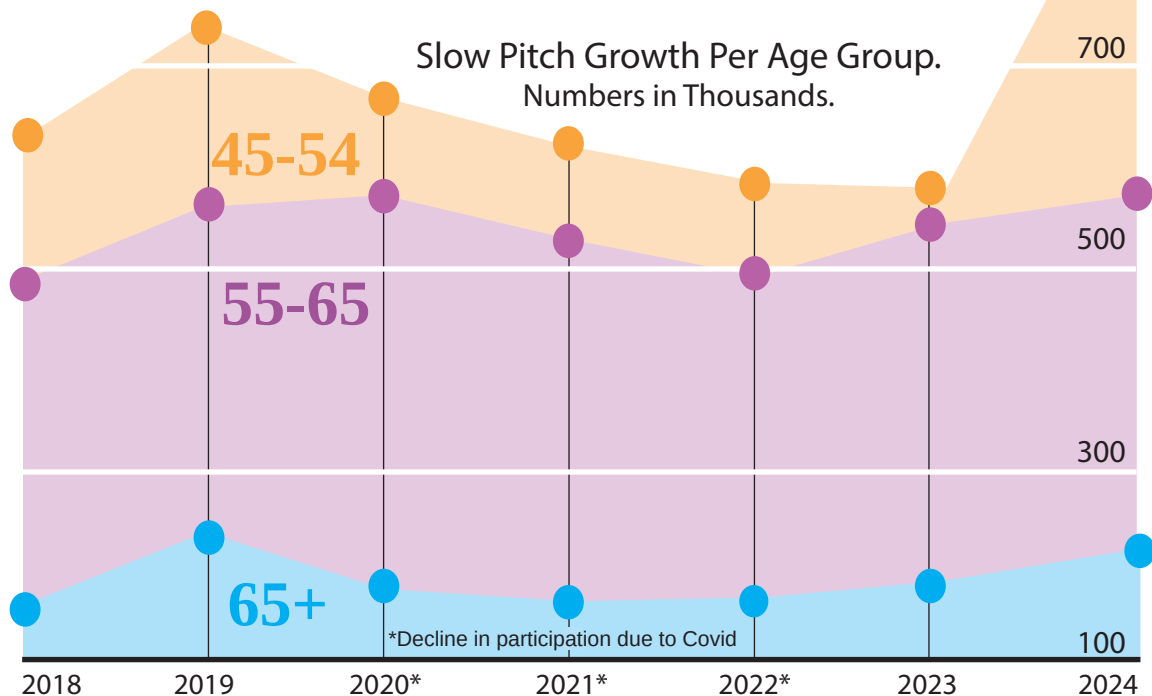




SLOW PITCH SURGE

Masters and Seniors Drive Major Jump in Sport

PAGES 22-23



Source: 2025 Sports Fitness Industry Association / Graphic: Sue Ballenger

2026 WORLDS
PREVIEW
PAGE 17



NEW: TECH TIPS
COLUMN
PAGE 5



MID-SEASON
RE-RATINGS
REVIEW
PAGE 30



INTERNATIONAL
2027 TRIPS
INCLUDE THE
DOWN UNDER
AUSTRALIA
SOFTBALLTOUR
PAGE 12

NOTABLE
DEATHS
Cal Allison,
National Director
PAGE 20
Jim Goff,
International,
Hall of Fame
PAGE 15
Al Murray, Hall of
Fame, Manager
PAGE 21



Photo Illustration: Sue Ballenger



CUSTOM UNIFORMS

BUILT FOR CHAMPIONS

PREMIUM CUSTOM JERSEYS • HOODIES • HATS • FULL TEAM PACKAGES



CLASSIC. TIMELESS. ELITE.

Traditional never goes out of style.



BOLD. TOUGH. UNMATCHED.

Full custom artwork that represents your team.



LOUD. PROUD. TOURNAMENT READY.

Stand out. Be remembered.
Built for the big stage.



DESIGNED FOR HER. BUILT TO WIN.

Women's specific fit.
Unlimited possibilities.



**UNLIMITED
DESIGN OPTIONS**

Your vision. No limits.



**SENIOR SOFTBALL
SPECIALISTS**

We know the game.
We know the players.



**MEN'S • WOMEN'S
COED TEAMS**

Styles for every
team & division.



**BUILT DIFFERENT.
BUILT ELITE.**

Quality you can see.
Performance you can feel.

**GET YOUR TEAM
LOOKING ELITE**
CONTACT US TODAY!



714-639-9940



orders@elitesportsusa.net



ELITESPORTSUSA.NET



Temecula, California



SCAN TO VISIT
ELITESPORTSUSA.NET

FOLLOW US



CUSTOM UNIFORMS • APPAREL • HATS • AWARDS

Senior Softball News

9823 Old Winery Place, Suite 12
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 326-5303
(916) 326-5304 FAX
info@seniorsoftball.com
www.seniorsoftball.com

Editor

Terry Hennessy

Managing Editor

Nicholas S. Francois

Senior Editor

Jack Sirard

Contributing Writers, Artists

Donna McGuire, Stan Reents,
Dave Weinman, Ken "Bogie" Van Bogaert

Internet Director

Scott Flodin

Art Director

Sue Ballenger

Photographer

Clover Schultz

Marketing Manager

Fran Dowell

Nothing in this publication shall be deemed to constitute in any fashion whatsoever an endorsement by Senior Softball USA, LLC. (SSUSA), of any information in this publication. SSUSA, LLC., disclaims any and all liability with respect to any use of, or reliance on, such information. No information in this publication shall be construed in any manner whatsoever as a recommendation of any industry standard, or as a recommendation of any kind to be adopted by, or binding on, any person or entity. Nor shall information contained in this publication be deemed to constitute in any fashion whatsoever an endorsement by SSUSA, LLC., of any product or service advertised herein. The material set forth in this publication is provided on an informational basis only. SSUSA, Inc., is not engaged in the practice of any profession, including but not limited to law, medicine and accounting, and nothing in this publication should be relied upon in lieu of appropriate competent professional advice.

Index

From the Cover:

Tech Tips: Pg. 5

40th Reno Cup: Pg. 9

2027 International Trips:
Pg. 12

2026 World Champs: Pg. 17

Slow-Pitch Growth: Pgs. 22-23

Mid-Season Ratings: Pg. 30

News Index:

Editorial & Cartoon.....Pg. 4

SoCal Champs.....Pgs. 6-7

Covering Bases.....Pg. 8

Senior Moments.....Pg. 11

Donations Continue.....Pg. 14

Jim Goff Obit.....Pg. 15

Hitting Column.....Pg. 18

Cal Allison Obit.....Pg. 20

Al Murray Obit.....Pg. 21

90+ Stars.....Pgs. 24-25

A League Above.....Pgs. 26-27

Umpire's Corner.....Pg. 28

Health Column.....Pg. 29

All-Tourneys.....Pgs. 31-39

Money Matters.....Pg. 35

Sponsor Index:

Pg. 2

Pg. 10

Pg. 16

Pg. 40

Bat Sponsors:

Anonymous Athletics.....Pg. 4

Beebe Sports.....Pg. 7

Worth.....Pg. 7

Dudley Sports.....Pg. 8

Axe Bats.....Pg. 8

Spartan Bat Company.....Pg. 14

DeMarini.....Pg. 18

Miken.....Pg. 19

Suncoast Softball.....Pg. 19

Victus Sports.....Pg. 19

Marucci Sports.....Pg. 19

Short Porch.....Pg. 28

Easton.....Pg. 30

Wicked Sports.....Pg. 30

California Bat Company.....Pg. 35

E Pluribus Unum

This Latin phrase from a dead language – “out of many, one” – became a motto of the United States in 1782, representing a core belief that America’s strength is in people acting together for a single cause.

That idea is alive and well today in team sports generally and in Senior Softball specifically.

Every day, in every game, in every city and state, individual players gather with the simple, but powerful goal of coming together as a team to play a game we all love.

The best result, of course, is to win. But the greatest result is the strength of spirit our joint efforts instill in our hearts.

That spirit spreads to the teams we play and to those who watch it happen.

What better way to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our nation than to play a simple game, drawing players from many places, with many past histories and beliefs, into one team based on a belief in one another.

Terry Hennessy
Editor



By Sue Ballenger



**ANONYMOUS
ATHLETICS**



**2026
IS ABOUT TO
HIT DIFFERENT**

ANONYMOUSCUSTOMGLOVES.COM

What Is Artificial Intelligence?

Softball News Report

Editor's Note: We are excited to announce a new column series, Tech Tips. The column will cover anything from newer technological devices that could help seniors to explaining normally complicated tech subjects.

Authored by Paul Francois, a published author with 30+ years in the IT field.

What is AI? It's a question that has plagued all since... well I guess since we all watched Terminator and 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Article Intelligence is described in its Wikipedia page as "the capability of computer systems to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, and decision-making."

Now on the surface most companies will use AI to process and learn from enormous amounts of data they acquire, which is referred to as "training the AI" but they can use AI also to recognize faces, voices, or even create predictions based on all available resources. This can be used to solve complex problems or even weather forecasts, instead of flipping a coin to see if it will rain today or not.

You have most likely heard of the horror stories of employees being let go, saboteurs finding new inventive ways of scamming the masses, or AI being used by students to do

Tech Tips

By Paul Francois

their homework. We must remember, these activities have occurred before AI and will continue once the infatuation with AI is over. AI should be used the same way as everything else in life, with moderation.

Ok, enough from the dark side of Artificial Intelligence. Let's take a stroll into the light. You might think "AI scares me, I'm not going to let machines take over!" You may not know it, but you are using AI every day. For instance:

Chatbots – Basic AI-driven tools made to automate repetitive conversations, answering frequently asked questions, or processing orders.

Virtual Assistants – Like a chatbot but much more sophisticated. It's designed to act more like a personal helper by managing schedules, controlling smart devices, and handling complex, context-aware conversations.

Self-Driving Cars – Now this requires a great deal of Artificial Intelligence, more than just walking down the street and chewing gum. First, they must perceive the environment. Object detection, lane detection, mapping, and then combine all the information from multiple sensors (cameras, proximity sensors, GPS, etc...). Next, they use the collected information to predict the flow of traffic and best routes to take. Lastly, they control the vehicle by steering, braking

and acceleration. Of course, all technology requires support from cybersecurity and tech support to deciphering diagnostics.

So, you can see that's it's much more than a simple walk down the street chewing gum.

Maybe you say, "I'm never getting in one of those self-driving hunks of junk and I don't use virtual assistance when they show up online." Well, here are two examples I bet most folks use daily:

Search Engines – Yes! Google, Bing, and the more obscure Yahoo are all using Artificial Intelligence. If you look at the afore mentioned search engines' results, they voluntarily disclose that they use AI in their results.

Media and Entertainment Streaming Services – Companies such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+, and more use Artificial Intelligence to predict what shows we want to watch based on viewing history. Although, in my experience, they seem to push their own agenda of what shows THEY want me to watch.

