



# SPIRIT OF GIVING

## Spreading Goodness Far and Wide

GENEROSITY AND SOFTBALL FIT LIKE A GLOVE PAGES 6-8

Photo by Tulio Ontiveros

# Original TOC Marks 2 Decades in Central Florida

By Donna McGuire  
Softball News Report

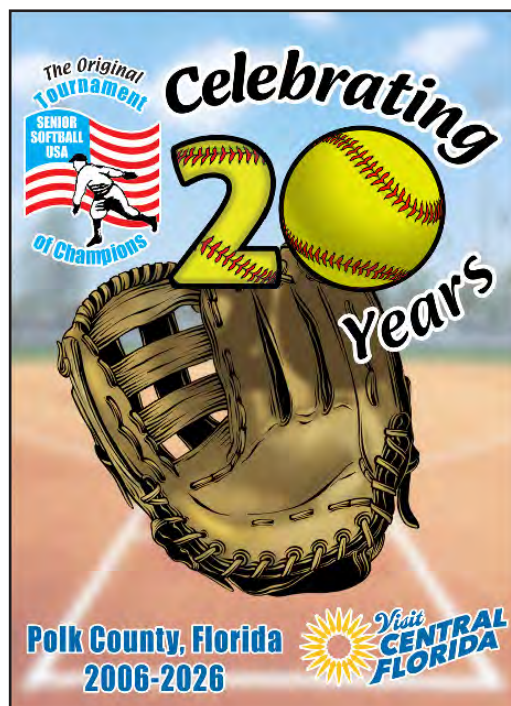
A competitive all-star game, spirited skills competitions, an opening reception, superb weather, and the playing of nearly 300 softball games highlighted SSUSA's 20th annual Tournament of Champions.

Ninety-one teams from 27 states and Canada descended on Polk County, Florida, for five days of competition, which started with the all-star game and ended with 29 teams crowned as champions.

It's a special tournament for a simple reason: Only champions get invited. No other senior softball association offers this talent-laden, champions-only tournament format.

Each team was allowed to nominate one player for Wednesday evening's all-star game, which featured

Continued on Page 18



Poster Design by Sheldon Carpenter



NATIONAL/SSUSA  
HALL OF FAME  
PAGES 29-35



SUPERSTARS  
PAGES 25-26



NEW RULEBOOKS  
PAGE 17



INTERNATIONAL  
SOFTBALL TOURS  
PAGES 14-15

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# Index

## From the Cover:

**Spirit of Giving:** Pgs. 6-8

**2026-2027 International Trips:**  
Pgs. 14-15

**New Rulebooks:** Pg. 17

**20th Original Tournament of  
Champions:** Pgs 18-20

**Superstars / Coveted Titles:**  
Pgs. 25-26

**National / SSUSA Hall of  
Fame:** Pgs. 29-35

## News Index:

**Editorial & Cartoon**.....Pg. 4

**Hitting Column**.....Pg. 5

**6th Caribbean Classic**.....Pg. 8

**AARP Doorbell Cameras**.Pg.9

**Health Column**.....Pg. 10

**2026 Aloha Bowl**.....Pgs. 11-12

**Senior Moments**.....Pg. 13

**Umpire's Corner**.....Pg. 16

**TOC All-Tourneys**...Pgs. 21-23

**Money Matters**.....Pg. 24

**90+ Stars**.....Pgs. 27-29

**Covering Bases**.....Pg. 30

## Sponsor Index:

**Baden** .....Pg. 2

**LLERANDI  
GLOVES** .....Pg. 23

**lite** .....Pg. 33

**Las Vegas** .....Pg. 36

## Bat Sponsors:

**Anonymous Athletics**.....Pg. 4

**Easton**.....Pg. 5

**Worth**.....Pg. 9

**Wicked Sports**.....Pg. 9

**DeMarini**.....Pg. 10

**Short Porch**.....Pg. 12

**Spartan Bat Company**.....Pg. 16

**Miken**.....Pg. 17

**Suncoast Softball**.....Pg. 17

**Victus Sports**.....Pg. 20

**California Bat Company**.....Pg. 24

**Marucci Sports**.....Pg. 24

**Dudley Sports**.....Pg. 30

**Axe Bats**.....Pg. 30

# Spring into Play

When Alfred Lord Tennyson penned the phrase “in the spring, a young man’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love,” clearly, he wasn’t thinking of softball players.

Had he been, he might have swapped out “thoughts of love” for thoughts of spring training.

Yes, it’s that time of year when we just can’t wait to get back out on the diamond, smelling the cool green grass and limbering up to run the bases once again.

But just as you probably need to shake off the dust on your softball equipment, don’t neglect your own physical equipment. You know, like your arms and legs, shoulders and knees, in addition to those vital organs that keep you motoring around the diamond.

It surely wouldn’t hurt to make an appointment for your annual physical to ensure that all your parts are working and you’re good to go for another exciting season.

## Editorial



By Sue Ballenger



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# Improving Your Softball Exit Speed

## Softball News Report

One of the metrics in Major League Baseball and now softball is exit speed. Exit speed is gathered by using one of the simple radar meters that are economically available. It measures how fast a softball will rebound off a bat and how much reaction time the fielders will have to respond.

A homerun is easy to judge for distance, but judging line drive and ground ball speed is not. As we work on improving our hitting, an exit speed meter can give data showing improvement in our velocity.

Our bat speed will generally be slower than the average ball exit speed with senior equipment, so our meter records ball exit speed or how fast the ball leaves the barrel. The units used are miles per hour.

What type of hit gives the fastest exit speed? The ball struck most squarely will transfer more bat head mass to the ball. Like breaking the rack in pool with a square cueball hit, a softball hit in the middle, will produce a hard ground ball or low trajectory line drive and the maximum exit speed.

If we hit a homerun with underspin, since the bat head struck the bottom half of the ball, it's a more angled blow and the exit speed will be considerably less but trajectory and underspin provide carry.

We have been using exit speed on the show for

## Hitting Column By Ken Van Bogaert

more than a dozen years. It monitors speed improvement as hitters work on better mechanics. We also came up with a formula that gives distance potential.

If you take your fastest exit speed and multiply it by 4 feet of distance for each MPH, it gives approximate distance of homerun potential. At 80 MPH, you will have some ability to hit over a 300-foot fence. (80 MPH x 4 = 320 Feet). Of course you need proper homerun mechanics.

Understand a one hop liner past the pitcher may be 90 mph, but the same hitters underspun homerun that travels 360 feet, will typically be around 80 mph.

How do I improve exit speed and what factors affect it? There are many variables. The ball used, .cor and compression, temperature at which it was stored, humidity of the air, the bat used, how well it was broken in are some of the equipment factors. The athlete's level of explosiveness, the physical size and strength and finally how good their hitting mechanics help determine final exit speed.

What is a good exit speed? The fastest I have recorded was by Conference Star Ryan Harvey at 121 MPH. Harvey is an elite hitter. A big man, who had minor league experience, Harvey hit this with well used balls in the heat of an 80-degree day. Under cooler

conditions with good balls, he would be higher. Harvey's 121 mph x 4 would mean he could reach 480 feet of distance. I filmed him hitting four balls over 500 feet in one session, so the formula gives a good idea of exit speed needed for distance.

Our testing shows that with senior bats, legal balls and normal conditions, 40 to 60 mph is quite common for older or rec seniors. Higher level seniors would be 70 to 85 mph. Top Senior power hitters will hit over 90 mph, and the elite few reach 100 mph.

Be a bit wary of some of the internet exit speeds people post. Using softballs that sat in 50-degree temperatures,

I would see at least a 10 mph increase over normal conditions.

But overall, exit speed can show your technique improvements, and let you know where your current physical ability is and help motivate an explosive targeted workout that will help you improve. The faster your line drives and ground balls are, the harder they will be to field defensively. So, it's a fun tool to fine tune your hitting.

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





2026 Caribbean Classic players and guests deliver new and lightly used softball equipment to youth baseball/softball clubs in the Dominican Republic, who are wearing new uniforms purchased with funds donated in the late Jim Caterbone's name.

## Growing Goodness One Gift at a Time

By Terry Hennessy  
Softball News Report

**T**he innate goodness in the simple act of giving inspires others and often creates hope.

Fortunately, one does not have to look far in our own sport to see heartening examples.

Just in the past 12 months, thousands of dollars in donated bats, balls, gloves, uniforms, and bikes flowed to impoverished kids in the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Panama and in Phoenix. All donations came from senior softball players.

In January, for example, 60 children from a youth baseball school gathered with senior softball players at the Caribbean Classic in the Dominican Republic to receive gifts of equipment

and uniforms.

The charity extends beyond needy children.

In Southern California, the Top Gun Softball Club has donated thousands of dollars each year to the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society, which helps military families in need.

And in Wisconsin, Tom Mikich's Milwaukee Classic has raised \$109,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project since 2004.

Some gifts were very personal.

In an amazing act of kindness a few years ago, Dick Reader, 75, of Phoenix and his wife took in a player they did not know who suffered a heart attack and could not return to Hawaii until he recovered – 2 months later.

“After I suffered a major heart attack playing against



Jim Caterbone's family directed donations to go for kids in the Dominican Republic.

Dick's team in Phoenix, Dick found out I would be alone until another Hawaii team came to the tournament the next week,” said Fred Entilla. “He invited me to stay with him until I could go home to Hawaii. Because of complications, I ended up staying with Dick and his wife for 2 months. It was amazing: they took a

complete stranger into their home.”

The 2026 SSUSA Caribbean Classic was a wellspring of charity.

The family of Jim Caterbone, 64, who died at the Northeast Championships in Syracuse, asked for donations to be sent to the Caribbean Classic for needy kids in the Dominican Republic. The \$3,250 in donations that poured in was used to buy uniforms for 240 kids.

Conway Waddy III brought 12 bats donated by Smash-It-Sports, and other Senior Softball players brought an assortment of equipment that went both to children in the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

In February, a shipment of balls, gloves, shoes and equipment – sponsored by

Continued on next page



Dominican children line up on the field with the USA teams in Punta Cana with new uniforms, purchased with funds donated from Jim Caterbone's services.

## Goodwill: Phoenix Tourney Donates 60+ Bikes and Toys to Kids

Continued from previous page

senior players – landed in Caracas.

“Without politics, without religion, without profit, but with an immense amount of heart, this tradition of giving remains the most shining highlight of our Caribbean tournament,” said Tulio Ontiveros, tour director of the Caribbean Classic who coordinates the donations. (See story on page 9).

