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THE OLDEST, THE LARGEST, THE BEST: 33RD ANNUAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

WELCOME

Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS - More than 20,000 Masters and Senior Softball players and their families will flock here from Sept. 18- Oct. 5 to compete in the largest softball tournament of any kind in the world: the 2025 Senior Softball World Championships.

More than 660 teams from 39 states, Canada, Guam and Panama in ages ranging from 40 to 90 will compete in the largest divisions of the year to win titles, World Series quality rings, and achieve lifetime dreams.

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Doug Robbins



Hank Heffner

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Don't Take Life or Fun for Granted

Life can be very busy sometimes – no matter what age or stage of life you happen to be in today.

In our 40s and 50s, there are kids, jobs, yard work and the inevitable chores at home.

In our 60s and 70s, we start to transition to empty nests, dreams of retirement (or actual retirement) and more time to play ball...usually.

By the time we reach the 80s and 90s, we are happy to be able to still play with our friends. And,

Editorial as some 90s say, we aren't buying green bananas anymore.

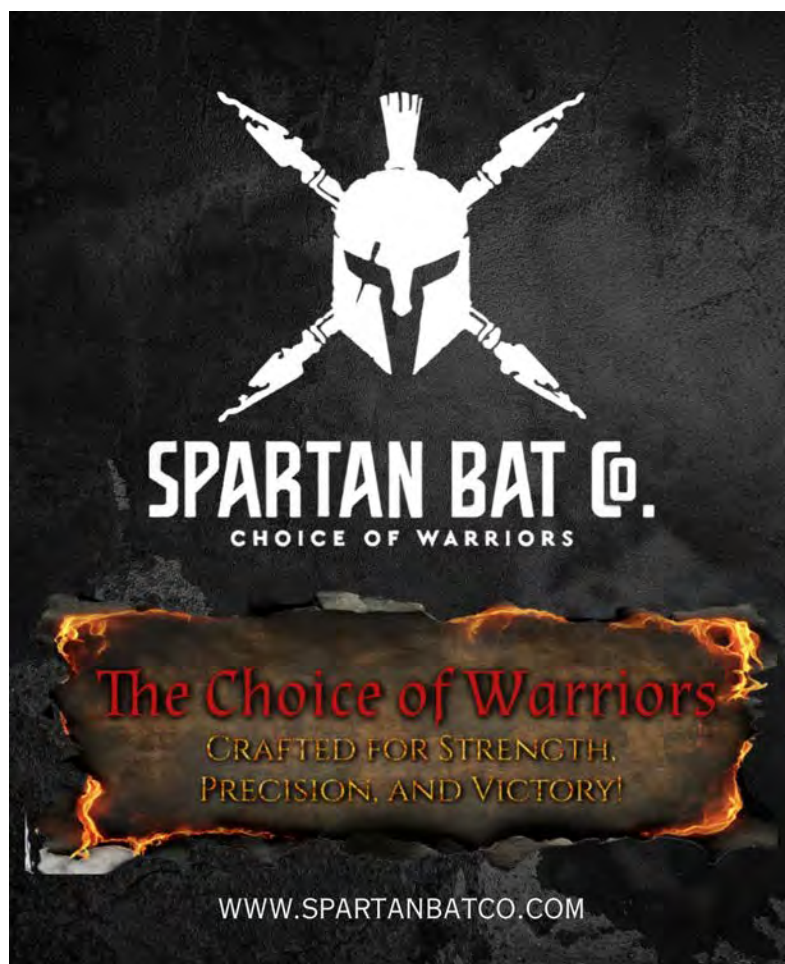
So at each stage, let's remember to appreciate the time we have to play ball and have fun with friends.

Those memories can warm our hearts when we need it.

Terry Hennessy
Editor



An Island of Sanity in a Chaotic World
By Sheldon Carpenter



National Rules Meeting to Shape 2026 Season

SACRAMENTO – The National Rules Committee will meet here the first week of December for Senior Softball USA's annual rules review.

The idea behind the annual Rules Committee Meeting is similar to the idea of the U.S. Constitution's process for Amendments.

Very few human documents concerning rules or laws are perfect.

So, every year, we collect ideas and suggestions for improving senior softball from players, as well as directors and umpires.

The National Rules Committee is made up of 13-15 National Directors and Umpires in Charge (UICs) who discuss every suggestion we receive from players – as well

Covering The Bases

By Terry Hennessy

as existing rules that may need to be adjusted for clarity – or because they create unintended consequences in the game.

It wasn't always this way.

When I started in Senior Softball 25 years ago, the founder, Bob Mitchell, and I would simply discuss rule changes and implement them.

We found out very quickly that a number of changes we made actually created worse problems than the rule we were trying to fix.

We created the National Rules Committee

so that we would have the benefit of more opinions to avoid unintended consequences from any rule changes.

While the process is not perfect, it does give us a better chance to avoid changes that make the game less fun to play.

If you have a suggestion on rules, please send it to Donna McGuire, the Chair of the National Rules Committee, at donna@seniorsoftball.com.

We would love to hear your suggestions to improve the game!

Terry Hennessy is the Chief Executive Officer of Senior Softball USA and can be reached at terryh@seniorsoftball.com.



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Texas State Champs Moves to Kiest Park in Dallas

DALLAS, TX – The 19th Annual Texas State Championships returns here from April 28-May 3, 2026.

Dallas hosted the Texas Championships from 2008 to 2012 at Kiest Park in Dallas.

“We are very happy to bring the Texas State

Championships back to Dallas,” said Fran Dowell, Senior Softball USA’s executive director. “We look forward to working with the Dallas Sports Commission to build the Texas Championships into a signature event at Kiest Park.”

The seven-field Kiest Park has the fields and staff

to continue to grow the Texas Championships, which has become a premier tournament for Senior Softball in Texas – and the surrounding states, according to SSUSA officials.

“We are thrilled to welcome Senior Softball USA and all the talented teams competing in the 2026 Texas State Championships to

Dallas. Our city is renowned for its warm hospitality and experience hosting premier events, and we can't wait for you to enjoy all that Kiest Park and Dallas have to offer. We're looking forward to hosting you for an unforgettable championship,” said Monica Paul, Executive Director of the Dallas Sports Commission.

Obtaining 'Senior' Status - In Softball and Life

I think throughout our lives we gravitate toward others close to our own age – just like you'll see kids pay attention to the other kids in a room, we elders tend to be attracted to others of our vintage. Of course it makes sense as we tend to have more in common with our own age group.

Have you ever noticed that when we walk by young adults, they often don't seem to see us? They see through us apparently.

I always thought it would be cool to have x-ray vision, but when I look around at people my age now I'm glad I don't.

I love my kids and I love my grandkids, but they are EXHAUSTING. I feel very sympathetic to those of you who have a bigger role in the raising of your grandchildren than you might have wished for.

How many times have you played a game and then found yourself surprised by the old faces we're shaking hands with after? They looked younger from the outfield (well, most of them.)

I remember when in my early 20s, the team we played one game had a couple of 40 year-olds, and I found myself wondering if I'd still be playing when I'm old....(note I play in the 70s division now).

I lost my wife of 40 years four years ago now, and my softball friends and “softball therapy” have been so very helpful to me. There are too many of us, but the support we give to one another has been a blessing. And when I'm on the field my mind is “usually” on the game, and not on more serious stuff. On our last overseas trip there were five players in the widower category,

Senior Moments

By Dave Weinman

not including our tour director, Dennis Ross. Not a club any of us ever wanted or expected to be in but there is a support group there when we need it. I'm also lucky in that I've found a wonderful woman since my wife passed who is very tolerant of an old ballplayer.

I joined a new league a couple of years ago, in the Rochester area, a little over an hour's drive from my home in Buffalo, and I only knew a very few of the guys. A wonderful guy named Ed Hilton runs the team I got placed on, and one day, before I knew him really, I had to leave the game before it was finished as it was rain delayed and I had an appointment I had to leave for. When I called Ed later to apologize, he was more interested in talking about life's serious stuff, about me losing my wife just eight months before at that time; and he had a daughter who died young. Puts our games in perspective.

Long-time softball player, manager and SSUSA director Doug Robbins recently passed away. I feel lucky to have known him and let me tell you how I got to meet him. He was divorced; I was widowed; we were both going to the Pacific Rim/Hawaii Cruise softball trip, and it was suggested that we room together to save money.

All was good at the hotel in Honolulu. I got to know him a bit; Doug liked his coffee black; he'd been diagnosed recently with prostate cancer and had begun treatment but

felt “mostly ok” and he didn't snore.

However, when we arrived at our room on the cruise ship we found just one large bed. And a sofa, which we fought over. Luckily, the steward was able to magically make our one large bed into two smaller ones. I guess we were both closed minded about sharing a bed, call us old-fashioned, among other things.

Please see page 11 for Doug Robbins full obituary.

One of the trials of an aging ballplayer is facing up to what Father Time has to offer. I have been playing in a 60+ wood bat league since I turned 60. I'm now 72. When I started in that league I was killing it, hitting gappers, etc. These days, if the ball lands in the outfield grass they throw a parade.

Bob Hope once said there are three phases to life: Youth; Middle Age; and “You Look Great.” I'm not used to all the compliments.....

There aren't many trophies that mean much to me, but in 2018 I was inducted into the Western NY Softball Hall of Fame. It's kind of like when an old actor gets the Lifetime Achievement Award. You know the older we get the better we used to be. It's an amazing phenomenon.

I try to remember that when I go 0 for 3.

Enjoy the games friends, even a bad day on the ballfield is a lucky day for an oldtimer.

Dave Weinman is a long time Senior Softball player and News Contributor who travels and helps coordinate most of SSUSA's tours and international trips.

83-Team Rocky Mountain Champs Breaks Record

By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report

For the fourth year in a row, more than 80 teams converged on Aurora, Colo., to battle for bragging rights in Senior Softball USA's 12th annual Rocky Mountain Championships.

This year, the field featured 83 teams from 16 states and Canada. They played more than 250 games Aug. 14-17 on 12 beautifully maintained diamonds at the Aurora Sports Complex.

Some hot days, three lightning delays and a dash of rain spiced up some thrilling play, which included a walk-off grand slam in the 65/70+ Platinum division.

Seeding play produced an exceptional number of 1-1 teams, with 58 percent of the 83 teams sitting at .500 after playing their first two games. But that strong parity vanished in championship games, where winners outscored opponents by an average of five runs a game. Only one title game ended up decided by one run, and that game boasted a seventh-inning rally.