In addition, here's a sampling of the fields that **AI is transforming**:

Healthcare – Used for

medical diagnostics. AI can review all of your medical history and assess your condition based off enormous amounts of referenced materials and studies.

Education – AI uses real-time translation and support for those learning another language and tutors those who need additional guidance.

Transportation – Not just the self-driving cars but to improve safety, efficiency, traffic flow, and infrastructure management. It's also widely used in airports as well.

Business automation – The streaming services use AI but also every large company and corporation has embedded AI for simple tasks to assisting with major decisions.

Generative AI – This last one is my favorite use for AI. With proper text descriptions, AI can create beautiful artwork, and some have used it to write novels.

I know AI might seem like another passing fad, like 8-track tapes and disco, but this one is going to stay so we should try to find a way to handle it the best we can.

Paul Francois can be reached at: paul@crusaderscrypt.com.



The image above was made using Microsoft's AI tool, Co-Pilot, by describing the image you are envisioning.

Weather and Competition Heat Up in SoCal Champs

By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report

One out-of-state team prevented Californians from sweeping all 15 titles earned in the recently completed Southern California State Championship in Hemet, Calif.

Supreme Athletics 70s of Nevada pulled off that feat by reigning supreme in the 70+ AAA division during the June 16-21 event at Diamond Valley Lake Sports Complex.

Winners received trophies, shirts and berths to the 2027 Tournament of Champions to be played in Polk County, Fla.

Eight women's teams and 57 men's teams competed in Hemet, with 91 percent of the entrants hailing from the Golden State. Four Nevada teams, one Arizona team and one Washington team joined them.

"We had hot weather during the middle of the week -- around 95 degrees for a least the first session," Tournament Director Jerry Smith said. "The second session, it cooled down into the middle 80s, which was much better."

Smith highlighted accomplishments by the top-seeded 65+ AAA Top Gun Stars, which lost only one game, and by the unbeaten 65+ AA Advil Knights and undefeated 70+ Major Samurai team. The 75+ Major bracket produced drama, he said, with Over The Edge winning the if-needed title game by three



Men's 60+ Major championship game at the 2026 Southern California State Championship, where SoCal Kamikaze/BFAD 60s won against Top Gun Warriors, 21-16.

runs over R&R 75s.

"There was not a lot of scoring because of some outstanding pitching by Donnie Chandler, along with the defense coming up with some great plays to get out of some crucial innings," Smith said. "There were some great plays by both teams."

During the second session of play, the men's 40+ division featured great competition all weekend, including a one-run thriller in the third-place game, Smith said. The 50+ AAA division boasted an undefeated team, Viejos So Cal, as did the 60+ AA division with So Cal Riptide.

"The 55+ AAA division was very competitive," Smith said, citing an exciting run through the elimination bracket by So Cal Guys before Top Gun Storm thwarted them in the title game.

One of the tournament's

best games, Smith said, came in the 60+ AAA championship game, where Top Gun Fury barely defeated Harper Bozy.

Results (all teams are from California unless otherwise noted):

Women's 40+ Masters Major: Second-seeded Rogue Prime overcame being routed 25-8 in the first title game by securing a 16-14 victory in the if-needed game against top-seeded YAS. Fifth-seeded Broken Dollz, which had knocked YAS into the elimination bracket, nabbed third place in the five-team division.

Women's 40+ AAA: Second-seeded Girls on Top/G.O.T. shined in bracket play, winning by wide margins in all three of its games, including a 21-10 championship victory over third-seeded Legendary Women's. Top-seeded Blue Crush finished third in the

three-team division.

Men's 40+ Masters Gold: The third-seeded SoCal Misfits lost only once, in a seeding game, before racing unbeaten through the seven-team bracket. The Misfits defeated top-seeded West Coast United 16-14 in the title game. Fourth-seeded Prestige 40s finished third.

Men's 50+ Platinum: Top-seeded Fattboyz/Front Row earned the Major Plus title and TOC berth after completing a run through the elimination bracket.

Men's 50+ AAA: Consistent scoring enabled the top-seeded Viejos So Cal to go unbeaten in five games, including a 21-14 championship victory over second-seeded G-Force/Epic Athletics. Viejos averaged 23 runs a game while winning three games by double digits. Third-seeded Chaos

Continued on next page

SoCal State: Hemet Has Hosted the SoCal Champs Since 2012

Continued from previous page

50 nabbed third place in the five-team division.

Men's 55+ AAA: Third-seeded Venom 55s capped a 5-1 tournament with a 19-4 championship victory over the top-seeded So Cal Guys 55, which won four elimination games to reach the finals. The championship game marked Venom's third double-digit victory in bracket play. Fourth-seeded Top Gun Storm placed third in the seven-team bracket.

Men's 60+ Major: Second-seeded SoCal Kamicaeze/BFAD 60s

subdued runner-up Top Gun Warriors 21-16 in the title game to win the three-team division and finish 5-1 overall. Custom Truck of Nevada took third.

Men's 60+ AAA: Top-seeded Top Gun Fury/Written in Red edged third-seeded Harper Boyz 18-17 to win the five-team division. Second-seeded Weakened Warriors finished third.

Men's 60+ AA: Top-seeded So Cal Riptide won big and small as it went unbeaten overall, including a 16-12 title-game triumph over the fourth-seeded Jokers, which won three elimination games to reach the finals. California Coast Plumbers took third in the five-team division.

Men's 65+ AAA: The top-seeded Top Gun Stars

65s capped a 5-1 tournament with a 13-11 championship victory over third-seeded New Beginnings Softball 65s of Arizona. Second-seeded Wongs finished third in the four-team division.

Men's 65+ AA: Unbeaten in five games, the champion Advil Knights captured two one-run games over So Cal Riptide 65 in their best-of-three bracket series, 15-14 and 14-13.

Men's 70+ Major: The top-seeded Samurai 70 team went undefeated, including a 14-12 title-game triumph over second-seeded Top Gun Strike Force. Wongs 70 finished third in the three-team division.

Men's 70+ AAA: Second-seeded Supreme Athletics 70s of Nevada scored 83 runs in three

bracket games, including a 20-6 smashing of the top-seeded Weakened Warriors 70s in the championship game. Supreme finished 5-1 overall. The third-seeded Top Gun Stars 70s took third in the three-team division.

Men's 75+ Major: Playing a best-of-three format, Top Gun Over The Edge needed all three games to subdue R&R 75s 22-15, 12-15, 9-6.

Men's 70/75/80+ Gold: After losing an early bracket game by one run, the third-seeded 75+ AAA team No Guts, No Glory won six consecutive games, including 22-12 and 15-13 championship victories over top-seeded Lights Out 70 AA. Second-seeded D & K 75 finished third in the six-team division.

BEEBE SPORTS

BUILT FOR ALL-DAY PLAY

DESIGNED FOR SENIOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS WHO DEMAND COMFORT, STABILITY, AND PERFORMANCE—EVERY POUND.

PLAY LONGER. FEEL BETTER. FINISH STRONG.

WWW.BEEBESPORTS.COM

Elevate your game

WORTH

worthsports.com

Special Bat Awards for Eastern, Western Nationals

Softball News Report

Next to ratings, the most common recommendation we receive from players concerns awards.

Better Awards. Different Awards. Money. Bats...you name it.

Most of the time, our answer comes down to numbers.

In Masters and Senior Softball there are a potential of 38 age and skill divisions. Of course the number varies according to the size of the tournament.

This year, we are happy to announce a first: instead of the typical trophies, we are designing ceremonial bats with specific artwork for the

Covering The Bases

By Terry Hennessy

Eastern Nationals, Western Nationals, USA National Games and the Winter Worlds.

These bats will commemorate the victory for teams in those tournaments.

Awards for individuals become a more difficult issue because there are, on average, about 16 players in each team. That is a potential 600 first place and 600 second place awards in a large tournament.

And it creates a crucial decision for us: Do we invest more on individual awards, or continue to make our largest investment on staff to ensure

an even playing field in each division.

We have, over the past 30 years, made the investment in staff to check rosters, answer questions, and communicate with the 30,000 national tournament players competing in Senior Softball USA.

We believe that this investment, more than shirts and caps, ensures a fun and competitive game for players throughout the US and Canada.

That being said, if you have any suggestions, we would love to hear them!

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



DUDLEY LIGHTNING RETRO LEGEND 2.0

- 1 Pc MicroPly Technology Composite = Thin Win performance shells
- Grip Spin Technology Barrel
- Senior associations
- MSRP: \$239.99

LLBSP2R Balanced 13" barrel

- 13" Balanced Power Barrel with Flex Plug
- Approved by SSUSA and all other 1.21 BPF

Item # 49359 34"/25oz Item # 49360 34"/26oz
Item # 49361 34"/27oz Item # 49362 34"/28oz

LLBSP2R End Load 12" barrel

- 12" End Load Power Barrel with Flex Plug
- Approved by SSUSA and all other 1.21 BPF

Item # 49363 34"/25oz Item # 49364 34"/26oz
Item # 49365 34"/27oz Item # 49366 34"/28oz

WWW.DUDLEYSPO RTS.COM
©RUSSELL BRANDS, LLC

O.G. KYLE PEARSON SIGNATURE SERIES

2-PIECE | 1/2 OZ ENDOLOADED | FLARED HANDLE

USA

40th Rock 'N' Reno Cup

Eight Times Bigger Than Inaugural Tournament

Softball News Report

RENO – The Rock 'n' Reno Challenge Cup – the oldest Senior Softball National tournament in America -- turned 40 this year and its weather seemed to reflect the highs and lows of temperatures players experienced over four decades.

The first Rock 'n' Reno in 1986 attracted 24 teams.

This year, 199 teams from 13 states, came from as far away as North Carolina, and Canada.

In 1988, two years after he created the first Reno Championships, Bob Mitchell founded Senior Softball USA and made Reno the first West Coast qualifier for the new Senior Softball World Series.

A few years later, in 1992, Mitchell founded the Senior Softball World Championships and Reno was its first national qualifier.

"Reno turned out to be an excellent location and time of year and continued a long growth spurt for the next few decades," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer, who helped run the Reno qualifier since 1995. Bob Mitchell died in 2010.

What was America like in 1986?

Here's a few bits of history, starting with sports:

On October 26, 1986, Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner let an easy ground ball dribble between his



legs and roll down the right-field line. It was an error that Buckner – and most Bostonians would not forget. It was the 10th inning of the World Series, which forced a Game 7...which the Mets won.

The first commercial use of the internet began in 1986. While the error was a

disaster for the Red Sox, there were two disasters that shook the world:

On January 28, the Space Shuttle Challenger disintegrated 73 seconds after launch, killing all seven crew members.

And on April 26, Reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in

Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union, exploded. It remains the worst nuclear power plant accident in history.

On a much lighter note, The Legend of Zelda video game was released by Nintendo on Feb. 21, 1986.