Closer to home, in Phoenix, more than 60 bikes were donated to impoverished children for Christmas in Rick Seifman’s annual Toys for Kids tournament in December.

Three Road Warriors teams (60, 65 and 70) raised \$5,000 that was used to buy

the first 31 bikes – and they then challenged the other teams in the tournament to buy more. Other teams responded, including the Los Vatos Viejos 70s, which donated 15 bikes.

Teams also donated toys and canned goods in the Christmas drive.

A different pathway of charity – this one ending in Panama – started in Northern California in 2022 and took



Venezuelan youth softball organization received donations of equipment from USA attendees of the 2026 Caribbean Classic.



Awards at the Milwaukee Classic - Wounded Warrior Benefit qualifier. Champions win \$1000 donated in their team's name to the Wounded Warriors and a tri-foled American Flag.

off in 2025.

“Back in February of 2022, I was going to Panama on vacation and

mentioned it to one of my teams,” said Gary Holmes, coach of the Original OG’s

Continued on next page



100s of bikes, toys, games and more were donated by teams at the annual 2026 Toys For Kids Christmas Benefit recreational tournament in Phoenix.

# Hearts Beyond the Diamond: 6th Caribbean Classic

By **Tulio Ontiveros**  
**Caribbean Co-director**  
**Softball News Report**

The sixth annual Senior Softball USA Caribbean Classic was far more than a sporting success. It was a vibrant celebration of competition, friendship, and, above all, the profound generosity of the SSUSA community.

While the games were intense, the true heart of the tournament was felt off the field during the humanitarian activities that have become the soul of this Caribbean circuit.

This year, more than 60 children from the "Las Estrellas del Futuro" youth baseball school were the guests of honor. Thanks to the logistics provided by our host hotel, the children and their coaches were able to join the players for a day of sharing and snacks.

The official opening ceremony was particularly



**Tulio, the annual Caribbean Classic's long-time co-director, helps coordinate not only the trip for US players and guests, but the donations to youth softball clubs in the Dominican Republic and South America.**

moving, as these young athletes stood proudly alongside the players during the national anthems of the USA, Curaçao, and the Dominican Republic.

However, the most powerful moment — one that touched the very soul of every participant — was the "mass hug." In a spontaneous display

of gratitude, the children swarmed the players with affection.

The impact was visible.

One of the American women said, "I have never experienced such a pure display of love from children before." Another player, with tears in his eyes, confessed, "I don't think I've ever been hugged by so many people at once in my entire life."

The personal involvement of the players and their families in delivering donations has become one of the most anticipated parts of the trip.

This spirit of giving continued in February, as the "Los Caciques" baseball school — from an underprivileged sector of Caracas — received a shipment of balls, gloves, shoes and equipment.

*Tulio Ontiveros is the Tour Director and coordinated donations for the SSUSA Caribbean Classics.*

## Goodwill: Drive Starts for Donations to Kids in Panama

Continued from previous page

70s in Sacramento. "I told them if they wanted to donate some used equipment, I'd take it in a suitcase."

The response was 30 gloves and balls that filled two duffle bags.

Fast-forward to 2025.

That year, the response from players in Northern California totaled 50 gloves, 200 baseballs, some helmets and shin guards for the impoverished kids in Panama.

Gary approached SSUSA and said if players could send

equipment to the SSUSA office in Sacramento, he would take care of shipping it to Panama.

Here's the new or used equipment needed for Panama kids: T-Ball gear, batting helmets, catcher's gear, turf shoes or spikes. Bats for kids, including Little League bats (ages 9-12) Intermediate bats (ages 11-13) Juniors (ages 13-14) and seniors (ages 14-16).

**Equipment can be sent to:**

Senior Softball USA  
 C/O Panama/ Gary



**Above: Sacramento area resident and player Gary Holmes (top right) leads softball equipment donations to kids in Panama.**

Holmes  
 9823 Old Winery Place,  
 Suite 12  
 Sacramento, CA, 95827  
 Or contact Gary Holmes  
 at: dio354@yahoo.com.

However donations are made, the impact goes beyond the gift itself.

Others join and goodness grows.

# AARP: Many Uses for a Camera Doorbell

By Lexi Pandell  
Reprinted from AARP

**Y**ou've probably seen funny videos of people getting into scrapes on a front porch or yard. In the past, those embarrassing moments might have gone unnoticed, but now doorbell cameras are always watching. "I'm a big believer in putting them in for security," says Kirk MacDowell, president and CEO of MacGuard Security Advisors. "But the amount of use that you get out of it is really cool - and it can be fun." Here are a few other practical or fun uses.

## Capturing Comedy:

Funny Doorbell camera videos can be found across the internet. They include footage of Halloween decorations startling delivery people and dogs ringing the bell to go back inside. "I have video of my daughter-in-law walking out, slipping on the ice and sliding down the driveway," MacDowell says. (She wasn't hurt.)

## Viewing Wildlife:

Barb Allhoff, 69, of suburban St. Louis bought a doorbell camera for the back of her house to keep an eye on her dog. Other animals were making appearances too. "Rabbits, Squirrels, Racoons,

Possums and skunks. One year, we had a fawn," she says. Now she checks for animals and downloads cute clips to share.

## Neighborhood Watch:

Jordan Gill, 48, of Berkely, California, found hacked-off tree branches at his doorstep. "Like some sort of Mafia move," he says. He checked his camera footage and alerted police about a woman who lopped of the limbs. Since then, Gill has used his videos to help people who had tires stolen or were in an accident.

**Communicating:** You can also use two-way audio to talk with friends when they

stop by and you're not home. Or do like Alison Roberts, a 62-year-old in Petaluma, California. "I was having work done in my backyard while I was at work," She says. "I was able to take a look at the camera, see the guys and talk to them about it.

*Lexi Pandell is a contributing writer who covers technology. Her work also appears in Wired, The New York Times, The Atlantic and other publications.*

*Reprinted from the AARP Magazine, February/ March 2026, page 18.*

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## Exercise Properly to Avoid Inflammation

### Softball News Report

**T**here is a complex relationship between exercise and inflammation. Today, we'll talk about how exercise stimulates inflammation and in the next issue, we'll discuss how exercise can suppress it.

You've probably heard the term inflammation hundreds of times. Inflammation is activated by a wide variety of triggers. And the immune system may or may not be involved. For example, a simple blister is localized inflammation without much of an immune response. Conversely, an infection also stimulates the immune system.

So, inflammation is a normal response and it shuts down when the trigger is resolved.

Exercise-induced inflammation can be categorized as acute or delayed.

Acute inflammation occurs while you are exercising: straining a low-back muscle while doing bent-over rows, or if you roll your ankle, etc. The inflammatory process is activated to repair the damaged tissues.

Delayed inflammation is not due to an obvious injury. It occurs the following day, and is sustained for several days thereafter. This happens when the exercise or activity is much more strenuous than that muscle group is used to.

If you perform a new activity too vigorously whether it's exercise or yard work or moving heavy furniture, you experience sore muscles and stiff joints for several days. For example, I hate push-ups so I never do them. If I performed 50 push-ups today, the muscles in my arms, shoulders, and chest would be sore tomorrow.

Explaining what happens at the cellular level is pretty complex. But essentially, muscle fibers and/or connective tissues are torn. In addition, the membranes of muscle cells may be damaged. These injuries activate a variety of molecules and proteins. And, inflammation causes damaged tissues to swell. Each of those processes can cause pain and tenderness.

So, how do you avoid post-exercise inflammation? There are several strategies:

First, don't suddenly subject a muscle group to a

### Health Column

By Stan Reents

### PharmD Health Coach

new exercise at an intense level. Let's say you are a seasoned distance runner. Your calf muscles are used to 30 minutes of continuous, intense effort. Now, you decide to start doing 200 crunches per day, something you haven't been doing regularly. Your abdominal muscles are definitely going to be sore. There is even a chance rhabdomyolysis occurs in that muscle group.

The second strategy is to

take an NSAID drug before the work out. This helps to suppress the inflammatory process before it is triggered.

Bottom line: When adding a new exercise, work up to a high intensity methodically over a period of 10-14 days.

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

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# Record Number of Teams Compete in Aloha Bowl

By Donna McGuire  
Softball News Report

A record 45 teams enjoyed Hawaiian sunshine as they competed in Senior Softball-USA's 2026 Aloha Bowl March 3-8.

Balanced competition emerged in many of the divisions. Only four of 14 championship teams compiled unblemished records during play at the Patsy T. Mink Central Oahu Regional Park in Waipahu.

Many returning Hawaiian teams enjoyed battling against first-time entrants from California, Washington and Florida, said Tournament Director Jeffrey Kimoto. Teams from Idaho and Nevada made repeat appearances.

Good weather greeted them all.

"For the first time in five years, we had no rain," Kimoto said.

Winners earned berths to the 2027 Tournament of



Photos by Elite Sports USA

2026 Aloha Bowl Champion teams received tournament specific champion jerseys, a surf board shaped trophy, 5 All-Tourney Selections and a TOC Berth.

Champions in Polk County, Florida.

## Results:

### Women's 40+ Major:

Unbeaten Firestarter of Washington swept Get Nutz of Hawaii 25-24 and 22-7 in a best-of-three format. Firestarter averaged 22

runs a game while going 5-0.

### Women's 40+ Silver:

The second-seeded AA team Poly Chics/Cali Gold started 0-3 in pool play but won three bracket games against AAA competition. Poly Chics lost the first title game 21-13, but won an if-needed squeaker 26-25 over top-seeded Shut D of Hawaii. Idaho Spirit 40s finished third in the three-team division.

### Women's 50/55+ AAA:

Unbeaten in five games, the top-seeded 50+ AAA team Highly Favored of Florida defeated the second-seeded 55+ AAA team Good Vibes of California 21-6 for the title. Highly Favored outscored its competition 94-41 in the five games. Third-seeded Go For Broke of Hawaii finished third in the three-team division.

**Men's 40+ Major:** Top-seeded Getnutz of Hawaii

won its first two bracket games by one run each before falling 24-17 in the first championship game. Getnutz then defeated sixth-seeded Yellow Dragons/Expert Auto Care/AG Construction of California 29-19 in the if-needed title game to win the seven-team division. Fifth-seeded Legendary Old School of California took third.