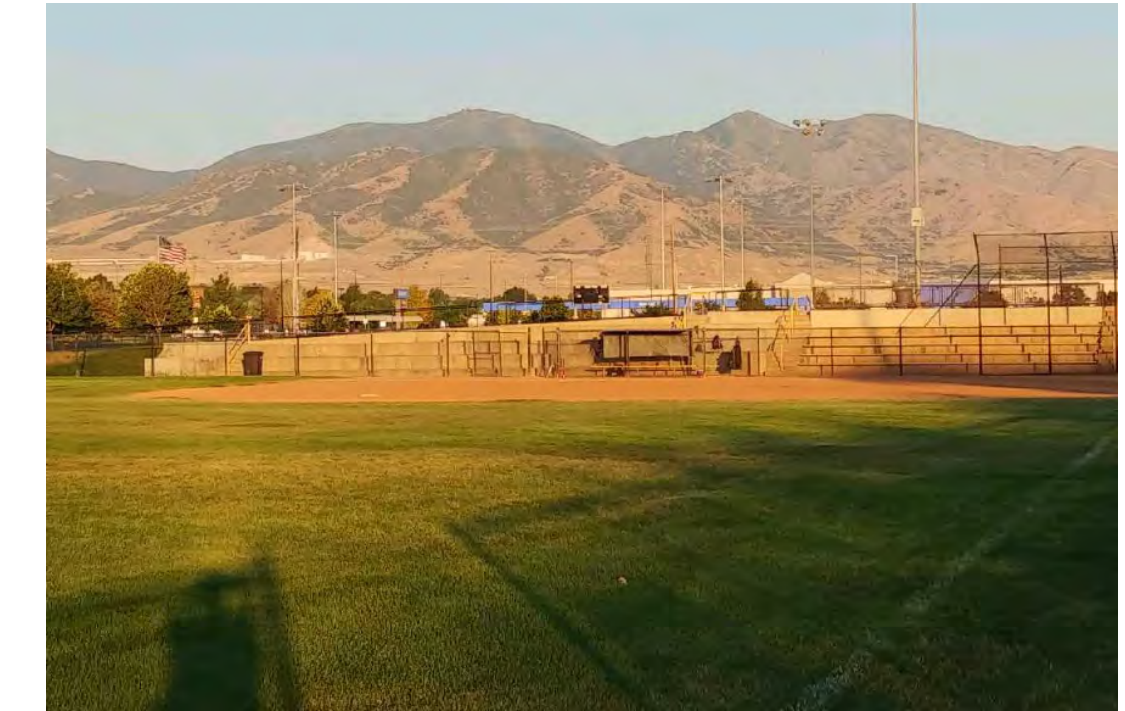
Thirteen division winners earned berths to the 2026 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Fla.

Results:

Men's 50+ Major:

Playing a best-of-three format, the SSC/Persuaders of Kansas overcame a 25-24 loss in the first game to post 26-21 and 23-9 title-game victories over Avalon Meat Candy 50s of Nevada. The Persuaders finished 4-2 overall.

Men's 50+ AAA: The



Aurora Sports Park in the Denver suburbs has hosted SSUSA's Rocky Mountain Championships since 2013.

fifth-seeded and hot-hitting West Texas 50s scored 98 runs over its four bracket games, including a 21-15 championship victory over sixth-seeded Cryowrx of Oregon, which lost its first two bracket games before winning four elimination games to reach the finals. Third-seeded El Paso Strong 50 nabbed third in the nine-team division.

Men's 50+ AA: The top-seeded Gulf Coast Hurricanes coasted through this three-team division, winning its opening bracket game 22-7 followed by a 26-11 championship victory over third-seeded Team 307 of Wyoming. Softball Rehab 50 of Texas finished third.

Men's 55+ Major: Every team in this three-team division went 1-1 in seeding play, showing how even the teams were. The top-seeded Showboats of Colorado won

its first bracket game 24-13, lost the first title game 22-2, and then captured the crown by defeating second-seeded Scrap Iron Thunder of Colorado 22-17 in the "if needed" game. ETX 55s of Texas finished third.

Men's 55+ AAA: The second-seeded Alliance/Scrap Iron 55 team from Colorado took the long route to the title. It lost its first bracket game 28-26 to eventual third-place finisher West Coast Evolution of British Columbia, Canada. That created a long road through the elimination bracket, including six consecutive games played on Sunday. Alliance won two of those by one run each to reach the finals against top-seeded All-Quip/SOWC-55 of Oregon, which was unbeaten entering the first championship game. Alliance double-dipped All-Quip 24-19 and 30-22 to win the 10-team

division.

Men's 60+ Major:

Following seeding games, eight of this division's 10 teams were 1-1. The only unbeaten, the top-seeded Scrap Iron Colorado Legends, backed its early play by winning all four of its bracket games, including a 24-20 championship victory over the second-seeded Iowa Demons. Sixth-seeded Sea Glass of Oklahoma captured third.

Men's 60+ AAA: All five teams in this division went 1-1 in seeding games, with Lumberjack Red from Minnesota earning the top seed by allowing the fewest runs. That proved prophetic as the Lumberjacks ran through bracket play unbeaten, capped by a 17-9 victory over the fourth-seeded Omaha Silver Bullets/Minleon of Nebraska in the title game. The second-

Continued on next page

Rocky Mtn: Session Two Saw 47 Teams Compete

Continued from previous page

seeded Minnesota Thunder took third place.

Men's 60+ AA: Seeded last after pool play, the Colorado Renegades put together enough scoring streaks to win all four of their bracket games, including a 21-20 title game decided on an RBI base hit in the bottom of the seventh inning. Third-seeded Club Tilt of Colorado placed second, and the top-seeded Bomb City Buzzards of Texas captured third.

Men's 65/70+ Platinum: This eight-team division featured some high-powered offenses and a bevy of close games. The top-seeded KC Kids 65s, a Major team from Missouri, dispatched all comers and finished 6-0, including a 24-18 title-game triumph over third-seeded Midwest Driving School/Dudley/KPI of Missouri. The seventh-seeded Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder 65 team from Colorado nabbed third place.

Men's 65/70+ Gold: The sixth-seeded Milwaukee Merchants/Shirts and Logos of Wisconsin finished



18 teams at the 2025 Rocky Mountain Championship represented the host state of Colorado.

5-1, including a 17-11 championship victory over ninth-seeded Bucks Run Minleon of Nebraska, which lost its first two bracket games then won four in a row to reach the finals. The eighth-seeded Texas Legends 65 team finished third in the nine-team division.

Men's 65/70+ AA: Seeded seventh of nine teams following pool play, the KC Rally Dawgs 70+ AA team from Missouri won all four of

its bracket games, including a 17-16 winner's final and a 23-8 championship victory over the top-seeded Utah Coyotes. The sixth-seeded Scrap Iron Diamonds 70 of Colorado earned third.

Men's 70/75+ Gold: Second-seeded Scrap Iron 5280', a 70+ AAA team from Colorado, lost the first title game 33-28 and sought revenge in the second title game, but fourth-seeded Carriage Homes of Missouri

declined to play and forfeited. That gave 5280' the title. The top-seeded Diamond Dogs/Minleon of Nebraska finished third in the five-team division. **Men's 75/80+ AAA:** The third-seeded USA Patriots, a 75+ AAA team from Oklahoma, went 3-0 in bracket play, including a 18-11 championship victory over the top-seeded 75 Scrap Iron Diamonds of Colorado. The fifth-seeded Rangers of Texas finished third.



Predicting Seniors' Budgets in an Unpredictable Economy

Softball News Report

It's been a battle of the budgets for many, many senior softball players as the cost of living just seems to keep going up and up. Everything from eggs and meat to gasoline and drug prescriptions are taking their toll on family finances.

And for those seniors hoping to catch a pay raise break when the new updated Social Security checks start rolling in in January, it doesn't look good.

Most forecasts...the official numbers come out in a few weeks...call for pay increases of about 2.7 percent for 2026, compared with 2.5 percent in 2025. To put that into real numbers, retirees get

an average of \$2,007 a month so a 2.7 percent cost of living adjustment would boost their check by about \$54.

The annual COLA applies across all Social Security programs including retirement benefits and spousal benefits based on a partner's earnings, survivor benefits as well as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

Seniors also need to remember that some benefit increase would go towards covering the cost of rising Medicare premiums, though, so even if that prediction holds true, retirees are not going to necessarily get exactly 2.7 percent more to

Money Matters:

By Jack Sirard

spend next year.

While that will help a little for most of us, it certainly won't make us feel like we're on Easy Street.

In a recent report, The Senior Citizens League estimate that a whopping 21.8 million seniors get by on just their monthly Social Security benefit alone.

And in one of their recent surveys, nearly two-thirds of seniors said they are quite frustrated with their Social Security benefits.

In fact, TSCL Executive Director Shannon Benton points out that in repeated surveys over the years, the message from seniors has been quite clear...Social Security checks aren't keeping up with inflation.

If four in five seniors think inflation is higher than the government reports, maybe we should stop questioning their experiences and start questioning why the cost-of-living adjustments are failing to measure inflation, Benton says.

The Senior Citizen's League is one of the nation's largest nonpartisan seniors' groups, with a goal of helping senior citizens know their rights and freedoms and to protect the benefits seniors have earned and paid for including Social Security, Medicare, and veteran or military retiree benefits.

Benton notes that "seniors also want to fund stronger COLAs and benefits for future generations by cutting loopholes in the

Social Security payroll tax. The data show their favorite method for doing so is eliminating the limit on earnings subject to Social Security payroll taxes, which is currently just a loophole that lets wealthy Americans pay less than their fair share into the program."

Benton also warns that "cutting Social Security benefits simply isn't an option. With nearly three-quarters of seniors depending on Social Security for at least half their income, any cuts to the program or reductions in benefits would push millions of hard-working Americans further into poverty, robbing them of their right to retire with dignity."

Now more than ever, seniors need to not only stay on top of changes in Social Security -- and push their representatives in Congress to protect it for the future.

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

Heard From The Dugout

"The only function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable."

John Kenneth Galbraith
20th Century Economist,
Author and Diplomat



Honoring Hall of Famer, National Director Doug Robbins

By Terry Hennessy
Softball News Report

There are people who do not fit in neat and clean categories. Doug Robbins, 74, who died in July after a long illness, is one.

Consider that he was inducted into the Senior Softball USA Hall of Fame in a “Special Category.”

The reason?

He qualified as a National Director, as the manager of one of the best teams in the nation, as an exceptional umpire, as a sponsor – and he was an excellent athlete.

“Doug was not only a great coach, but also an ambassador to the game,” said Kenny Vaught, who played for Doug.

In the sport, Doug was perhaps best known for creating Timberworks – a legendary team that remained on the top of the sport for



Doug (center) with his two sons, Scott (left) and Doug (right).

several years, winning more than 55 championships including an amazing seven World Championships and six Triple Grand Slams.

One of the tests of true achievement in our sport is the ability of a team to play at a high level for several seasons.

What was the secret?

When I asked Doug, his answer was that the personalities of the players made it possible. He looked for personalities that built

good chemistry, not players who were only interested in themselves or belittled teammates when they made an error.

“Doug assembled one of the strongest teams I’ve been around,” said Jeff Hacker. “That was because of his communication and management skills. Doug was generous and caring.”