And Top Gun, starring Tom Cruise, premiered on May 16, 1986, and became a box office hit and a cultural phenomenon.

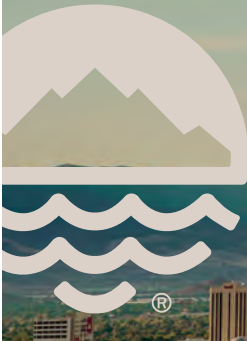
And now for the music:

On Jan. 23, the pop music pioneers Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry, Elvis Presley, Fats Domino, James Brown, Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, and The Everly Brothers were all inducted into the first class of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Times change, of course, but the Rock 'n' Reno Challenge Cup remains a constant in our sport.



Acme 60s (CA) playing against Tough Monkey/Onyx/Elite (CA) in Reno's 60+ Major Plus division. Reno is SSUSA's third largest tourney behind the Worlds and Southwest Champs, hosted in Vegas.



WELCOME

From painted desert peaks to alpine lake shores, Reno Tahoe delivers adventure to scratch the thrill-seeker's itch. Here, you'll find no shortage of special events, delicious food and recreation for any level of fun. Whether seeking rugged beauty or refined caches, Reno Tahoe is a haven for travel and entertainment.

Make your move at VisitRenoTahoe.com

RenoTahoe

NO LIMITS → NO LIMITS → NO LIMITS → NO LIMITS

Keep Them Senior Moments Rollin', Rawhide!

Softball News Report

As I was shaving this morning, and perhaps because I'm retired and have the time to think deep thoughts about mundane things, it occurred to me what a great invention shaving cream in a can is.

Shaving cream does triple duty: it's soap so it cleans; it lubricates your face so the blade is less likely to exfoliate that bump right off, and it marks your spot too! Plus, the modern multiple blade razors are way better than the old one blade/double-edged "safety razor" my dad used. There were times that he bled so much after a shave that it looked like he'd been in a fight.

I'm old enough to remember the old Burma Shave signs. I saw them plenty of times before we moved from Indianapolis. As a for-instance, we had a family event in Kansas City in the summer of 1960 so my parents loaded me and my two younger brothers into our station wagon (my three sisters were yet to exist) and we set out to the theme song of the "Rawhide" TV show (in my head).

*Keep rollin', rollin', rollin'
Though the streams are swollen*

*Keep them doggies rollin'
Rawhide!*

Now I didn't quite get the part in the lyrics where they said:

*All the things I'm missin',
good vittles, love and kissin'
Are waitin' at the end of
my ride!*

But what do you expect

Senior Moments By Dave Weinman

from a 7-year-old.

The interstate system was in its infancy so almost all the driving was on two-lane highways. "Rest stops" were typically at a grungy little gas station, where we took turns at a dirty toilet, grabbed a 5-cent coke in a glass bottle from the machine, got back in the car and ate sandwiches our mother had made.

From 1926-1963 Burma Shave placed rhyming roadside ads along the busier rural highways, each a series of small signs, placed about 100 yards from one another. The time it took the car to travel between signs gave the jokes a rhythm that was like perfect comedic timing. There were some very clever ones. Here are two examples:

*MY JOB IS / KEEPING
FACES CLEAN / AND
NOBODY KNOWS / THE
STUBBLE I'VE SEEN /
BURMA SHAVE*

*SAID FARMER BROWN
/ WHO'S BALD ON TOP /
WISH I COULD / ROTATE
THE CROP / BURMA SHAVE*

When the interstates came along, that was the end of the Burma Shave signs. And apparently the brand pretty much went obsolete too.

Everyone talks about the good old days and how things are going in the dumper now but everything was so great. Well, partly this is because we were kids then, and we were much more concerned with pretending to be Davy Crockett than we were of the fear of nuclear annihilation.

One thing that's changed since I was in high school is dress codes! Always a fine line between acceptable and not, but that line has moved a LONG way. I recall a girl being sent home to change because she was wearing culottes; they were essentially dress-like but the legs were separate. Yes, skirts were mandatory for girls then - and this was a public school. I recall there was a problem with bell-bottoms for the boys, too.

Before the 1960s most men and women wore a hat or head covering of some sort when out of doors. For men, it was usually a fedora style hat. That all changed in that decade for lots of reasons. But I like to wear a ballcap when I'm outside; it keeps the sun out of my eyes and the rain off my glasses.

That is until my cataract surgery was done a couple of years ago. I had been nearsighted enough to need glasses since the fifth grade. What a freedom to be able to see well without glasses! I remember it was a very big deal when my grandmother had her cataracts removed many decades ago. It is usually not a big deal anymore and it wasn't for me.

Someone recently asked this question in an editorial: Would you rather have been the richest person in America in the late 1800s, like a John D Rockefeller or JP Morgan, or an average American citizen today? For me, that's easy. The average American didn't see 40 in those days. The average millionaire, back when that really meant something, didn't fare much better.

My right hip went bad on me in my early 50s. I would have needed a cane for the rest of my life were it not for my very successful hip replacement. Maybe my kidney stone or my multiple bouts with tonsillitis as a kid would have caused a fatal infection; penicillin, the first true antibiotic, was not discovered until 1928. My cataracts would have left me nearly blind. Yup, I'll take today and thanks very much!

Plus- there was NO SENIOR SOFTBALL!! Maybe I would have taken up polo; or have my people take me out in my yacht. That is, if I lived long enough for that.

Boy do things change fast. Young adults see a house phone, attached by a - believe it or not - wire! And they laugh at the thought of being anchored to that wall..... you know it's very easy to get spoiled with our modern technology.

Not me though. Just sitting here at the computer, TV on in the background, step counter on my phone to monitor my activity. Oh darn, I need to go all the way over there to get the remote? Well at least I'll get a few more steps in today. That makes 79 so far. Because I had to go to the bathroom twice.

Enjoy every step my friends and remember how lucky you are to be able to take them.

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.

Slate of 2027 Tours Announced: Caribbean Returns, Go Down Under in Australia, and Cruise in Hawaii

Softball News Report

Senior Softball USA has locked in the long-awaited dates for the 2027 International Tour in Australia, with tournaments in Sydney and Cairns.

The two-week tour, from March 9-22, 2027, will transport players, family and friends, to some of the most memorable spots in Australia.

The tour starts with a Sydney Harbor tour, then on to Ayers Rock in the heart of the outback for a dinner under brilliant Southern Stars and finally to the shores of Cairns for a trip to the Great Barrier Reef.

In other 2027 international adventures, the 7th Annual Caribbean Classic returns to the luxury all-inclusive Resort home in the Dominican Republic January 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.

And you can play in Hawaiian 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.

Dates for the 2027 Pacific Rim Championships will be

decided in late August during the Pacific Rim Slow-Pitch Softball Federation Board meeting in Canada. South Korea has already expressed interest in hosting the 2027 Pacific Rim Championships.

This year, both the 2026 Pacific Rim Championships in Niagara Falls, Canada, in late August and the 37th Annual SSUSA International Tour to Spain, Oct. 15-27, which features two-day tournaments in Madrid and Barcelona, have filled.

For more information about SSUSA 2027 International Tours, see (<https://seniorsoftball.com/?page=35>) or email nic@seniorsoftball.com.

Right: The 2026 international trip season wraps up with tours of Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona (Spain); and the Pacific Rim Championships in Niagara Falls (Canada).



Above: Cairns is home to one of the most famous stretches of the Great Barrier Reef, which is comprised of over 2,900 individual reefs, 900 islands and more than 1,600 species of marine life.



Above: Barceló Bávaro Palace is home to annual Caribbean Classic. Its ball field is a jump and a skip away from the beach and relaxation.



Don't miss the opportunities of a lifetime



Join us on
these Senior
Softball USA
Tours:

For Details: <https://seniorsoftball.com/?page=35>

For more information: email
Nic@seniorsoftball.com

2026

Canada Hosts the
Pacific Rim
August 24-31, 2026
(FULL)

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

The Down Under
Australia Softball Tour
March 9-22, 2027

Cruise in Hawaii
November 3-13, 2027

Spirit of Giving Continues Through Goodwill

Softball News Report

Senior softball players have donated thousands of dollars in cash and equipment to help impoverished youth groups in the Dominican Republic and Venezuela – and those donations continue to flow in six months after the Caribbean Classic ended.

Conway Waddy III and his wife, Shawni, brought 12 bats donated by Smash-It-Sports to the Caribbean Classic in January – and sent their second round of baseball and softball equipment to the Venezuela the last week of June.

Among the donations were 6 gloves, 6 shoes, bat bags, catcher's gear, numerous baseballs and another 12 bats! All with the help of their teammates and friends.

The last edition of Senior

Softball News highlighted a plethora of goodwill tournaments, trips and donation drives. The 2026 Caribbean Classic Goodwill Tour in the Dominican Republic saw some of the largest donations.

And some of the goodwill is ongoing.

The family of Jim Caterbone, 64, who died at the Northeast Championships in Syracuse, asked for donations to be sent to needy kids in the Dominican Republic during the tour. That resulted in \$3,250, which purchased 240 new uniforms for local youth baseball/softball organizations on the island.

Players and guests of the tour donated balls, gloves, shoes and equipment which found its way to needy youth softball groups in Caracas.

Getting the donations to youth groups in the



Above and lower left: The Waddy's second batch of donations sent to the Dominican Republic. The mix of baseball and softball equipment, donated by teammates of Conway and Shawni, will go to needy youth groups on the island.

Dominican and Venezuela is Caribbean Classic co-director, Tulio Ontiveros.

[Click here to read the story on all the goodwill and donation events from the Spring edition.](#)



SPARTAN BAT Co.
CHOICE OF WARRIORS

The Choice of Warriors
CRAFTED FOR STRENGTH,
PRECISION, AND VICTORY!

WWW.SPARTANBATCO.COM

Jim Goff's Softball Legacy Extends Past the U.S.

Softball News Report

Jim Goff, 69, a slim man with a big heart and a great bat, died June 11 after a prolonged battle with a rare cancer.

Jim grew up in the middle of the country, played ball in several states, created the Caribbean Classic in the Dominican Republic for SSUSA, and traveled with wife Jane to 75 countries.

He was inducted into the Senior Softball USA Hall of Fame in 2024 in the International Director category for his sterling work building the international tournament in the Dominican Republic.

Over three short years, despite continuing treatment for stage-4 cancer, Jim helped build lifelong memories for players in the Caribbean.

Jim's efforts drew scores of players to the island, where they had a chance not only to play local teams, but develop lasting friendships with senior players from around the country and Canada.

"James was more than just a colleague; he was the cornerstone of the Caribbean Classics," said Tulio Ontiveros director of Team Turismo, who coordinates the Caribbean

Classic. "Since we launched this journey together in 2020, these international tournaments became much more than just games—they became a platform for competition, connection, and, most importantly, a legacy of giving back.