### Men's 40+ AAA:

Top-seeded T.N.T. (Tacos & Tequila) of California lost the first title game 23-21 before rebounding to secure the title with a 27-23 victory in the if-needed game against third-seeded Go Deep Sports of Hawaii. T.N.T. averaged 24 runs a game while going 6-1 overall. Sixth-seeded Ol Dirty Ballerz of California won four elimination games to finish third in the eight-team division, the tournament's largest.

**Men's 40+ AA:** Playing a best-of-three format, Olakino 40s of Hawaii swept Lanakila of Hawaii 28-27 and 18-15 for the title. Olakino finished 3-2 overall.

**Men's 50+ AAA:** Also playing a best-of-three format, Hawaiians needed all three games to subdue HI Heat 50s 16-22, 18-14 and 22-18. The Hawaiians finished 3-3 overall.

### Men's 55/60+

**Platinum:** The second-seeded Shut-D 55s of Hawaii finished as 55+ Major champs with a 25-18 title-game victory over the top-seeded 60+ Major Plus team



Two-thirds of the teams competing were from Hawaii.

Continued on next page

## Aloha Bowl: 14 Teams Earn TOC Berths in First TOC Qualiifer of 2026

Continued from previous page

Hawaii Five-0. Shut-D went 5-2 overall. The third-seeded Hawaiians finished third in three-team division.

### Men's 60/65+ Gold:

Top-seeded and unbeaten Hawaii Five-O earned the 65+ Major title by defeating the third-seeded Hawaiians 60 Red 22-7 in the title game. Hawaiians 60 Red won the 60+ AAA title. Five-0 finished 5-0. Hawaiians Red won three elimination games to reach the championship. Second-seeded Hawaiians 60 Blue took third in the five-team division.

### Men's 65+ AAA:

Top-seeded Warriors-Imua of Hawaii went 4-1 overall, including a 18-14

championship victory over the third-seeded Hawaiians 65. Second-seeded SportStan/ Islanders 65s of California finished third in the three-team division.

### Men's 65/70+ Silver:

The top-seeded 70+ AAA team Kona Lawa Kua Nui of Hawaii won two one-run games on its way to a 5-0 overall record and a 15-10 championship victory over the second-seeded Warriors 70 of Hawaii. Third place in the three-team division went to 808 Hawaii.

### Men's 70/75/80+ Gold:

The top-seeded Warriors 75 of Hawaii earned the 75+ AAA TOC berth and division title by winning the title game 7-0 over the third-seeded 80+ Major team Ho'oikaika of Hawaii. Second-seeded HI Warriors 70 of Hawaii earned the 70+ AA TOC berth and also finished third in the four-team division.



Hawaiian State Director Jeffrey Kimoto played with his team, SportStan/Islanders 65s of California, during the first session.



Who I Follow scoring allowed players and interested parties see real-time scoring updates online.

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# Senior Moments: Memories of a Distant Past

## Softball News Report

The cliché is, “The days are long but the years are short.” I still feel like a kid, and act that way a lot, too. But the calendar, and photographic evidence, indicate otherwise.

Here’s something I learned as a salesman early in my working years and continued to practice as a dentist for 40 years - smiles are contagious. Yes, it’s another cliché, but clichés need to have that grain of truth.

Many senior softballers are grandparents, and isn’t it natural to compare what we see our grandkids doing - and getting for presents - as compared to what we had and did? Here’s one of my grumpy old man rants: I hate seeing children being gifted with bikes or go-karts or whatever that are battery powered. Make them pedal I say! Better for them in every way. Of course I didn’t say anything to my kids when they bought those things for the grandkids.

I just smiled.

Another thing I dislike is when people won’t let kids play on their lawn to protect the grass. I know some people put a lot of work into their lawns - but I once heard that raising kids is more important than raising grass and that’s hard to argue.

My dad wasn’t really into baseball, so the first time I ever saw baseball on TV (or anywhere) I was about 5 years old, and visiting my grandparents in southern Indiana. My grampa was watching a game on a (of course) black and white TV with a rabbit ears antenna, and

## Senior Moments

By Dave Weinman

it was a pretty fuzzy image because they lived quite a way from Indianapolis. I asked Grampa what he was watching and he said it was the Indianapolis Indians.

I asked him why they didn’t look like Indians and I recall the answer was unsatisfactory.

I’m a child of the suburbs - first Indianapolis and later Syracuse - so I know my childhood experiences differ from those of my friends who grew up in different circumstances. But most of us have some memories of culture, toys, history, that we all share. Like where we were when we heard JFK was shot, or more recently the events of 9/11/01.

How many of you played with Hula-Hoops? (First marketed by Wham-O in 1958).

Silly Putty hit the big time in 1955. Pretty cool stuff.

The transistor was invented in 1947 and hence transistor radios. The SONY TR 63 was the first really big seller. It came out in 1957 and eventually millions were sold. I had one.

I loved Strat-O-Matic Baseball. Me and my nerd high school friends played a lot of it. It’s still made and sold by the way and it can be played by computer or the old-fashioned way with cards and dice if you want. I never threw out my games or player cards and when I see that old box I’m filled with nostalgia for the friends I played with



and for that era of baseball - the late 60s and early 70s. My Strat-O-Matic team was always the Cincinnati Reds, the Big Red Machine. What a team. Pete Rose, Joe Morgan, Johnny Bench, Ken Griffey, Tony Perez, and of course lots of other great players. Always just a tiny bit thin in the pitching department unfortunately, but they had a few good ones. Gary Nolan, Jim Merrit and Jack Billingham come to mind, but there were others.

I really got hooked on following baseball in 1967, the year I turned 14. After finishing ninth in 1966, the Red Sox would win the pennant if they could defeat the first place Twins - who were just one game ahead - in the last two games of the season. Led by triple crown winner Carl Yaztrzemski and pitcher Jim Lonborg they did take both games from the Twins to win the AL. They went on to lose the World Series in seven games to a great Cardinals team that included Series MVP Bob Gibson, who won three games,

Lou Brock, who hit .414 and stole 7 bases, and Roger Maris, who hit .385. Wow. All the games were on in the afternoon in those days of course; I listened on my TR 63 radio on the bus ride home from school, and after that as I delivered newspapers. (Which is how I earned the money for that radio.)

Then there was the '68 Series - where the Tigers upset those mighty Cardinals in seven games, a year in which Denny McLain won 31 games but Mickey Lolich ended up being the Series MVP. Lolich is the last pitcher to have three complete game victories in a World Series and it’s pretty safe to say we won’t be seeing that, or a 30-game winner, ever again.

Oh where does the time go? Enjoy every drop of it my friends. And keep smiling because.... people will smile back!

*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.*

# Waiting List for 2026 Spain, 2026 Canada Open; 2027 Goes Down Under and Sets Sail in Hawaii

## Softball News Report

International softball adventures are shaping up quickly for 2027 with trips and games planned in the Caribbean in January, Australia in the spring, and a cruise to play on the Hawaiian Islands in November. The Pacific Rim is tentatively slotted for South Korea sometime in the late fall of 2027, as well.

In addition, the 2026 softball tour opportunities are closing fast.

The 2026 Caribbean Classic in the Dominican Republic in January was successful in many ways – not just softball (see story on Page 6).

And the 37th Annual SSUSA International Tour in October, which features 2-day tournaments in Madrid and Barcelona, has filled.

However, Senior Softball players still have a chance to compete in the 2026 Pacific Rim Championships in Canada in the fall.

Canada sponsors the 10th Annual Pacific Rim Championships on Aug. 27-28 in conjunction with the largest Masters-Seniors tournament in Canada in Niagara Falls.

Teams invited to the Pacific Rim include China, Guam, Hong



**Famous Sydney Opera House in Sydney Harbor, home to multiple theaters, cinemas, opera and performance halls, restaurants, bars and a lounge.**

Kong, Japan, Macau, South Korea, the United States and the host – Canada.

Slo-Pitch National is hosting the Pacific Rim and is promoting it to the Canadian teams competing at its Nationals in the same venue in Niagara Falls. Each Pacific Rim area is allowed two teams.

Any SSUSA registered player is eligible to participate in this chance to plan internationally, meet players, and experience the beauty of Niagara Falls.

For next year, players can look forward to the 7th Annual Caribbean Classic, which returns to the luxury all-inclusive Resort

home in the Dominican Republic Jan. 13-18, 2027.

US players will compete on the resort's softball field against Dominican and Curacao teams in beautiful Punta Cana. With a deep history of baseball, the Dominican Republic provides great competition for the US teams.

The 38th Annual Senior Softball Tour goes Down Under in Spring 2027, with games in Sydney and Cairns and a trip to the Australian Outback to have dinner under magnificent stars at Uluru (Ayers Rock), a trip to the Great Barrier Reef, the rainforest train ride and Sydney harbor. SSUSA expects to announce dates in the next few weeks in either March or April 2027.

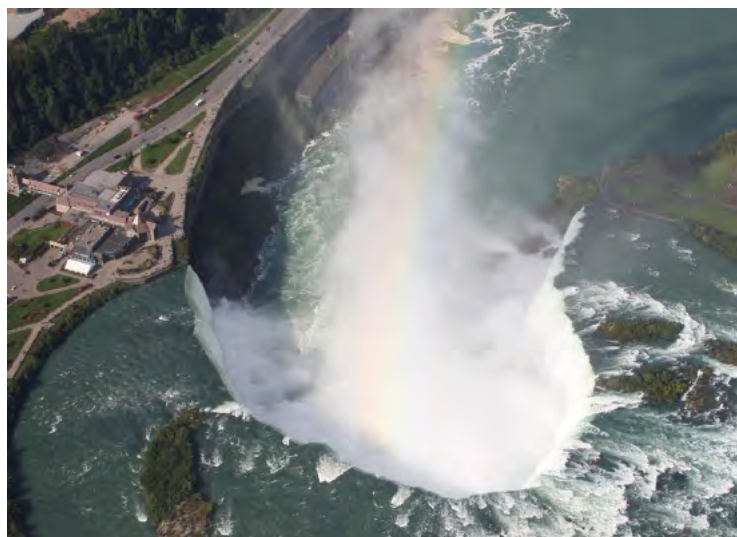
And you can play in paradise in November 2027. There will be

games in Oahu before players and family board the Pride of America for a 7-day cruise and games in Kona on the Big Island, Maui and Kauai. The Hawaiian adventure will be Nov. 3-13, 2027.

Dates for the 2027 Pacific Rim Championships will be decided in August during the Pacific Rim Slow-Pitch Softball Federation Board meeting in Canada. However, South Korea has already expressed interest in hosting the 2027 Pacific Rim Championships.

SSUSA will have more details soon on the 2027 adventures!

For more information about SSUSA International Tours, see (<https://seniorsoftball.com/?page=35>) or email [nic@srniorsoftball.com](mailto:nic@srniorsoftball.com)



**Niagara Fall's famous Horseshoe Falls from a satellite view.**



**While games will be hosted in Kona, Maui and Kauai, the island cruise also docks in Hilo, located on the big island.**

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## 2026

Canada Hosts the  
2026 Pacific Rim  
August 24-31, 2026  
(Open; Forms Online)

Play and Have Fun in Spain  
October 15-27, 2026  
(FULL)

## 2027

8th Annual Caribbean Classic  
returns to the Dominican Republic  
January 13-18, 2027

Australia  
Spring 2027

Cruise in Hawaii  
November 3-13, 2027

# Umpire's Corner: Can it be Caught for an Out?

By Donna McGuire  
Softball News Report

During the most recent Senior Softball USA Winter Worlds, an umpire on break recounted a situation he experienced as a player during the World Championships in Las Vegas.

Two directors and an umpire listened – then gave three different answers on what constituted the correct call.

If directors and umpires cannot agree, you can bet the play is an unusual one.

Here it is:

Runners were on first and third bases with one out. The third baseman was playing behind the baseline when the batter hit a rocket toward third. The fair ball smacked the runner in the left shoulder while he retained contact with the base. He fell backward, off the base, writhing in pain. The ball ricocheted skyward toward the shortstop, who caught it. The ball still had not hit the dirt. The shortstop sprinted toward the still-down runner and tagged him before he got back to the base. The other runners advanced safely.

What do you have?

One person listening to the story said: Out on the catch. Out on the tagged runner. Inning over.

The second listener disagreed. He said: No catch. The tagged runner is out. The inning continues with two outs and runners at first and second.

The third listener shook her head.

She disagreed with both.

Her rationale: Because the

## Umpire's Corner By Donna McGuire

fair batted ball hit the runner while he had contact with the base, and because the third baseman was playing behind the runner, the umpire should have called “Dead ball,” and awarded the batter-runner first base. The runner on first should have been awarded second because he was forced to move up. The injured runner at third should have been placed back on third base. Bases loaded. Still one out.

Yep. We have a winner. That is correct.

The odd play also raises other fun-to-think-about “what if” questions.

For example, what if a batted line drive deflects in flight off a pitcher’s glove and hits a runner going between second and third bases – and then the shortstop catches the ball without it hitting the ground?

Take your time. Think it through. What is the call?

First, the umpire must decide whether the runner intentionally interfered with the deflected batted ball. If the umpire believes the contact was intentional, he should call interference. The runner would be out, the batter-runner would be awarded first base.

If the umpire does not believe the runner intentionally interfered, the ball would remain live and the play would continue.

OK. So, if no interference happened, should the umpire call the batter-runner out

because the shortstop caught the ball before it contacted the ground?

Answer: No.

Do you know why?

A ball deflected off the pitcher remains live. If it had deflected off the pitcher and been caught by a defender before hitting the ground, it would be a legal catch and an out.

But in this case, the deflected ball hit a runner. That is the same as if the ball had hit the ground, a base, the fence – or even a base umpire. The ball no longer can be caught for an out in those situations. On the other hand, if a ball deflects off a defender, it still can be caught for an out before it hits the ground or a fence, or a runner, or an umpire.

Balls caught after

deflections do happen. But usually not after the ball hit a runner. Those are rare.

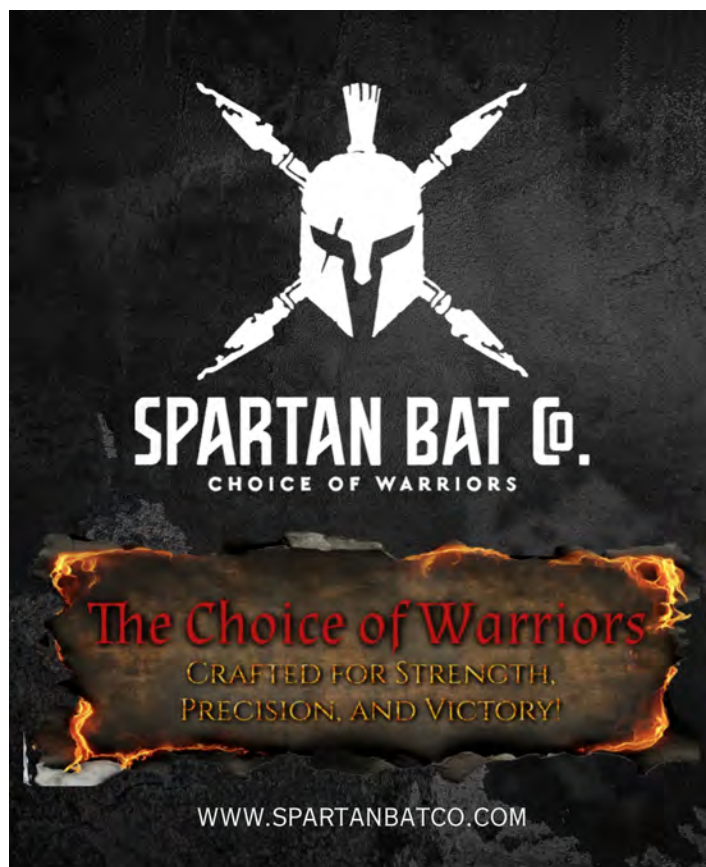
Now, at least, you know what the correct call should be.

*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.*

## Heard From The Dugout

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 Weighting: MEGA-POWER End-Loaded  
 Signatures: Scott Hall & Rob Roof  
 Weights: 34", 25.5oz, 26oz, 27oz, 28oz  
 Warranty: None

*JD Genter*  
**SM12SM2 / MELEE MEGALOAD 2 - 12" 2-PIECE**  
 Barrel Type: 13" Barrel, 2-Piece Design  
 Weighting: MEGA-POWER End-Loaded  
 Signatures: JD Genter  
 Weights: 34", 25.5oz, 26.5oz, 27.5oz  
 Warranty: None

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Continued from page 1

a tight battle that was tied after eight innings. The National All-Stars scored seven times in the top of the open inning and held off an American All-Stars rally to win 24-22.

On Thursday morning, competitions in hitting, running and pitching took place at Auburndale Softball Complex. And for the second time, SSUSA offered pre-tournament bat testing that day.

A Thursday evening reception honored the all-star game and skills competition winners while also welcoming all players and spouses to the tournament.

Three days of games took place at four area ballparks. Champions received free Jostens rings, a trophy and an MVP bat supplied by Short Porch Softball.

### **Final Standings:**

#### **Women's 40+ Gold:**

1. Redz/Prime Time/Ikonic/CA Sports Co. (NC) - W40+ Major Champions
2. Mood Swings (CA) - W40+ AAA Champions
3. Lady Bandits/Standard Plumbing (AZ)

#### **Women's 50/60+ Gold:**

1. Lady Scorpions 60s (AZ) - W60+ Major Champions
2. Shots Fired (RI) - W50+ AAA Champions
3. Get Dirty (NM)

#### **Men's 40+ Major:**

1. Motion/Edge 40s Softball (VA)
2. TSC/Anarchy (NY)

#### **Men's 40+ AAA:**

1. Lead Foot Grays (MD)
2. Torgi Trucking/U.P. Electric (WA)
3. Smokin Aces/American Legion Post #327 (VA)

#### **Men's 50+ Major Plus:**

1. Suncoast 50s (FL)
2. Baugh Ford/Barrow Power/Short Porch (FL)

#### **Men's 50+ AAA:**

1. Old Skool/Racehorse Tavern/Girard Club (PA)
2. EIS (NJ)
3. Viejos So Cal

#### **Men's 50+ AA:**

1. Markham Canadians (ON)
2. Heroes NE 50s (NE)
3. Nor-Cal Hitmen

#### **Men's 50/55+ Platinum:**

1. Yeager's/Max Batz (FL) - 50+ Major Champions
2. Suncoast 55s (FL) - 55+ Major Plus Champions
3. Magic Softball (MA)

#### **Men's 55+ AAA:**

1. Paly (TX)
2. Heroes 55 (NE)
3. Pro Vision 55 (WA)

#### **Men's 55+ AA:**

1. Longshoremen 55 (VA)
2. Detroit Pride

#### **Men's 55/60+ Platinum:**

1. Suncoast/Squared Away Sports/M&M Glove Repair (FL) - 60+ Major Plus Champions
2. C3 Skids (FL) - 55+ Major Champions
3. NW Jokers (WA)

#### **Men's 60+ AAA:**

1. Road Warriors 60 (AZ)
2. Wicked Slice Pizza (CT)
3. Team Illinois 60s

#### **Men's 60+ AA:**

1. NV Drifters 60s
2. Colorado Renegades
3. Wongs 60 (CA)

#### **Men's 60/65+ Platinum:**

1. MN Merchants - 65+ Major Champions
2. Hard Hat Cafe/Latella's/Caterbone Realty (CT) - 60+ Major Champions
3. TRT (FL)

#### **Men's 65+ Major:**

1. Dudley Lightning 65s (MO)
2. Levin Ameriprise II (FL)
3. Hudson Valley Cyclones (NY)

#### **Men's 65+ Silver:**

1. Texas Legends 65 - 65+ AAA Champions
  2. Scrap Iron Heavy Metal (CO)
  3. Steve Levin Ameriprise 65 (FL)
- Austin Wizards (TX) - 65+ AA Champions

#### **Men's 70+ AAA:**

1. Slug-A-Bug (FL)
2. Long Island Jaguars 70 White (NY)

3. Spring Ford 70+ (PA)

#### **Men's 70/75+ Platinum:**

1. Promotion/Phoenix Tube 70 (NJ) - 70+ Major Champions
2. REI Nation 70s (NC)
3. RPR Softball (TN)

Venom 75s (FL - Exhibition) - 75+ Major Plus Champions

#### **Men's 75+ AAA:**

1. Jersey Masters 75s
2. Sacramento Islanders 75
3. MidState Seniors 75s (IL)

#### **Men's 75+ AA:**

1. Doc Martens/Ropes Courses (MI)
2. MN Lumberjacks 75s
3. Northwest Sage (WA)

#### **Men's 80+ AAA:**

1. Midwest Express (NE)
2. Cozy Grill 80s (RI)
3. Syracuse Cyclones 80 (NY)

#### **Men's 85+ Gold:**

1. Center For Sight (FL) - 85+ Major Champions
2. Team Rehab 85 (MN)
3. Main Street Pub (MI) - 85+ AAA Champions

### **All-Star Rosters:**

#### **National All-Stars**

**Co-Manager: Terry Hennessy** (SSUSA, CEO, CA)

**Co-Manager: Irene Fry** (Mood Swings, W40, CA)

**Eric Smith** - Smokin Aces/American Legion Post #327 (VA) 40AAA

**Jason Miller** - Torgi Trucking/U.P. Electric (WA) 40AAA

**Brandon Murray** - Baugh Ford/Barrow Power/Short Porch (FL) 50M+

**John Robertson** - Warpath 50 (MD) 50AAA

**Jeff Harper** - Heroes NE 50s AA

**James Bennar** - Heroes 55 (NE) 55AAA

**Rob Rhines** - Pro Vision 55 (WA) 55AAA

**Todd Oleson** - Isle Edge Trucking60s (WI) 60AAA

**Joe Albachten** - Lumberjack Red (MN) 60AAA

**Bill Gosse** - Paape Legends (MN) 60AAA

**Jerry Lowe** - Road Warriors 60 (AZ) 60AAA

**John Tinkler** - Wongs 60 (CA) 60AA

**Thomas Vorie** - Levin Ameriprise II (FL) 65M

**Daniel Righetti** - Jersey Boys (NJ) 65AAA

**Donald Clavio** - Northern Virginia Force 65 AAA

**Bill Dowd** - Texas Legends 65 AAA

**Rick Duncan** - The Starboard (DE) 65AAA

**Roger Nelson** - MP Components/Bomb Squad (MI) 70AAA

**Gary Matthews** - Chicago Strikers 75AAA

**Dan Norton** - Sacramento Islanders 75AAA

**Tom Ashcraft** - MN Lumberjacks 75s AA

**Randall Olson** - Midwest Express (NE) 80AAA

**Keri Sulonen** - Mood Swings (CA) W40AAA

**Dixie Dalton** - Lady Scorpions 60s (AZ) W60M

**American All-Stars**  
**Co-Manager: Joel Riech**

(Long Island Jaguars 80s, NY)  
**Co-Manager: John**

**Karagiannes** (Alliance/Scrap Iron 60, CO)

**Jeremy Smith** - Motion/Edge 40s Softball (VA) 40M

**Tom Covey** - Lead Foot Grays (MD) 40AAA

**Dominic Martinez** - Viejos So Cal 50AAA

**Jeremy Baker** - Markham Canadians (ON) 50AA

**Jason Faria** - Nor-Cal Hitmen 50AA

**William Bitton** - NW Jokers/Dave Smith Motors (WA) 55M

**Tom Breck** - Alliance/Scrap

Continued on page 20

# Best of the Best Compete in 20th Annual TOC



More than 1,300 players competed in the 20th annual SSUSA Original Tournament of Champions. Champion teams win free quality Jostens rings, the maker of championships rings for MLB, NFL, NBA and the NHL. Champion team MVP also won free Short Porch bats.



The Original Tournament of Champions hosts several special events, including the Welcome Reception (upper right), skill contests, a hitting clinic and the All-Star Game (below).



The National All-Star team (red caps) posing with the American All-Stars (blue caps). The National All-Stars won 24-22.

Photos by Clover Schultz

# 2026 TOC: Skill Contest and All-Star Winners are Honored at the Welcome Reception

Continued from page 18

- Iron 55 (CO) 55AAA  
**Charles Linzie** - Detroit Pride 55AA  
**Howard Albritton** - Suncoast/Squared Away Sports (FL) 60M+  
**Richardo Hernandez** - SMASH (CA) 60AAA  
**Doug Wesselink** - Alliance/Scrap Iron 60 (CO) 60AAA  
**Jeff Smith** - NV Drifters 60s AA  
**Warren Dolph** - Minnesota Road Warriors 65AAA  
**Dave Litchfield** - Scrap Iron Heavy Metal (CO) 65AAA  
**Steven Bishop** - Austin Wizards (TX) 65AA  
**Raymond Hubbe** - REI Nation 70s (NC) 70M  
**James Goelz** - Long Island Jaguars 70s White AAA  
**Tom Gerahty** - Spring Ford 70+ (PA) 70AAA  
**Don Thompson** - Long Island Jaguars 75s AAA  
**Larry Sample** - MidState Seniors 75s (IL) 75AAA  
**Jim Hardenbrook** - Northwest Sage (WA) 75AA  
**George Bundt** - Long Island Jaguars 80s AAA  
**Evan Lloyd** - Team Rehab 85 (MN) 85M  
**Tracy Nadzieja** - Lady Bandits/Standard Plumbing (AZ) W40AAA

## Skill Contest Winners:

### Precision Hitting

- Women:** Jessica Flores, Lady Bandits (5)
- Men's 75+:** Michael Breitenstein, Center for Sight 85 (6)
- Men's 65-74:** Joe Kaso, Long Island Jags (6)
- Men's 55-64:** Garrick Yokoe, NV

- Drifters 60s (5/ 5)
- Men's 40-54:** Jeremy Baker, Markham Canadians (6)
- Power Hitting**
- Women:** Jessica Flores, Lady Bandits (3)
- Men's 75+:** Bruce Fairchild, Venom 75s (6)
- Men's 65-74:** Mike Dozier, Smash 60s (1)
- Men's 55-64:** Bob Greene, Hard Hat/Latella's/ Caterbone Realty (2/3)
- Men's 40-54:** Jeremy Baker, Markham Canadians (3)

### Speed

- Women:** Keri Sulonen, Mood Swings (12.78)
- Men's 75+:** Ron Christian, Long Island Jaguars (16.47)
- Men's 65-74:** Jim Crowl, Venom 75s (13.82)
- Men's 55-64:** Jeff Smith, Nevada Drifters (13.5)
- Men's 40-54:** Jonathon Robertson, Warpath 50s (11.9)

### Pitching

- Women:** Julia Thrash, Lady Bandits (7)
- Men's 75+:** Eric Hoff, Sacramento Islanders (7)
- Men's 65-74:** Charles Pickett, Wongs 60s (6)
- Men's 55-64:** Brian Lohman, Road Warriors (8/6) pitch-off
- Men's 40-54:** Dominic Martinez, Viejos SoCal (6)



Above: All-Star players line up before the game for the National Anthem. All players wear their individual team's jersey while the National All-Star team wears red caps and the American team wears blue caps.



### Speed Running Contest Winners:

- Women:** Keri Sulonen Mood Swings (12.78)
- Men's 75+:** Ron Christian Long Island Jaguars (16.47)
- Men's 65-74:** Jim Crowl Venom 75s, (13.82)
- Men's 55-64:** Jeff Smith Nevada Drifters (13.5)
- Men's 40-54:** Jonathon Robertson Warpath 50s (11.9)



### Precision Hitting Contest Winners:

- Womens:** Jessica Flores Lady Bandits (5)
- Men's 75+:** Michael Breitenstein Center for Sight 85 (6)
- Men's 65-74:** Joe Kaso Long Island Jags (6)
- Men's 55-64:** Garrick Yokoe Nevada Drifters (5/ 5)
- Men's 40-54:** Jeremy Baker Markham Canadians

Two photos above: Skill Contest winners are invited on stage to accept their awards.

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# TOC Teams Honor Best Players from Exclusive Competition

## Softball News Report

**C**ongratulations to the All-Tournament selections from the 2026 Original Tournament of Champions! First place teams earn five all-tournament selections, second place gets four, and third place earns three. Managers, if your All-Tournament selections are missing; please email in your honorees to info@seniorsoftball.com.

### Women's 40+ Gold:

**Mood Swings (CA):** Keri Sulonen, Christine Gray, Kelli Sparks, Carlene Garcia.

### Women's 50/60+ Gold:

**Lady Scorpions 60s (AZ):** Val Smith (MVP), Theresa Smith, Pam McLeod, Tera Guzman, Louise O'Donnell.

**Get Dirty (NM):** Dawn Saunders, Lisa Pelletier, Heather Quintana.

### Men's 40+ Major:

**Motion/Edge 40s Softball (VA):** Stephen Price, Joshua Allen, Scotty Proffitt, Jered Stanley, James "Ajay" Jones.

**TSC/Anarchy (NY):** Matthew Rabideau, AJ Snadella, Matthew Beach.

### Men's 40+ AAA:

**Smokin Aces/American Legion Post #327 (VA):** Eli Miller, Eric Ewald, Marvin Knowles.



Teams invited to the SSUSA Original Tournament of Champions are already champions, but some teams come from across the county to Florida, like Smokin Aces/American Legion Post #327 from Washington, to compete to become the best of the best.

### Men's 50+ AAA:

**EIS (NJ):** Lou Riveria, Billy Jerich, Mario Fastiggi, Don Perkins.

**Viejos So Cal:** Alberto Lopez, Rivas Juan, Monica Gonzalez.

### Men's 50+ AA:

**Markham Canadians (ON):** Jeremy Baker, Winston Kee, Greg Milner, Ismael Jiminez, Murray Midlemost.

### Men's 55+ AAA:

**Heroes 55 (NE):** Doug Otten, Clint Spiegel, Dwayne Hosey, tom Blazek.

**Pro Vision 55 (WA):** Dave Monk, Rob Rhines, Carl Booker.

### Men's 55+ AA:

**Longshoremen 55 (VA):** George Shelby, Shawn Taylor, George E. Wright Jr., Keith Hawkins, Scot Moore.

**Detroit Pride:** Dave Courtney, Lou Columbus, Charlies Linzie, Donnie Morgan.

### Men's 55/60+ Platinum:

**Suncoast/Squared Away Sports/M&M Glove Repair (FL):** Brian Lynch (MVP), Pat Burkhart, Bodie Shields, Mike Kalmes, Richie Clark.

**C3 Skids (FL):** Craig R. Horton, Gerald "Jerry" Molloy Jr., Dave Sanders, Darren Wilton.

### Men's 60+ AAA:

**Road Warriors 60 (AZ):** Don Treat (MVP), Jim Heet, Mike Lebet, Darryl Coleman, Brian Lohman.

**Wicked Slice Pizza (CT):** Ernie Bacon, Scott Robertson, Mark Anderson, Joe DeBiase.

### Men's 60+ AA:

**NV Drifters 60s:** Jeff Smith, Garrick Yokue, Jeff Alworth, James Gravely, Donnie Oswald.

**Colorado Renegades:** Scott



Seven teams in the Men's 80-85+ division competed in the 2026 TOC, honored as the SSUSA's Senior Ambassadors of the tournament and sport. Main Street Pub from Michigan, a 85+ AAA team batter photographed above.

Continued on next page



TSC/Anarchy of New York (left) and Motion/Edge 40s of Virginia (right) competed head to head for the Men's 40+ Major title. Motion/Edge 40s won best two out of three.

## All-Tourneys: Team MVPs can Also be Selections or Listed Separately for TOC

Continued from previous page

Richardson, Clay Conner, Rick Silva, Ted Lucero.

### Men's 60/65+ Platinum:

TRT (FL): Ronnie Desmarais, Billy Devine, Steve King.

### Men's 65+ Major:

Levin Ameriprise II (FL): Chuck Comella, Nick Nicometo, Nick Gennaro, Doug Powell.

### Men's 70+ AAA:

Slug-A-Bug (FL): Tom Dempsey, Kerry Charlet, Tony Russo, Richard Garrity, Larry Cudney, (Keith Carroll – MVP)

### Long Island Jaguars 70 White

(NY): Frank Kiernan, Jim Goelz, David Didio, Alan Greenberg.

Spring Ford 70+ (PA): Bob Miller, Tom Gerahty, John Cokley.

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

### Promotion/Phoenix Tube 70 (NJ):

David Szvec, Bill Linnehan, Tim Gamberzky, Mike Johnson, Bill Mueller, (Al Delaney – MVP).

REI Nation 70s (NC): Jerry Fortuna, Mark Kozlowski, Mike Prosko, Ben Peterson.

RPR Softball (TN): Jimmy Young, Curt Maurer, Odis Ledbetter.

### Men's 75+ AAA:

Sacramento Islanders 75: Eric Hoff, Al Mar, Jack Wabinga, John Kramer.

### Men's 75+ AA:

### Doc Martens/Rope Courses (MI):

Steve Kortz, Jim Bellinger, Sam Antonazzo, Dave Young, Chuck Woolery, (Tom Berenak – MVP)

MN Lumberjacks 75s: Greg "Willie" Wilson, Tom Appletoft, Fred Lohrman, Terry McIlrath.

### Men's 85+ AAA:

Midwest Express (NE): Marvin Carr, Melvin Carr, Tom Lundberg, Larry Orth, Ray Johnson.

Cozy Grill 80s (RI): Steven A. Aldrich, Bill Dunkley, Anthony "Tony" Rozzero.

### Men's 85+ Gold:

Center For Sight (FL): Jerry Pickett, Ev Sims, Mike Breitenstein, Walter Taylor, Dick Douglass.

Team Rehab 85 (MN): Larry Sweet, Evelio Bacallao, Tom Imming, Eddie Lloyd.

## Past Tournaments:

The following are All-Tournament Player Selections not published in the previous newspaper with their

Continued on next page



While east coast states are well represented due to the TOC's location, California brought six teams, including Mood Swings (blue jerseys) a Women's 40+ AAA team, and Washington state brought five teams to represent the west coast.

## All-Tourneys: 20 More Teams Compete in 2025 World Championships Compared to 2024

Continued from previous page

corresponding tournament:

### 2024 World Championships, NV

#### Men's 65+ Major Plus:

**Cal Energy:** Kevin O'Reilly, Vern Ramie, Johnny Moncrieff, Geno Fiasche.

### 2025 Winter World Championships, AZ

#### Women's 55/60+ Gold:

**Takin' Chances 55 (CA):** Sharon Farrell, Jennifer McLaughlin, Trisha Thelin.

#### Men's 60+ AA:

**Colorado Renegades:** Pedro Matos Santell, Joe Montoya, Vince Gonzales, Kevin Hayes, Paul Rodriguez.

Managers, if your team's selections are not listed here, please email your selections to [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).



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# Money Matters: Strategies to Enjoy Your Tax Refund

## Softball News Report

**T**ax season is upon us and things are looking good for many senior softball players.

Thanks to several changes in the tax code, the average refunds being sent out thus far this year are higher than last year. In fact, a recent report shows that the average tax refund is sitting at a cool \$2,475, up about 14 percent from the average refund in 2025.

The powers in Washington, D.C., attribute the larger refunds to a number of factors, including:

The increase in average refunds is largely due to what's called the **One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025**, which introduced several tax provisions, including:

An increase in the standard deduction from \$15,000 to \$15,750 for single taxpayers, from \$22,500 to \$23,625 for head of household filers and a boost from \$30,000 to \$31,500 for married folks filing jointly.

A very significant increase for seniors over age 65 will allow them to claim an extra deduction of \$6,000. Other factors helping boost refunds this year include favorable changes in taxes on tips, childcare credits and some changes in "qualified" overtime earnings.

Suppose you're Mr. and Mrs. Average Taxpayer and have \$2,475 heading your way. The immediate question is of course, what are you going to do with that sudden windfall?

Well, before you start spending that money, you need to realize that you could have had that money all along by simply adjusting your tax withholding from your paychecks. But most Americans really like getting their own money back and think of it as a forced savings plan that pays off during tax time.

The first thing I'd do with that \$2,475 is to take the odd change or \$475 and blow it. Yep, it's money you've saved

## Money Matters:

By Jack Sirard

all year, so you need to reward yourself and/or your spouse. My preferred way of spending that is to buy upgraded seats to a theatrical performance or really cool seats at a baseball game.

Others might want to add a piece to whatever they collect or to treat themselves to a super fancy dinner at an exclusive restaurant. No matter, do something for yourself with a small chunk of the refund.

OK, that leaves you with \$2,000 to spend wisely, if not

boringly.

I'd take \$1,000 of it and put it to work cutting down debt. A recent report showed that the average American owed more

than \$6,500 on their plastic. So, if you're one of those consumers who live on credit cards, put down at least a grand to cutting that down. It's just so expensive to pay your credit card companies 20 percent or more to service your debt.

And finally, I'd take the other \$1,000 and put it in an account for your kids or grandkids college education. We gave up buying toys years ago for the grandkids and focused on adding to their 529 college savings plans. Boring? Yes, but with huge upside potential.

So that's it. My three-step strategy to enjoying your tax refund.

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



# Team Celebrate Coveted Senior Softball USA Titles

By Nic Francois  
Softball News Report

Some travel teams start their Senior Softball USA journey with the intention of playing new, non-local teams.

Some travel teams start their journey with a clear intent: to win SSUSA's most coveted titles; such as the Triple Grand Slam or winning their division at the invite-only Original Tournament of Champions.

"Who knew it would take almost 40 years of playing competitive softball to finally become a World Champion?," said Heidi Clarke, a catcher with Shots Fired, a women's 50+ AAA team of Rhode Island, and one of the few teams to earn both titles in one season.

Each year, only eight to 13 teams earn the elusive Triple Grand Slam (TGS), out of the more than 660 teams that compete in SSUSA's World Championships, the largest softball event in North America.

For a team to win the TGS title, they must win their division at either the Eastern Nationals or Western Nationals, as well as their division at the World Championships and that division's USA National Game. Three distinctive victories to don the title of the TGS.

For a team to be invited to the Original Tournament of Champions, held annually in Florida's Polk County, a team must win their division at one of 20+ TOC Qualifiers. Some TOC Qualifiers have over 100 teams competing.

For a team to win a TGS



2026 Original Tournament of Champions award plaque, given to champion teams.

title and their division at the TOC, all within one year, is a feat few teams accomplish.

In recent years, only a handful of teams have won the TGS and their TOC division.

Two teams earned the TGS at the 2025 Worlds, and also won their divisions at the 2026 TOC: Shots Fired, mentioned above, and Center For Sight, a Men's 85+ Major team from Florida.

Shots Fired takes its name from two sources: being comprised of first responders

(police, fire and family members) and being able to consistently make that softball fly.

"We have some raw talent up here in New England and on the team," said Nancy Santopadre, manager and player with Shots Fired. "With the snow, we only have a handful of months to practice on the field and we use batting cages in the winter; many teams don't have such limiting weather," she added.

Nancy attributed her team's success to supportive coaches, years of camaraderie and a continued passion to win. "We almost didn't play in the recent Vegas Worlds, but we had enough ladies say, 'we did all this work and we have a real chance to win this', so we did," said Nancy.

"I love my ladies. Police and softball are among my favorite things in life, and being able to combine them is

Continued on next page

## Coveted Titles: Winners Earn Awards and Bragging Rights

Continued from previous page

something special,” she said. In 2026, they plan to hang tight and keep hitting into the Major division.

“It is a fantastic feeling to return home as World Champions... then going to Florida for the TOC and winning our division--- WOW!,” said Heidi Clark.

Winning tournaments isn't anything new to Center For Sight, which have won 16 tournaments in the last two years. But their manager, Hugh Brotherton, pointed out they normally haven't joined the Eastern Nationals. Having joined the Easterns in 2025 allowed the team to earn the TGS.

“We joined the Easterns for the first time in a while to win the Triple Grand Slam, as a part of recruiting to help keep us one of the best teams in our division,” said Hugh. “We plan to join the Easterns again in 2026 in hunt for that Triple Grand Slam again.”

At 94 years old, to be 95 later in 2026, setting new goals and records is more important than ever to Hugh, for both his team and himself personally. He hopes to be the first to set the record in the Huntsman World Senior Games' new 95+ division.

Venom 75s, a Major Plus team from Florida, remarkably won the TGS and their TOC division two years in a row, winning the TGS title in 2023 and 2024, and winning their division at the 2024 and 2025 TOCs.



Above: Shots Fired after winning their 2026 TOC division.



Above: Center For Sight after winning the Triple Grand Slam and the division at the 2025 Worlds.



Above: Venom 75s after winning their division at the 2026 TOC.

“The driving desire to be #1 and victorious as important today as it was the first day [our players] stepped foot on the softball field,” said Pete Takos, long-time player,

manager and sponsor of Venom 75s.

Pete attributes Venom's success over the past decade to setting clear short and long-term goals, strong financial

support, separation between leadership's operating decisions and players' focus on performance, and total commitment from each other, family and employers.

# Alonzo Trevino Can't Stop Moving and Playing

## Softball News Report

**G**rowing up, Alonzo Trevino often started school late every fall because his migrant working family returned home to Texas for days or weeks after classes began.

One year in seventh or eighth grade, he arrived late as usual. Excited to see friends his first morning back, he walked into class smiling, laughing and chatting.

“Sit down, Smiley,” the teacher told him.

The nickname stuck.

Roughly 80 years later, Trevino’s friends still call him Smiley.

And he still chatters excitedly -- including on the softball field.

“He’s always talking, usually in Spanish,” said Don Hodges, president of the Corpus Christi Senior Softball Association.

“Everybody respects that he is still playing. He is still enthusiastic about it. Sometimes he shows up on days he doesn’t play just to watch the game.”

When a reporter called on a recent day, Trevino could not talk. He was at the ballpark. Practicing. Some hitting. Some fielding grounders.

“Softball is his middle name sometimes,” said Louisa Lopez, who has been Trevino’s significant other for 31 years. “It means a lot to him to still be out there. Sometimes he says, ‘I can’t run like I used to.’ I say ‘Come on. You are 94 years old. No one expects you to

## The 90+ Stars By Donna McGuire

run that fast.”

Back in the day, the slender Trevino courtesy ran for just about anybody. He was fast then.

Even today, he can’t sit still for long, Lopez says. Ten minutes is about his limit. Then he feels the need to get up and do something.

A life-long Texan, Trevino grew up about 150 miles south of San Antonio in a town called Hebbronville, population 4,000. The third of seven children, Trevino learned to pick crops at a young age. The whole family traveled for work, following the picking season as it headed north each year toward Michigan.

They’d pick sugar beets. Or cherries. Or cotton. Or

whatever else needed plucked from plants, trees or the soil.

After the growing season ended, they headed back to Hebbronville, where they had extended family.

Like many other youngsters in his day, Trevino gathered often with other kids for pick-up games in a field or lot. On defense, he usually gravitated toward

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Trevino with his many senior softball awards and trophies from local and national tournaments.

## 90+ Stars: Trevino Was One of the Original Players with the Corpus Christi League

Continued from previous page

playing first base. He didn't have time for organized team baseball.

At one point during his high school years, he quit attending classes to be a full-time wage earner.

Over the years, he learned construction and landscaping skills. He joined the carpenters' union. Later, he bought his own tractor and worked grading yards after builders finished a new house.

He also found time for softball, including league games in Hebronville. Blessed with a good arm, he often roamed the infield as a shortstop in those days.

"I love the game so much," Trevino said. "I just enjoy it."

After moving to Corpus Christi years later, he heard that a senior center had a couple of softball teams. At age 55, he signed up. That was 40 years ago, before senior leagues began to form across the country. Back then, a senior center team was the best way to find similar-aged people to compete against.

When Trevino was about 60 years old, stomach cancer stole his wife, Dora, from him. She had given Trevino one child, a son named Alonzo Juan Trevino.

Trevino remained active through work, playing ball, and dancing. One day while visiting a dinky bar, he



Photograph of Trevino playing in one of the first World Championships in Las Vegas, 2002.

saw a woman who looked intriguing. He wandered over to chat. That's how he met Lopez, who became the new love of his life.

"He asked me to dance," Lopez recalled of the evening at the bar. "I didn't know how to dance. He said, 'Come on. I'll teach you.' The rest is history. We've had an incredible life together."

A life-long baseball fan, Lopez enjoyed watching her new beau's softball teams play.

"He's always looked forward to the days he is playing softball," Lopez said.

Naturally, when the Corpus Christi Senior Softball Association formed, he signed up. His skills

earned him induction to the city's softball Hall of Fame and the state's softball Hall of Fame.

When tournament teams

came calling, Trevino signed up again. He joined a Top Gun team in the 1990s and later became a member of the Texas Classics. Most recently, in 2022 and 2023, he played with the Midwest Driving School team from Kansas. He has about five championship rings.

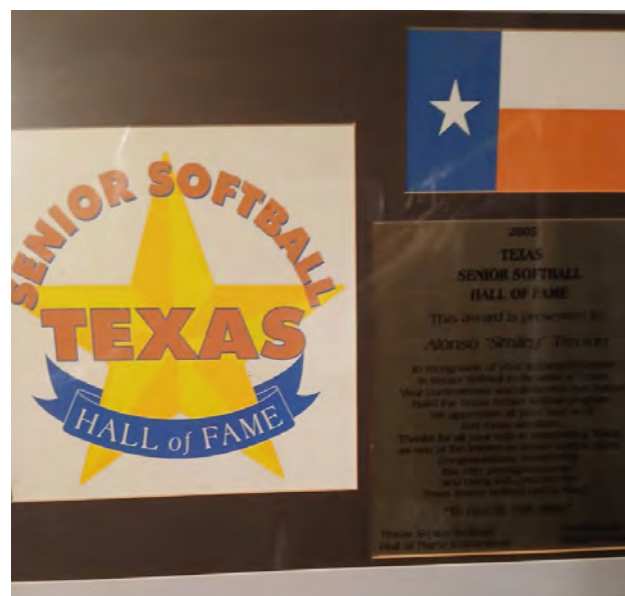
He's played in all four of the annual East/West 90s games that take place during the SSUSA World Championships in Las Vegas. The first two years, he played for the West. The next two years, he agreed to help a short-handed East team.

Going all the way to Nevada for just one game might turn some folks off. Not Trevino. Playing the 90s game makes him feel alive, he says.

"I get to see my friends that I played against for so many years," he said.

The elder statesman of the Corpus Christi league, Trevino will turn 95 later this year. He plans to play ball twice a week this year, in a 65+ division and a 70+

Continued on next page



Trevino's Texas State Senior Softball Hall of Fame Plaque.

# SSUSA Votes 2 Players, Sponsor, Club into Hall of Fame

## Softball News Report

In extremely close voting, Daryl Idler of Washington and Steve Hillman of California have been elected as players into the Senior Softball USA Hall of Fame for 2026.

Peter Takos of Florida has been elected in the Sponsor category for his work building the Venom team.

And in a special selection, the Scrap Iron Softball Club of Colorado has been chosen by the Executive Board to be inducted into the Hall of Fame for excellence in growing the sport over many years.

The honorees were elected by former SSUSA Hall of Fame members, National Directors and UICs, Staff and the SSUSA Executive Board.

They will be officially inducted Monday, Sept. 21 during the World Championships in Las Vegas.

“We are happy to see these excellent representatives of Senior Softball recognized for their outstanding contributions to our sport,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer.

**Steve Hillman**, 74, of Santa Rosa, California is considered one of the best shortstops in the country, and an excellent .800 hitter. Those nominating Steve Hillman also say he represents sportsmanship at its best. Hillman has helped lead his team to more than a dozen World Championships and has been named All Tournament in most of those victories. He has been a key



Steve Hillman of California.



Daryl Idler of Washington.

player on top Major-Plus teams ranging from Omen, Timberworks, Sonoma Crush, Old Dawgs and NorCal Reds.

“Steve Hillman is a class act as a person and a teammate; never getting out of control with umpires or officials, and never saying anything negative about teammates, coaches or other players. He is a true 5-tool player: an exceptional defender with both

solid and consistent hitting. He has home run power and clutch hitting. He is a person who does all of that for all of the correct and honorable reasons with unmatched success,” said Steve Imlay

**Daryl Idler**, 83, of Kennewick, Washington has led his teams to 14 World

Continued on page 31

## 90s Stars: Trevino Shares his Secrets to a Long Life and Getting Older as a Player

Continued from previous page

division. Gone are the days of playing shortstop, second base or middle infielder. Catcher is his spot now.

Though Trevino can't hit as far or run as fast as in the old days, opponents have learned not to underestimate him. If defenders sneak in too close, he still can burn them at times, Lopez said.

What is the secret to his longevity?

For starters, Trevino has avoided the types of injuries that often end aging players' careers, said league president

Hodges. No damaged rotator cuff. No blown knees. No torn muscles.

Second, Trevino carries good genes. An Aunt lived to be 105. His mother died a few weeks shy of turning 100. His father lived into his 90s.

Third, he doesn't smoke and rarely drinks alcohol. (He does like Dr Pepper, however. He drinks it instead of coffee.)

Fourth, Trevino stays active. He still cuts his yard with a push mower, for example. And he loves to dance. He and Lopez, who have been together 31 years, still go out most Saturday nights to dance with friends.

“He tells everybody, ‘Don't stop. Keep moving,’” Lopez said.

That's what Trevino intends to do.



Trevino, right, playing on the Western team at the 2022 inaugural 90s Game during the World Championships in Las Vegas, speaking with Roland (chuck) Johnson, a Wisconsin player on the Eastern 90s team.

# Send Team Tourney List Early - Avoid Waitlists

## Softball News Report

**A**lready this spring, four tournaments have filled early and some teams that waited to send in their entries until the last minute were not able to get in.

In some cases, players had made hotel reservations and taken off work.

There is a simple no-harm/no foul way to avoid this problem this season: send a list of the tournaments your team wants to enter (remember to include the team name and age division), and send it to [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

We will add your team to the tournament list and check with you on the entry deadline (or when the tournament fills)

## Covering The Bases

By Terry Hennessy

if we have not received your entry fee to make sure your team still plans to come to the tournament.

If you aren't coming, just let us know when we call and we will take your team off the list – with no penalty.

### Help Keep Entry Fees Affordable

In a number of tournaments, cities provide some sponsorships that help keep the cost of the tournaments down.

In order to justify those sponsorships, we send cities Economic Impact Reports at the end of tournaments to show



the tournaments – usually by paying some or all of the field rental costs.

Not all cities provide sponsorships, but those that do sponsor tournaments can make a difference in lower entry fees for the tournament.

This system only works if players actually use the host hotels listed on the tournament page. Fortunately, the hotel room rates listed are lower rates than normal, which helps players' budgets, as well.

The bottom line is that staying in Host Hotels helps keep your entry fees down.

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

how much money the teams and players have brought into the city.

The key indicator for most cities is the number of hotel rooms players used in the city. That is important because the hotels pay the city a tax based on the number of rooms filled every month.

Those funds are often used to provide support for

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# Meet Class of 2025 National Senior Softball Hall of Fame

## Softball News Report

**F**ifteen players, managers and directors have been inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame for 2025.

The National Senior Softball Hall of Fame was founded in 1995 in Tennessee, and is now headquartered in Mustang, OK. Its' purpose is to recognize players, managers, umpires, directors, and sponsors, who have achieved the highest honors in Senior Softball.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the requirements to be nominated for the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame.

Now, lets meet the class of 2025 and

here's some background on them and what their nominators had to say:

### Sara Van Hook, director.



Linda Grisham writes, "Sara is very organized and always knows

how to resolve any issues when they arrive including rain, rescheduling, and handling disgruntled players. She is very professional in every aspect of her job."

Mike Rose believes, "Sara is an outstanding tournament director in every respect. She clearly demonstrates that she is an advocate for all the participants, time after time. Perhaps more importantly, Sara is a kind, generous and supportive person off the fields as well."

### Dan Sweat, manager.

Daniel E. Sweat has been involved with softball for 48 years, as a player/manager. He started playing slow pitch softball when he was 18. Dan was just

**Continued on next page**

## SSUSA Hall of Fame: Scrap Iron Recognized

Continued from page 29

Championships and 58 other major tournament titles – batting for a .750 average and playing every position in the field with precision. Early in his sports life, Daryl turned down a chance to sign with the California Angels in order to help his family and has continued that spirit of giving to others throughout his career.

"As a coach, having Daryl on our teams was and is extremely valuable. Daryl is able to – and has played – EVERY position on the field, which is a benefit to any team... Daryl is a terrific defensive player in all positions and his ability to hit for high average is unquestionable," said Tom Brusca.

**Peter Takos**, 81, of Naples, Florida created the Venom organization in 2016, and the team has proven to be the best at each age division, winning 9 World Championships, a record 3 Triple Grand Slams in a row, and every TOC Championships since 2017.

In addition, Venom has won 9 ISSA World Championships while taking titles in 62 other major regional and national championships. Venom was named Team of the Year 6 times by the Florida Half



**Peter Takos of Florida.**

Century Club and Team of the Decade in 2020.

"Peter Takos stands for everything the Hall of Fame stands for: leadership, dedication, integrity and sustained excellence in senior softball. While Pete's winning record is exceptional, it is not the primary reason for this nomination. What truly sets Pete apart is his dedication, character and class on and off the field... He personally invests time, resources and leadership into every aspect of team operations – always placing players and the organization and the game itself ahead of personal recognition," said Ed Rose.

**Scrap Iron Softball Club** of Colorado has been building some of the best national tournament teams since it was founded in 1992 by Murl Skalla and Kenny Green.

By 2024, there were seven very



competitive teams and Kenny Green with Phil Field and Bob Wiltgen officially incorporated the Scrap Iron Softball Club into a non-profit organization.

Each year, dozens of Scrap Iron teams compete in almost every age division in Senior Softball in tournaments throughout the United States.

Scrap Iron teams have won scores of World Championships, TOC titles – and literally hundreds of top Regional Championships throughout America.

"You will see Scrap Iron teams on the East Coast, in the South, the Midwest and throughout the West – making friends as they compete at the highest levels and enjoy the sport with sportsmanship and comradery," said Hennessy.

"The Scrap Iron Softball Club is an inspiration for the sport," said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director.



Dan Sweat of Georgia.

## Hall of Fame: Each Year, the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame Inducts 15 People

Continued from previous page

looking for something to do and enjoyed the players' company. He got addicted to the competition and got better over the years. The ball diamonds became his home away from home. He was rated a Major class player for 18 years.

Dan is one of the most respected coaches in Senior Softball. His knowledge of the game from his many years of playing enables him to pass this on to his players to ensure they play up to their highest abilities. Dan's teams have won 675 games and lost 257 in the 932 games he has managed over his 28-year career.

### Madaline Ferrero, manager.



Karen Adams writes, "Midge has been dedicated and committed to coaching us to be the best we can be. She has created an opportunity for us to

keep on playing as long as we can and has developed a caring community that supports each other on and off the field."

Madeline Cunningham, pitcher for Golden Players, believes "Midge's experience, guidance, and expertise have been invaluable to our team and softball community at large. Her leadership has empowered our athletes to reach their full potential, both as individuals and as a team."

### George Chance, pioneer player



Mel Colwell says George's performance on the field speaks for itself. "He is gifted with the ability to play multiple defensive positions, including pitching when needed. I consider George a game-on-the-line hitter."

Dana Kimmel, one of his teammates, says he has played with and against George for a number of years and has always admired his love for the game. "His ability speaks for itself with his numerous All-World and All Tournament team selections."

### Ronnie Guest, pioneer player

Dennis Lutz writes, "Ronnie is an outstanding ball player and a great teammate. His defense is as good as his hitting, possessing a very good glove and exceptionally strong arm. I have played with him and against him and he has proven to be a tough out."

Richard "Red" Simmons says of Ronnie, "All of our opponents and his teammates agree that he is one of the best middle infielder and hitters in the 85-age



Ronnie Guest of Arizona.

group. We are glad he's on our team and all other teams wish he was on theirs. His many All-Tournament Selections prove the point."

### James Sims, pioneer player



James Everett Sims has been playing softball at Harris County Senior Softball for 30 years. In the past he has been a manager and treasurer of the league and continues to play. He has also served on the Texas Senior Softball Hall of Fame induction committee since 2019.

Hugh J. Brotherton, manager of Center for Sight says, "Mr. Everett is the best of the best in softball and life. He is quality on and off the field. Mr. Everett always has a high tournament batting

Continued on page 34



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## Hall of Fame: SPA, Softball Players Association oversees the National Hall of Fame

Continued from page 32

average and is a great outfielder. He is a joy to manage as he does everything that he is asked to do and always does it very well. He has won several MVP awards, multiple All Tournament awards, and a box full of rings."

### Greg Donophan, player



John Zimmerman, one of Greg's managers, stated "I have played against Greg many times and he was always a feared hitter and defensive player. He is without a doubt one of the best Senior players in the country."

Ray Hubbe, one of Greg's teammates writes, "Greg has excelled at the major and major plus divisions and earned multiple MVP and All Tournament awards which shows his unique talents and abilities. His exemplary character and his leadership as a teammate are what sets him apart from so many."

### Keith Hudson, player

Don Clatterbaugh writes, "Not only is Keith dedicated player and team leader, on and off the field, he also exhibits sportsmanship, character, and class in all aspects of his life. When I played against Keith, I respected him as a player and as a person. We have played



Keith Hudson of Maryland.

together, and he has proven to be an even better teammate than opponent."

Todd Burriss states, "Keith is a devoted player and teammate that exhibits sportsmanship, character, and class every time he takes the field. He is a multi-talented individual on offense and defense. Michael "Ratchet" Wingard, NSSHOF Class of 2022, His ability to hit with power and maintain a high batting average have earned him numerous All-World and All-America and many MVP awards."

### Roger Josey Sr., player



Tim Furr, former sponsor of the Carolina A's says, "Roger is one of the best shortstops in senior softball who plays the game the way it is supposed to be played and is a better teammate and person, than a player."

James Drew Pearson writes, "I've

played with Bucky for the last 10 years and he is one of the best shortstops on the East Coast in senior softball. He is truly the definition of a team player, highly competitive and he would do anything on or off the field to help the team win."

### Dan Kelley, player



Tony Campitello, manager of Syracuse Merchants, writes "I have been managing him for 15 years and he has a great respect for the opposition. He's the best defensive pitcher at any age level."

Al Guglielmo, teammate of Dan, states "He is our pitcher and a leader on and off the field and exemplifies what senior softball is all about."

### Norbert Kozlowski, player



Ron Daniel writes, "Norbert is a great teammate and a great person who has always been a dedicated teammate and puts his team above his own success. He is a team leader and a tremendous

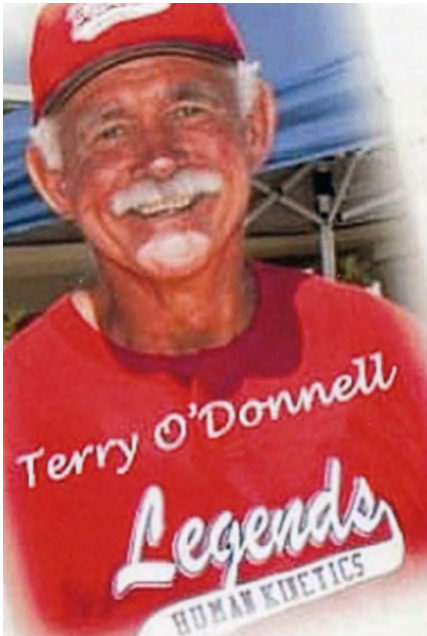
## Hall of Fame: SPA, Softball Players Association oversees the National Hall of Fame

Continued from previous page

hitter.

Todd Burris believes, "He is a devoted player and teammate that exhibits sportsmanship, character and class every time he takes the field. Norbert is a multi-talented individual on offense and defense and has won many games with his final at bats or defensive plays at the end of a game."

### Terry O'Donnell, player



Vincent Melograno, a teammate of Terry, says "Terry's attributes are unique in that he is truly an "all-around" Hall of Fame performer. As a natural hitter, he has the ability to drive the ball to all fields with amazing bat control."

Ed Rose, coach of Rose Entertainment, states, "Terry could always be relied upon to deliver when it mattered most. However, Terry's exemplary character and sportsmanship have left an indelible mark on our team and the broader softball community."

### Wayne Ross, player

Doug Robbins, manager of the Timberworks 70 team said of Wayne, "He has always been one of the best hitters on my team and his defense is



Wayne Ross of Arizona.

even better. The last three years Wayne has helped Timberworks be the best 70 Major Plus team in the country."

Otis Menasco, sponsor of the Omen teams adds, "It is an honor and privilege for me to submit this letter recommending that Wayne Ross be inducted into the Senior Softball Hall of Fame. On and off the field Wayne is a very positive person, friend and supporter of his teammates and sponsor."

### Ronald Sandy, player



Fred Marten states, "Ron is a wonderful and amazingly gifted man. As a team leader, he has demonstrated a depth of character in his personality, mental focus, physical stamina, and his outlook on life. By the standards he sets for himself, Ron moves others to strive to a level of excellence."

According to Bruce Springstead, "Ron is always the guy you want at the plate with men on base and the game on the line. He leads by example and encourages his teammates to perform at

the same level."

### Karen Adams, player



According to Coach Midge Ferraro, "Karen has played with my organization for more than 10 years. During that time, she has consistently exemplified our team's ideals of dedication, intensity, and commitment. Her exceptional leadership qualities have been one of the driving forces behind our organization's continuing success."

Coach Gwen Cappadona writes, "What impresses me most about Karen is the way she shows up to play the game. Always ready; always willing to do anything you may ask of her without questions or concerns. I wish I had an entire team of players just like her."

## Heard From The Dugout

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Anonymous  
1929



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