Doug built a culture that has endured – even after he had to step away from

managing for health reasons.

Doug also was known for his key role of building Suncoast West.

“Doug was more than a leader, he was a friend, mentor and passionate supporter of the senior softball community,” said Lee Trotter, chief executive officer of Suncoast Sports Group.

Doug, who was a very good friend and lived in the same small town, of Loomis, Calif., reached the top of our sport in multiple roles because of his drive for excellence – but the real measure of Doug was his integrity, fairness and belief in helping others achieve the highest goals.

“Doug was an amazing friend, both honest and loyal,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA’s executive director. “Friends like Doug are so hard to find.”

And that is the most important category.



In addition to being inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame in 2022, Doug (center) was also Tournament Director of the Year in 2016, and Terry Hennessy (left) and Fran Dowell (right), present his award.



In 2022, Doug accompanied 38 other players and spouses/guests for a Hawaiian Cruise, where he managed the USA Red team against local Hawaiian teams on the islands.

Hank Heffner Fueled Humor in Both ISA and SSUSA

By Terry Hennessy
Softball News Report

CLEVELAND, GA – Hank Heffner, 71, loved telling jokes. Awful jokes that made you laugh.

Hank also was a force in softball for most of his life as the Assistant CEO of the Independent Sports Association (ISA) and a National Director for Senior Softball USA.

“Not only was Hank the Assistant CEO of ISA, but he was also my mentor, one of my best friends and a father figure to me,” said Mike Caldwell, ISA’s CEO. “Hank is the one that in late 2001 recruited me to come on board with ISA.

“Hank was always willing to talk softball with anybody at any time. He was the go-to guy for any rule or problem

that would arise! Hank is irreplaceable,” said Caldwell.

It was actually a good thing that Hank had a good sense of humor.

He and his wife Debbie went on a memorable SSUSA International Tour to Mexico in 2008. The trip started with us abandoning plans to hire a U.S.-registered bus for the trip because they were being hijacked in Mexico.

So, we got a Mexican-registered bus and it was not hijacked. I may not have told Hank and Debbie about that until later.

We left from Brownsville crossed the border and later that day pulled into our first stop Victoria. We arrived at the hotel and thought at first it was a military facility because there were a dozen halftracks filled with federales toting automatic rifles.

It turned out they were



Hank pitching during the 2008 Mexican-American Softball Classic in Victoria, Mexico.

the security force. As we went up the elevator, on every floor, there stood guarding federales. I remember Hank saying that somehow that did not make him feel safer.

He wasn't joking.

The next day, we visited

Victoria Mayor Arturo Gutierrez Navarro's office and let him know we were planning to play a game against a local team.

The mayor got very excited and said he would set up something special for us.

What we did not realize was that some mayors in Mexico had considerably more power than those in the United States.

Mayor Navarro's family owned substantial lands for generations that stretched from Victoria up to – and over – the Sierra Madre mountain range.

That night we were taken to a large stadium in the middle of the city, where the mayor had set up a series of large tents for after the games with live music and a feast.

Hank was our pitcher and as he walked out to the pitcher's rubber, he called me over and said, “Look over there.” He was pointing to



Team USA was welcomed in Victoria, Mexico with softball games and a few surprises. Hank is in the top row, second from the right.

Continued on next page

Henry's Baseball Club Glove Repair: A Lost Art

Softball News Report

Henry of Henry's Baseball Club in Massachusetts has played ball his entire life, from local Sunday baseball to coaching minor leagues, to being a talent scout.

Now Henry is doing something that is rare in the sport: fixing gloves.

Henry has 50 years' experience repairing gloves for baseball and softball players across the nation.

Glove repair places are not as common as they used to be, making Henry's Baseball Club unique. "It's a lost art," Henry agreed. "It takes experience that many don't learn today."

It all started with his Sunday Baseball group. As it began to grow, with 100+ players from surrounding states weekly in the late 1970s, early 80s, he was asked to

help some of the players find an avenue into pro-baseball. He would find tryouts for the players across the country, eventually offering professional talent scouting services for the minor leagues.

Henry even coached the minor league team, the Massachusetts Mad Dogs. His manager was the former Red Sox star, George "Boomer" Scott, who taught Henry many more skills.

But before the talent services and coaching, Henry had another talent: leather

glove repair.

During his Sunday Baseball group, he would repair his teammates well-used gloves.

"I started with Tandy Leather's kits; they sold kits that walked you through making things out of leather," Henry remembered. "I made a wallet for my sister, and she still uses it. That was 35 years ago!"

Some of the most common repairs tend to be the laces and top web, as they are high impact points. Henry also

stressed that players benefit from repairing their gloves, opposed to purchasing a new one. His price estimates are often cheaper than a new high-performance glove and repaired gloves don't need to be broken in. "Pro-players know pro-ball; they like to stick with their trusted gloves as much as they can," added Henry.

Henry repairs gloves nationwide and be reached at 781-891-0621 or henrysbballclub@hotmail.com.



Hank Heffner: Hank's Humor Knew No Bounds

Continued from previous page

the mayor in the middle of the stands and there was a line of people coming up to him and kissing his ring.

"We aren't in Kansas anymore," said Hank.

The trip went on to more adventures and softball games over the Sierra Madre in St. Luis Potosi and then to Tampico on the Gulf of Mexico.

All along the way were Hank's jokes and humor that kept us all smiling.

Hank was born in Gaston,

N.C., on May 3, 1953 and died July 25, 2025. He and Debbie lived in Cleveland, Georgia.

He worked and played in softball for more than 40 years and was in the ISA Softball Hall of Fame. He was always happy at the ballfield.

He was widely known as one of the fairest and most respected umpires and, in fact, umpired the night before he died.

Hank touched many people deeply along the way.

"When I got the call that morning that Hank had passed away, I was in shock, my heart dropped!" said Caldwell. "Hank was a very good man that we will miss tremendously!"



San Antonio Senior League Is One of the Largest in the U.S.

Softball News Report

Thirty-eight years ago, Bill Altman and some softball buddies grew excited when the Senior Olympics added slow-pitch softball to its competition list for players aged 50 and older.

Back then, softball reigned as a popular activity embraced by tournament teams as well as players in work leagues, church leagues and city leagues. Veteran players abounded.

Altman got an idea. Why not play more “old guy” games than just during the Senior Olympics?

“Once we formed a team, other teams started forming and wanted to play,” said Altman, 95, who founded the San Antonio Seniors Softball League in 1987.

Initially, two or three senior league teams existed.

“It really snowballed after that,” Altman said.

Today, the non-profit SASSL boasts more than 1,000 active members and 60 summer session teams. It is one of the largest, if not the largest, senior softball leagues in the country.

If not for the lack of fields and lights, the league likely would be even larger, said Fred Gonzales, the league’s vice president of facilities.

“We haven’t peaked,” Gonzales said. “We are turning away teams because we only have two fields with lights (out of four fields). If we had four fields with lights, we could grow quite a bit more.”

The league plays on fields with 300-foot outfield fences

A League Above: By Donna McGuire



at Normoyle Park, a city-owned multi-sport facility that includes tennis, pickleball and basketball courts along with a swimming pool and community center. It sits in the southwest quarter of San Antonio, the state’s second-largest city with a population of about 1.5 million. Roughly 2.5 million people reside in the greater metropolitan area.

Despite its prodigious population, San Antonio no longer offers softball leagues. It is up to independent organizations like the SASSL to provide a program, recruit teams and umpires, and set up schedules.

“We are the only game in town for guys 40, 50, 60 and older,” said Rick Hammock, the league’s vice president of operations. “In the independent leagues, they have to play against 19- and 20-year-olds.”

Currently run by a six-member volunteer executive board, the SASSL operates games five days a week.

The newest division, a six-team women’s 30+ league, plays on Monday nights. The nine-team co-ed

division featuring 30+ women and 40+ men plays Tuesday nights. The 40+ men have 13 teams in two divisions that play Wednesday nights. The 70+ and 75+ men, with a combined eight teams, play Thursday mornings. The 50+ men, with 15 teams in two divisions, play Thursday nights. And the 60/65+ men, with nine teams in two divisions, play Saturday mornings.

The league also runs spring and fall sessions, though not as many teams play in those as during the summer

With the Texas weather, players can practice or play pick-up games in the winter months as well. The pre-season tournament happens in mid-February each year. League play usually begins in early March and ends in late November or early December.

For many years, the league also held a post-season annual banquet that included music and dancing, as well as presentations for players inducted into the Texas Senior Softball Hall of Fame.

New players learn about the league mostly through word of mouth.

“There’s a lot of enthusiasm for playing in the league,” said Altman, who these days manages a men’s 75+ league team.

The league employs two field crew workers and an umpire-in-chief as its only paid staff. Everyone else donates their time.

Ever since the early years, the league’s motto has been “No player left behind.” The league encourages everyone with at least basic skills to play. Playing helps keep people active as they age. And

Continued on next page



Photo by Tim Hipps
Inaugural opening night of the San Antonio Seniors Softball Women’s League at Normoyle Park was on June 23 with 6 teams.

Women's Divisions Return for 2025 Southern Champs

Softball News Report

DALTON, GA – Teams from 10 states competed in the 18th annual Southern Championships here from Aug. 8-10 at beautiful Riverbend Park.

Teams in 10 divisions won berths to the Tournament of Champions in Florida in January.

One of the closest finishes was in the 65 Major Division. Claremont Property of Ohio came into bracket play with two loses, then caught fire, beating DT Express from Georgia 22-21 and Avalanche Elite Contractor of Michigan 16-15. Claremont capped its run with a 10-9 victory

over DT Express to take the title.

The women's teams competed in the Southern Championships for the first time since 2022 in both the 50 Major and 50 AAA divisions.

In the 50 Majors, 50 Shades of Indiana beat TTAU from Florida 15-14 to in the championships, and Highly Flavored of Florida dominated Intimidators from Georgia 18-1 and 14-6 to take the 50AAA crown.

The Peacemakers in both the 55AAA and 60 AAA both won titles with perfect records.

The Peacemaker 60AAA from Tennessee made a perfect run, winning their round-robin games and their two bracket games

against Holy City Hitmen from South Carolina 15-11 and 22-16.

The Peacemakers/ Home Run Delivery 55AAA from Alabama, also won their round-robin games and then defeated Ryan Steel/ Renegades of Georgia twice, 28-19 and squeaked the Championship out 23-22.

In the 50AAA, M&J Precision/ Twin States defeated the Georgia Merchants in the first two of the best-of-three series, 27-11 and 22-15 for the title.

The 40-50 Platinum Division, pitted a 40 Major team against two 50 Major-plus teams. Baugh Ford, a 50 Major-plus team from Florida, came out of the loser's

bracket to double dip Hysteria/ Spartan Construction, the 40 Major team also from Florida, 37-24 and 28-21.

It took all three games in the best-of-three series for the Dayton Legends of Ohio to beat Half Century of North Carolina, in 23-22, 15-31 and 25-24 games to win the 50 Major championships.

In the 70 Majors, Columbus LXX of Georgia defeated RPR Softball of Alabama, 13-11 and 22-16. And in the 70/75AAA Division, the 70 AAA Southern Storm team from Georgia beat the 75AAA Express from Alabama 25-15 and 23-22.

A League Above: 'No Player Left Behind' Motto Encourages All Players to Compete

Continued from previous page

the players make mountains of friends along the way.

After games, some teams gather in the parking lot to extend the camaraderie. Some hot dogs might get cooked. Some beverages might get guzzled. Some jokes might get told. Laughter abounds.

"We don't call it a league, we call it a family," Hammock said. "We spend time with each other enjoying ourselves and not caring about the rest of the world."

As with the rest of the country, a good number of players also compete in senior softball tournaments. Altman, for example, owns five gold championship rings. Two years ago, the San Antonio Legends won



San Antonio Senior Softball League's board of directors.

Photos provided by SASSL

the 75+ AA SSUSA World Championship title.

What do the players enjoy most?

"The fact that they can play and compete," Altman said. "They haven't lost that competitive edge. Some are very good."

He sees a continued strong future for the game.

"Slow-pitch softball is something everybody can do," he said.



SASSL offers leagues for women 30+ and men 40+ currently, with over 1,500 players registered ages 40-91.



When the game ends,

YOUR NIGHT *BEGINS.*

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Worlds: Return of USA, 90s Games and Hall of Fame

Continued from cover

In addition to the sheer numbers of teams, there are several special events:

- 21 USA National Games, pitting the winners of Eastern National divisions against the Western National winners. The teams are competing for the 2nd leg of the coveted Triple Grand Slam. Teams winning their USA game and their World Championships' division win the Triple Grand Slam!

- The Fourth Annual 90s Game will be at Big League Dreams on Monday, Sept. 22 at 11am and pits the oldest players in the sport from the East against the Elders of the West.

•Before the 90s Game, 7 inspiring individuals will be inducted into the National and SSUSA Hall of Fame at 9:30am at Big League Dreams.

The following are being inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame:

- James Davidson, Player, 78, FL
- Phil Farmer, Pioneer Player, 78, FL
- Carroll Shook, Pioneer Player, 90, CA
- James Davidson, Player, 78, FL
- Clyde Smith, Player, 78, FL

In special recognition, Joe Lecak, 68, will receive the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Continued on page 19

90+ Game: Western Team
Mgr: Richard (Red) Simmons (CA)

Hank Alberts - 87	CA
Norman Blackwell - 92	CA
Ralph D. Brinton - 87	UT
Harold C. Brown - 90	CA
David Buck - 88	CA
Gary Burtzell - 90	CA
C. John Chacon - 91	CA
Rico Coronado - 88	CA
William C. Emery - 87	CA
Gary A. Evans - 88	CA
Alfred Flori - 89	CA
Eddie Glover - 88	AR
Ronnie Guest - 87	AZ
Vard Hall - 88	UT
John R. Ihrig - 88	CA
Paul O. Janke - 96	CA
Fred J. Mattos - 89	CO
Bob McElrea - 93	WA
Walter McQuesten - 89	CA
Ray Newman - 91	CA
Bill C. Poe - 87	CA
Carroll Shook - 89	WA
Joseph J. Siegele - 87	AZ
Red Simmons - 87	CA
Ralph Ventura - 88	CA
John T. Wade - 96	CA

90+ Game: Eastern Team
Mgr: Dick Anderson - 94 (MN)

Dick Anderson - 94	MN
Art Barnes - 89	PA
Clyde Bennett - 87	CA
Irwin Bollinger - 88	OH
Raymond Bosetti - 91	PA
Hugh Brotherton - 94	FL
Tony Castaldy - 90	NY
Gordon Donnell - 88	MN
Herbert Grommeck - 88	FL
Andy Horn - 89	NY
Robert L. Johnson - 90	FL
Roland L. Johnson - 91	WI
Bob Lenzmeier - 88	MN
August J. Niklas - 88	CA
Ron Perdue - 89	OK
Burdette W. Peterson - 87	MN
Roger Schroder - 90	IN
Mike Smieja - 96	MN
Alonzo Trevino - 94	TX
Robert (Bucky) Wardle - 87	CT



2025 USA National Game Match-Ups

World Championships

Women's 40+ Major:

TABU (CA) vs. Vintage (NJ)

Women's 50+ AAA:

Takin' Chances vs. Shots Fired (RI)

Men's 40+ Major Plus:

Tai/Elite Sports/Onyx (CA) vs. Front Row (TX)

Men's 40+ Major:

The Ravine (CA) vs. HDI/She Gone Sports (VA)

Men's 40+ AAA:

Hella Nor-Cal vs. Sarafis Painting and Construction (PA)

Men's 50+ Major Plus:

Fattboyz/Front Row (CA) vs. Suncoast 50s (FL)

Men's 50+ Major:

A&B PLBG 50 (CA) vs. Automotive Triage (NC)

Men's 50+ AAA:

EUV Tech (CA) vs. Old Skool/Racehorse Tavern/Girard Club (PA)

Men's 55+ Major Plus:

Pacific Reign/DeMarini (OR) vs. Sunocast 55s (FL)

Men's 55+ Major:

Cal/Neva/Easton/Worth/Miken (CA) vs. Broughton Pharmacy (NC)

Men's 60+ Major:

Top Gun Warriors (CA) vs. Hard Hat Café/Latella's/ Caterbone Realty (CT)

Men's 60+ AAA:

SMASH (CA) vs. Gaithersburg Rental/TC Backer (MD)

Men's 60+ AA:

Tri City Legends (WA) vs. Beltway Bandits (VA)

Men's 65+ Major Plus:

Cal Energy 65 vs. TRT (FL)

Men's 65+ Major:

NW Elite Hitmen (WA) vs. The Ockers Company (MA)

Men's 65+ AAA:

Hustlers (CA) vs. Northern Virginia Force 65s

Men's 70+ Major:

Scrap Iron High Octane (CO) vs. REI 70s (NC)

Men's 70+ AAA:

Excessive Force 70 (CA) vs. Spring Ford 70+ (PA)

Men's 75+ Major Plus:

Omen 75 (CA) vs. Venom 75s (FL)

Men's 85+ Major:

Top Gun Blue Angels (CA) vs. Center For Sight (FL)

Looking Back at the Entertainment of the 2024 Worlds



Above: The official SSUSA 2025 World Championships logo has been released.



Above: Singer Kasey of the Marilynnds sang the National Anthem in 2024.



Above: Manager Receptions/Registrations will return the nights before each session.



646 teams across North America and Panama competed in the 2024 Worlds.

The 4th annual 90s Game will be Sept. 22 at 11am at Big League Dreams.



The best umpires and staff from across the US will be working.



Nellis AFB's Color Guard will perform during national anthem.



Each year's 90s Game has bost-ed larger and larger rosters.



Both National Senior Softball Hall of Famers and Senior Softball USA Hall of Famers are inducted at Worlds, like Gary Robertson (National - Player) above.



Above: The 90s East team won the inaugural game and the second 90s game, while the West team hopes to protect their last year's victory.



The largest division of 2024 was the Men's 50+ AAA with 60 teams. Who will it be this year?

Photos by Clover Schultz

2025 Worlds: CCS Fireballerz (CA) Win the Annual Sportsmanship Award

Continued from page 17

The following are being inducted into the Senior Softball USA Hall of Fame:

- Joe Hensley, Player, 73, CA

- Richard (Red) Simmons, Manager, 87, CA

- The International Co-Ed Division, with teams from the US and Panama will compete during the 4th session of the Worlds, October 4-5.

- In addition, Senior Softball USA will present its top award of the year –

the Sportsmanship Award to CCS Fireballerz, a Women's 40+ AAA team from California. This award represents the best of the sport: games played with inspiring sportsmanship on and off the field.

The night before each session, a Registration / Reception will kick off each of the 4 sessions of the World Championships. The managers will be able to check in – and players are welcome to see the top, new softball products from several vendors and buy tournament merchandise.

Each reception will be at Boulder Station Hotel & Casino in the Railhead Room at 6 p.m. on the following dates:

Session 1 - Wednesday,

Sept. 17;

Session 2 - Sunday,

Sept. 21;

Session 3 - Thursday,

Sept. 25;

Session 4 - Wednesday, Oct. 1. (The International Co-Ed managers will meet Friday, Oct. 3 at 5pm in the Chardonnay Room of Boulder Station).

Winners receive free quality Josten's rings, second place receives silver medals and third place bronze medals. Josten's makes rings for Major League Baseball, the NFL and the NBA. In addition, division winners get berths to the Tournament of Champions in Florida in January.

USA Games:

This year's USA Game match-ups are listed on

page 17. The following singleton teams are USA Champions and eligible for the Triple Grand Slam: Mood Swings (CA – W40+ AAA); Nor-Cal Hitmen (50+ AA); Cali Gold 55 (AAA); Longshoremen 55 (VA – AA); Sommerville Softball (CA – 60+ Major Plus); Last Call 75 (NV – Major); Cut Loose 75s (CA – AAA); Omen 80 (CA – Major Plus); Gold Rush (CA – 80+ Major); Enforcers (CA – 80+ AAA).

The following singleton teams are USA Champions, but are not eligible for the Triple Grand Slam: Poly Chics (Cali Gold) (W40+ AA); Power Mix (VA – W50+ Major).

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SAME PERFORMANCE

2026 Softball Trips to Spain and Canada; Caribbean Open Until Mid-September

Softball News Report

Senior Softball USA announced its slate of International Tours for 2026 including exciting trips to the Caribbean, Spain and Canada.

Here's the lineup for players, families and friends for international adventures in 2026:

- 6th Annual Caribbean Classic in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic from Jan. 14-19. The Barcelo Bavaro Palace resort and their neighboring ball fields is again home to the Caribbean Classic. Players will compete against local Dominican teams and enjoy the all-inclusive resort. The trip itinerary is very open, allowing plenty of free time to enjoy the resort, beach, buffet and excursions.

- 10th Annual Pacific Rim Championships in late August hosted by Canada in Toronto. Teams from China, Japan, Taiwan, Canada, South Korea, Macau, Guam, Hong Kong and the United States will be competing. Each country or district is limited to two teams. The U.S. team is open to any registered SSUSA player. Exact dates will be established in November 2025 and more information will be available at that time.

- 36th Annual SSUSA International Tour to Spain in late October. The 13-day tour will include a tournament in Barcelona and games in Madrid, as well as sightseeing in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia. More information and exact dates will be available by November 2025.

Senior softball players are also reminded that the



Antoni Gaudi designed the Sagrada Familia Cathedral (above), the World's largest unfinished Catholic church; construction began in 1882, in Barcelona.

9th Annual Pacific Rim Championships, hosted by Taiwan this year from Oct. 14-21, will feature games against Taiwan, South Korea, China, Macau, Guam and U.S. teams. The Pacific Rim Championships moves to members of the Pacific Rim Slow-Pitch Federation each year to promote friendship through softball.

This year's Pacific Rim will be played in the beautiful seaside Hualien City.

Only individual players and their spouses/guests can sign up for international tours, not entire teams. Players are then put on teams created by the SSUSA office.

The USA teams are created



Niagara Falls, which straddles the border of Ontario and New York state, is only an hour and a half outside of Toronto.

from the players who sign up and pay the deposit fee on time. Teams are comprised of players from mixed ages, skill levels and co-ed (if women players sign up). This ensures any player who signs up can be placed on a

USA team and ensures balance between the USA teams.

For more information see (<https://seniorsoftball.com/?page=35>) or email nic@seniorsoftball.com

Don't miss the opportunities of a lifetime



**Join us on the
Senior Softball USA
Tours:**

2026

- **6th Annual Caribbean Classic returns to the Dominican Republic. Open until September 19 January 14-19**
- **Pacific Rim Championships moves to Canada in August 2026 Specific Dates TBA**
- **Play and have fun in Spain in October 2026 Specific Dates TBA**

For Details on these Adventures: <https://seniorsoftball.com/?page=35> For more information: email Nic@seniorsoftball.com

For Best Performance, Practice Like You Play

Softball News Report

Why Do I Hit Great in Batting Practice, But Hit Miserably in Real Games? At 71 years and having played softball for more than 50 years, I've heard this lament from every generation of hitters.

The key here is that it's important to execute a batting practice that involves a complete game plan, and mirrors live game situations as closely as you can. Vince Lombardi, the legendary technician and Green Bay Packer coach, said "Practice does not make perfect, perfect practice makes perfect."

I think hitters have selective minds in batting practice. They start out half swinging at the first 10 pitches, to loosen up. This is a luxury, not offered in live games. Then hitters often take 25 to 50 swings in a row. Typically, you hit a hot streak at some point but often forgotten is the

large number of bad hits, and there is a lack of game concentration. Hitters tend to remember the hot streak and may feel they hit great.

Adjustments were made but it's often hard to remember exactly the changes you made that brought success. Thus, you felt you hit great, but with game pressure, a lack of a good focus, combined with tougher pitching and only four at bats per game, failure can leave an athlete frustrated and confused.

Batting practice should be done simulating game at bats. I think two athletes taking BP is the ultimate in making this a productive, learning experience. If your partner can't pitch well enough, purchase for less than \$200 a pitching machine such as a TPS Blue Flame Pitching Machine.

Warmup: Stretch and jog to get loose. Then try to hit into something that gives resistance. I have not found a way to jar your joints loose without hitting

Hitting Column

By Ken Van Bogaert

something before you step in the box. Like a game, you have to be ready on the first pitch.

Batting Practice: Start out by taking only five game swings at a time, then switch. Have a simple **Technical Focus** of what mechanically triggers your good swing, and then a **Mental Focus** of what kind of pitch you need to attack the part of the field you desire. **Only swing at good strikes**, have the pitcher throw game caliber pitches, and write down how many actual hits you would have had. Keep it simple and be aggressive.

Take a moment to discuss each other's observations and write down in a notebook what you worked on. We would play 10 innings of five swings, then tally hits and outs. You will come up with a realistic batting average. Make it a competition. Video the

session and talk to the camera. Your comments will be invaluable for remembering what tweaks you made. **You will find swinging at bad pitches is one of the main causes of failure.**

Step out of the box between swings, so you break your concentration and you will have to refocus each time. In games, watch opponents' pitchers from behind the backstop. They have habits that they repeat. The majority will throw short strikes, so move way up in the box. If a pitcher has a good knuckleball and you don't want to have to hit it, observe that many pitchers try it the first pitch and if it's a ball usually they come back with a more accurate four-seamer that is easier to hit. In BP, learn that by hitting the strike you want, you will raise your average .100 points or more immediately.

A nice warmup tool, we made and have used for 30 years is a ball on a rope. You can fasten it between the dugout and side fence, then take a few swings before each BP to get loose. You can also buy online a tethered ball that you can hit off the tee without having to chase it. The solid feeling of hitting several balls before you swing boosts performance.

Ken (Bogie) and his son Bret Van Bogaert produce the Swing Makeover Show on YouTube. Easy access to shows are on www.sportstechnique.com. SSUSA Hall of Fame Class of 2019.



The 'Ball of the Rope Warm-Up' as described in the last paragraph.

All-Tourneys From the Twin Cities to Rocky Mountains

Softball News Report

Congratulations to the All-Tournament selections from the 2025 Northern Championships to the Rocky Mountain Championships! First place teams earn five all-tournament selections, second place gets four, while third place earns three. Managers, if your All-Tournament selections are missing; please email in your honorees to info@seniorsoftball.com.

Northern Champs/Steve Simmons Memorial

Men's 50+ Major:

Elite Reality/KR Signs (MN): Darron Pettis, Brad Hall, Paul Beadel.

Men's 50+ AAA:

Iowa Demons: Justin Foster, Chad Rose, Drew O'Renic, Bob Joss, Tony Winship.

Heroes 50s (NE): Todd Boehne, Chris Abyeta, Chris Gee.

Men's 50/55+ Silver:

Oshkosh Ambassadors 55 (WI): Dave Hanseder, Paul Williams, Rob Strom, Greg Danbe.

Men's 55/60+ Platinum:

Priority Construction Services/Lumberjacks 55s (MN): Clem McKay, Tim Cabell, Mike Kalmes.

Men's 60+ AAA:

Isle Edge Trucking 60s (WI): Erv Mercer, Mike Beatty, Matt San Felippo, Todd Oleson, David Kroll.

Minnesota Thunder: Kris Slettedahl,



During the 2025 Southern California State Championships, So Cal Guys 55, 55+ AAA Champions, lost their manager, Edward McElroy, on the last day of competition. Since then, Ed's son, Edward McElroy Jr., has taken over as team manager.

Woody Armitage, Donald Nicholson.

Men's 65+ AAA:

Minnesota Road Warriors: Mike Marrinan, Ron Gronfor, John (Aldy) Aldritt, Scott Kevitt, Bob Zwick.

Playmakers (WI): Tom Sweinberg, Tim Depledge, Ed Butkowski, Bob Reed.

Men's 70+ Platinum:

KC Kids 70s (MO): Rob Hudnall, Mickey Lashbrook, George Kramer, Jimmy Prentice, Mike Woolery.

Minnesota River Bats: Ed Huebsch, Mike Molitor, Jeff Handevitd.

Men's 70/75+ Gold:

Blizzard (MN): Randy Neumann, Bruce Senst, Gary Hamilton, Terry Gliniany, Mike Madden.

Men's 70/75+ Silver:

Handeland Flooring 75s (WI): Terry Hovseth, Ed Butkowski, Steve Wuetrich, Ron Bruce, Wayne Fiedler.

Chicago Strikers: Dan Kairis, Rawland Freeman, Gary Thorsen.

Men's 80/85+ AAA:

Minnesota Mavericks 85s: Burdette Peterson, Terry Mens, Cary Kennelly, Norm Setnicker.

SoCal State Champs

Women's 40+ Major:

Pro Moves 40 (CA): Lori Jarrells, Dustney Pacheco, Gina Paciulli, Ebony Allen.

Women's 50+ Major:

GBA (CA): Lisa Maxey, Diane Dahilig, Sabrina Bobkowski, Kristi Whitcomb.

Straight Pride (CA): Michelle Lamarr, Lily Carranza, Mary Arambula.

Women's 50/55+ Gold:

SWI/Rueblur (CA): Sarah Tandal, Vera Arellano, Monique Strong, Cheryl Henry-Sweet, Shannon Elrich.

Men's 40+ Major:

GENESIS/ONYX/BG (CA): Jamie Lopez, Aaron Neeley, Keith Williams, Delmetrius Hornseberg, Jermaine Lewis.

Men's 50+ Major:

Top Gun Renegades (CA): Ray Cho, Mario Ramsey, Rick Markle, Mike Berg, Chad Carter.

Men's 50+ AAA:

Top Gun G-Force (CA): Dennis Skinner, Will Morrow, Gerhard Stadel, Matt Bass.

Men's 55+ Major:

Top Gun Diamonds (CA): Gerge Ramsey, Rob Katashima, Mike Parshal, Mike Perisi, Mike Raskind.

L.A.F. 55 (CA): Dean Childers, Bob Baer, Wayne Zucker, Jim Roach.

Men's 55+ AAA:

Top Gun Storm (CA): Tony Poulin, Tom Ogle, Alexander Sandozequi, Rank Ramirez.

Men's 60+ Major:



All-Tourneys: 16 More Teams Than 2024 Join the Second Annual Land of Enchantment Tourney

Continued from previous page

Top Gun Warriors (CA): Nick Miller, Warren Lawter, Roy Alberts, Dennis Carvalho, Tom Mott.

Men's 60+ AAA:

SoCal Kamikaze/BFAD 60s: Joe Nunez, Kevin Thomas, Billy Loard, Brian Traynor, Robert Rooks.

Men's 60+ AA:

Advil Knights (CA): David Skoe, Jim Clark, Eric Brasch, Jim Anderson, Peter Cortez.

So Cal Riptide 60: Joe Kramer, Paul Truelove, Ron Brisson, Todd Zola.

Men's 65+ Major:

Samurai 65 (CA): Robby Baptista, Boyd Gumbs, Jim Liston, Mario Penados, Mark Toma.

Vegas Elite/ Vault: Willie Banks, Bart Nutt, Brian Graham, Jules Wilson.

Men's 65+ Silver:

Top Gun Stars (CA): Ed Francel, Lee bade, Paul Buehler, Jeff Anderson, Randy Hagan.

The Lost Boys (CA): Tom Gesler, Jerry Sloan, Mike Shill.

Men's 70+ Major:

Samurai 70 (CA): Bobby Flannery, Denny Hauge, Mario Borroel, Ricky Shepard, Richard Mansker.

Top Gun Strike Force (CA): Mark Purdy, Eric Overstreet, David Bradford, Mark Lawrence.

Men's 70/75+ Gold:

No Guts, No Glory (CA): Ron Martel, Randy Tsuruta, Jack Brunschmid, Bruce Marschall, Pete Cesario.

Land of Enchantment Champs

Women's 50/55+ Gold:

G.W. Construction (FL): Kim Harvey, Lisa Pelletier, Ellie Bernier, Annette De Los Reyes.

Women's 55/60+ AAA:

Colorado Wildfire 60: Wanda Norge, Chris King, Rose Cardenas.

Men's 40+ Gold:

Sudden Impact NM: Leroy Padilla,



Photo and Credit by Laura Koller Elizabeth Kuehne of Get Dirty, W50+ AAA, throws from right center during the championship game against G.W. Construction during the Land of Enchantment Championships.

Dennis Trujillo, Edgar Kau, Steven Lopez, Timothy Sanders.

Forty Cal/ NM Elite HVAC: Felipe Maldonado, Josh Keith, David Quintana.

Men's 50+ AAA:

West Texas 50s: Shy Burney, Nick Canava, Bill Nigh.

Men's 55+ AAA:

Duke City Empire (NM): Ross Slough, Rob Arseneau, Paul Smith.

Men's 60+ Platinum:

Hawaii Five-O: Paul Supat, Chris

Vierra, Keith Troxel, Jeff Yeargin, Ivan Sombecon.

Men's 60+ AAA:

Alliance/Scrap Iron 60 (CO): Mike Gurnee, Tim Roeland, John Maldonado, Steve Dissler.

OKC Angels (OK): Greg Fore, Tim Rudd, Randy Moore.

Men's 60+ AA:

Colorado Renegades: Paul Rodriguez, Clay Conner, Joe Montoya, Louis Gonzales, Vince Gonzales.

Men's 65+ Major:

Arizona Owls: Mick Moriarity, Allen Nelson, Larry Beaman, Marty Hobby, Russ Bicknell.

Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder 65 (CO): Brad Edginton, Phil Bryant, Mark Troxel, Tim Ryan.

Men's 65+ Silver:

Scrap Iron Heavy Metal (CO): Rick Shaum, Paul Nappo, Mike Fitzgerald, Perry Kunz, James Morgan.

Alliance/Scrap Iron 65 (CO): Ken Zito, Mark Hartman, Don Walton, Tom Frezza.

Men's 70+ Major:

Arizona Scorpions: Kevin Sullivan, Rod Prather, Jon Hicks, Bill Griffin, Tom Glasgow.

Scrap Iron High Octane (CO): Rick Loy, Jamie Gowdy, Billy Barnes, Mike Hale.

Men's 70+ AA:

Triple 2 (TX): Ed Wais, Orlando Campos, Bob Chesney, Clarence McCraw.

Duke City Dynamite (NM): Andy

Continued on page 26



Photo by Laura Koller Get Dirty, W50+ AAA, of New Mexico celebrates their win in front of tournament director, Linda Webber.

Umpires Corner: 'In the Umpire's Judgment'

Softball News Report

Umpires like to discuss rules, unusual plays and difficult situations when they gather at a tournament. It's a good way to learn and grow as an official.

Many years ago, one of my co-workers usually ended these conversations by reciting her favorite words from the Senior Softball USA rule book: "In the umpire's judgment."

"I love that phrase," she said. "It solves so many situations."

"Umpire's judgment" means the umpire has the final decision. It plays such a huge role in games that the phrase appears in the Senior Softball USA rule book 32 times. It appears in one form or another 44 times in the USA Softball rule book, which SSUSA follows for rules not included in our book.

Managers can protest an umpire's misinterpretation of rules. But managers cannot protest a call involving an umpire's judgment, whether the judgment involves balls and strikes, safe or out, or any of the other numerous situations cited in the rules.

For example, at the recent Rocky Mountain Championship in Aurora, Colorado, a batter stroked a single to right field, rounded first base intent on getting a double and ran smack into the first baseman. The runner ended up sprawled on the infield dirt. The umpire called obstruction but, after the play, told the runner to stay at first.

It was the umpire's judgment that the runner would not have reached second base safely if obstruction had not occurred. So, the runner stayed put.

"The obstructed runner and each other runner affected by the obstruction will always be awarded the base or bases that would have

been reached, in the umpire's judgment, had there been no obstruction," SSUSA rule 8.4(10)4 says.

A more famous example (or infamous example, depending on your point of view) comes from Major League Baseball's 2012 National League Wild Card Game between the St. Louis Cardinals and Atlanta Braves.

The Braves' Andrelton Simmons hit a one-out pop fly into shallow left field with runners on first and second bases. Cardinal shortstop Pete Kozma ran into left field to catch the ball as outfielder Matt Holliday ran in from deep left to catch it. Left field umpire Sam Holbrook called infield fly just before the ball dropped untouched to the grass when both fielders hesitated. The Braves thought they had loaded the bases, but the umpire's infield fly call meant Simmons was out. Angry Braves fans threw debris onto the field, causing a long delay. The Braves, who lost 6-3 and were eliminated from the rest of the postseason, protested the game.

Even though the ball landed 225 feet from home plate, MLB officials quickly denied the protest. Why? Because the call involved an umpire's judgment. Even if 90 percent of umpires would NOT have called an infield fly in that situation, the decision of the umpire who made the call is the only decision that mattered. It was his judgment.

Other Senior Softball game situations decided solely by umpire's judgment include:

- Whether a pitch has been delivered with excessive speed.
- Whether a batter intentionally hit the ball at the pitcher.
- Whether a batter intentionally erased part of the batter's box.
- Whether a batter-runner interfered with the fielder taking a

Umpires Corner By Donna McGuire

throw at first base.

- Whether a runner who overran first base attempted to continue to second and therefore could be tagged out before returning to first base.

- Whether an infielder intentionally dropped, or let drop, a fly ball.

- Whether a runner crossed the commitment line before returning to third base.

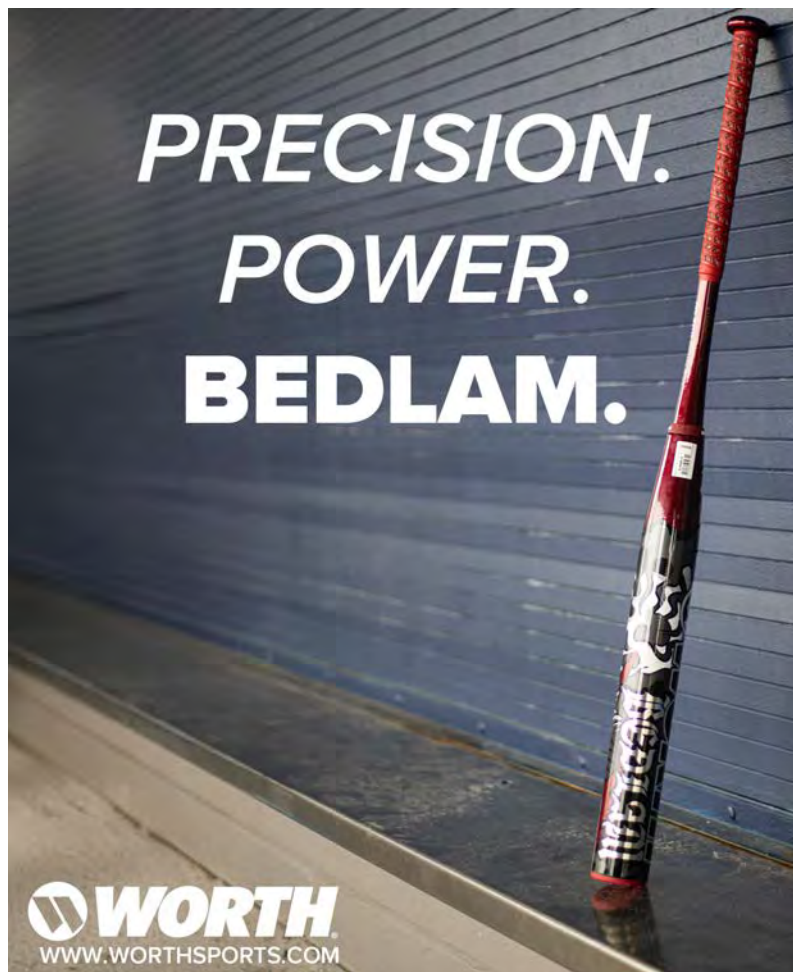
- Whether the umpire should stop play during a live ball to attend to a severely injured player, and where to place the runners before resuming play, based on which base the umpire believes they would have attained if play had continued.

This list, which is far from complete, shows that umpires control large aspects of the game by how they read and react to a play.

When two umpires are on the field, a team can ask an umpire to get help from his or her partner. The umpires can talk over the play. If the second umpire saw something different from the first umpire, the call can be changed by the original umpire.

But again, that decision involves umpire judgment – not what a team, player or manager thinks happened.

Donna McGuire is SSUSA's Central Region Umpire in Chief and Chair of the SSUSA National Rules Committee and can be reached at donna@seniorsoftball.com.



All-Tourneys: Moving the Dates of NorCal Champs Led to a Record 64 Teams, 64% More

Continued from page 24

Attwood, Lawrence Chavez, Hank Brantley.

Men's 70/75+ Gold:

Scrap Iron 5280' (CO): Jim Little, Gregg Pearson, Carl Markey, Curt Dicke.

Scrap Iron Peak Softball (CO): Bob Anderson, Carl Bennett, Mark Schmucher.

Men's 75+ AAA:

Rangers (TX): Tyree Varnado, Gerald Schimeck, Rockey Crews, Steve Johnson, Steve Kemp.

Scrap Iron Stampede 75 (CO): Dan Shewcraft, Gil Patron, Howie Fishman, Joe LaRoue.

ZIA 75s (NM): Ted Roluffs, Lee Hunter, Rich Gohl.

Northern CA State Champs

Women's 40+ Major:

Team I.S.S.U.E. (CA): "The entire team", Holly Schmillen, Melissa Hale,



The record number of teams in the 2025 Northern California State Championships caused SSUSA to add additional fields in Yuba City to allow more competing teams.



Tournament Director, Jerry Smith, handing out awards at Fosskett Park in Lincoln for the 2025 Northern California State Championships.

Rachael Geller.

Women's 40+ Silver:

Mood Swings (CA): Marcella Marin, Christine Gray, Kelli Sparks, Vicki Phillips, Keri Sulonen.

Men's 40+ Platinum:

Scudz Sportz / Vicious Cycle (CA): Chris Carper, Alex Rubio, Mike Wetteland.

Men's 40+ AAA:

T.N.T. (Tacos & Tequila) (CA): Milton Lacayo, Jeremy Miran, Jose Corona, Jose Sandoval, Leon L. Hilliard.

Men's 50+ Major Plus:

G.O. Softball/Mae Capital (CA): Raul Ruelas, Tony Ruelas, Joaquin Perez.

Men's 50+ Major:

A&B PLBG 50 (CA): James Kaul, Gunner Rocha, James Bradon, Tim Landrum, Craig Weathers.

Men's 55+ AAA:

Khaos (CA): Marcel Ramirez, Dave Summers, Ned Barton, Rolando Diaz, Eddie Sosa.

Cali Gold 55: Javi Salas, Sam Ramano, Steve Walker, Roy Drake.

West Coast 55s (CA): Tommy

Carrasco, Fernando Sanchez, Mark Korte.

Men's 60+ Major:

AFTERSHOCK (CA): Doug Dalton, Bob Bauer, Shawn Rogers, Curtis Beagle.

Men's 60/65+ Gold:

New Dawn Awning (CA): Dino Gay, Rocky Ishimaru, Pete Folger, Brad Drennan.

Men's 65/70+ Gold:

Hustlers (CA): Ken Stewart, Greg Shaddix, Armando Hildago, Greg Knight, Don Fryday.

Last Call 70 (NV): David Isabell, Bill Borrelli, Bob Hare, John Ohm.

Men's 70+ AAA:

Excessive Force (CA): Greg Meagher, Steve Cisneros, Bob Calhoun, Mike Baldonado, Ben McDonald.

Men's 75+ Major:

Animals 75s (CA): Dave Briones, Jim Willock, Larry Starkey, Marvin Mielke, Larry Scotten.

Men's 75/80+ Gold:

Please Don't Bug Me (CA): Don Lee,

Continued on next page

All-Tourneys: Northeast & Northwest Champs Allow North Teams Across the U.S. a Chance at a TOC Berth, Awards

Continued from previous page

Mitch Sambocetti, Dale Phleger, Joe Daniel.

Sacramento Islanders 75: Phil Montez, John Kramer, Al Mar.

Northeast Champs

Men's 50+ Major Plus:

CSD (NY): Charlie Baumgartner, Shawn McDonnell, Anthony Santoianni, Ralph Mordente, Pat Seccafico.

Men's 50+ Major:

AST/QTI/CF/GPOA/PNS/CCS (VA): Chip Campbell, Marcus Lee, Darrell Brooks, Brian Terrant.

Deluxe Bakery/Phoenix Tube (NJ): Joe Durso, JD Kasper, Eric Kraemer.

Men's 55+ Major:

WALKOFF 55 (MD): Jack Evans, Mark Norton, Troy Daub, Michael Hutchinson, Ivo Salvi.

Infoquest.com (PA): Mark Kopko, Kevin Crowley, Patrick Casselberry, Robert Gratkowski.

Men's 55+ AAA:



The 2025 Northeast Championships broke a record with 64 teams, including teams across New England, Mid-Atlantic and Canada.

Invaders/Window Source (RI): Bob Kenyon, Al Rosemarino, Steve Quattrini, Jeff Hebert, Gregg Hall, Linden Perry.

Fuccillo's Athletics (NY): Tim Kirwan, Mark Caron, Bill Putman, Matt Tyler, Pat Kelley.

Men's 60+ Major:

Howe Creative Design/The Bank (DE): Joe Lucas, Gerard Blair, Bill Korosec, Kenny Shemonski, Jeff Meadows.

Men's 60+ Silver:

Gaithersburg Rental/TC Backer (MD):

Mike Chmielowiec, Jim Loebach, Chuck Reader, Barry Robinson.

Men's 60+ Silver:

Wicked Slice Pizza (CT): Mark Anderson, John Gustafson, Scott Robertson, Ernie Bacon, Rob Rougeot.

Men's 65+ Gold:

Jersey Boys (NJ): Tom Olson, Tom Donnelly, Anthony Santorelli, John Rachko, Tom Blackwell.

Action Auto Parts 65s (RI): Kevin Lewis, Kevin Hayes, Bob Daly.

Men's 70+ AAA:

Spring Ford 70+ (PA): Eric Young, Tom Gerahty, Ed Turner, Steve Shelly, John Cokley.

Dinos 70s (NH): David Roy, Jack Gilhooly, Jeff Fuller.

Men's 70/75+ Silver:

JAG-ONE/Jersey Master (NJ): Joe Barone, Bill Geissing, Tom Grayauskie, Dick Lillich, Ray (Hap) Royer.

Syracuse Cyclones (NY): Joe Vancito, John Gilbert, Joe Romeo, Ron DeFrancis.

Jim Sherman Memorial/ Northwest Champs

Women's 40+ Major:

Royal-T Real Estate/The LaFlamme Group (WA): Jessica Ford, Ashley Williams, Julie Pollastro, Amber Anderson, Marlene Wiseman.

O! D BYBs (OR): Amy Forconi-Beach, Heidi Ottelu, Lindsey Huston.

Women's 50/55+ Gold:

Takin' Chances (CA): Michele Dahl, Melissa Akers, Jennifer McLaughlin, Nancy Griffith.

Snap, Crackle, Pop (WA): Freda Bax, Sheri Fitzsimmons, Rene Sundby.

Women's 55/60+ AAA:

Team BattleAxe 55s (OR): Jill Mason, Heidi McCann, Julie Lynch, Michelle Bartholomew, Shelia Wilkes.

Men's 40+ AAA:

Torgi Trucking/U.P. Electric (WA): PJ Pakootas, Robbie Armstrong, Robert Sandoval, Zack Lewis, Jon Rutkowski.

Men's 50+ Major Plus:

NW Legends 50s (WA): Patrick Dos Remedios, Rocket Starkey, Jacob Proulx, Jarrod Brown.



Friends and players watch the games before preparing for their next game at the 2025 Northeast Championships.

Continued on next page

All-Tourneys: The Inaugural 2025 Great Salt Lake Championships Kicked Off with 32 Teams

Continued from previous page

Men's 50+ Gold:

Rightline (WA): Ryan Roselle, Scott Hemberry, Jason McClung.

Men's 55+ Major:

DeMarini (WA): Lamon Bradshaw, Robert Taylor, Jeff Colwell.

Men's 55/60+ Gold:

Pro Vision 55 (WA): Dan Clouse, Scott Gordon, Jimmy Buchanan, May Patajo

Men's 60+ AA:

Spin Tees (WA): Sherman Davis, Kevin Johnson, Shawn Simmonds, Dan Sutherland, Steve Zacharczyk.

Men's 65+ AAA:

Team Alaska 65: Bruce Ganyo, Mike Miller, Rick Gillespie.

Men's 65+ AA:

Northwest Force (WA): Sherman Davis, Byron Barrett, John Nelson, Norb Barthel.

Men's 65/70+ Platinum:

NW Elite Hitmen (WA): Charlie (Chaz) Pennes, Greg Bruns, Ken Childress, Scott Riley.

Timberworks/Suncoast (CA): Vern Fowler, Joe Hensley, Kevin O'Reilly.

Men's 70+ AAA:

Second Wind (WA): Mike Aries, Keith Keese, Bill McCommack, Mike Ladenburg, Bob Cahoon.

Rabble Rousers (OR): Charlie Howard, Dan Nelson, Steve Wagner.

Men's 70/75+ AA:

Vancouver USA/ILANI 70s (WA): Jerry Yung, Mike Cahill, Robert Patraw, Dave Wood.

ISA Men's Senior Worlds

Men's 65+ Major Plus:

Texas Crush Sixty Fives: Anthony

Hinojosa, Doug Kett, Larry Tostrud, Joe Witherspoon, John Roach.

Great Salt Lake Champs

Men's 50+ AAA:

Band of Brothers 50 (UT): Andy Lujan, Paul Davis, Jonas Tripp, Dan Greenberg, Joe Martinez.

Men's 55+ AAA:

Alliance/Scrap Iron 55 (CO): Dean Cohrs, Jose Solis, Tony Gilland, Steve Sullivan.

Men's 60+ Gold:

Alliance/Scrap Iron 60 (CO): Dave Bretton, Ken Young, Robert Avila, Doug Wesselink, Gary Cunninghame.

Men's 65+ AAA:

Scrap Iron Heavy Metal (CO): Tom Petrizio, Dave Lussier, Mike Fitzgerald, Mike Trospen, Art "Pops" Talbot.

Bat Attitude (UT): Dean Jamison, Kevin Brown, Scott Holt, Rod Osborne.

Alliance/Scrap Iron 65 (CO): Ken Davis, Ken Zito, John Bellatti.

Men's 65/70+ Silver:

Scrap Iron 65s Rockies (CO): Antonio Martinez, Lloyd "Butch" Jones, Rick Frahm, Jeff Kato.

Men's 70+ AA:

Scrap Iron Diamonds 70 (CO): Jay Yoakum, Chris Nye, Lupe Pena, Todd Elston.

Men's 75+ Major:

Team Minnesota: Lon Stole, Wayne Peterson, Paul Trewick, Don Goltz, Bob



Seven states were represented in the Great Salt Lake Championships, as well as a team from British Columbia.



Caryn Bradshaw (right) of Sports Salt Lake, sponsor of the inaugural 2025 Great Salt Lake Championships, accepts an appreciation award for the organization from Tournament Director Linda Weber.

Hartshorn.

Men's 75+ AAA:

75 Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO): Jim Casswell, Len Gann, Ron Hefner, Pat McGuigan, Mark Soloway.

Eastern National Champs

Women's 40+ AAA:

Lady Legends (PA): Andrea Hettinger, Stacy Boyer, Angela Levarto, Alecia Heiges, Kanee Booth.

Sr. Diamond Divas (CT): Trisha Thomas, Marissa Bianco, Sonja Butts.

Women's 50+ Gold:

Power Mix (VA): Delia Anderson, Trena Mainor, Sonya Fultz, Lisa Harvey.

Men's 40+ Major Plus:

BL2/JCH/Treedem NE 40s (PA): Brandon Bellew, Matt Lower, Keith Donahue.

Men's 40+ Major:

Motion/Edge 40s Softball (VA): Scotty Proffitt, Jered Stanley, Phillip Chapman, Brandon Tuck.

DD/PLAYMAKERS ATHLETICS/SERRA ACCT/PSB (NY): Mike Verbasco, Chris Crighton, Donny Dunn.

Men's 40+ AAA:

Sarafis Painting and Construction (PA): Kenny Reynolds, John Young, Justin Doe, Jason Dickens, Eddie Colon.

Y'All Next (MD): Travis Wirth, Ken Ward, Frankie Hogan, Andrew Tad. OPP/Nimble Crane/Pace Field

Continued on next page





25 teams at the 2025 Eastern National Championships started their first leg of the Triple Grand Slam by winning their divisions and earning berths to the USA National Games at the Worlds.

All-Tourneys: Winners of the East Will Play Winners of the West in the Worlds' USA Games

Continued from previous page

Services (DE): Brad Betts, Ryan Dougherty, Jimmie Allen.

Men's 50+ Major:

Automotive Triage (NC): Dwayne Davis, Rick Marr, Ron Merritt, Marc Kantor, Sam Edwards.

HRS/OSS Apparel/Fat Chops (RI): Jeff Coelho, Mike Almeida, Jeff Sinku.

Men's 50+ AAA:

Stud Softball (PA): Craig Holman, Gary Shamus, Jeff Kelly, Doug McMaster.

Men's 55+ Major Plus:

Team Miken/Worth/Easton (FL): Roberto Minaya, Kenny Reid, Cliff Partlow.

Men's 55+ Major:

Broughton Pharmacy (NC): Tim Wilson, David Davis, Jimmy Carter, Tony Stone, Tom Vickers.

Florida-Onyx: Andy Hicks, Dan Bench, Kevin Rivers, John McGuire.

Men's 55/60+ Gold:

Hard Hat Café/Latella's/ Caterbone Realty (CT): Bill Abildgaard, Ken



Dibble, Mike Fanara, Don DeBias, Kevin Ridley.

Howe Creative Design/The Bank (DE): Kevin Lutz, Jay Ehrhart, John Casner, Bill Korosec.

Florida Legends 60s: Pablo Marun, Al Calaguero, Thomas Head.

Men's 55/60+ AA:

Longshoremen 55 (VA): Dwayne Williams, Rob Swetz, Brian Myers, Antonio Caver, George Shelby.

Detroit Pride: Rich Moon, Gerry Nelson, Terry Downs, Vinny Caporale.

Men's 60+ AAA:

VA Journeymen: David Harrington, Charles Searight, Ken Barnes, Jim Pederson, Joey Akers.

Gaithersburg Rental/TC Backer (MD): Mike Chmielowiec, Tory Yowell, Barry Robinson, Chuck Reeder.

Men's 65+ Major Plus:

TRT (FL): Curt Musial, Howard Albritton, Bill Devine, Craig Knowles, Brian Staub.

Omega IT Services LLC (VA): Michael Woods, Andres Medina, Horace Jefferson, Rolando Flores.

Men's 65+ Major:

The Ockers Company (MA): Ken Sanders, Rich Barrett, Bill Linnehan, Steve Holmes, Dan Kelley.

Men's 70+ Major:

Pill & Pill 70 (WV): Eric Jonson, Butch Lilly, Jim Trask.

Men's 70+ AAA:

Spring Ford 70+ (PA): Tom Gerahty, Mike Shone, Gene Kushon, Bob Miller, Ron Geib.

Men's 75+ Major Plus:

Venom 75s (FL): Hawk Hawkins, Billy

Koleszar, Roy Oke, Beau Gantz, Clyde Smith.

Northern Virginia Force 75: Tom McCue, Gary Walters, Pete Shockley, Billy Redman.

Men's 75/85+ Gold:

Center For Sight (FL): John Loiacano, Jerry Pickett, Ron Dye, Mike Breitenstein.

Western National Champs

Women's 40+ Major:

Team I.S.S.U.E. (CA): Andrea Ogorchock, Valea Crowder, Stacey Arnaudo, Zeena Rossi.

Women's 40+ AAA:

Vintage Rockstars (CA): Stef Aguon, Tracy Joseph, Taryn Aguon, Josie Smith.

Vintage Baddies (WA): Tia Mahoney, Steph Kent, Jaime Seelye.

Women's 40/50+ Gold:

Takin' Chances (CA): Michelle Adkins, Melissa Akers, Carolyn Simmonds, Kristie Silva, Dawna Munoz.

Poly Chics (Cali Gold): Rachel Baldwin, Aimee Polit, Adela Dominguez.

Men's 40+ Major:

The Ravine (CA): Aneel Hanif, Rick Wasilchuk, Ramon Roybal, Jaime Castillo, Bobby Shepherd.

Legendary Old School (CA): Angel Lau, Thomas McGee, Daniel Pucchio, Bubba Rafelowski.

Men's 40+ AAA:

T.N.T. (Tacos & Tequila) (CA): Jonathan R. Martinez Jr., Brian A. Green Jr., Woa Luu, Jeremy Whitehead.

Continued on next page



All-Tourneys: 32 Teams Won Their Westerns Divisions and Berths to the TOC & USA Games

Continued from previous page

Men's 50+ Major:

A&B PLBG 50 (CA): Jonathon Amey, Tim Landrum, Steve Weathers, Jayson Wisdom, Kenny Faulkner.

Rightline (WA): Scott Hemberry, Scott Gormanous, Kevin Anderson, Aaron Gonsalves.

Men's 50+ AAA:

EUV Tech (CA): Pete Chavez, Carlos Ortega, Hector Morales, Glen Salling, James Ryan.

Men's 55+ AAA:

Cali Gold 55: Javi Salas, Jeff Davis, Bryan Wichman, Joe Concepcion, Geoff Crowley.

West Coast 55s (CA): Steve Coleman, Dennis Usrey, Steve Ballez.

Men's 60+ Major:

Top Gun Warriors (CA): Dennis Carvalho, Roy Alberts, Mike Berg, Joe Hensley, Joel Glassman.

Dirty Birds 60s (CA): Dennis Cabana, Tom Ristau, Eddy Wong.

Men's 60+ AAA:

Warriors (CA): Bobby Batis, Mario Rios, Walter Leroy Weighall, Darrell Rinde.

Men's 60+ AA:

Tri City Legends (WA): Kenny Fergen, Brian Mayer, Bill Rissberger, Juan Walker, Bill Knudson.

So Cal Riptide 60: Todd Zola, Harry Schafer, Ron Brisson.

Men's 65+ Platinum:

Cal Energy 65: Dominic Calise, Vern Ramie, Donny Owens, Darren Idler, Paul Salow.

NW Elite Hitmen (WA): Greg Bruns, Charlie (Chaz) Pennes, Scott Riley, Bob Hubbard.

Arizona Owls: Alex Carrasco, Mike Lebet, Taylor Branch.

Men's 65+ AAA:

Hustlers (CA): Ken Stewart, Ray O'Rear, Mark Fry, Dan Thompson, Greg Houle.

SportStan/Islanders 65s (CA): Gary



Sacramento, California's Capital, is home to the SSUSA home office and the Western National Championships. Due to the high number of competing teams, fields are also used in neighboring Elk Grove, Roseville and Lincoln.

Myas, Doug Uchikura, Glen Shipley, Glenn Ingram.

Men's 70+ AAA:

Excessive Force 70 (CA): Dennis Donaldson, Greg Meagher, Tim Solis, Frank Cavaco, Steve Cisneros.

Men's 70/75+ Platinum:

Scrap Iron High Octane (CO): Jamie Gowdy, Nick Longo, Steve Likes, Bobby Knowles, Tim Ryan.

Omen 75+ (CA): Jim Wright, John Cochran, Steve Hillman, Wayne Ross, Bob Cummings.

Cal Energy 70: Frank Catomerisios, Ronnie Joseph, Emilio Lobato.

Men's 75+ AAA:

Sacramento Islanders 75s (CA): Mike Berlant, Bruce Gilmore, Rich Edwards.

Men's 80+ Major Plus:

Maverick Construction 80s (TX): Phil Biedronski, Bob Schreyer, Joe Flores, Frank Krawczyk.

Men's 80+ Major:

Gold Rush (CA): Dan Garcia, Bill Labrum, Ed Kirkley, Jimmy Martin, Dan Kiser.

Men's 75/80/85+ Gold:

Enforcers (CA): Hershall Hamilton, John Hoffman, Kent Grant, Willie Elder, Bill Neri.

Southern Champs

Women's 50+ Major:

50 Shades Women's Team (IN): Marvelyn Green, Janell Hewett-Lawrence, Eunice Gibson, Vernessa Williams, Tracey Knight.

Women's 50+ AAA:

Highly Favored (FL): Kelly Cable, Jennifer Hinkle, Joyce Hongell, Lori Johnson, Marti Duncan.

Men's 40/50+ Platinum:

Baugh Ford (FL): Brandon Murray, Bryan Williams, Ron Yeager, Jason Leek, Tommy Baugh.

Hysteria/Spartan Contracting (FL): "JR" Gene Tary, Pablo Reid, Joseph Lambert, John Rogers.

Men's 50+ AAA:

M&J Precision/Twin States Softball (AL): Jeff Smith, Davy Estes, Michael

Continued on next page



The Women's division of the Southern Championships in Dalton, Georgia, return for the first time since 2022.

All-Tourneys: Rocky Mountain is the Fourth TOC Qualifier to Break Records in 2025 Season

Continued from previous page

Hester, Randy Morris, Ricci Moore.

Men's 55+ AAA:

Ryan Steel/Renegades (GA): Scott Atkin, Jeff Gordon, Jeff Schram, Lee Vandiver.

Men's 60+ AAA:

Peacemakers 60s (TN): Chuck Williams, Sam Beale, Earl Thaxton, Russell Jacobs, Clif Parker.

Men's 65+ Major:

DT Express (GA): Curt Maurer, Marty Dockins, Gary Davenport, Jeff Cherry.

Men's 70/75+ AAA:

Southern Storm (GA): Richard Brummett, Moto Miller, Mike Brassier, Frankie Fletcher, Pete Fowler.

Rocky Mountain Champs

Men's 50+ Major:

SSC/Persuaders (KS): Steve Taylor, Jim Ward, Dana Wendelin, Troy Mentzer, Matt O'Brien.

Men's 60+ AAA:

Lumberjack Red (MN): Tony Reme, Wayne Schafran, Andy Wallis, Jim Wolf, Walt Welzin.

Omaha Silver Bullets/Minleon (NE): Bob Lausten, Scott Emery, Pat Stessman, Jeff Roby.

Minnesota Thunder: Don Nicholson, Jeff Miller, George Zabadal.

Men's 60+ AA:

Colorado Renegades: Kevin Hayes, Judd Stewart, Paul Rodriguez, Rick Silva, Marty Stanton.

Men's 65/70+ Platinum:

Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder 65 (CO): Steve Antonczyk, Kirk Taylor, Dave Ballard.

Men's 65/70+ Gold:

Milwaukee Merchants/Shirts and Logos (WI): James Norton, Mark Stasiewicz, Sid Prom, David Sarandos, Rich Olson.

Men's 70/75+ Gold:

Scrap Iron 5280' (CO): Jim Little, Rya Upp, Carl Markey, Ted Lucero, Gary Nation.

Men's 75/80+ AAA:

USA Patriots (OK): Herchel Lowery, Tom Stanton, Bobby Priutt, Randy Rowe, Ron Oestmann.

75 Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO): Jim Casswell, Terry Goodrich, Ron Hefner, Ralph Perkins.

Past Tournaments:

The following are All-Tournament Player Selections not published in the previous newspapers with their corresponding tournament:

2025 Southwest Championships, NV

Men's 75+ Major:

Animals 75s (CA): Ray Lucas, Larry Scotten, Danny Estin, Kerry Gates.



13 out of 83 teams won their divisions at the 2025 Rocky Mountain Championships, earning berths to the 2026 Tournament of Championships. See pages 8-9 for the Rocky Mountain Champs story.

Rock 'N' Reno Challenge Cup, NV

Men's 75+ Major:

Animals 75s (CA): Dennis Barrett, Dave Conley, Gary Garcia, Mike So, Kevin Buchanan.

Managers, if your team's selections are not listed here, please email your selections to info@seniorsoftball.com.



Beautiful sunset at Aurora Sports Complex, home of the Rocky Mountain Championships.

Heard From The Dugout

"It's not about being the best, it's about being better than you were yesterday."

Unknown

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