"Through his vision, we were able to unite players from the Dominican Republic and Curaçao, while initiating a constant stream of charitable donations that have touched countless lives," said Ontiveros.

"I knew Jim from international trips," said Dave Weinman, SSUSA international consultant. "Jim also played with us, or with our Canadian friends the Silver Stix, several times in the Pompano (FL) tournament.

"Jim was an all-around great guy and he'll be missed," said Weinman. "Like me he was an Indiana U guy; the last time we talked we got to enjoy discussing IU's miracle football championship. (Well it seemed miraculous to us, they always were terrible at football)."

Closer to home, Jim began playing SSUSA tournaments in 2016 and competed on a plethora of teams in the Midwest, including Oshkosh



Jim Goff with his wife, Jane, during his league's Hall of Fame induction of him. He was serving as President of the Quad Cities Senior Softball League during the time of his passing.

Ambassadors 55s, Midwest Eclipse 55s, Team Roper 60s and the Plainsmen 60s.

"Jim was currently president of our league in Quad Cities and the amount of work he did for all of us speaks volumes about the man with a big heart and love of the game," said Kenny Chard, SSUSA tournament director. "We never allowed him to step down. Now someone has to step up and fill his shoes."

Jim was born in Pittsburgh,

Pa., and graduated high school as co-valedictorian before going to Indiana University to earn his B.S. and M.B.A. degrees. From there, it was a move to Quad Cities for a career in supply chain management – and playing softball.

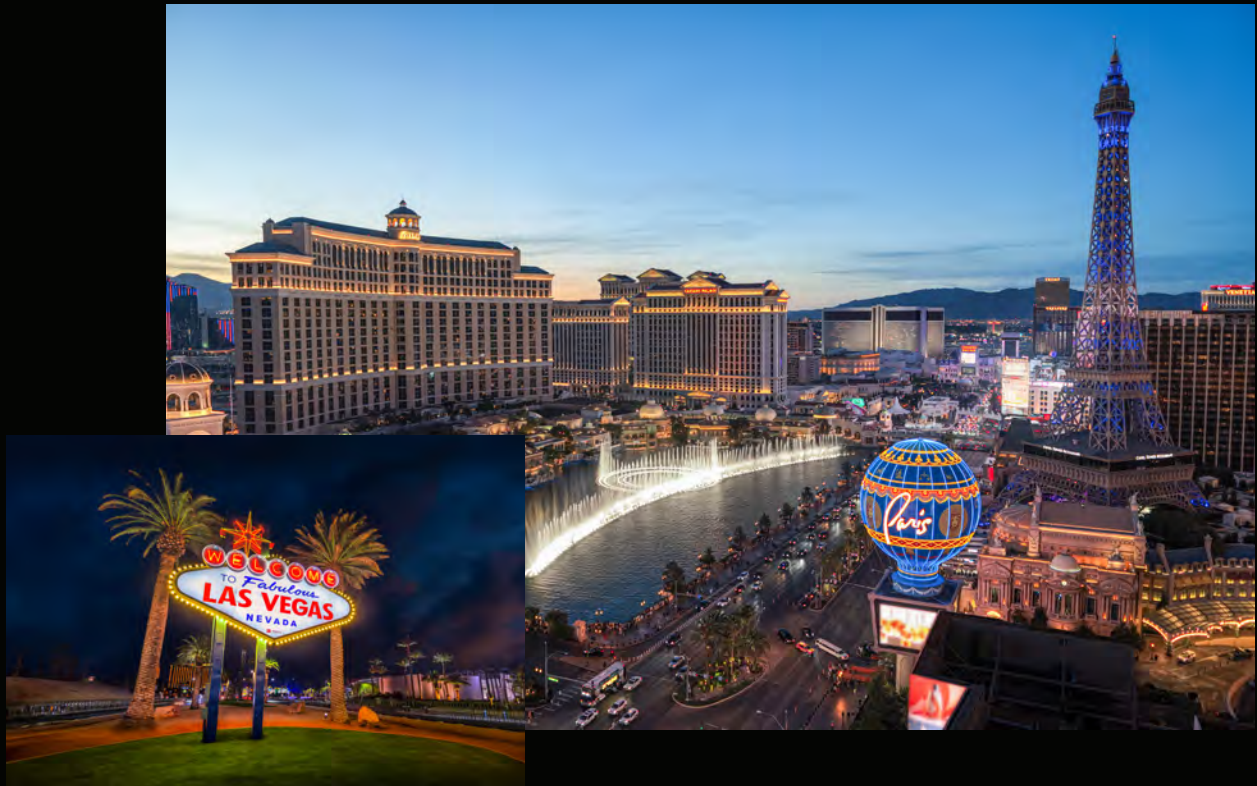
Jim, who has played senior softball in the Midwest on several teams for the past 25 years, was not only an exceptional player – but a gifted visionary for our sport.



Jim Goff (center, front row kneeling in blue jersey) and all three teams and guests of the 2023 Caribbean Classic Goodwill Tour.



Photo by Tulio Ontiveros
Jim Goff (center) with Caribbean Classic co-director, Tulio Ontiveros (left) after celebrating his SSUSA Hall of Fame announcement.



When the game ends,

YOUR NIGHT *BEGINS.*

As the Sports and Entertainment Capital of the World,
we're proud to host the SSUSA World Championships.

VISITLASVEGAS.COM

LAS
Vegas

America's Largest Tourney Heads Back to Vegas

Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – The largest softball tournament in America once again returns to Las Vegas this September, along with fan-favorite events.

Teams compete in the largest divisions of the year seeking to win rings designed by Jostens – the company that makes the NFL and MLB championship rings.

Special events include:

- Manager reception/registrations will be returning for their fourth year, featuring many vendors with the latest softball equipment.

- The fifth annual 90s Game will commence, honoring the elder statemen of the sport.

- The return of the International Co-Ed division, often hosting teams from Canada, Panama, the United States and more.

- National Senior Softball Hall of Fame inductions, sponsored by Visit Central Florida Sports, will honor the best of the best in the sport. Senior Softball USA's Hall of Fame class of 2026 was announced in this spring.

SSUSA is again inviting



Las Vegas Events is the sponsor of the annual World Championships. LVE was a driving force relocating the Oakland Athletics (MLB) and Raiders (NFL) to Vegas.



Photos by Clover Schultz.

Jostens' SSUSA representatives will be at the 2026 Worlds' Manager reception/registration, to assist with ring orders or questions regarding any SSUSA rings.

all managers and players to the fourth year of Reception/Manager Registrations. Held the night before each session, managers will be able to register and discuss their rosters and the tournament with SSUSA officials. Players will also be able to visit the many softball vendors and mingle with fellow players. Reception/Registrations will be hosted at Boulder Station's

Railhead Room.

The fifth annual 90s Game will once again see the oldest players of the East play against the oldest players of the West. The game is intended to display the power of senior softball to keep players going into their ninth decade. The Nonagenarians will play Monday, Sept. 21.

Bobby Ellison, SSUSA's Team and Player



For the first time since 2022, the 90s West Team won against their Eastern rivals in 2025. Now with both 90s teams having a win under their belts, it's anybody's game in 2026.



Representative, is coordinating the game. "Playing softball for the 90s is an inspirational lifetime achievement recognized by all who play or follow softball," said Ellison. "If you're in Las Vegas for the SSUSA World Championships, come out and watch the 90s teams play. It's amazing," he added.

If you are interested in competing in the 90s Game, please email Bobby at: bobby@seniorsoftball.com or call him at 916-326-5303.

The International Co-Ed Division is set to play during the last session of the Worlds, Oct. 3-4. Last year, U.S. based co-ed teams had the pleasure to compete against the Reyes/Reinas Diamantes de Panama (Diamond Kings/Queens of Panama). More teams from around the world are expected to join as the dates approach.

And, of course, the main event at the Worlds are the games with the largest divisions of the year!

Comparing Your Throw to Your Swing

Softball News Report

Sometimes, hitters get into an early season funk where it feels impossible to make solid contact with the ball. An athlete may have no clue what suddenly went wrong, and it can be frustrating working it out in batting practice.

By viewing video, we may find we are early on the ball, swinging up or down too much or rolling the wrists over at impact. Overthinking and over tweaking can make our swing slow and mechanical.

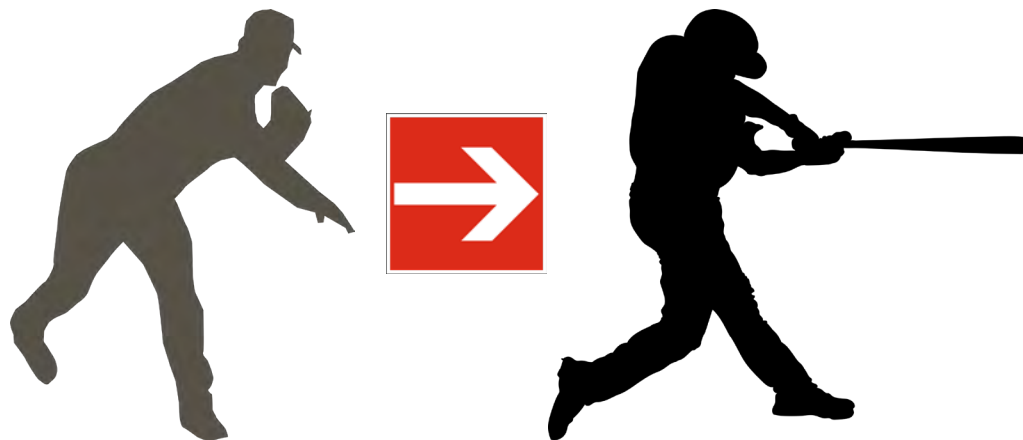
Often the quickest fix is when we simplify the focus and let our swing become a more natural movement.

Let's discuss how similar the throwing of a ball is to swinging a bat. I seldom hear seniors discuss throwing, because they do not overthink it and throwing becomes a natural movement. By thinking of how we focus on throwing, we can apply this to hitting and make the swing more natural.

A ball comes hard to third base or the outfield. Without overthinking, we simply field the ball, then push off the rear foot to get the body moving forward. The weight is kept on the back foot as body and front foot move ahead. We create a natural coil or counter rotation of the hips by doing this.

At the same time our hand and arm pull the ball back in the opposite direction of the throw. This coils up the upper body as well and gets the ball in a connected position to throw. We do this in a relaxed, controlled, and fluid manner.

When our mind



Hitting Column

By Ken Van Bogaert

determines the time and angle are right, the hips, body core, and shoulders open explosively in one quick motion. This twisting rotation helps plant the front foot firmly for weight transfer, and the twisting or torque of the hips and shoulders, throw the body open very explosively. This sets up a slingshot or whip effect as the body rotation first pulls the throwing hand, sequencing to a drive or throw of the hand with our wrist helping to throw the ball to the target.

For most players, the throwing motion is simple and an easy tempo of step and coil, then BOOM! The throw itself feels natural and is way too fast to analyze or overthink. You TRUST it. If you try throwing sidearm, this motion will be even closer to a good softball swing.

Take this same simplicity and tempo to your **softball swing**. Again, push forward off the back foot as body and front foot move forward with hands pulling the bat handle back, creating a load and coil on your rear foot and hip.

You've tracked a good pitch coming in, and when the time is right, BOOM! Like throwing a ball sidearm, you will explode the rotation open of hips and body, followed by a connected pull then throwing drive of the hands and whip of the bat head. Think of the rotation leading and propelling an axe style throw of the bat head into and through the ball. If you focus on the bat head slamming into and cutting through the ball, you will find your body will move in a way to make this happen naturally and you will let the ball come back to you properly and point

of contact improve.

The top hitters often say to just "Grip it and Rip it" with the same simplicity of throwing a softball. It's a natural movement that can be simplified to a thought focus of baBOOM or easy EXPLODE. TRUST your body to make this a natural motion and swing at a good strike!

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.

THREE BATS. ZERO MERCY.

Kingpin, Flyswatter, Caligold.

The 2027 Senior Slowpitch Lineup is here; it's time to get to work.

Available now at DEMARINI.COM



SUNCOAST **NEW** **2026 MELEE MEGALOAD 2 TWO-PIECE SERIES**
HIGH-PERFORMANCE SENIOR SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL BATS

\$239.99 available 3/2026

Scott Hall / Rob Roop
SM13SM2 / MELEE MEGALOAD 2 - 13" 2-PIECE
Barrel Type: 13" Barrel, 2-Piece Design
Weighting: MEGA-POWER End-Loaded
Signatures: Scott Hall & Rob Roop
Weights: 34"/ 25oz, 28oz, 27oz, 28oz
Warranty: None

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

TECHNOLOGY FEATURES...

Ultimate Fiber Compression Technology
Engineered with our UFC Barrel Technology for enhanced durability and consistent performance on every hit!

Max Speed Handle
The Melee Megaload 2 Series bats are engineered with a smaller handle diameter to maximize barrel whip resulting in your max speed with excellent control of the bat.

Stick & Spin Barrel Technology
A tackified barrel surface that "grips" the ball on a cut swing, spinning the ball faster for a higher ball trajectory and max distance on your blast!

OPTI-DURA Performance Composite
Aerospace-Grade Carbon Fiber combined with Suncoast's Proprietary manufacturing process results in max performance and durability - hit after hit.

APPROVED FOR PLAY IN SSUSA, ISA & SPA

VISIT SUNCOASTSOFTBALL.COM FOR THE FULL LINE OF SUNCOAST BATS & SOFTBALL PRODUCTS



Cal Allison's Legacy of Grace, Humor and Hugs



Cal Allison (third from the left) at the 2018 SSUSA Convention in Las Vegas, along with fellow national directors (left to right) Otis Rowland, Paul Cochet and Doug Robbins.

By Terry Hennessy Softball News Report

Cal Allison was one of those rare folks who effortlessly made everyone he met smile and just feel happier.

"He was a true Virginia gentleman," said Joe Diana, a good friend of Cal's who worked many Senior Softball USA tournaments with him. "Everyone he met up with was sweetheart, honey or baby. I never really saw him shake hands. It was always, 'Give me a hug.'"

As Cal's obituary said, he had a gift for making people feel special – and he was the first to volunteer to help. He coached youth baseball, shared his gift on the golf course as a pro, and drove kids to camp.

Cal turned to softball when he moved to Florida and was a talented shortstop who hit with a precision he mastered on the golf course.

As a beloved National Director for SSUSA, Cal traveled the country spreading his love of the sport – to everyone he met – in the

largest and most prestigious tournaments in America.

Cal could handle the most difficult of situations with grace and humor, leaving even those teams unhappy about a rule or a call or a schedule feeling appreciated.

It was a true and rare gift.

On of my favorite memories of Cal is commemorated on the bathroom wall in SSUSA's main office.

The photo shows Cal and Joe Diana holding a plaque after the All-Star team they managed beat me – and an undefeated Wounded Warrior team I managed – at the Tournament of Champions in 2016.

It was the first defeat for the Wounded Warriors in three years, which Cal and Joe gleefully reminded me by sending a T-shirt with the photo of them and their victory plaque.

Not wanting to be a sore loser, I told them I had the perfect place for the shirt, which we framed in a nice wooden toilet seat and posted

on the bathroom wall so that I could think of them every day.

Cal still makes me – and the hundreds of folks he touched over his life – smile every time we remember the love he freely showed to everyone he met in a life truly well lived.

Calvin "Cal" Coolidge Allison Junior died June 25 at age 82.



Cal (right) and Joe's shirt gifted to Terry Hennessy after their victory at the 2016 SSUSA Original TOC, framed in a toilet seat.

Al Murray: Hall of Fame Manager Lived for Softball

By Terry Hennessy
Softball News Report

FORT MYERS, Florida – Hall of Fame manager Al Murray, 96, who helped create the 80 Division and the first 85 team in the history of the senior softball, died May 28.

Al was inducted into the Senior Softball USA International Hall of Fame in 2016 for his work as a manager of the long-time Champion Center for Sight team based in Florida.

As a manager, Al led the team to more than 60 championships in SSUSA, ASA, SPA, ISA, the World Series and the Huntsman Games.

Al grew up in a baseball powerhouse – Irvington, N.J. His high school team attracted crowds of up to 8,000 people and seven players on his team signed with Major League clubs. Al was also captain of his high school basketball team.

Al and his wife Pamela raised their three sons in Mount Claire and his sons went on to play in college – and give Al eight grandchildren.

Al, a second baseman, played fast-pitch for 20 years and has been inducted into the ASA Metro Newark (NJ) Hall of Fame and in the Collier County (FL) Senior Softball Hall of Fame, where he both managed and played second base.

Al was a top college basketball official for 40 years, and a high school official for 60. His wife said you keep high school checks;



Al Murray (top row, six from the left, jersey number 30) on the SSUSA 2010 Japan Softball Tour with the local Japanese team and Mount Fuji in the background.

I'll keep the college checks.

His biggest thrills as a college official was working in the big East Coast venues like Madison Square Garden, and in Boston, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and West Point spanning the 1960s through the 1990s.

As a senior player, Al was been a wonderful ambassador for softball overseas, playing on U.S. teams competing in Taiwan, Japan, Spain and Cuba.

Al had been with Center for Sight since he was a "youngster" in his 70s.

In 2013, after managing the Center for Sight 80s team for six years, Al and Hugh Brotherton wanted to extend softball for not only themselves, but for many other senior players who still wanted to play, but were being cut from 80s teams as they approached their mid-80s.

So they created the first 85+ team.

Consider the philological impact.... something like



In addition to senior softball, Al also officiated college and high school basketball for 50 years.

breaking the 3-minute mile.

This was not just about a select few people who could play competitive ball in their mid- to late-80s, it set a standard that has galvanized players today in their 40s and 50s.

The 85 games attract many, many players who

marvel at the ability of these octogenarian – and see them as an inspiration to all the rest of us players.

And Al was just that – an inspiration.

Slow Pitch Surge: Stats Bode Well for Future of Sport

Softball News Report

A new national report indicates a surge of more than 400,000 Masters and Senior Slow-Pitch Softball players in 2024 in the United States.

The number of 45 and older men and women playing Slow-Pitch in both recreational leagues and tournaments increased from 1.3 million in 2023 to 1.7 million in 2024, according to the 2025 Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) Report.

“These numbers indicate a strong future for both recreational and tournament-level Masters and Senior Softball in America,” said Terry Hennessy, Senior Softball USA’s chief executive officer.

“There is a clear indication that this growth continued in 2025 on the national tournament level. At the World Championships – the largest softball tournament of any kind in the nation – the 40-division shot to 172 teams in 2025, up from 134 in 2024,” he said.

“And in the oldest group, the 65-85, the teams increased to an all-time high of 184 in 2025 Worlds, up from 171 in 2024.”

Overall in both tournament and recreational levels in the Slow-Pitch Softball, most of the increase in players was in the 45-54 age group, which shot up 380,000 in 2024, according to the latest SFIA Report.

The numbers of the older players also increased. The 55-64 age participation was up 32,000 and the 65 and older division increased 13,000 players.

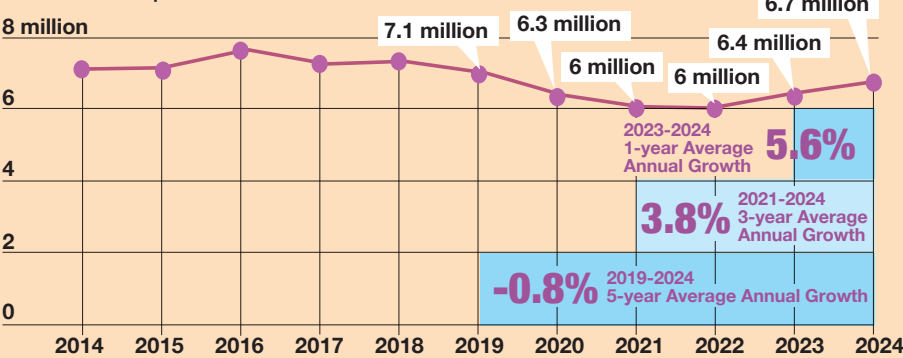
Masters and Senior Slow Pitch softball hit a high point in participation in 2019, with 1.5 million, then went into a major decline after Covid from 2020 through 2022. The low point was 2022, with 1.26 million participants.

The rebound began in 2023 with 1.3 million and continued in 2024 with 1.7 million.

Studies don’t show a single reason for the increase, but recent

Softball (Slow-Pitch) Trends

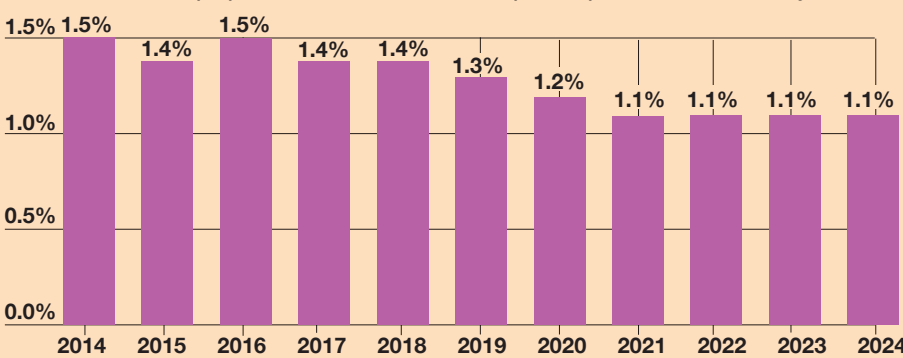
Total Participation Trends



Source: 2025 Sports Fitness Industry Association / Graphic: Sue Ballenger

CORE Softball (Slow-Pitch) Participation Rate

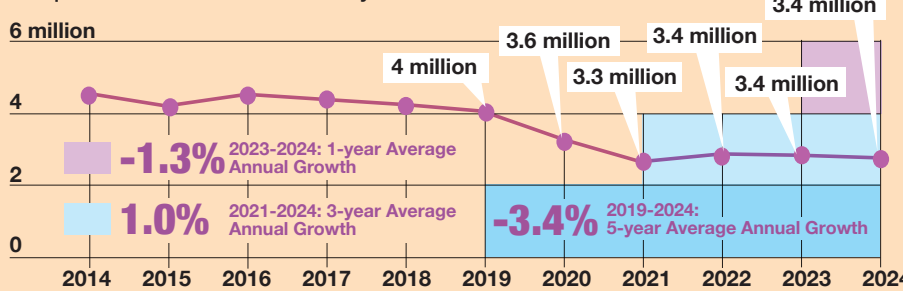
Percent of U.S. population 6 or older who participate 13+ times a year.



Source: 2025 Sports Fitness Industry Association / Graphic: Sue Ballenger

CORE Softball (Slow-Pitch) Participation Trends

Frequent or Tournament Players



Source: 2025 Sports Fitness Industry Association / Graphic: Sue Ballenger

medical reports shed light on several factors, ranging from the power of team relationships to better medical treatment, to a positive attitude.

According to the Institute on Aging (IOA), the American population is not only aging – but is expected to continue

to surge.

In 1985, older adults (65+) accounted for 11 percent of the U.S. population, according to the IOA. By 2010, they were 13 percent and by 2030, as the last Baby Boomers turn

Continued on next page

Softball Growth: Senior Population Growth Directly Tied to Increase in Softball Participants

Continued from previous page

65, older adults are expected to reach 20 percent of the population.

After that, the proportion is expected to level off, but the absolute number of individuals age 65+ will keep growing.

And the Super-Seniors, those reaching 85+ and beyond, will become a significant portion of American society.

According to the IOA study, in 1900 there were 100,000 people aged 85+. By 2010 the number had exploded to 5 million – and by 2050 the 85+ population will swell to 19 million, 24 percent of the population.

In landmark work on aging, Yale professor Dr. Becca Levy has found that positive attitudes toward aging – especially in cultures that emphasize youth, rather than older people – can actually extend life expectancy by 7.5 years.

In her groundbreaking book, “Breaking the Age Code,” she uses easy to follow recommendations that can contribute to more successful aging.

And, a different two-decade long study found that there has been a historical shift in when people view old age starting. In effect, as people age, they seem to push back when they think old age starts.

Based on a survey of 14,056 people aged 40-85, the study found “...when getting older, people’s perceived onset of old age increases to a steeper extent today compared to the past.”

That study, published in the American Psychological Association Journal, did eight assessments of the same age group over 25 years.

Senior Softball players have tapped into the secrets of staying healthy longer through the socialization of the sport, the desire to stay in shape to

Total Softball Participants				
Defined as players who play more than once a year				
	Total Number of Participants (in thousands)	Segment Percent	Participation Rate by Group	Index vs Total Population
Total	6,714	100.0%	2.2%	100
Male	3,554	52.9%	2.3%	108
Female	3,160	47.1%	2.0%	93
6 to 12	1,120	16.7%	3.9%	181
13 to 17	724	10.8%	3.4%	155
18 to 24	616	9.2%	2.1%	96
25 to 34	1,220	18.2%	2.7%	124
35 to 44	1,308	19.5%	3.0%	140
45 to 54	952	14.2%	2.3%	106
55 to 64	571	8.5%	1.3%	60
65+	202	3.0%	0.4%	17
Under \$25,000	775	11.5%	1.4%	66
\$25,000 to \$49,999	1,318	19.6%	2.1%	97
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,308	19.5%	2.5%	115
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,156	17.2%	3.1%	140
\$100,000+	2,157	32.1%	2.1%	97
New England	285	4.2%	2.4%	110
Middle Atlantic	1,046	15.6%	2.5%	113
East North Central	1,177	17.5%	2.5%	115
West North Central	494	7.4%	2.7%	126
South Atlantic	1,352	20.1%	2.0%	93
East South Central	431	6.4%	2.3%	106
West South Central	698	10.4%	2.1%	95
Mountain	410	6.1%	1.8%	84
Pacific	819	12.2%	1.7%	79
8th grade or less	1,459	21.7%	3.6%	165
1-3 years				
high school	572	8.5%	2.8%	128
High school				
graduate	1,056	15.7%	1.6%	72
1-3 years college	1,237	18.4%		93
College graduate	1,612	24.0%	2.0%	97
Post-graduate			2.1%	
studies	779	11.6%	1.8%	85
African American/				
Black	703	10.5%	1.8%	81
Asian/Pacific				
Islander	240	3.6%	1.5%	68
Caucasian/White	4,743	70.6%	2.3%	106
Hispanic	940	14.0%	2.3%	105
Other	88	1.3%	1.6%	73

Source: 2025 Sports Fitness Industry Association / Graphic: Sue Ballenger

continue to play – and a healthy and positive sense of humor.

“In Senior Softball, the trend is evident on the field,” said Hennessy. “When I started with one of our first 40

Masters teams in in 2000, we viewed the oldest group playing, the 70s, as the elders of the game. Now, playing in the 70 division, we look at the 85s and 90s as the elders of the sport.”

Rocco Cambareri's Field of Dreams Come True

Softball News Report

A baseball movie line spoken in an Iowa cornfield befits a former New York ball player who has never lost his love of the game in more than eight decades on earth. “This field, this game -- it’s a part of our past, Ray,” character Terence Mann says toward the end of the 1989 flick *Field of Dreams*. “It reminds us of all that once was good, and it could be again.”

That certainly fits Rocco Cambareri, a current Florida resident who will celebrate his 92nd birthday this year.

Decades ago, when Cambareri felt he’d grown too old to play competitively, baseball became part of his past. He stowed away his glove, cleats and bat and relegated himself to watching others play the game he loved.

Many years later, softball rescued him. As Terence Mann said, it made things good again.

The rescue started the day Cambarei answered a ringing telephone and heard the words: “We need you to play ball.”

“I can’t,” said Cambarei, who was in his 60s at the time. He’d never survive competing against young men, he figured. Besides, he had ballooned from his playing weight of 155 pounds to 258 pounds. He enjoyed drinking Scotch. He liked to smoke. How could he play ball?

The caller persisted.

“You gotta be 60 to play,” he told Cambareri.

That did it.

Cambarei dug out his Ken

The 90+ Stars

By Donna McGuire

Grippy glove and headed to the ballpark.

These days, as the retired manager of the 85+ Florida Investment Properties team, Cambarei marvels at how good baseball -- and softball -- have been to him. The wall of awards in his Florida home attest to only part of the fun. He’s been inducted into two senior softball Hall of Fames. He’s taught dozens of players how little things -- like hitting behind a runner in the right situation -- can help win a game. And he’s basked in the glow of winning some of the biggest tournament awards possible, including multiple Triple Grand Slam titles at the SSUSA World Championships.

Maybe this was his destiny. After all, Cambarei and ballfields have been intertwined since his birth. He was born the day Major League Baseball played its first-ever night game, in Cincinnati on May 24, 1935.



Rocco has been associated with Florida Investment Properties 80s team since 2013 with SSUSA.

The Reds beat the Phillies that night under the lights. The next day, when Cambarei was only a day old, Babe Ruth hit the last three home runs of his career 714 dingers.

The oldest of five children, Cambareri grew up in Manhattan, where he learned to play baseball using a pink rubber ball like a tennis ball stripped of its fuzz. The kids didn’t have gloves. They didn’t have a big ball field. They didn’t need them.

He adored the New York

Yankees and New York Giants -- and dreamed of playing Major League ball on one of those teams someday.

His father, the oldest of six, owned fruit markets and later ran luncheonettes and diners. His mother was the oldest of eight. Their names were Joseph and Marie.

Cambareri liked to joke that he was the first-born son of Joseph and Mary.

“My father was a great money maker,” Cambareri said. “He could do anything. No challenge was too tough.”

By the time he reached high school, Cambareri was playing real baseball on a real field -- in Brooklyn’s Central Park. He also played basketball for his school, Straubenmuller Textile High School, which trained future workers in design, production, management and retail while also providing a full high school curriculum.

“My two coaches were nice men,” Cambareri recalled.

But they had a problem. They started preaching Communism at a time that was a really bad thing to do. It’s easy to imagine what happened. The baseball team soon needed a new leader.

“I ran the team the year I graduated,” said Cambareri, a member of the Class of 1953.

He earned a college scholarship.

“My mother wanted me to be a doctor,” Cambareri said.

“I said, ‘Ma, I hate blood. I am going to be a ball player.’”

So, he gave up the scholarship to play in the Giants’ minor league system.

After a year, he felt his

Continued on next page



Rocco, holding up his glove, while playing in the inaugural 90s Game at the 2022 World Championships in Las Vegas.

90+ Stars: Rocco, Small in Stature, Large in Laughter, On and Off The Field

Continued from previous page

chances of making The Show were slim.

"I am not going to the Majors," he told his dad one day.

"How do you know?" his dad asked.

Cambareri knew. They were going to send him to D ball.

There went the dream.

Cambareri got married, raised a family of three daughters and a son, and grew older like everyone else. Over the years, he worked for his dad or for himself in a variety of jobs and positions.

The day he learned about senior softball changed him, he said.

"It saved my life," he said.

Soon he was playing nearly every night.

"The weight came off," he said. "I lost 80 pounds. No diet. Just playing six games a week."

On defense, he roamed the outfield until age 71, when he moved to the infield.

At age 80, he hit eight consecutive home runs at a tournament in Tampa, he said.

Over the years, he calculates that he helped turn 44 triple plays.

He joined SSUSA's international trips, playing ball while also managing the team in places like Italy, Ireland and Scotland.

And he managed the Florida Investment Properties teams to so many titles that it

becomes easy to lose count. At times, other teams refused to play them. He has about 200 championship rings, he says.

He taught his players to respect their opponents and always treat them well no matter the score or situation.

"Congratulate them for coming," he would say. "No insults."

One of his former teammates, John Fournier, said Cambareri seemed to always be teaching his players something to improve their game.

"He's a great guy and a

terrific manager," Fournier said. "He's very positive. He tries to put you in a good position in the batting order to succeed. He always encourages you to hit to right field, to hit behind the runner. He's very knowledgeable about the technique of the game and the best way to perform."

Small in stature but large in laughter, the white-haired Cambareri is so gregarious that he makes friends with teammates and opponents alike.

When SSUSA launched the 90s games at the World Championships, Cambareri

signed up at age 88, one of the underage players needed to help fill out the teams. He played in the first two or three 90s games until missing the 2025 version, he says.

His wife died young. He found a non-Italian girlfriend who cooks Italian food better than most Italians. They moved to Palm Beach, Florida, where "the weather is always beautiful," Cambareri said.

"It's a wonderful sporting life that I've had," he said. "I loved every bit."



Rocco holding his SSUSA Hall of Fame Jostens ring at the 2023 Tournament of Championships in Florida. His induction was postponed from the 2022 Convention in Ft. Myers after Hurricane Ian.

Large NorCal League Operates Half of California

Softball News Report

In the 1980s, numerous city and private organizations ran senior slow-pitch softball tournaments across Northern California.

Each organization adapted regular adult slow-pitch rules to fit its senior tournament events. Abundant disparities in roster and playing rules caused headaches for managers, who grouched and grumbled about the problem for years.

Eventually, some managers called a summit seeking a solution.

"They said, 'Why not get together, invite everyone to a big meeting, and come up with (standard) rules,'" said Gary Tryhorn, one of the proponents for change.

The result: the birth of the Northern California Senior Softball Association.

A League Above

By Donna McGuire

Organizers adopted the best rules from the smaller organizations then asked all the smaller groups to join NCSSA.

Today, roughly 36 years after its founding, NCSSA still oversees rules, conduct, safety, parity and scheduling for men's tournaments in about three fourths of California's counties. Its boundaries run from the Oregon border all the way south to Santa Barbara County.

A 15-member volunteer board oversees the association, which is carved into five regions for easier governance. Each region has a primary board member for handling questions and other issues that arise. Many

duties are split between the association's five officers and its six committees.

Tournament dates, tournament brackets, contact information, board meeting minutes, weather conditions list by city, and other key items are posted on the NCSSA website.

In its heyday about a

decade ago, NCSSA boasted more than 125 teams. Last year, 67 teams participated.

"We've lost teams because we've lost a lot of places to play," said Don Angle, a longtime board member. "The young kids have been taking away our venues. It is hard to get complexes for playing softball anymore, especially on the weekends."

More youth competition, increased field reservation fees and a decreasing number of tournament directors also impacted the association's ability to offer as many tournaments as it once did, Angle said.

"We used to have probably 70, 75 tournaments a year," he said. "We are down to about 35 now."

Even so, tournaments happen nearly every weekend from early March through October. Dates that conflict with Senior Softball-USA events are left open.

Instead of using Senior Softball USA's age and rating divisions, NCSSA employs a



Photos Courtesy of Northern California Senior Softball Association.

NCSSA continued to operate during Covid-19, playing at Manteca, California's Big League Dream in April of 2021.

Continued on next page

A League Above: NCSSA Operates Its Own Rating System on a Zero to 12 Point Scale

Continued from previous page

team ranking system based on a team's tournament success. As a result, a team's ranking can change every month.

"Teams that win tournaments, they move up," Tryhorn said. "It is a fair competition aspect."

Teams are ranked from skill level 0 to skill level 12, with the best teams drawing a 0 rating. Older recreational teams, such as ones filled with 75- and 80-somethings, would sport a 12 rating. Teams are allowed to pick up two players to add to their specific tournament roster, which sometimes boosts the team's winning percentage.

Depending on tournament success, a team that is 75+ Major Plus in the SSUSA system might play against 70+, 65+ and 60+ teams in a NorCal tournament.

Board member Sam Scott, who oversees Region IV, had been playing in a men's recreational league when he heard about a senior tournament team that needed more players.

"It was paradise," he recalled of his earliest "over 50" games. "I couldn't believe all these old guys had an (association) and would play together. I was playing in a league with 18-year-olds, and I was 50. It was getting a little rough."

Now 71, he enjoys the friendships and fellowship of the NCSSA senior tournaments as much as

playing the actual games.

"We talk about ailments and kind of brush up and help each other get through knee replacements and prostate cancers and stuff that we run into," he said. "To still be out there running around like a kid is a blessing."

NCSSA has its own Hall of Fame, with new inductees honored at the annual December membership meeting. As the association's website explains, the goal is "to recognize and honor NCSSA players and volunteers whose overall contributions and

achievements have displayed a high degree of moral and ethical character (and) who have facilitated NCSSA's success."

Managers also vote on rules changes at the annual meeting.

From the beginning, listening to the majority of players and managers has been valued, said Tryhorn, 82, a past association president who plays or practices every weekday before heading to a weekend tournament.

"We tried to make sure that NCSSA was in it for the players," he said. "They were

our No. 1 priority."

The association also established committees and rules to prevent favoritism, said Tryhorn, who spent 25 years on the NCSSA board before recently rotating off.

"We had a great group of guys that thought more about softball than personal stuff," he said. "I think that is what made it so successful. Everybody was interested in making the entire group better, not their individual team."

"It's been a fun ride."



Lincoln Hills Coyotes 70s team at NCSSA's Hall of Fame Tournament at the Big League Dreams complex in Manteca, California. Many NCSSA teams also play in Senior Softball USA tournaments, such as the Rock 'N' Reno Challenge Cup and the Western National Championships in Sacramento, Elk Grove and Placer County.

Count the Scorekeepers in the Game

Softball News Report

Scorekeepers can impact a game in numerous ways. But they don't always know the best ways to help their teams.

Take, for example, a situation that arose recently in the SSUSA Oklahoma Championships played at Challenger Sports Complex in Broken Arrow.

A scorekeeper noticed that an unreported substitute for the opponent had entered the batter's box. After the batter hit a foul ball, the scorekeeper told the team manager, who appealed.

"That's an out," the manager told the umpire.

In this case, not only was the manager incorrect, but the umpire got the rule wrong, too.

It should NOT have been an out. Appealing at that point simply meant that the unreported substitute was now legally in the game. No penalty applied.

A veteran scorekeeper would have waited for the batter to finish his at-bat before telling the manager to appeal. Then all outs recorded on the play would have counted, and the unreported substitute also would have been out (if not already put out). Any runners who advanced would have had to return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch.

Rules involving unreported substitutes and illegal substitutes often are misquoted. The situation seldom arises, which means teams seldom get to learn the rule by experience. And because the rule has been

tweaked over the years, an older player or scorekeeper may have an outdated rule in their memory banks.

It behooves scorekeepers to study SSUSA's rules annually, after the new rule book publishes. It especially helps if they know all the rules involving courtesy runners, batting order violations, substitutions and other situations a scorekeeper might notice before the team's manager or players do.

For example, veteran scorekeepers track all courtesy runners and make sure a player does not courtesy run twice in the same inning. They also track which players came out of the game for a courtesy runner, as those "removed" runners cannot run the bases for someone else for the remainder of that inning.

Before games begin, veteran scorekeepers enter the other team's batting lineup and substitute list in their scorebook. This helps them track all substitutions, the same as they track runs scored and home runs hit. It helps them notice multiple players wearing the same uniform number, a situation that needs to be fixed before game time.

But even veteran scorekeepers – and managers – can be uninformed when it comes to rules involving unreported substitutes. These start on page 26 of the SSUSA rulebook.

Proper procedure is for a manager to report a substitute to the umpire, who should record the substitution on the game card and also inform the opponent of the substitution. A substitute is considered in the game when reported to

Umpire's Corner

By Donna McGuire

that umpire.

A player does not violate the unreported substitute rule until a pitch has been thrown.

"The use of an unreported substitute is handled as an appeal by the offended team while the player is in the game," rule 4.7 states. "If the team manager or player in violation informs the umpire prior to the offended team's protest, there is no violation regardless of how long the player or players were illegally in the game."

And in the situation that happened in Oklahoma, the rule book explains that if

the defense discovers the unreported substitute during his at-bat, "he is officially in the game and assumes the ball and strike count."

That is what the umpire should have enforced in Broken Arrow.

No penalty. Play on.

As for the scorekeeper? Wait until the at-bat is finished to have the manager appeal the unreported substitute.

In that case, penalties apply.

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.





Exercise to Avoid Inflammation: Part Two

Softball News Report

In my last column, I explained that strenuous exercise provokes inflammation. In this article, I'll summarize how exercise can suppress it.

First, let's clarify:

There are two categories of inflammation. Genetic-based rheumatic diseases are scenarios where the inflammatory process is out of control. Examples are rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and other diseases with complex names like fibromyalgia and polymyalgia rheumatica. Exercise is modestly helpful in some of these conditions, but nowhere close to how well aerobic exercise suppresses atherosclerosis, the pathologic vascular process that leads to heart attacks.

Then there is "low-grade" inflammation. Here, inflammation exists, but you can't feel it. It doesn't cause muscle or joint soreness. Nevertheless, low-grade inflammation is a fundamental contributor to many chronic diseases as we age.

The inflammatory process is incredibly complex: many

cells, proteins, and other molecules are involved. C-reactive protein appears at the end of this cascade of events. Blood levels increase when inflammation worsens. Last fall, the American College of Cardiology recommended that C-reactive protein be routinely assessed when evaluating coronary disease. However, many diseases cause blood levels of C-RP to increase: not only atherosclerosis, but, also cancer, infections, and other types of tissue injury.

Surprisingly, quite a bit of research has been done evaluating how exercise affects C-RP, and, in turn, low-grade inflammation. Here are some findings:

- Aerobic exercise lowers C-RP more effectively than resistance exercise.

Health Column

By Stan Reents

PharmD Health Coach

- C-RP levels increase 24-72 hours following a marathon. However, when people trained for eight months to run a marathon, their C-RP levels were lower compared to non-runners.

- In an evaluation of 459 athletes, male swimmers, rowers, and distance runners had lower C-RP levels than non-exercisers. Soccer players and racing cyclists had higher levels. Female swimmers, rowers, and distance runners also had lower levels than non-exercisers.

- Obesity increases C-RP levels. Some research argues that the reason why they

decrease with regular exercise is because fat mass is lost.

In other words, if no fat is lost, then, C-RP levels do not decrease. But, other research did not confirm this so it's not possible to make a firm statement here.

- Dietary elements and dietary patterns have a powerful effect on low-grade inflammation. The typical American diet is loaded in foods and beverages that increase low-grade inflammation.

Bottom line: Regular aerobic exercise lowers C-RP. This suggests that it suppresses low-grade inflammation. However, this effect is just one of many biochemical and physiologic benefits of aerobic exercise.

Stan Reents, PharmD, is a health care professional and health/fitness coach. He created the website 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."



Mid-Season Team Re-Ratings & Appeals

Softball News Report

SACRAMENTO – Senior Softball USA recently completed its mid-season Ratings Review of all teams.

The Ratings Committee reviewed 43 Appeals, approving 21 and denying 22. They are re-evaluating 6 team appeals.

The committee also moves teams up or down based on a review of team performance. Five teams were moved up and 11 teams moved down based on performance.

Team Ratings are reviewed twice a year: in June and after the World Championships in October.

Only teams that are clearly too strong or too weak for their division are moved down in June because we do not change ratings again until after the World Championships.

More teams are moved up or down after the World Championships because



they have an opportunity to play for several months to ensure they were moved to the correct skill level.

Here is the process:

As soon as the Rock 'N' Reno results are input into our ratings program, the SSUSA webmaster produces a Ratings book with results for all teams that have played from the World Championships through the first week of June.

Our Ratings Staff reviews the games, looking for teams winning or losing by an average of 5 or more runs to teams in their age and skill division. They also review the results of any teams that have



filed official Rating Appeals, and review recommendations from tournament directors.

Our Ratings Staff then compiles a list of recommendations to move teams down or up – and recommendations on all appeals. That list is sent to several Ratings Advisers in different parts of the country for their input.

After the Adviser recommendations are received, the Ratings Staff compiles a final list and notifies managers of the teams. After the managers have been notified, the team ratings are updated on the website.





**GET WICKED!
THE DAGGER
SENIOR BAT**

2026 Dagger
One Piece Matte
Finish Power
GlideTech9

Get Wicked and take your game to the next level with gear designed, tested, and manufactured by players for players.



Vist us at wickedsportsteam.com



All-Tourney Players From Coast to Coast

Softball News Report

Congratulations to the All-Tournament selections from the 2026 Aloha Bowl to the 2026 Steve Simmons Memorial/Northern Championships! First places 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.

Aloha Bowl

Women's 40+ Major:

Get Nutz (HI): Tamsyn Kellough, Allison Nihei, Deirdre Wisneski, Kellie Nishikida.

Women's 40+ Silver:

Poly Chics (Cali Gold): Rachel Baldwin, Erica Trujillo, Christina Lang, Aimee Polit, Marlene Pique.

Women's 50/55+ AAA:

Highly Favored (FL): Lori Johnson, Carisa Miller, Marti Duncan, Amy Lamar, Dawn Yanich.

Go For Broke (HI): MJ Victorino, Allison Nihei, Gordean Kalauhine.



15 of the 45 teams that competed in the 2026 Aloha Bowl were from the mainland U.S., that is one-third of the teams.



Only 4.5% of teams that competed in the 2026 Spring World Championships in St. George went undefeated, in what was a very competitive event of 109 teams across 15 states.

Men's 40+ AAA:

T.N.T. (Tacos & Tequila) (CA): Jose Sandoval, Kenji Kishimoto, Cary Fessenmeyer, Jonathan Martinez, Jose "Joe Joe" Corona.

Men's 40+ AA:

Lanakila (HI): Kyle Chang, Mike Gonzales, Leland Keale Jr., Salevaa Sula.

Men's 50+ AAA:

Hawaiians: Vernon DeSoto, Chad Baldini, Josh Jardine, Rich Ah Yat, Keola Koki.

HI Heat 50s: Christopher Hepa, Charlie Bright, Marc Rinkler, Mike Arandia.

Men's 55+ AAA:

Shut D 55s (HI): Ken McCarthy, Roy K. Mariani, Kiki Urbano-Pepe, Rolland Alcoran, Chad Cunningham.

Men's 60/65+ Gold:

Hawaiians 60 Blue: Rodney Chang, Steven Lee, Steve Matsuoka.

Men's 65+ AAA:

Warriors-Imua (HI): Dominic Meditz, Les Sherrill, Hirokazu Ogame, Leroy Silva, Louie Lopez.

Men's 65/70+ Silver:

Kona Lawa Kua Nui (HI): Jesse Vargas, Floyd Lapinid, Bill Chambers, Jeff Fyffe, Richard Rasay.

Men's 70/75/80+ Gold:

Warriors 75 (HI): Glenn Morihara,

Gerald Lau Hee, John Hirota, Mike Hinkley, William Andrade.

Spring World Championships

Men's 40+ Gold:

Vintage UT: Ben Lail, Ray Buttermore, Tony Gonzales, Ocho (Chad) Blea.

Grandaddy Softball/GS Sports (NV): Ryan Paulin, Tommy Stetter, Rob Grace.

Men's 50/55+ Major Plus:

4 The Fallen Legends Sports (NV): Ellis Holliday, Jacob Manny, Todd Biddle.

Men's 55+ AAA:

Top Gun Legends (CA): Danny Montano, Stephon (Pee Wee) Randolph, Mark "Pic" Picton, Doug Marconet.

Men's 55/60+ Platinum:

Pro Vision 55 (WA): Jim McGinn, Darren Degroot, Dan Clouse, Carl Booker.

Men's 60+ Major:

Top Gun Warriors (CA): George Ramsey, Warren Lawter, Mike Berg, Nick Miller, Dale Gray.

Road Warrior 60 (AZ): Rod Bellman, Howard Cramer, Brian Lohman.

Men's 60+ AAA:

R-Tech Alaskan Kings: Dan Fleckenstein, Tom Listberger, Pat McConnell, Don Ostrom, Terry Benson.



All-Tourneys: 33 Teams Earn TOC Berths Between the Spring Worlds and Midwest Championships

Continued from previous page

Men's 60+ AA:

Boys of Summerlin (NV): Fred Cantrell, Larry Parent, Bob Stonemetz, Dennis Montoro, Bobby Oliveto.

So Cal Riptide 60: Paul Truelove, Joe Ramos, Todd Zola, Ed Rice.

Vegas Renegades: Lose L. Bustos, Mariano Locascio, Todd Pierson.

Men's 65+ AA:

Sin City OutKasts: Pete Vodden, Jeff Alworth, Roy Robinson, Sandy Milmeister, George Caudill.

Men's 65/70+ Platinum:

Arizona Old School 65: Mickey Gregg, George Siegele, Dennis Burt, Jeff White, Rich Wilson.

Vegas Elite/ Vault (UT): Dewy James, Ollie Oliverson, Steve Antonczyk, Tom Ryan.

NorthWest Stampede (OR): Geo Ladenburg, Randy Eatherton, Kevin Davis.

Men's 65/70+ Gold:

Arizona Road Warriors 65: Greg Walker, Gina Tomlison, Kari Toivola, Jerry Lowe.

Men's 70+ AAA:

Supreme Athletics 70s (NV): Marco Caldana, Rudy Escamilla, Julio Ruiz.

Men's 70+ AA:

Pastimers (WA): Kern Akers, Kevin Johnson, Jan Schiffmann, Ed Jarry, Rob

Lundell.

Family 70s (NV): Dave Pasos, Mike Kaczer, Bobby Castiglione, Terry Fowler.

Men's 75+ Major:

R&R 75s (CA): Roy Ferguson, Ken Kowalsky, Ernie Lueras, Norb Rud, Steve Spisak.

Last Call 75 (NV): Danny Estin, Larry Berger, Bob Murray, Ron Beck.

Men's 75+ AAA:

Speed Limit 75 (UT): Mike Marshall, Steve Francom, John Yates, Mike Conatser, Greg Penrod.

Sidewinders 75s (AZ): Orie McDonald, John Spencer, Tom Espinoza, Eric Hubble.

75 Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO): Ken Armbruster, Randy Huls, Ralph Perkins.

Men's 75+ AA:

Scrap Iron Stampede 75 (CO): Howie Fishman, Lupe Pena, Barry Hager, John Beckner.

Men's 80/85+ Gold:

Top Gun Blue Angels 85 (CA): Ronnie Guest, Dewey Williams, Jerry Callahan.

Midwest Championships

Men's 50+ Silver:

Alliance/Scrap Iron 50 (CO): James Lee, Kerry Warren, Phil Burnett, Kael Russell, Ricky Vestal.

Heroes 50s (NE): Mike Pohl, Geoff Boedeker, Tom Barkhaus, Brad Bell.

Men's 55+ Platinum:

SSC/Persuaders (KS): Dana Wendelin, Doug Miller, Danny Driskell, Steve Taylor, Brian Williams.

Men's 55+ AAA:

Maher Muehling Nebraska Elite 55: Marty Schirmer, Jason Rirere, Jeff Wessel, Mike Rivera, Rich Morse.

Swagger (MO): Lonnie Finnell, Eddie Mann, Eddy Woodward, Allan Williams.

Heroes 55 (NE): Will "Big Will" Williams, Chad Pfortmiller, Entire Team.

Men's 60+ Major:

Sea Glass (OK): Dale Simons, Ken Slaton, Terry Hale, William Kent, Sid Adamson.

Men's 60+ AAA:

Alliance/Scrap Iron 60 (CO): Gary Cunninghame, Micah Ebersole, John Maldonado, Seth Little, Joe Divido.



The 2026 Midwest Championships in Kansas City, Kansas saw 27 games decided by just one run.

Men's 65/70+ Major Plus:

Texas Crush Seventies: Murray Williams, Anthony Hinojosa, Eddie Ortiz, Mike Garibay.

KC Kids 70s (MO): George Kramer, Mark Kenney, Mick Lashbrook.

Men's 70+ Gold:

BlueSpeed AV 70 (MO): Roger Hein, Paul Oblein, Gary Tackett, Bill Hancock, Brian Brewster.

Men's 70/75/80+ Silver:

Midwest Express (NE): Clyde Fry, Ed Rastovski, Ted Stringer.

Tidewater Classic

Women's 40+ AAA:

B Elite Ballers (NC): Valerie Smith, Petrice Fox, Tanesha Haynes, Kenisha Curtis, Josephine Prince, Renee Fuller.

Lady Aces/Amer Legion Post 327 (VA): Amanada Powell, Tisha Scruggs, Cara Karabow, Cassie Rucker, Samantha

Continued on next page

All-Tourneys: Southwest Championships Kicks Off the First of Two SSUSA TOC Qualifiers in Vegas

Continued from previous page

Haraway.

Men's 40+ Platinum:

Prime 40s/Proton Sports/Treedem Sports (MD): Wil Padilla, Phil Primmer, Stanley Clayborn.

Men's 40+ AAA:

SpamTown Sliders (MN): Derek Edwards, Daniel Callinan, Brandon Vaughn, Jarrett Korfhage, Peter Korfhage.

Lead Foot Grays (MD): Joe Tidwell, Mark (Roc) Timmons, Nicholas (Doodle) Bradley.

Men's 50+ Major:

Lyndsey Roofing/OTC ELITE (NY): Willie Allen, Anthony Smith, George Hodge, Joe Bonelli, Jim Greenwood.

Men's 55+ Major:

D.C. Grays (VA): Brian Tennant, Mark Shafer, Mark Schroeder, Andy Esmiller, William Alford.

Lawson Construction Management (VA): Cliff Billingslea, Mike Bond, Harry Fuller.

Men's 55/60+ Silver:

Team Illinois 60s: Kevin Lawrence, Bob Myers, Keith Knipmeyer, Terry Feeney, Tony Burnett.

VA Journeymen: Van Shipp, Randy Riley, Joey Akers, Mike Slusher.

Men's 60+ Major:

E&E Metal Fab Inc/Jerich Company (PA): Ernest Donaldson, Bill Jerich, Rob Gratkowski, Jeff Barefoot, