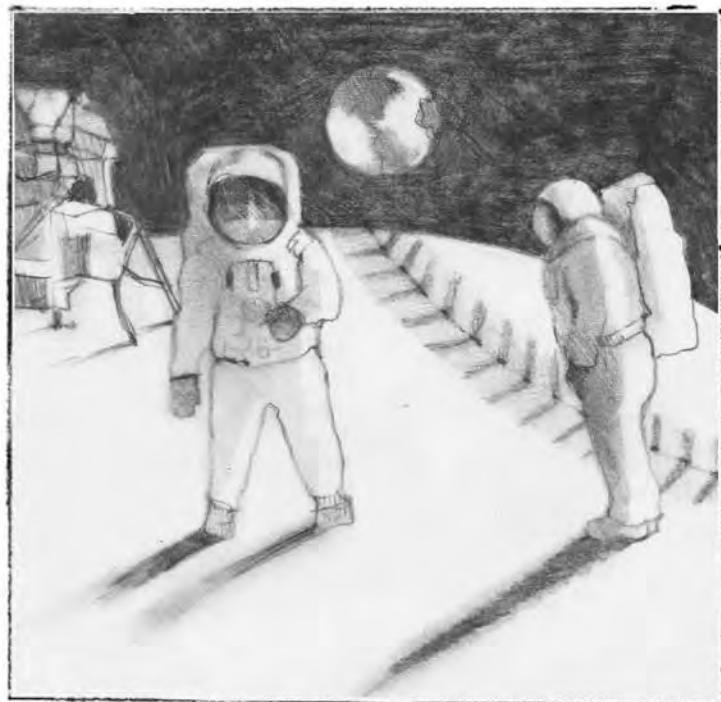
International sports, like the Olympics, are designed for just this purpose. And sports, even on a small scale, can yield far-reaching results.

Consider that for the bet-

ter part of the past 30 years, Senior Softball USA (admittedly not one of the major spectator sports in America) has been traveling to countries around the world playing friendship games and developing relationships with folks who love the sport throughout the world.

That includes countries like Cuba and China. In every country – even those who were initially wary of us Americans – we have found that the common love of the sport breaks down barriers very quickly and leads to friendship and understanding.

This is perhaps a small part of international relationships, but we believe it yields wonderful dividends.



Moon Landing, July 20, 1969

"Next time we're bringing our bat bags."

Sue Ballenger

Letter to the Editor Addresses Player Safety

I played in the SSUSA Spring National Championships tournament that was conducted in Polk County, Fla., March 22-24. I'm taking the time to send you this email, because I feel player safety...specifically for pitchers is not being addressed.

I saw two pitchers hurt in Polk County because they could not react quick enough to avoid injury. One pitcher suffered a broken rib, and the other a foot injury. I also have seen countless other close calls with balls being hit near pitchers' heads.

Why would you not

mandate the use of safety nets I see used in other tournaments? I rarely see the net effect the game, and I feel it is not a question of "if" a pitcher gets seriously hurt...but when.

*Sincerely,
John Lambert
Globe Trailers (FL) 55 AAA*

Mr. Lambert,

First, and most important, thanks for playing SSUSA. We are sorry about the injuries suffered by the pitchers in the Spring Nationals. This was unusual.

As you mention, pitching

screens are used in several of the leagues in the 300 cities we sanction, and are allowed in the recreational tournaments we sanction. The reason is that in these leagues and recreation tournaments there can be a tremendous variation in the ages of players and their skill levels.

National Qualifying tournaments are a different story. Teams are broken into five-year age groups and many of those groups are further broken into four skill levels. The comparative ages and skill levels means that most pitchers are able to compete

with the required and recommended equipment (face masks, chest protectors and shin guards) without significantly changing the game by using a screen.

While this issue comes up regularly at our annual National Rules Committee meeting, we do not foresee changes unless we see an increase in serious injuries -- which we (thank goodness) have not seen to this point. The incidents you site are fortunately unusual in the sport -- in which there is always a risk of injury given the nature of the sport.

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PUNISH THE BALL.

2018
LARRY CARTER
SIGNATURE BAT

Ratings Measure Isn't Perfect, But It's Fair

We occasionally receive letters or phone calls from teams that threaten not to play in tournaments if their rating is not changed.

We have a strict policy of not changing a rating once a team threatens not to play. The reason is based on history of the sport.

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s in younger-age softball, teams routinely were re-rated when they threatened not to play in a tournament. The result is that younger aged group slowpitch softball lost more than 17 million players during that time.

The reason?

Teams were allowed to play in divisions they dominated because tournament directors were afraid to enforce ratings.

In Senior Softball, we base our decisions on whether a team is too strong to play in

Covering the Bases

By Terry Hennessy

a division first, not if they are too weak (or they feel they are too weak) to compete in a higher division.

And we never re-rate a team that threatens to pull out of a tournament or not play SSUSA. If we did, teams would soon make it a habit of telling us in which division they thought they should play. The history of the sport shows that has a devastating effect.

We decide ratings based on performance and while there may be weaker teams in one tournament, we have found over the past 25 years that teams averaging winning or losing by 5 or more runs is a very good indicator.

It is not perfect, but it is the fairest measurement we have.

Our suggestion to teams unhappy with their rating is to play at the higher level. If the team cannot compete and the margins are 5 runs or more against it, we will certainly reconsider the ratings.

Mixed Bracket Headache

Senior Softball has a plethora of age/skill divisions with the goal of providing fair competition in each division. It works remarkably well, especially in the larger tournaments.

However, in medium and small Qualifiers the tournament scheduler usually must mix divisions because there are 36 potential age/skill divisions so it is unusual to have "pure" divisions.

This is another case where we use the Ratings Index to match teams of different age groups for the fairest possible divisions of play.

Sometimes, when teams

of different age divisions are matched, one of the teams will ask not to play the game, while the other team wants to play. We explain that if a team does not play it forfeits out of the tournament and forfeits any prizes.

Why?

Teams are promised a minimum number of games and if one team elects not to play, the other team loses the chance to play one of the promised games. In addition, the team that plays fewer games going into finals has created an advantage because its players are fresher than teams that have competed in the scheduled number of games.

It really boils down to sportsmanship, which is based on fair play for all teams.

Terry Hennessy is Senior Softball USA's chief executive officer.

40s Extend to Military/First Responders

By Tim McElroy

SSUSA National Director

The Senior Softball-USA logo is often accompanied by our "more than just a game" tagline. At first glance, you may not give it a second thought, but that tagline represents everything that SSUSA hopes to offer the players.

The tournaments offer players the opportunity to play the game in a manner that they did years or even decades ago. The parks are well maintained and the tournament staff is knowledgeable, approachable and friendly. The tournaments are spirited and competitive while also played with respect for the opponent

and the game itself.

Our game is about relationships and creating a bond with people who are in a similar place in their lives. Those bonds and level of fellowship has much to do with SSUSA's effort to bring First Responders into the fold.

We are attending some of the larger police, fire and military events across the country to introduce ourselves to these men and women.

We're also hosting a few First Responder tournaments that will be played using senior rules. Our first event was held near Washington D.C. and drew 16 teams from around the area. Success right

out of the gate suggests that the First Responder Nationals (Oct 25-27) in Florida will be a hit too.

Here is some information about the First Responder Nationals:

October 25-27

CenturyLink Park (Spring Training home of the Minnesota Twins) will serve as the host facility. The weekend will feature a four-game guarantee format, skills competitions and social activities so that players and fans can relax and enjoy one another.

Eligibility rules are simple: We'll offer two divisions of play including a 40+ Open and 40+ First Responder,

where at least eight players on your team must be current, or former members of the police, fire, military or other approved agencies. In all cases, players must be 40 years of age on, or before Dec. 31, 2019.

Dates of Play: October 26-27, 2019

Entry Fee: \$450 per team.

Standard registration closes on Oct. 1.

Late registration: Taken on a space available basis until Oct. 10.

For additional information, contact Tim McElroy PotomacSports1@gmail.com



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SSUSA Launches Softball in China Factories

Softball News Report

In a classic meeting of East and West, the game of softball is embarking on a journey of potentially epic proportions.

China, with a population of more than 1.4 billion people, is beginning to show an interest in the sport we love and while they have a ways to go, they're catching on fast.

For the past three years, SSUSA / China has been working with schools to introduce teeball and slowpitch softball at the very youngest levels. Now, some huge China industrial parks are showing intense interest in introducing the sport as a way to give thousands of workers an outside activity and to build teamwork.

China has decided to tap some of the expertise that Senior Softball USA has at its fingertips.

In an effort to jumpstart their fledgling sport in factories, China sent Zhaoli and Bruce Chin, the representatives of Senior Softball USA / China, to the Tournament of Champions in Florida in February.

During their stay in the United States, they invited Steve Imlay to come to China to help introduce and train softball for a startup group.

Imlay is one of the most decorated power hitters in slow-pitch softball, winning more than 35 national championships and over 38 world championships, as well as earning numerous All-American and most valuable player awards.

Due to his accolades, Imlay was inducted into the

National Senior Softball Hall of Fame in 2010, as well as the Florida Senior Sports Association Legends Hall of Fame in 2014 and the Indiana ASA Hall of Fame.

Additionally, Imlay created the Steven Imlay Slow-Pitch Softball Hitting Academy to help other players improve their hitting, which made him the ideal ambassador to help bring slow pitch softball to China.

"Of course, I was excited and honored for such a great opportunity, he said. "We met with Senior Softball Chief Executive Officer Terry Hennessy and after several conversations, we were able to lock down a plan, which called for me to fly to China the first of May."

"It is a very challenging undertaking," said Imlay, in introducing slow-pitch softball to China industries, considering that it is not a big sport, although the Chinese do have national baseball and softball teams, which both qualified in the 2008 Olympics as the host nation.

After meeting in Beijing, Imlay, Zhaoli, and Bruce headed out the next day for Weifang, a city located in the Shandong province by train, which Imlay states was an

exceptional experience. They arrived and were taken to their hotel and later invited for dinner.

Hosting the dinner, as well as the clinic for their employees, was Shangdong Orient Hongye Chemicals Co. Ltd.

"In China, the company is a very important part of the Chinese way of life," explained Imlay. "They offer jobs and housing, as well as a family atmosphere. Zhaoli and Bruce were able to work with Shangdong Orient Hongye Chemicals and get the commitment to offer slow-pitch



Imlay provides instruction in a classroom setting.

getting to know the management team from the company, I realized that they were very



Clinic attendees begin to hit off the tee.

softball for their employees."

"After an awesome dinner with almost 30 entrees and

excited about the development of softball," said Imlay. "They were having a large event to celebrate the new fields and the startup and the beginning of the implementation of their employees with Slow Pitch Softball. They invited other companies, as well as government officials and other local members of the community."

The clinic began the next day, as the donated field was set up for softball with fence-



Members of the slow pitch softball clinic in China.

Continued on Next Page

China Shows Growth

Continued from Previous Page

ing and bleachers. "The field wasn't in perfect condition, but with a little work it will be a very impressive field," said Imlay. "We were able to work the morning with the players, with Bruce acting as my interpreter. Zhaoli made sure everything was running well."

"The language barrier wasn't as bad as I thought," said Imlay, who was able to communicate with the clinic attendees on a one-to-one basis, similar to his clinics in the United States.

"I felt very accomplished," said Imlay on the success of the first clinic in China. "Once the players committed, they worked very hard. They were good athletes, and I was amazed at how quickly they adjusted."

By the end of the clinic, a short two to three-inning game was set up. Of the 30 members in the clinic, 29 were able to hit the ball very well, according to Imlay. Players began the clinic hitting off of a tee, before then facing live pitching.

Imlay credits the success of the clinic to the overall team effort. Along with Zhaoli and Bruce, who have put in a tremendous amount of work to lay the foundation, three

other instructors were on hand to help aid Imlay.

"There was a coach (Na Zhang) of the local team who had a strong background with softball and was very knowledgeable," said Imlay. "We also had a high school coach (Daixin Yan) who had pitched professionally in a baseball league. He was extremely well organized and helped run the players through our process of teaching slow pitch softball. We also had the head umpire of the Women's China fast pitch softball association (Jianxiang Yang), who brought a very strong level of knowledge and authority to our group."

"We decided the best way to approach the implementation of the clinic was to divide into groups. I took the group for their first hitting experience, while the other instructors were able to work on defense and defensive positions."

Although the city of Weifang is in a rural area, the population is listed at over 9 million, as of the 2010 census. With an overall population at 1.4 billion, Imlay feels that there is a great potential to grow the game of slow pitch softball throughout China.



Clinic attendees learning the basics of hitting.



Clinic attendees play a simulated game.



Clinic attendees learning the basics of hitting.



Clinic attendees learning defensive positioning.



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Lifetime Player Suspension Handed Down

Softball News Report

SACRAMENTO – A Senior Softball USA Appeals Board has ruled that a player who threatened the life of an umpire at the Southwest Championships in Las Vegas in April should be suspended for life.

The Board ruled that James Little Jr., who was playing on the JU Entertainment 55 Major team when the incident occurred, could appeal the Lifetime Suspension in seven years after completing anger-management classes.

The Board also unanimously recommended that the umpire in the dispute should be suspended for the remainder of the season for not pressing charges in the case.

According to reports from the tournament director and others on the opposing team, the incident began after Little was called out for stepping out of the batter's box for a second time. Little was ejected after he erupted verbally at high volume and with unacceptable language at the umpire.

At this point, according to all three accounts of the incident, Little pointed his bat at the umpire and made a death threat, saying he would carry out the

death threat in the parking lot after the game.

Police were called, and a report was filed, but the umpire declined to press charges.

After SSUSA received the reports, Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer, sent out an indefinite suspension notice to Little.

Under SSUSA policy, Little had 30 days to appeal the suspension.

Little's appeal was sent to three independent national directors who were not present during the tournament for a ruling.

The Appeals Board, which remains anonymous to protect the objectivity of the process, made these comments in its ruling:

"The fact that he threatened the umpire with physical harm has no place in our organization. If he lost his cool because of what he felt was an incorrect stepping out of the box call, what would his reaction be if there was a close play on the bases or field of play that he didn't agree with? We have a fine line with our bats being a "weapon" on the field, by the striking of a ball...we surely don't need them used as an actual weapon."

"Mr. James Little Jr., you should have thought about the game you loved before you verbally abused and made a death threat to the umpire. Therefore, it is my recommendation that Mr. James Little Jr. be suspended for LIFE from Senior Softball."

"Having read the Directors statement and Mr. Little Jr. request for a second chance, I have concluded (1) that Mr. Little needs to attend an "ANGER" Management class."

In addition, the Appeals Board unanimously recommended suspension of the umpire for the season.

"If these threats were as described, this was not only an "attack" on this umpire, but all of us associated with SSUSA. One heat of the moment swing of the bat could have resulted in devastating consequences to the recipient. (The umpire) did a great disservice to our organization by not fully setting an example of Mr. Little, for the benefit of all persons involved in our sport.

"Violence should not be tolerated in any form, and if the persons perpetrating it are not properly dealt with by the victim, it will only escalate the next time something occurs."

SLiAcademy Hitting Clinic to Benefit Amundson

The SLiAcademy hitting clinic in Medford, OR on July 24 will serve as a benefit for Tommy Amundson.

Amundson, an SSUSA member since 2006, who most recently played with Timberworks/Adidas 65 Major Plus, was a timber faller for 45 years. He was helping cut firewood when a branch fell and knocked him out, causing him to fall to the ground from a 6' platform. Among other injuries, he broke his neck and back and is now a complete T4 paraplegic.

Proceeds from the Medford, OR clinics (with enough

interest, more clinics will be held) will be donated to Tommy to help cover the extensive medical bills and equipment that are not paid for by his insurance.

SLiAcademy will provide a one-day class on understanding your swing, improving your swing, and utilizing tools to be the best slow pitch softball hitter you can be.

Softball Hitting Clinic Details

Classes include much more than just practice. We include mental and physical information to improve your approach as well as muscle

memory.

It requires knowledge and hard work to become an improved softball hitter.

- Instruction and drills on overall swing mechanics.
- Hitting instructor analysis of your swing using a Batting Tee with a video recording of your swing, drills and instruction from Hitting Pros.
- Data and analysis of your bat speed (before and after hitting the ball), time to the ball, hand speed, swing path, and exit speed.
- An electronic portfolio of

your individual lessons, drills and practice you can reference at home.

Register today on SLiAcademy.com and get more information on academy dates and places.

Upcoming dates in July/August:

- July 9 - Perris/Menifee, CA
- July 11 - Orange County, CA
- July 16 - Lacey, WA
- July 18 - Seattle, WA
- July 22 - Portland, OR
- ***July 24 - Medford, OR**
- ***Tommy Amundson Benefit**
- July 26 - Sacramento, CA
- August 6 - San Jose, CA
- August 8 - Sacramento, CA
- August 13 - Simi Valley, CA

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*Bats will be distributed at the managers' meeting in Fort Myers in November. Entry fee and roster are required for completed registration. All registrations and payments must be received by 10/15/19. 4% surcharge if paying by credit card. Entry fees are non-refundable after 10/15/19. Full refunds are given to teams withdrawing before the 10/15/19.

Book accommodations at
LeeCountySportsHousing.org/event/1353
and start planning your
team vacation today!



You Make the Call: What Is the Base Path?

You hear it at least once at nearly every tournament. A player, manager or fan hollers at the umpire: "He's out of the baseline, Blue!"

Sometimes, such an "out" call is as routine as players addressing the umpire as "Blue," even though Senior Softball-USA umpire uniforms are gray and red, not blue.

Yet in many cases, the runner has done nothing worthy of an out -- despite persistent protests from an often-miffed defense that thinks the runner has left the base path.

If you want to test your rules knowledge in this area, mull these actual game situations and decide which, if any, should result in an out.

1. As a baserunner churns toward third, a wide throw pulls the third baseman off the bag. He grabs the ball with his bare hand and tags the runner with his empty glove. Despite no call from the umpire, the runner thinks he has been tagged out, walks past third base without touching it and stops near the fence. A teammate yells for the runner to get on the base. The runner darts safely back to third. The defense argues that the runner left the base path when he walked to the fence.

2. With a runner on first base with one out, a batter hits a high pop up that is caught by the shortstop. Thinking this is the third out, the runner leaves first base before the ball is caught and cuts across the infield toward her team's third-base dugout. She is near the pitcher when the shortstop throws to first. The throw is

Umpire's Corner

By Donna McGuire

wild, allowing the runner to return safely. The defense protests that the runner left the base path.

3. A batter hits a sharp grounder toward the first baseman. At contact, the runner standing on first base takes three quick steps toward the pitcher -- not toward second base. So when the fielder scoops up the ball and tries to swipe tag the runner, the runner is too far away. The runner races straight to second while the fielder hollers, "He's out of the base line."

What calls should the umpire make?

Our rule book defines the base path as "an imaginary line that is three feet on either side of a direct line between the bases." Technically, though, that is the "base line," not a "base path." If a runner were limited to following this line only, he couldn't swerve outside that lane to round a base on an arc, which happens all the time. And he couldn't serve more than three feet or to avoid a fielder trying to field a batted ball, another move considered legal.

That's why many softball and baseball rule books differentiate between "base line" and "base path."

As the Major League Baseball rulebook and the USA Softball rulebook both explain, the "base path" is the direct line between a runner being played upon and the base he is attempting to reach.

As such, a runner creates his own base path and can wander all over the place

UNTIL the defense attempts to tag him. At that point, the runner's base path is established as a direct line from his current position to the base he wants to reach. He may not stray more than three feet on either side of this line to avoid a tag. If he does, he is out.

Considered how this affects a rundown or what some call a pickle. Each time the baserunner reverses direction, he makes a new base bath. With each turn, he might drift deeper toward the outfield. After three or four turns, he might be six feet or more from his original base path. That is legal. The umpire should not call him out as long as he stays in his base path -- his direct line to the next base

-- after making each turn. The base path can migrate during a pickle.

Now, back to our game examples cited earlier in this column. In each case, the runner should be ruled safe because he/she never left the base path while being played upon.

Now you know why knowledgeable umpires ignore uneducated managers, fans and players who mistakenly yell, "He's out of the baseline, Blue!"

Donna McGuire is SSUSA's Central Region Umpire-in-Chief and Chair of the SSUSA National Rules Committee.

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True or False: Does Running Hurt Knees?

**By Stan Reents, PharmD
Senior Softball News Contributor**

Is running (i.e., distance running) bad for your knees?

This is a common question. Surprisingly, a lot of athletes, trainers, and even health care professionals don't know the answer.

Some believe that people who run regularly are setting themselves up for knee problems in their later years of life.

However, the research suggests that this isn't so.

The risk of knee osteoarthritis is definitely increased in people who are obese or who have had a knee injury. And some evidence shows that osteoarthritis is higher in ballet dancers, soccer players and weightlifters.

What about running?

In 1979, medical faculty at Stanford University formed a running/fitness organization called Fifty-Plus. One of the goals of Fifty-Plus was to study the effects of exercise in older adults.

In 1984, they began an ongoing evaluation of the incidence of knee osteoarthritis in Fifty-Plus runners and non-runners. Knee X-rays were performed six times on all subjects between 1984 and 2002. Runners were less likely to develop osteoarthritis:

NON-RUNNERS WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS

- 1984: none
- 2002: 32%

DISTANCE RUNNERS WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS

- 1984: 7%
- 2002: 20%

NON-RUNNERS WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS

- 1984: none
- 2002: 32%

DISTANCE RUNNERS WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS

- 1984: 7%
- 2002: 20%

Researchers at Boston University conducted a larger study. They evaluated 1,279 older adults (with no osteoarthritis at the beginning of the study). They found that walking, jogging, or high activity levels over a period of nearly nine years was not associated with any increased risk of developing osteoarthritis in the knee joint.

One important detail needs to be kept in mind when evaluating research on osteoarthritis: there is a weak relationship between knee pain and detectable knee damage.

In both men and women, knee pain commonly occurs without any

evidence (i.e., X-ray) of damage to the joint. In an evaluation of the effectiveness of both aerobic and resistance exercise for knee osteoarthritis, knee pain and mobility improved in the exercise group, even though there was no improvement in X-ray scores.

In summary, reasonable amounts of running do not increase the risk of osteoarthritis unless you have poor running style (form), or poorly fit running shoes.

Both can affect proper alignment of the knee.

If you have substantial pain in a joint that has sustained an injury, or, if you have severe rheumatoid arthritis, then, running could produce more pain.

In this case, forms of exercise that do not involve weight-bearing (aquatic exercise) are better choices.

Other than those scenarios, running can actually improve knee health.

For example, the meniscus (the cartilage cushion inside the knee) becomes stronger.

And the benefits of exercise in general outweigh any negative effects on the knee:

- Regular exercise can help with weight loss. Weight loss, in turn, takes some stress off of the weight-bearing joints (hips, knees).

- Exercise reduces joint pain and maintains joint flexibility.

- Exercise maintains leg muscle strength.

- Exercise is beneficial for bone density.

To find the best-fitting running shoes for your foot anatomy, use RoadRunner Sports' Shoe Dog service: <https://www.roadrunnersports.com/rrs/product/shoe-dog.jsp>

Stan Reents, PharmD, is a health care professional and health/fitness coach.

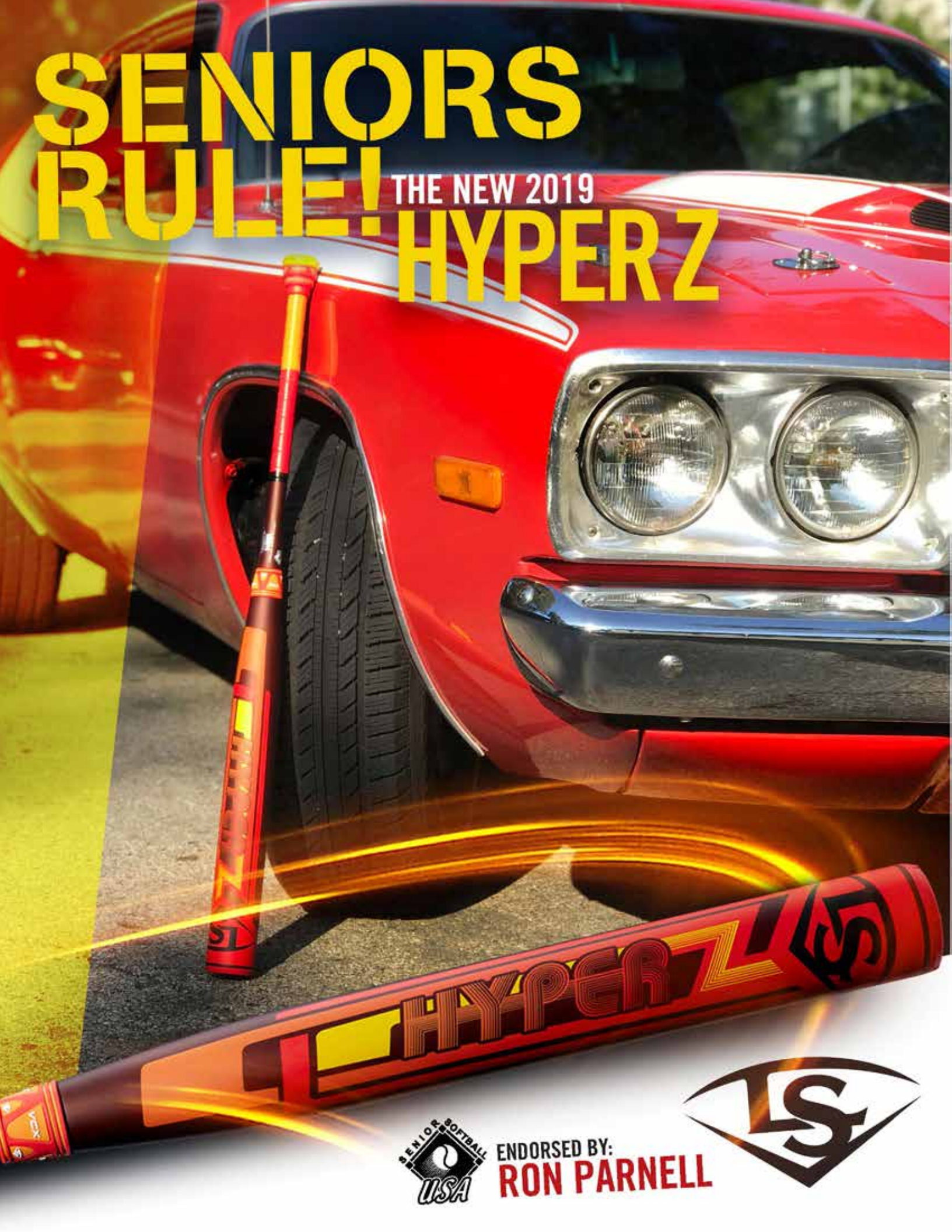
He created the web site www.AthleteInMe.com, a resource on the health benefits of exercise.

He is also the author of the sports medicine text "Sport and Exercise Pharmacology."

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Discussing the Modern Swing Hand Path

By Art Eversole
Senior Softball News
Contributor

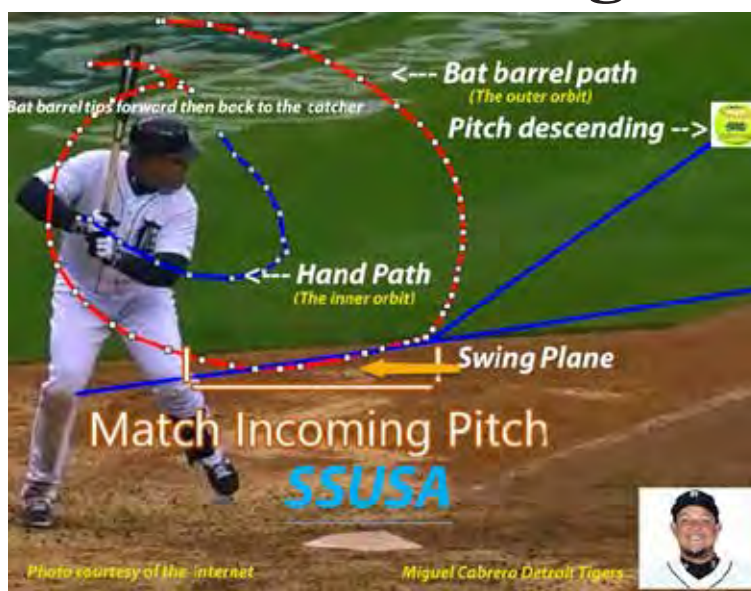
A great number of today's top-of-the-line hitting coaches in baseball and softball, agree that hands are the primary control mechanism in achieving the ideal bat-path to the ball.

Emphasis on the hands is what's being stressed at the major league level today by hitting coaches in both leagues. It all begins with the hands, as they say. Hence, if your senior softball goal is to become the best possible hitter you can be, then a proper hand-path to the ball is going to be crucial for you.

Coaches and hitting gurus are known for expounding at hitting clubs, around batting cages, even on television baseball networks about how important a hitter's legs, hips and shoulders are in hitting the ball effectively. Yes, all those things are important. However, I firmly believe that proper usage of your hands is the principal factor in becoming not just a good hitter, but a great hitter.

How does the ideal hand path make you a better hitter? First off, it moves the bat-head on to the hitting plane early in the swing, which increases your prospects for making better contact. Concentrating on your hands is considered by many major league hitters to be the most important aspect in striking a baseball with authority.

I'm now introducing those same hitting concepts to senior softball. I understand that many of you have known this for some time, but for those



of us who have not yet been introduced to this approach to hitting, this is important.

So, how do we achieve this proper hand path scenario? To begin, the bat barrel should tip slightly towards the pitcher at the start which sets and loads your wrists. As the bat rotates around the rear shoulder the lead-hand is pulling hard on the bat-knob which creates the centripetal forces needed to maximize bat-speed (refer to the picture-diagram).

The top-hand pulls the bat backwards toward the catcher at the start. The lead-arm/bottom-hand then begins to pull hard on the bat-knob thus whipping the bat around the torso and into the ball, creating a large force that mashes the ball at contact. The above constitutes what is considered to be the elements of the modern swing.

Make sure to place your hands nearly even with the back shoulder and directly over your rear foot. The back elbow is up about armpit to shoulder height and perpen-

dicular to the ground; bat-head tipped slightly forward cocking the wrists. Note that your front shoulder should be just slightly lower than rear shoulder which produces more swing leverage. The hands will move in an inner orbit to the bat-barrel which is in a parallel outer orbit (refer again to the picture-diagram).

If you fail to take the bat backwards as your first move with your hands and instead move your hands down directly to the pitch, you will not get on plane early. This down to the ball action usually manifests itself in reduce bat-speed along with a short window to make contact. Moving the hands directly to the ball often results in a chopping action at the ball, cutting it weakly resulting in popup flares to the infield and outfield.

To recap, taking the proper hand-path to the ball puts the bat into the hitting zone early creating more bat-speed, while staying on plane longer in matching up to the incoming pitch angle. The proper

hand-path technique will help eliminate chopping down on the pitch, or swinging up at it, which both reduces the likelihood of making squared-up contact.

I received much of my information in putting this piece together from listening to Jim Thome of MLB Tonight. A prolific power hitter, Thome hit 612 home runs — eighth-most all time — along with 2,328 hits, 1,699 runs batted in and a .276 batting average. He was a member of five All-Star teams and won a Silver Slugger Award in 1996.

Here's a URL link to an instructional video that illustrates the back-elbow's role in the swing mechanics I've been discussing. It also discusses how the top hand is responsible for pulling the bat back to begin the early acceleration in the swing:

Rotational Swing Mechanics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98mVxe1lBKU>

Happy hitting,

Art Eversole

Art Eversole, of Washington, has played on Major and Major Plus teams with W.E. Ruth Realty.

He is the NW Senior Softball Webmaster/Softball Communications/Hitting Club Admin/NW Leagues internet coordinator.

Eversole can be reached via email at rtmyboy01@gmail.com.

RENO: Thunderstruck Wins Largest Division

Continued from Page 1
rubber match.

In the eight-team Women's 40 AAA Division, TABU (CA) ran the table unscathed, going 2-0 in seeding to lock up the No. 1 seed, and then 4-0 in bracket play to cap off the perfect weekend, including a 15-4 win over Country Club Villa (CA) in the championship game.

Country Club Villa fell to TABU earlier in the bracket, 14-2, to drop down into the elimination side of the bracket. Facing elimination, County Club Villa regrouped with three straight wins to reach the championship game en route to their runner-up finish.

Old Nasty Curves (CA) finished in third place.

In the Women's 50 Major Division, Magic Stuff (MA) made the most out of its 2,800-mile trip from the Bay State to the Silver State, by sweeping B.O.O.B.S (CA) in the best two-out-of-three game series. Magic Stuff cruised to the game one win, 21-5, before earning the championship via a forfeit win in game two.

In the four-team Women's 50/55 AAA Division, OnFire/Afoa Insurance 50 (CA) went 3-0 in seeding to secure the top seed, before rattling off three straight wins in bracket play, including a thrilling walk-off 20-19 win over Team Battleaxe 55 (OR) in the championship game.

Trailing 19-12 heading into the bottom of the open, OnFire/Afoa Insurance plated the eight runs it needed to complete the comeback victory.

NW Boomers 50 (OR) finished in third place.



Enviro-Vac Marauder (WA) - Men's 65 Major Plus Champions

In another four-team division, the Women's 60/65 Division, AZ Castawaz 60 finished off the weekend with a perfect 6-0 overall record, going 3-0 in seeding play to earn the top seed and 3-0 in bracket play, including a 19-9 win over California Spirit 65 in the championship game.

California Rockers 65 finished in third place.

In the five-team Men's 40 Major Plus Division, GTS (ID) rolled through the division, going 2-0 in seeding to take the top spot in the bracket, before going 3-0 in bracket play, including a 30-14 win over CB Softball (CA) in the championship game.

After going 0-2 in seeding play and falling in their first bracket game against Kraze (CA) 34-33, CB Softball rebounded with three straight wins in the elimination side of the bracket to reach the championship game.

Prestige/Elite Sports Orange County Prestige (CA) finished in third place.

In the massive 25-team Men's 40 Gold Division, the largest division of the tournament, Thunderstruck 40's (CA) escaped without a loss.

The team began with a 2-0 record in seeding play

to eventually earn the No. 3 seed, before running off five straight wins in the bracket, including a 16-11 win over TEAM FIRST (CA) in the championship game.

After falling to Cheap Suits/Republic Realty/CDZ Apparel (CA) 23-17 to drop down into the elimination side of the bracket, TEAM FIRST rallied with three straight wins to play its way into the championship game.

Cheap Suits/Republic Realty/CDZ Apparel finished in third place to round out the top three finishers, while Team Imua/Elite Sports (HI) finished in fourth place.

Notable mention goes to Bartz Builders/No Excuses (CA) and East Bay 40s/Kinders (CA), who both finished tied for sixth place. Both teams were among the eight teams to go 2-0 in seeding play.

Bartz Builders/No Excuses won five straight games in the elimination side of the bracket following its opening game loss to Torgi Trucking (WA), 26-14. The team would eventually be eliminated by Team Imua/Elite Sports.

East Bay 40s/Kinders also dropped its opening bracket game 23-19 against Cheap

Suits/Republic Realty/CDZ Apparel, before winning four straight games in the elimination side of the bracket. The team would eventually be eliminated by TEAM FIRST.

In the Men's 60 Major Plus Division, MTC/Dudley (CA) swept Summy's (CA) in a best two-out-of-three game series by scores of 26-22 and 23-22, respectively.

In game two, MTC/Dudley trailed 22-20 heading into the bottom of the open and scored the three runs it needed to complete the comeback win.

Early in the championship game, MTC/Dudley plated seven runs in the third and fourth innings to fuel a commanding 19-10 lead; however, Summy's scored four runs in the fifth, sixth and seventh innings, respectively, to eventually take a slim 22-20 lead.

In the seven team Men's 60 Major Division, California Energy cruised to a 40-16 win in the championship game over top seed Last Call (NV). California Energy's offense was on full display in the final game, as the team scored the maximum five runs in each inning, before plating 10 runs in the top of the open.

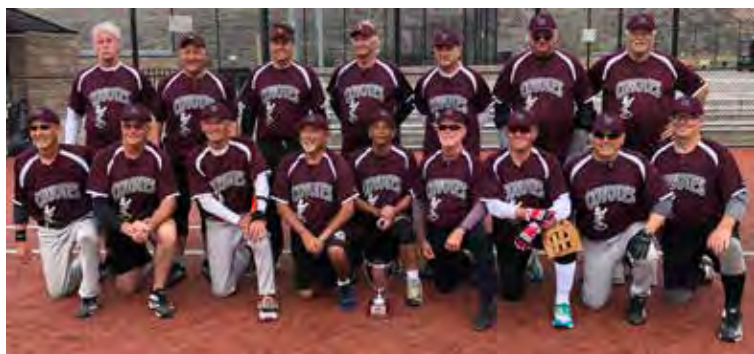
Last Call dropped their first two games in the three-game guarantee bracket, falling to Goodman Racing (WA) 28-27 and Bulldogs (OR) 33-27. Facing elimination the rest of the way, Last Call bounced back with three straight wins to reach the championship game.

Second Wind Resurrected (WA) finished in third place.

In another seven-team

Continued on Next Page

RENO: Three "IF" Games Played in the 65's



Lincoln Hills Coyotes (CA) - Men's 65 AAA Champions

Continued from Previous Page
division, the Men's 60 AAA Division, Northern Exposure/Alaska Kings came out of the elimination side of the bracket to double-dip Baker Boyz (CA) by scores of 17-16 and 21-14, respectively.

Baker Boyz won its first four games of the bracket, including a 19-14 win over Alaska Kings to reach the championship game.

Senior Bend Elks (OR) finished in third place.

The Men's 60 AA Division featured a best two-out-of-three game series between Fresno Mayhem (CA) and East West Aircraft Sales - Two (ID).

East West Aircraft Sales - Two swept the series by scores of 19-14 and 19-8, respectively.

Following a break in play for Memorial Day, the tournament continued with the second session, as the Men's 65 through 85 age divisions took the field, May 28-30.

Starting off with the Men's 65 Major Plus Division, Enviro-Vac Marauder (WA) and Timberworks/Adidas (CA) played a thrilling best two-out-of-three game series that went the distance.

In the opening game of the series, Timberworks/Adidas pounded out 23 runs in the

top of the open to cruise to a 36-15 win.

In game two, trailing 26-18 heading into the open inning, Enviro-Vac plated nine runs to take a one-run lead, 27-26. Enviro-Vac held off Timberworks/Adidas in the bottom of the open, holding the potent offense scoreless, to escape with the win and force the decisive "if" game.

Game three would see a mirror image of the previous game, as Enviro-Vac headed into the open inning, trailing 23-17. The team would again score the runs it needed, getting seven runs across the plate to take a one-run advantage, 24-23.

Holding the hammer for the second straight game, Timberworks/Adidas would once again get shut out, as Enviro-Vac completed the comeback win to take the division.



Incrediwear (CA) - Men's 65 Major Champions



East-West Aircraft Sales (ID) - Men's 65 AA Champions

In the ten-team Men's 65 Major Division, Incrediwear (CA) registered a perfect 4-0 record in bracket play, including a 19-16 win over Scrap Iron High Octane (CO) in the championship game.

Incrediwear began its run in the bracket in dramatic fashion, scoring a pair of walk-off wins. The team first knocked off Nor Cal Reds (CA) 12-11, scoring three runs in the bottom of the open. Incrediwear then edged out Oregon Crabs 10-9, scoring the lone run it needed in the bottom of the open.

Scrap Iron High Octane bounced back from an 0-2 showing in seeding play, to post a 5-2 record in the bracket, including three straight wins in the elimination side of the bracket on Thursday en route to their runner-up finish.

Sin City Stars finished in third place.

The 17-team Men's 65 AAA Division, the largest division of the second session, would come down to the "if" game. Lincoln Hills Coyotes (CA) came back to defeat top seed Game Time Sports (ID), 13-7, after dropping the championship game, 28-25.

Game Time Sports fell to Scrap Iron 5280 (CO), 16-12, to drop down in to the elimination side of the bracket.

Beginning championship Thursday in the elimination bracket, Game Time Sports began the gauntlet, winning four straight games, including its win in the championship game, before running out of gas in the "if" game.

Scrap Iron 5280 finished in third place.

In the Men's 65 AA Division, East-West Aircraft Sales (ID) and Out of Storage (CA) played a best two-out-of-three game series.

Out of Storage struck the first blow, taking game one, 21-17. East-West Aircraft Sales evened the series with a 19-16 win in game two, forcing the winner-take-all game three.

In the rubber-match, East-West Aircraft Sales held on for the thrilling 25-24 win to take the division.

In the Men's 70 Major

Continued on Next Page

RENO: Bad Seed 50's Score Three Walk-Offs



Omen (CA) - Men's 70 Major Plus Champions

Continued from Previous Page
Plus Division, Omen (CA) swept Enviro-Vac Marauders (BC, Canada) by scores of 19-9 and 17-8, respectively.

The 11-team Men's 70 Major Division saw R&R (CA) escape the elimination side of the bracket with a 19-18 walk-off win over San Antonio Silver Steaks (TX) in the third place game to punch their ticket to the championship game.

Trailing 18-13 heading to the bottom of the open, R&R plated six runs to complete the come-from-behind victory.

Building off its momentum, R&R continued their strong play in both the championship and "if" game, double-dipping Tri-State Diamondbacks (NM) by scores of 18-13 and 22-13, respectively.

Tri-State Diamondbacks defeated R&R earlier in the bracket, 22-13, earlier in the bracket to advance to the

championship game.

San Antonio Silver Steaks made a valiant run through the elimination side of the bracket with four wins, en route to their third-place finish.

The 10-team Men's 70 AAA Division also featured an "if" game, as top seed Please Don't Bug Me (CA) defeated Last Call (NV), 20-15, in the winner-take-all final.

Last Call defeated Please Don't Bug Me in walk-off fashion, 14-13, in the championship game to force the decisive final. Trailing 13-10 heading into the bottom of the open, Last Call scored four runs in the bottom of the open to complete the come-back victory.

Lincoln Hills Coyotes (CA) finished in third place.

The three-team Men's 70 AA Division was made up of California Oaks, Valley Fog

(CA), and Triple Play (CA).

In the end, Valley Fog avenged its 21-20 loss against Triple Play in the championship game, with a 15-8 win in the "if" game.

California Oaks finished in third place.

Omen (CA) swept Tharaldson's (NV) in a best two-out-of-three game series to win the Men's 75 Major Plus Division.

Top seed State Roofing Systems (CA) took the four-team Men's 75 Major Division, edging out Sidewinders (AZ), 15-14, in a thrilling championship game to complete an undefeated week. General Equipment (OR) finished in third place.

In the four-team Men's 75/80 Gold Division, San Francisco Seals 80 (CA), Major, and Triple Play 75 (CA), AAA, won the championship for their respective age divisions.

The Zone 75 (UT) finished in third place.

The eight-team Men's 80/85 Gold Division played a full seven-game round robin with best record determining the champion.

Via its perfect 7-0 record, Scrap Iron Gray Berets 80 (CO) took home the top spot.

Redwood City Gold Rush 80 (CA), 6-1, and Git-R-Done 80 (CA), 5-2, finished second and third, respectively.

The tournament concluded with the third session, as the Men's 50 and 55 age divisions took the field May 31-June 2.

Beginning with the 16-team Men's 50 Platinum Division, Bad Seed (CA), the lone Major Plus team in the field, avoided the dreaded double-dip, avenging its 28-22 loss in the championship game against BR & Company (CA), with a 14-8 win in the "if" game.

Bad Seed had lady luck on its side to start bracket play, as the team won four straight one-run games, including three walk-off victories, to reach the championship game.

In their first bracket game, Bad Seed scored three runs in the bottom of the open to defeat Hara's/LLR (OR), 21-20. In their next game, Bad Seed trailed Thunderstruck (AZ), 27-17 after six innings, forcing the flip-flop rule. Bad Seed scored 11 runs to take the 28-27 lead, and then shut out Thunderstruck in their half of the inning, to escape with

Continued on Next Page



R&R (CA) - Men's 70 Major Champions



Please Don't Bug Me (CA) - Men's 70 AAA Champions

RENO: Joe's Sports Bar Goes 6-0 on Sunday

Continued from Previous Page the victory.

The dramatics continued for Bad Seed, as the team rallied with two runs in the bottom of the open against Smash It Sports Northwest (WA) for the 24-23 win; and then again, this time with a six-run bottom of the open against BR & Company to win 21-20, advancing to the championship game.

With their win, Bad Seed earns its TOC berth for the 50 Major Plus Division. As the highest finishing 50 Major team, BR & Company also receives a berth.

Top seed JayCo/ISP (ID) finished in third place.

Honorable mention goes to Battle Born Nevada, as the team won five straight games in the elimination side of the bracket, en route to their eventual fourth place finish.

No. 2 seed Joe's Sports Bar (OR) made the ultimate gauntlet run in the 11-team Men's 50 AAA Division, as the team won an incredible six games in a row on Championship Sunday, culminating with a double-dip of top seed Calhoun/Michael's Toyota (WA).

After going 2-0 in seeding play, Joe's Sports Bar was upset in its first bracket game, falling to Turn Two (CA), 18-15. The team rebounded with an 18-8 win over VC/Miken (WA) to advance to Sunday.

Entering Sunday needing to win out, Joe's Sports Bar did just that, knocking off Mi Gente (CA), 19-15, Turn Two, 14-9, 805's PE Class (CA), 15-10, Six Five O's (CA), 22-16, and Calhoun/Michael's Toyota, 18-9 and 21-18,

respectively, in the championship and "if" game.

Six Five O's finished in third place.

The six-team Men's 55 Major Plus Division also saw a team run through the entire elimination side of the bracket to win the championship, as San Antonio Softball Club (TX) went 5-0 on Championship Sunday.

Entering bracket play as the No. 2 seed, San Antonio Softball Club fell to JU Ent (CA), 38-23, to fall into the elimination side of the bracket. The team bounced back with a 29-23 win over CornerStone (OR) to close out Saturday's games.

On Sunday, San Antonio Softball Club eliminated L.A.F (CA), 37-20, CornerStone, 31-30, and JU Ent, 33-30, to punch its ticket to the championship game.

San Antonio Softball Club continued its solid run, double-dipping Nor Cal Warriors (CA) 26-15 and 32-31, in the championship and "if" game, respectively.

In the "if" game, with the game knotted at 31 heading into the bottom of the open, San Antonio Softball Club got the one run it needed to complete the walk-off victory.

JU Ent finished in third place.

In the 13-team Men's 55 Major Division, Bad Seed (CA) recorded a perfect weekend, going 2-0 in seeding play to lock up the No. 2 seed, before running off four straight wins in bracket play, including a 28-13 win over Arizona Old School.

55 OH MY (CA) began the tournament on the wrong

foot, going 0-2 in seeding play. The team then split their first two bracket games to drop down into the elimination side of the bracket, before running off five straight wins en route to their eventual third place finish.

The five-team Men's 55 AAA Division saw Scrap Iron/Colorado Home Fitness go perfect on the weekend, earning the top seed via its 2-0 record in seeding play, before going 3-0 in bracket play, including a 32-14 win over Michael's Automotive Group (WA) in the championship game.

Horn Softball (CA) finished in third place.



James Crane (right) of Six Five O's (CA) pictured with his father, John, a longtime player and manger for California Olden Bears. John managed his son last season with Bringin the Pain.



Bad Seed (CA) - Men's 55 Major Champions



Scrap Iron/Colorado Home Fitness - Men's 55 AAA Champions

Reno All-Tournament Team Announced

Women's 40 Major

Smack That (CA): Trina Valencia, Janelle Ito-Orille, Maricela Soto, Raquel Tiangs-ing.

Women's 40 AAA

Country Club Villa (CA): Desiree Marquez, Cynthia Garza, Trinae Pauley, Kathy Butler.

Old Nasty Curves (CA): Mary Knudsen, Kristin Bowling, Michelle Dials.

Women's 50 Major

Magic Stuff (MA): Dawn DeMerchant, Lorey Biesheuvel, Geralyn Riley, Karen Hunger, Christina Dutcher.

Women's 50/55 AAA

OnFire/Afoa Insurance 50 (CA): Vicky Duveneck, Corrie Brock, Tina Doxtater, Kathy Warman, Bekki Garcia.

Team Battleaxe 55 (OR): Jill Mason, Pam Irby, Jane Emkes, Cathie Groves.

NW Boomers (OR): Elisa Hogue, Loretta Cool, Cathy Goodfellow.

Women's 60/65

California Spirit 65: Cathy Moon, Cindy Lutz, Terry Sheldon, Darlene Harriety, Linda Keehan.

California Rockers 65: Kathleen Miles, Carol Wheeler, Mary Cooper.

Men's 40 Major Plus

GTS (ID): Pat Paschal, Chris Hoshaw, Beau Hamilton, Russell Buffington, Eric Becker.

CB Softball (CA): Steve Allen, Craig Carroll, Jeff Twigg, Steve Savage.

Prestige/Elite Sports Orange County (CA): Dameon

Smith, James Oxley, Leroy Dozal.

Men's 40 Major

Thunderstruck (CA): Brian Williford, Chad Kendall, Jason Carlson, Anthony Garay, Chuck Henninger.

TEAM FIRST (CA): Brian Garcia, Alex Rubio, Michael Smith, John Morris.

Cheap Suits/Republic Realty/CDZ Apparel (CA): Mark Valencia, David Mariano, Jeff Larson.

Men's 60 Major Plus

MTC/Dudley (CA): Vern Ramie, Gary Robertson, Thad Reece, Michael Slavenski, Wayne Doty.

Summy's (CA): George Robinson, Scott Camery, Michael Toomey, Mike Lorden.

Men's 60 Major

California Energy: Bobby Ellison, Bradford Drennan, Brad Spruitenburg, Stanton Nichols, Richard Reisinger.

Second Wind Resurrected (WA): Stephen Scott, Tim Nord, Bob Hubbard.

Men's 60 AAA

Northern Exposure/Alaska Kings: George Laddenburg, Dave Zuker, Michael Lohmann, Everett Boster, Michael Story.

Baker Boyz (CA): Rusty Williams, Marty Wilcox, Dave Daugherty, Kevin Walter.

Senior Bend Elks (OR): Rick Baker, Donald (Butch) Maciel, John Konyn.

Men's 60 AA

East-West Aircraft Sales - Two (ID): James Jones, Nick Dawson, Chuck Leachman,

Michael Griffith, Jeff Leaton.

Men's 65 Major Plus

Enviro-Vac Marauder (WA): Rick Parker, Murray Williams, Joe Read, Randal Faulkner, Thomas Brown.

Men's 65 Major

Incrediwear (CA): David Donnan, Darryl Watson, Michael Kalas, Frank Catomerisios, Gary Holmes.

Scrap Iron High Octane (CO): James Gowdy, Robert Knowles, Nicholas Longo, Carl Markey.

Sin City Stars (NV): Bob Baimbridge, Felix Mendiola, Dale Palmer.

Men's 65 AAA

Lincoln Hills Coyotes (CA): Henry Mutz, Jerome Maynard, Tom Young, John Clawson, Patrick Sabia.

Game Time Sports (ID): Rick Carringer, Gary Deboi, Clifford Lewis, George Van Horn.

Scrap Iron 5280 (CO): Curt Dicke, Michael Roemer, George Wise.

Men's 65 AA

Out of Storage (CA): Steven Rosellini, Randy Cobb, Eric Du Temple, Manuel Franco.

Men's 70 Major Plus

Omen (CA): Michael Baldonado, Wayne Ross, Peter Houghton, Ed Carey, Bob Cummings.

Enviro-Vac Marauders (BC, Canada): Arthur Baebler, Darrell Zbeetnoff, George Anas, Trevors Bjurman.

Men's 70 Major

R&R (CA): Richard Markota, Dave Miller, Raymond Ornelaz, Art Langlois, Roger Waite.

Tri-State Diamondbacks (NM): Danny Shewcraft, Ranison Kennedy, Ed Sullivan, Timothy Loeffler.

San Antonio Silver Streaks (TX): Larry Schepers, Robert Saenz, Chris Schneider.

Men's 70 AAA

Please Don't Bug Me (CA): John Shintaku, John Holliday, Joseph Owens, David Lavorico, Michael Rupley.

Last Call (NV): Rod Mathisen, Gary Landaburu, Mark Olsen, Robert DeLong.

Men's 70 AA

Valley Fog (CA): Bucky Harless, Clarence Taylor, Kent Grant, Glen Jenkins, Allen Neri.

Triple Play (CA): Robert Bugarin, John Thompson, Anthony Trebaol, Charlie Amasalian.

California Oaks: Richard Anderson, Louis Mahinay, Ron Greeno.

Men's 75 Major Plus

Omen (CA): Tony Miranda, Arnold Bray, Tommy French, William Nevis, Tommy Avery.

Tharaldson's (NV): James Peacock, Steve Strommen, Steve Haslam, Dan Milakovich.

Men's 75 Major

State Roofing Systems (CA): Ed Lowe, Steve Gellerman, John Melvin, Les Kincanon, Rich Simonson.

Sidewinders (AZ): Rich-

Continued on Next Page

Reno All-Tournament Team Continued

Continued from Previous Page
ard Collins, Jerry Bianchi,
Harold Dickinson, Michael
Lavis.

Men's 75/80 Gold

San Francisco Seals 80 (CA): John Venture, Gene Hanson, Reynold Garcia, Ronnie Guest, William Guzules.

Triple Play 75 (CA): Isaias Garcia, Robert Nicklason, Bill Svoboda, Carlos Hernandez, Clifford Vierra.

Men's 80/85 Gold

Scrap Iron Gray Berets 80 (CO): Don Pierson, Tom Imming, Larry Bradsby, John Wunderli, Kent Loutensock.

Redwood City Gold Rush 80 (CA): Bill Beshore,

Dennis Craig, Wesley Horen, Dennis Logie.

Git-R-Done 80 (CA): Jeff Hilgaertner, Robert Rose, William Meyer.

Men's 50 Platinum

BR & Company (CA): Brad Gravitt, Tom LeRossignol, Charlie Moffatt, Frederick Oakes.

JayCo/ISP (ID): Deon Price, Gary Adams, Dan Romero.

Men's 50 AAA

Joe's Sports Bar (OR): Carl Wilson, Steve Strong, Jeff Hodge, Kevin Snyder, Dave Calandrino.

Calhoun/Michael's Toyota (WA): Randy Ebbesen, Scott Pfeiffer, Jim Moe, Dan

Sutherland.

Six Five O's (CA): Martin Camacho, Victor Gallant, James Crane.

Men's 55 Major Plus

San Antonio Softball Club (TX): Nick Pantell, Tommy Clark, R. David Feather, Mike Garibay, Bobby Gilbert.

Nor Cal Warriors (CA): Bret Silveira, Greg Goodell, Robert Gibbs, Tommy Carrasco.

JU Ent (CA): Steven Payne, Robbie Ramirez, Glen Shipley.

Men's 55 Major

Bad Seed (CA): Marty Daniels, Joe Cuneo, Richard Monteiro, Jeffrey Loutzen-

hiser, Jeff Yeargin.

Arizona Old School: David Vandehay, Gino Fiasche, Marcel Spaulding, Bradley Bain.

55 OH MY (CA): Mark Carmichael, George Gonzales, Dan Bandy.

Men's 55 AAA

Scrap Iron/Colorado Home Fitness: Greg Rusch, Tom Sutak, Ken Lindow, Ross Guillen, Chip Hunnings.

Michael's Automotive Group (WA): Kennet Dencker, Gary Goodin, Greg Torell, Michael Means.

Horn Softball (CA): Joel Hawk, Richard Cruz, Vinny Jolliff.

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June 18-27	Reno Rodeo	Sept 11-13	The Great Reno Balloon Race
July 1-31	Artown	Sept 16-20	National Championship Air Races
July/Aug	Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival	Sept 23-27	Street Vibrations Fall Rally
July	Barracuda Championship – PGA TOUR Golf Tournament	Oct 10-11	The Eldorado Great Italian Festival
Aug 4-9	Hot August Nights		

Full list of events available online.



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Raleigh Serves as First Time Host of ACC

RALEIGH, N.C. - Forty-two teams competed in the 2019 Atlantic Coast Championships, which was played here in the Tar Heel State for the first time in May following 11 straight years (2008 - 2018) in Loudoun County, Va. The tournament began in 2007 in Maryland.

The ACC kicked off with 11 teams in the Men's 65 through 75 age divisions, playing May 14-16 at Millbrook Exchange Park.

Beginning with the Men's 65 Major Plus Division, Carolina Cobras (NC) and New Jersey Hitmen played a best two-out-of-three game series.

During the first day of play, two Cobras were honored as Stephen Pierson and Gary Ellison were both officially inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF).



From L to R: Gary Ellison and Stephen Pierson.

The Cobras also honored one of their own with a jersey retirement for Dave Lenhart, who passed away in May of 2018 at the age of 66.

Lenhart began playing SSUSA tournaments in 2009 with the Carolina Cobras 55 team.

He last played in 2016, playing in the Raleigh National (Royals Contracting Cobras



Thomas Stankus with Pam Lenhart (wife of Dave Lenhart).

60) and the Eastern National Championships (Code Electric/Oaks Cobras 65).

"Dave Lenhart was very involved in the Raleigh softball community," said Thomas Stankus, manager for Carolina Cobras. "He played for quite a few years with the Carolina Cobras, before falling off a ladder and sustaining a serious head injury. While working to recover from the injuries he was not able to play at the Major/Major+ level with the Cobras, so he began playing for one of our local AA teams (NC Motion), while he worked to get his health back. He suddenly passed away last year from a brain aneurism. Since this was a local tournament, I called Fran Dowell (SSUSA Executive Director) and asked permission to hold

the jersey retirement following the HOF inductions."

The Cobras dominated game one 17-4, before the NJ Hitmen came back with a 14-12 win in game two to even the series. In the rubber match, Carolina Cobras took the final game with ease, 23-12, to defend their home turf.

The Men's 65/70 Platinum Division also had a best two-of-three series to determine the champion, as Northern Virginia Force 65 took on Venom 70 (FL). Venom swept the series, winning games one and two by scores of 24-4 and 11-10, respectively.



Venom 70 (FL) - Men's 65/70 Platinum Champions

In the three-team Men's 65/70 Gold Division, top seed Spring-Ford AA 65 (PA)

completed a perfect week, going 3-0 in seeding, and 2-0 in bracket play, including a 22-11 win over Northern Virginia Force 70 in the championship game. N.C. Motion finished in third place.

In the four-team Men's 65/70/75 Silver Division, top seed Syracuse Cyclones 70 (NY) came out of the elimination side of the bracket to double-dip Bostonian 70 (MA), by scores of 25-15 and 12-8, in the championship and "if" game, respectively.

Bostonian defeated Syracuse Cyclones, 22-19, to advance to the championship

game.

Carolina Blue Sky's (NC) finished in third place.

The tournament continued with 31 teams in the Men's 40 through 60 age divisions playing May 17-19. All three complexes, Carolina Pines Park and Millbrook Exchange Park in Raleigh, and Parrish Womble Park in Holly Springs, were in use during the second session.

Beginning with the four-team Men's 40 Major Division, Color By Design (MD) defeated top seed LB/Spirits West/SMC (MD) 23-15 in

Continued on Next Page



Carolina Cobras (NC) - Men's 65 Major Plus Champions

ACC: 13 Teams Earn TOC Berths in Raleigh

Continued from Previous Page

the championship game, to cap off a perfect 3-0 record in bracket play. Extreme (MD) finished in third place.

LB/Spirits West/SMC was upset in its first bracket game 13-12 by Extreme, before bouncing back with two straight wins in the elimination side of the bracket to reach the championship game.

In the three-team Men's 40 AAA Division, Y'all Next (MD) avenged its 17-13 loss in the championship game against Mission: Possible (PA) with a 17-11 win in the "if" game. Live! Casino (MD) finished third.

The five-team Men's 50 Major Division also saw an "if" game played, as Deluxe Bakery (NJ) bounced back with a 25-21 victory in the winner-take-all game against RV Carey's/Walkoff (MD), after falling in the championship game, 22-20. Covello Sanitation (CT) finished in third place.



Bond 124/RDD (CT) - Men's 50 AAA Champions

the final game, 23-10, over Carolina Legends (NC).

After falling in their opening bracket game against RVA Softball (VA), 15-13; Carolina Legends rattled off four straight wins, including a 22-14 win in the championship game, before running out of steam in the "if" game.

RVA Softball finished in third place.

In the four-team Men's 55 Platinum Division, Carolina A's (NC) came back to win the "if" game, 24-8, over Northeast Storm (NY) after

play. The team saved its best play for the bracket, going 3-1 en route to the division victory.

Northeast Storm fell to Woodlawn Funeral Home (VA) 29-14 in its opening bracket game to drop down into the elimination side of the bracket. The team won three straight games to eventually force the "if" game, before running out of gas.

Woodlawn Funeral Home finished in third place.

In the four-team Men's 55/60 Gold Division, Maryland Classics 55 regrouped following an 0-3 showing in seeding play, with a perfect 3-0 record in bracket play, including a 22-13 win over The Bank 60 (DE). The Bank dropped its opening bracket game against Spare Parts 60 (VA), 26-25, before winning back-to-back games in the elimination side of the bracket to reach the championship game.

As the highest finishing 60 Major team, The Bank earned a Tournament of Champions berth for their respective division.

Spare Parts finished in third place.

Clean Planet/University



Auto (MI) and Omega IT Services, LLC (MD) played a best two-out-of-three game series in the Men's 60 Major Plus Division.

The series would go the distance, as Omega struck first with a 25-10 win in the opening game, before Clean Planet evened the series with a 18-16 win in game two. In the rubber-match, Omega needed its last at-bat with a five-run rally in the bottom of the open, to complete the 24-23 walk-off thriller.

In the four-team Men's 60 AAA Division, Berkley Home Remodeling (DE) avoided the dreaded double-dip, as the team downed Lewisville Masters (NC), 21-10, in the "if" game, after dropping the championship game, 16-13. Lewisville Masters had won three straight games before falling in the "if" game.

Berkley Home Remodeling defeated Lewisville Masters, 17-16, in their opening bracket game. In the elimination bracket, Lewisville Masters defeated both NoVa Storm (VA), 20-12, and top seed Crossfit/Great Clips (NC) 17-12 to reach the championship game.

Crossfit/Great Clips finished in third place.



Deluxe Bakery (NJ) - Men's 50 Major Champions

The "if" game trend continued in the five-team Men's 50 AAA Division, as Bond 124/RDD (CT) avoided being double-dipped, winning

falling in the championship game, 27-15.

Carolina A's entered bracket play as the last seed after going 0-3 in round-robin

ACC All-Tournament Team Announced

Men's 65 Major Plus

Carolina Cobras (NC): Gary Ellison, Ronald Sandy, Danny Ballard, Danny Reams, Kenny Hart.

Men's 65/70 Platinum

Venom 70 (FL): James Davidson, David Clover, Anatol Mihailoff, Stewart Casterline, Michael Marcum.

Men's 65/70 Gold

Spring-Ford AA 65 (PA): John Stambaugh, Roger Sturtz, Thomas Schwaim, William Lowe, Vaughn Dubs.

N.C. Motion 65: Joel Wolf, Rick Royals, Lou Rosen.

Men's 65/70/75 Silver

Syracuse Cyclones 70

(NY): Joseph Vancho, George VanDeusen, Alex Shue, Zbig Chrzescijanek, Richard Cole-sante.

Bostonian 70 (MA): David Joseph, Michael Russillo, Teddy Wess, Robert Clifford.

Carolina Blue Sky's 75 (NC): Herman Hydas, Larry Crane, Robert Kernitzki.

Men's 40 Major

Color By Design (MD): Vernon Walton, Stephen Price, Derrick Clay, Anthony Devita, Nate Conroy.

Men's 40 AAA

Y'All Next (MD): Jerry Surber, Chris Stamps, Shawn Smith, Michael Collins, Jason Burghardt.

Mission: Possible (PA):

Ryan Hogan, Shawn Fillman, Kevin Forrest, Jonathan Fink.

Men's 50 Major

Deluxe Bakery (NJ): William Sampolski, Bill Wiley, Frank Funari, Rick Brown, Steven Pineiro.

RV Carey's/Walkoff (MD): Darrell Volney, Anthony Traylor, Russ Ramsey, Kenneth Mitchell.

Men's 50 AAA

Bond 124/RDD (CT): Richard Barklow, Steven Dupont, Barry Lambert, Bobby Santiago, David Scialo.

Carolina Legends (NC): James Pearson, Glenn Ross, Randy Glascock, Jay Shotwell.

Men's 55 Platinum

Northeast Storm 55 (NY): Jim Caterbone, Ronald Hargrove, Thomas Mastrodonato, David Lape.

Woodlawn Funeral Home (VA): Dale Reed, James Tunstall, Eric Boles.

Men's 55/60 Gold

Maryland Classics 55: Bob Smith, Anthony Malinowski, Timothy Mowery, Gary Lewis, Michael Laird.

The Bank 60 (DE): Bob Pierce, James Cain, Irwin

Hanby, Lenny Legar.

Spare Parts 60 (VA): Lloyd Wolfe, Douglas Morris, Henry Schmitt.

Men's 60 Major Plus

Omega IT Services, LLC (MD): Charles Clarke, Kenneth Sanders, Andres Medina, Wade Ellegood, Antonio Foster.

Clean Planet/University Auto (MI): Steven Calderon, Floyd Ellis, Carl Underwood, Dave Erdmann.

Men's 60 AAA

Berkley Home Remodeling (DE): Don Harris, Wayne Haller, Al Rinehimer, William Stidham, Bill Geissinger.

Lewisville Masters (NC): Jimmy Johnson, Larry Johnson, Terry Spillman, Garry Armstrong.

Crossfit/Great Clips (NC): Carl (Gary) Hayes, Rod Farlow, Bobby Holliman.

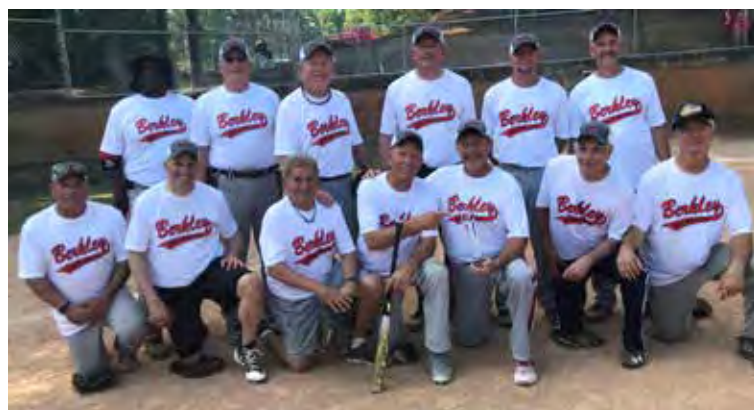
Be sure to contact Cindy Johnson at Jostens by phone: 1-800-854-7464 ext. 56533 or email: cindy.johnson@jostens.com to commemorate your all-tournament selection with a customized ring.



Spring Ford AA 65 (PA) - Men's 65/70 Gold Champions



Syracuse Cyclones 70 (NY) - Men's 65/70/75 Silver Champions



Berkley Home Remodeling (DE) - Men's 60 AAA Champions



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Tidewater All-Tournament Team Named

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA - The fifth annual Tidewater Classic, held here at Princess Anne Athletic Complex, April 3-7, hosted 43 teams across 11 divisions.

12 teams went on to earn TOC berths.

The full [tournament recap](#) appeared in an earlier edition of the SSUSA Newsletter.

Below are the all-tournament selections. First place teams receive five selections, second place earns four selections, and third place is awarded three selections.

Men's 65/70 Gold

Long Island Jaguars 65 Red (NY): Thomas Frierson, Jon Glazer, James Kiernan, Pete Lawrence, William Fox.

Talaga Construction 65 (CT): Kenneth Bavier, Richard Bettley, Stan Bocek, Allen Souza.

Men's 65/70/75 Silver

Syracuse Cyclones 70 (NY): J. Wayne Marble, James Ranucci, Ralph Bondi, Joseph Vancho, George VanDeusen.

Long Island Jaguars 75 (NY): Charles Valenti, James Martin, Reinhard Griesmer,

Charles Fischer.

Men's 40-Masters Major

PA Posse 40's: Douglas Ruble, Jason Harrison, Greg Rush, Bo Foehrkolb.

Hatch's Home Improvement (MD): Mike Eber, Danny Insley, Kevin Thomas.

Men's 40-Masters AAA

Y'All Next (MD): Jerry Surber, Bernard Stennett, Shawn Smith, Michael Collins, Chris Stamps.

Mission: Possible (PA): Robert Marcks, Chadrick Martin, Jeff Uter.

Men's 50-Platinum

RV Carey's/Walkoff (MD): Anthony Traylor, John Martin, Eddie Sarecky, Darrell Volney, Paul Black.

Team Dudley/East Coast (MD): Ray Prevatt, Scott Finch, Bobby Baxter.

Men's 50-AAA

Carolina Legends (NC): Jay Shotwell, Glen Ross, Mike Ripberger, Troy Bowling.

Finance of America (NJ): Martin Marks, Charles Collins, Michael Burla.



Men's 55/60-Platinum

Woodlawn Funeral Home 55 (VA): Dan Martini, Bobby Hutton, Eric Boles.

Men's 55/60-Gold

New England Merchants 55 (MA): Steven Dupont, Roger Wegman, John Neves, Mike Mulcahy, George Comerford.

The Bank 60 (DE): James Cain, Irwin Hanby, Richard Snodgrass, John Hickman.

Promotion 60 (NJ): Don Myers, William McNamara, David Szewc.

Men's 60-AAA

Crossfit/Great Clips (NC): Richard Cooper, Bubba Holliman, Johnny Dixon, Gary Hayes, Willie Medlin.

NoVA Storm (VA): Mike Aevertmann, Dennis Hnarakis, Tommy Thompson, Stuart Blankenship.

Men's 55/60-AA

The Starboard/OTS 60 (DE): Chuck Corrigan, Mark Potter, Robert La Duca, John Smart, Joe Oswald.

Syracuse Cyclones 60 (NY): Peter Johnson, Don Huelsman, Alan Shaffer, Richard Iuele.

Southwest All-Tournament Team Named

LAS VEGAS - Sin City continued to be the mecca for Senior Softball, as the eighth annual LVSSA/SSUSA Southwest Championships, held here April 23-28, eclipsed the 200-team plateau for the third consecutive year, with 220 teams in 2019.

26 teams finished the tournament earning a berth to

the TOC.

The full [tournament recap](#) appeared in the last edition of the SSUSA Newsletter.

Below are the all-tournament selections. First place teams receive five selections, second place earns four selections, and third place is awarded three selections.

Men's 65 Platinum

Arizona Ancient: William Campbell, Walt Kado, Duane Hopkins, Ludwig Nordahl, Ken Sheffield.

Top Gun Elite (CA): Scott Wolters, Steve Grassbaugh, Nolan Spencer.

Men's 65 AAA

Sidewinders Desert

(AZ): Mike Ronk, Kevin Gregory, Bob Hull, Robert Hamilton, Mike Cahill.

Warriors (HI): Mike Brown, Bob Durlington, Tony Fernandes, Paul Merino.

Men's 65 AA

Las Vegas Desert Heat (NV): Duane Meth, Den-

Continued on Next Page

Southwest All-Tourney Team Continued

Continued from Previous Page

nis Montoro, Gregory Luna, Steve Boyle, Phil Clymer.

Classics (UT): Craig Aramaki, Lee Hutson, Evert Lawton, Kevin Hansen.

911 Softball Club (CA): Richard Roman, Jim Landis, Thomas Salinas.

Men's 70 Major Plus

Omen (CA): Chris Dayak, Wayne Ross, David Briones, John Denham, Ellwin Jobe, James Stapleton.

R&R (CA): Michael Young, Roger Waite, Dave Miller, Jose Sotelo.

Men's 70 Major

Ryan's Way (NV): Robert Napolitano, Steven Francome, James Bichsel, Russell Gwynne, Michael Kimberlain.

Sidewinders (AZ): Mike Staudt, RJ Ashley, Jerry Sepich, Doug Tucker.

Game On (CA): Eric Hoff, James Langley, Frank Coppa.

Men's 70 AAA

Sacramento Islanders (CA): Dan Sumpter, Monte Watson, Jesse Vasquez, Bill Davenport, Robert Milano.

Doughboys (NV): Dale Alcorn, Ed Wade, Mike Falkowitz, George LaCombe.

Warriors (HI): John Jay Hirota, Curtis Miller, Clifford Woodlyn.

Men's 70/75 Silver

Franklin Loan Center 70 (CA): Benjamin Plascencia, Rodney Thomas, Thomas Moore, John Floyd, Dave Emanuelson.

Arizona Outlaws 75: Francis Doering, Duke Garoutte, Lenny Mykland, Blake

Moffat, Thomas Grubb.

Las Vegas 75 Coyotes (NV): Jeff Wagner, Ignazio Rinato, Ed Schimmels, Leland Owens.

Hui Ohana Warriors 75 (HI): Guy Ruiz, Albert Apo and Terence Kimura.

Men's 75 Major Plus

Omen (CA): Tom Bussey, Richard Schmidt, Michael Hoffberg, Gary Tryhorn, Ronald McElyea.

California Connection: Francis Jerry Handfield, Jerry Herling, George Gutierrez, Maxwell Litt.

Men's 75 Major

Sidewinders (AZ): Jerry Bianchi, Richard Collins, Michael Lavis, Kenneth Krzeminski, Curtis Arthur.

Findlay Automotive Scorpions (AZ): Steve Rustman, John Robinson, Tony Jensen, Bob Brown.

Men's 80 Platinum

Top Gun Gold (CA): Robert McCormick, Jack Scott, John Bellavia, Gary Adams, Carroll Shook, Gene Adams.

San Francisco Seals (CA): Reynold Ray Garcia, Ronnie Guest, John Ventura, Gene Hanson.

Men's 80/85 Gold

Git-R-Done 80 (CA): David Boone, Bob Hildeman, Robert Fontaine, Michael Walter, William Meyer.

Scrap Iron Gray Berets 80 (CO): Paul Durbin, Ken Nakauchi, Jim McVeigh, Richard Williams.

Arizona Prospectors 85: Dennis Craig, Thomas Davis, Richard Payseno.

Women's 40 Major

TKP (CA): Elena Song, Gina Oliver, Kimberly Roter, Krsti Whitcomb, Leigh Campbell.

Women's 40/50 AAA

Custom Truck 40 (NV): Chris Evans, Darcie Yakubik, Terrie Taylor, Shalli Williams, Tami Habig.

Pro Moves 40 (CA): Tina Hamelau, Valerie Ramirez, Lisa Maxey.

Women's 50 Major

Old School (CA): Deena Dobbins, Patty Felker, Trina Mangerino, Mitzi Aguilera, Denna Mulverhill.

Stix With Impact (CA): Angie Linder, Diamond Lucas, Cinthia Becks, Monica Rubio.

Arizona Dream Team: Dawn McGarth, Carol Ralich, Sonya Fultz.

Men's 40 Major Plus

Fattboyz Dudley/Elite (CA): Bryan Wright, Billy Zapata, Jeff Hairell, Jason Palumbo, Donnie Smith.

SBOB/Athalonz/Voodoo (AZ): Jimmy De La Riva, Eddie Chatham, Lupe Elizalde.

Men's 40 Gold

Cali Gold (CA): Brandin Fuller-Shanoff, Jeremy Brewer, Jonathan Amey, Rich Bialoblocki, E. Homer Holbrook.

FunHavers (AZ): Miguel Velazquez, Carl Blank, Greg Soto, Dominic Griego

Men's 50 Major Plus

J.K. Inc./Easton (CA): Dennis Rulli, Bart Hakeman, Johnny Bailey, Ernie Gutierrez, Brian Brown.



Men's 50 Major

L.A.F. (CA): Donnie Hudson, Matt Dobyns, Kevin Bourgeois, Scotty Loendorf, Dean Childers.

4 The Fallen (AZ): Mark Ozolins, William Clark, Mickey Cadwell, Ramon Barela.

Stadium (CA): Matthew Campbell, Tony Samero, Phil Saenz.

Men's 50 AAA

Advil Knights (CA): Ken Knox, Robert Carreon, Corey Baker.

Men's 55 Major Plus

Sommerville Softball (CA): John Heller, Michael Reed, Brian Hausner, Jimmy Ferguson.

Men's 55 Major

Team Rawlings (CA): Ron Rudolph, Robert Ames, Jim Roach, Scott Spalding.

Men's 50/55 Silver Division

Thunderstruck 55 (AZ): Sean Smith, Jeff Marine, Mark Kuechler, William Armijo.

Scrap Iron - Colorado Home Fitness 55: Mike Gurnee, Ken Lindow, Rick Stillwell.

Continued on Next Page

Southwest All-Tourney Team Continued

Continued from Previous Page

Men's 60 Major Plus

Summy's (CA): Jon Kramer, Paul Salow, Matt Farring, Scott Camery, Kevin O'Reilly.

Texas Crush Sixties:

Mike Jimenez, Martin Rodriguez, Murray Williams, Mark Henson.

Men's 60 Major

R & R Rookies (CA):

Michael Leighty, Rick Vogel, Jamie Lagos, Freddy Macias, Doug Hamlet.

Men's 60 AAA

Sin City Raiders (NV):

David Pasos, Roger Ogden, James De Groot, Doug Erlendbusch, Robert Castiglione.

Senior Bend Elks (OR):

Michael Kalas, Dan Thompson, Donnie Friday, Ronald Landers.

Weekend Warriors

(CA): Andy Bullington, Dave Baydala, Kent Skidmore.

Men's 60 AA

Family (NV):

Solomon, Jeff Rosenblatt,

Darryl Ogawa, Roy Robinson, Michael Gazarek.

Los Vatos Viejos (AZ):

R. Dean Burrow, Fred DeLeon, Charles Valencia, Manuel Hurtado.

Spring Nat'l All-Tourney Team Announced

POLK COUNTY, Fla.

- The 2019 Spring National Championships were held here March 22-24.

A total of 34 teams competed across 12 divisions.

14 teams would go on to secure their berths to the 2020 Tournament of Champions.

The full tournament recap appeared in the [Spring 2019 Edition of Senior Softball News](#).

Below are the all-tournament selections. First place teams receive five selections, second place earns four selections, and third place is awarded three selections.

Women's 40/50 Major

Florida Girls 50: Elizabeth Zervos, Diana Williams, Brenda Johnson-Hogan, Melina Franklin, Tera Guzman.

Kryptonite 40 (FL):

Karen Hunger, Theresa Walburger, April Blake, Carolyn Deeb.

TM Force 40 (FL): Kelie Berning, Paula Roberts, Gayle Borgen.

Women's 40/50 AAA

BAGS 50 (FL): Marisela Gutierrez, Marivel Gutierrez, Lynne Hancock, Kirtley Guti-

errez, Cynthia Phillips.

Men's 50 Major

Deluxe Bakery (NJ):

William Wiley, Rick Brown, Joe Jackson, Walt Lauer, Michael Kalinowski.

Men's 50 AAA

Sandlot Softball (FL):

Chris Marker, Javier Diaz, James Sloan, Mike Grover, Bryan Simes.

Daytona Beach Boyz

(FL): Joe King, Mark Boatner, Mike Kelley.

Men's 55 Major Plus

RBC Wealth Management (FL): Tony Bassett, Jose Armas, Richard Clark, John Livingston, Hugh Planitz.

Men's 55 Major

Ameriprise FL. Legends: Danny Van Camp Jr., Mish Mash, Steven Brand, Randy Charmin, Scotty Bowden.

Jersey Mikes (FL): Ernie Colo'n Jr., Scott Dalton, Rick Barrett, Timothy Fincher.

Men's 55/60 Gold

Globe Trailers 55 (FL): Robby Fowle, Chris Lee, Timothy Bohlmann, Glenn

Looper, John Lambert.

Levin/Ameriprise 60

(FL): Rich Pedigree, Jeff Frey, Doug Pyser, Jennis Sills.

Men's 60 AAA

RedHawk Nation (FL):

Randall Burford, Alan Chatman, David Dennison, Stuart Hicks, Eric Warren.

Ted Todd Insurance

(FL): George Kulhanek, James Yeakle, Dan Fischer, Tom Turton, David Boatman.

Men's 65/70 Platinum

Venom 70s (FL):

Dennis Schroeder, David Clover, Richard Lee Edwards, Stewart Casterline, Tols Mihailoff.

Slug-A-Bug 65 (FL):

Terry Vervynck, David Jolly, Rickie Harder, David White.

Team Florida 65s:

William Mark Thomas, Jack Lambert, Eddie Carrington.

Men's 65 AAA

Florida Mustangs:

Lonnie Netzel, Kerry Charlet, Allen Dean Ayscue, Bill Slinker, David McGraw.

Men's 70/75 Gold

Lane Construction 70

(FL): Gerald Lee Jones, David Whitney, Paul Giambalvo,



Don Bobish, Terry McIlrath, Phil Farmer.

Florida Southern Force

70 (FL): Gary Bowers, Floyd Williams, Mark Solomon, Stephen Pearson.

Men's 75/80 AAA

Syracuse Cyclones (NY):

Joseph Broun, Daniel Dillon, Ron VanDenburgh, Howard Bernard, Gary Contri.

Bucs and Bulls 80 (FL):

John Ormsby, Dallas Moore, Jim Sumner, Frank Congleton, Bill Withrow.

Be sure to contact Cindy Johnson at Jostens by phone: 1-800-854-7464 ext. 56533 or email: cindy.johnson@jostens.com to commemorate your all-tournament selection with a customized ring.

Spring World All-Tourney Team Named

MESQUITE, Nev. & BULLHEAD CITY / KINGMAN, Ariz. - The Spring World Championships blossomed to 130 teams this year, up from 113 in 2018, with teams playing in Mesquite, Bullhead City and Kingman.

The full tournament recap appeared in the [Spring 2019 Edition of Senior Softball News](#).

Below are the all-tournament selections. First place teams receive five selections, second place earns four selections, and third place is awarded three selections.

Men's 65 Major

Top Gun Elite (CA):

Mark Purdy, James Palecek, Tom Lewis, Danny Nunnelee, Robert Raasch.

Scrap Iron High Octane (CO): Robert Knowles, David Maestas, David Adams, Terry Roberts.

St. George Gold (UT): Michael Rees, Tim Eichler, Dale McLaughlin.

Men's 65 AAA

Sidewinders Desert

(AZ): Larry Adams, Arnie Kvarnberg, Mike Ronk, Steven Ward, John Miller.

No Guts, No Glory (CA): Alan Jackson, Randy Van Esen, Jon Forbes, Norman Coe.

Cut Loose (CA): Thomas Day, Steve Stafford, Rudy Valdez.

Men's 65 AA

Las Vegas Desert Heat

(NV): John (Jack) Taylor, Duane Meth, Phil Clymer, Bob Stonemetz, Gregory Luna.

911 Softball Club (CA): Eloy Chavez, Thomas Salinas,

Robert Lipeles, Andy Van Derpoel.

Men's 70 Major Plus

Omen (CA):

Wayne Ross, Ellwin Jobe, Michael Baldonado, Chris Dayak, Roland Chell, David Briones.

R&R (CA): Steven Wilson, Richard Markota, Stephen Adams, Robert Pardo.

Men's 70 Major

Ryan's Way (NV):

Rob Taylor, Larry Giese, Michael Kimberlain, Robert Napolitano, Ralph Wolf.

Tri-State Diamondbacks (NM): John Battaglia, Ted Roluffs, Timothy Loeffler, Ranison Kennedy.

Sidewinders (AZ): R.J. Ashley, Rick Kaylor, Frank Mower.

Men's 70 AAA

Git-R-Done (CA):

Bob Heggie, Joe Hansell, Rob Hellman, Ernest Regalado, Fred Yunt.

Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO): Philip Stacy Michaels, Larry Denzler, Cliff DeKnicker, Michael Anderson.

So Cal Warriors (CA): Raymond Tyndall, Mike Drennan, Larry Ekema.

Men's 70 AA

Top Gun Olde Dawgs

(CA): Steve Baranick, Randy Martinez, Nicho Hinojosa, Gary Nieman,

Men's 75 Major

Tharaldson's (NV):

Steve Haslam, Steve Strommen, Dan Milakovich, Arthur Bird, James Peacock.

Sidewinders (AZ): Melvin Bentley, Michael Lavis, Richard Collins, Jerry Bian-

chi.

Scrap Iron Beams (CO):

Tom Imming, James Contreras, John Moore.

Men's 75 AAA

Arizona Outlaws:

Duke Garoutte, Ben Ledohowski, Lenny Mykland, Will Romano, Michael Sullivan.

Git-R-Done (CA): Dennis Phistry, Don Sternberger, Norman Hall, Dewayne Merritt.

Men's 80 Major

Top Gun Gold (CA):

Robert McCormick, Carroll Shook, John Chacon, John Bellavia, Vincent Duarte.

Emerald 80 (WA): Peter Allan Brown, James Hann, Fred Vanouck.

Men's 80 AAA

Scrap Iron Gray Be-

rets (CO): David Cox, Don Pierson, John Wunderli, Kent Loutensock, Larry Bradsby.

Git-R-Done (CA): Bob Merkle, Robert Fontaine, Michael Walter, Jeff Hilgaertner.

Magic Stuff (UT): Alan Taylor, Gary Porter, J. Doyle Neuenswander

Women's 40/50 AAA

Custom Truck 40 (NV):

Angie Gruenfelder, Terrie Taylor, Kelly Field, Christina Jenkins, Angie Kitchen.

Dames Got Game 40 (AZ): Andrea Fritts, Cindy Johnson, Heather Lange, Melissa Cooper.

Men's 40 Major Plus

Pony Tail Express (CA):

Victor Villa, Fernando Mercado, Robert Mercado, Will Taveras, Aaron Caro.



Men's 40 Major

Asylum Ballers (CA):

Kevin Charpentier, John Gilmore, Keith Williams.

Men's 50/55 Platinum

Thunderstruck 50 (AZ):

Paul Figueroa, Randy Pongratz, David Tibbetts, James Roberts, Thomas Trieber.

CornerStone 55 (OR):

Gary Springer, Jeff Black, Ken Block, Jeff Asay.

JayCo/ISP 50 (ID):

Jason Obenshain, Eric Mikhelson, Gary Adams.

Men's 50 AAA

Sin City Warriors (NV):

Scott Rumbold, Paul Piscitelli, Rudy Medrano, Mark Buchanan.

Elite/Scrap Iron (CO):

Richard Lundy, Hank Twilt, Bill Lomelino

Men's 55 Major

Scrap Iron/Rocky

Mountain Thunder (CO):

Chris McTigue, Bruce Lostroh, Brad Edginton, Steven Antonczyk, Thomas Edwards.

Arizona Legends:

Steve Rutledge, Scott Porter, Alejandro Carrasco, Rocky Phillips.

Arizona Old School:

Jeff Armbruster, David Vandehey, Marcel Spaulding

Continued on Next Page

Spring World All-Tourney Team Continued

Continued on Next Page

Men's 55 AAA

Scrap Iron-Colorado Home Fitness (CO): Ken Lindow, Michael Gurnee, Tim McIlvain, Chip Hunnings, John Corlett.

Los Vatos Viejos (AZ): Benny Mesa Perez, Mark Martinez, Fermin Fierro, Steve Garcia.

Men's 60 Major Plus

Summy's (CA): Scott Camery, Kevin O'Reilly, Paul Salow, Matt Fehring, Greg Brandt.

West Coast Water/Elite (NV): Dave Barretto, David Cherry, Gary Gosz.

Men's 60 Major

Outlaws (NM): Bobby

Lucero, Andrew Virdell, Daniel Beltran, Mike Gonzales.

Men's 60 AAA

Weakened Warriors (CA): Mark Aumann, Craig Peirson, Kent Skidmore, Andy Bullington, Glenn Stevenson.

Scrap Iron Xplosion (CO): Dave Schultz, Gregg Pearson, Kevin Flynn, Ed Dilley.

Sin City Raiders (NV): Andy Moscow, Joseph Tang, Jim Whipple.

Men's 60 AA

Los Vatos Viejos (AZ): Jesse Rick Aponte, Frank Bargas, Antonio Cabrales, Jeff Kay, Charles Valencia.

Family (NV): Roy Robinson, Michael Gazarek, David Pasos.

Qualified Teams for Original TOC

With the halfway point of the 2019 season here, over 175 teams have already secured their spots in the [Original Tournament of Champions](#), which will take place February 5 - 9, 2020 in Polk County, FL.

Nine TOC qualifiers have already been completed.

Teams began qualifying for the 2020 TOC this past November 2018, with the Winter National Championships and Winter World Championships.

The other seven TOC qualifiers included:

- Spring National Championships
- Spring World Champion-

ships

- Tidewater Classic
- LVSSA/SSUSA Southwest Championships
- Texas State Championships
- Atlantic Coast Championships
- Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup

The remaining 12 TOC qualifiers include:

- Southern California State Championships
- SSUSA/CAN-Sirs Northern California State Championships
- Northeast Championships
- Jim Sherman Memorial Northwest Championships
- Midwest Championships

- Southern Championships
- ISA Senior World Series
- Western National Championships
- Eastern National Championships
- Northern Championships
- Rocky Mountain Championships
- LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships

Don't miss out on your chance to qualify for the Original Tournament of Champions. There simply is no other tournament in the sport that comes close what the TOC offers:

- Free quality custom rings from Josten's (makers of MLB, NFL, NBA, NHL championship rings) for winners
- Bats for MVPs
- Gift bags for every manager
- Gala sit-down banquet for 1,500 players and their families
- Hitting clinics
- Skills contests
- All-Star Game
- TOC All-Stars vs. Louisville Slugger Warriors Exhibition Game

For a complete list of qualified teams thus far for the



Original TOC, please [CLICK HERE](#).



The annual TOC Banquet is always a fan favorite.



Dennis Cassidy is presented with a bat during the TOC Banquet for winning the precision hitting contest in his age division.

A man, Bully Kramer, is standing on the right side of the image. He is wearing a white baseball jersey with blue horizontal stripes and the word 'Summers' in blue script. He is also wearing a blue and white baseball cap, sunglasses, and dark pants. He is holding a baseball bat in his left hand. The background is a blue and white geometric pattern with a large stylized 'E' logo at the top. On the left side, there are several smaller versions of the 'E' logo and some rectangular shapes.

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Texas State All-Tourney Team Announced

DALLAS, Tex. - The Texas State Championships were held here at Kiest Park, April 30 - May 5.

54 teams attended the TOC qualifier in the Lone Star State, as Big D once again played host to the tournament. Dallas hosted the tournament from 2008-2012, before Houston (2013-2015), Austin (2016), and El Paso (2017-18) all had their turns.

15 teams would go on to earn TOC berths.

The full [tournament recap](#) appeared in the last edition of the SSUSA Newsletter.

Below are the all-tournament selections. First place teams receive five selections, second place earns four selections, and third place is awarded three selections.

Men's 65 Gold

Team Texas San Antonio: Tyrone McClellan, Julian Tamez, Randy Fulton, Juan Ramirez, Larry Mandel.

Men's 70 Gold

San Antonio Silver Streaks (TX): Domingo Garcia, Rocky Crews, Larry Lopez, Thomas Suda, Larry Schepers.

San Antonio Legends (TX): Joe Flores, Jonathan Brown, Earlie Satterwhite, Ronald Henderson, Charles Hammock.

Grey Sox (TX): Darryl Schroeder, Daniel Washington, Louie Martinez.

STILL (TX): Edmundo Solis, Mitchell Bass, Oscar Johnson.

Men's 70/75 Silver

Hill Contracting 75s (TX): Jerry Deal, Jeff Etheredge, Fred Hunt, Randall Brown, Michael Donahoo.

El Paso Nine-Elevens



70s (TX): Mickey Saucedo, Donald Reay, Ernie Carreon, Robert Nava.

Men's 80 Gold

Antiques of Kansas City (KS): Ken Stock, Frank Mar, Donald Applebaugh, Ed Phelps.

San Antonio 80s (TX): Daniel Florez, Luis Torres, Norm Allen

Men's 40/50 Platinum

Escobar Body Shop 50 (TX): Rodney Fail, Kenny Seymour, Tom Clark, Luciano Castaneda, Carl Randle.

Men's 50 Major

Mixed Breed (TX): Tony Williams, Glenn Clemons, Eric Young, Robert Delasbour.

Men's 50 AAA

Texas Elite: Rickey Hodges, Michael Cortez, Larry Belk, Keith Kutach.

Men's 55 Major Plus

San Antonio Softball Club (TX): Bobby Gilbert, Mike Tepera, Nick Pantell, Larry Carter, Tommy Clark.

RBC Wealth Management (FL): John Livingston, Stephen Knowles, Luis Sanchez, Kevin Allardice.

Men's 55 Major

Rock N Legends 9 (TX): Nicky Blair, Eddie Garretson, Jerry Stotts, Chuck Yaeger, Kurt Dorf.

Texas Heat: Don Presley, Wayne Fruge, Larry Belk, Thomas Vorie.

Men's 55 AAA

55 GZ (TX): Russell

Hanz, Jeffrey John Huser, Sergio Quintanilla, Steven Glorioso, Peter Garcia.

Buc's (TX): Danny Gorden, David Stokes, Rick Steward, David Reay.

Relentless (TX): Bruce Hart, Rafael Flores, Roberto Rivera.

Men's 60 Major

Houston Fire (TX): Joe Johnson, Bob Schulz, Tony Washington, Milt Brownfield, Glenn Scattergood.

Men's 60 Silver

Texas Legends: George Gutierrez, Wade Moran, Jerry House, Joe Ylda, Ray Berry.

Westrock (AR): Stan Baker, Mike Jacobs, Ramsey Harris, Randy Silvia.

El Paso Old School (TX): Leonso Barraza, David Castillo, Domingo Gonzalez.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE NEW LIGHTNING LEGEND LIFT BATS

Time for a Mid-Year Financial Review

By Jack Sirard
Senior Softball News

As we approach the midway point in 2019, I think it's the perfect time to take a good long look at your finances.

By now, most investors have long forgotten about those idyllic financial resolutions that they made when the year began back in January. You remember those, right? You were going to put more money into your 401(k) each pay period, be more proactive with your brokerage accounts and generally increase the size of your portfolio.

Well now as we are about to head into the second half of 2019, the key question you have to ask yourself, of course, is how has your portfolio done compared with the overall stock market.

The most talked about market indexes are the Dow Jones Industrial Average or the Standard & Poor's 500 index and both have posted some solid gains this year to date. The Dow is up 10 percent since Jan. 1 and the S&P has jumped up a very smart 16 percent.

One problem that many investors have is that they don't know how they've done. Either they don't take the time to monitor their performance or they're too scared to find out the results.

So you owe it to yourself and no doubt your

family to know exactly where you stand. That's the first thing you really need to do. Open up your financial statements and see how you've fared this year. There's really not much you can do about what's happened in the past six months, but you can certainly take steps to make changes going forward if needed.

If you're pretty much on track with the overall market averages...or even ahead...that's great. That's just where you want to be. And even if you're trailing somewhat, that's not necessarily bad news because

you likely are following a more conservative investment strategy as you get older.

If you have 50 percent or more of your assets in fixed-income investments, it's highly unlikely that you are beating the Dow and S&P so far this year. And that's a good thing. You need investment protection as you get older.

What you need to focus on is the money that you have invested in equities, be it individual stocks or mutual funds. How is that money doing compared with the market? If you're making all the decisions

on your investments, then it's on you to make any changes.

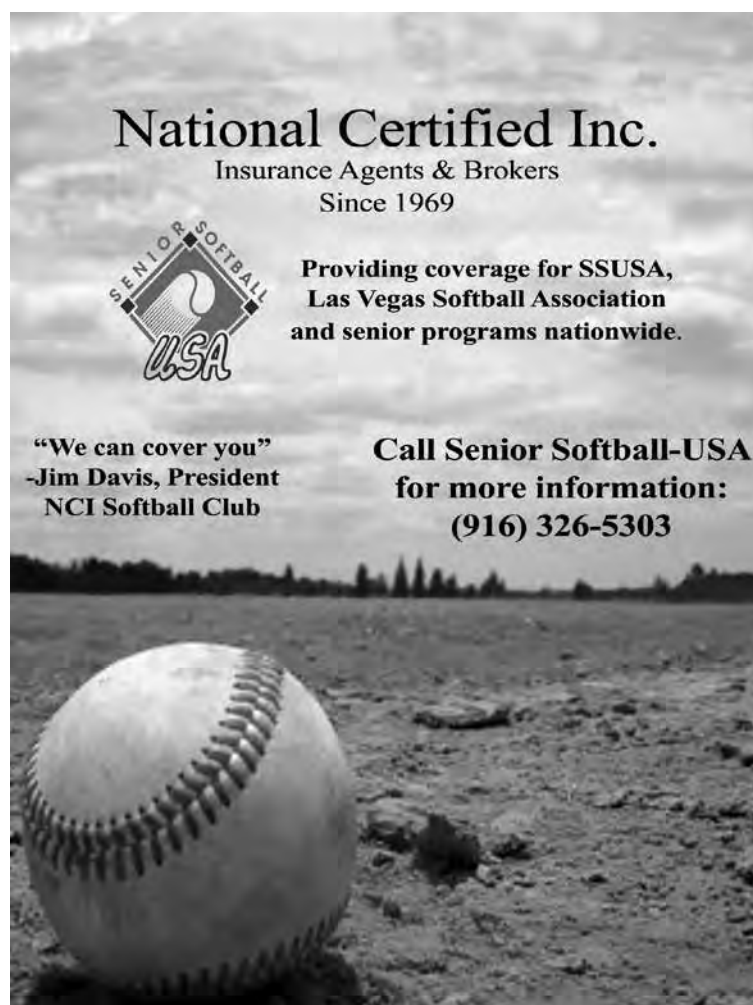
But if you are relying on a financial adviser, now is the perfect time to make an appointment with him or her to go over your investment strategies. Far too often financial advisers are extremely busy at year-end, so making a mid-year visit should be beneficial for both of you. Make up a list of questions or concerns you have about your account(s) so that you don't waste your time or theirs. If your life circumstances have changed at all, you need to let them know.

In addition, you might want to schedule a meeting with your insurance team to go over any changes in your policies.

The point I'm making is that too many people wait too long to size up their financial conditions. Mid-year is here and if you discover that you absolutely need to make changes for 2019, then you have six months or so to put them into effect.

As a final note of caution, don't make changes just to be making changes. Know what course of action you want to take to get you to your desired goal and go for it.

Jack Sirard is a retired nationally syndicated financial columnist and a senior writer/editor for SSUSA.



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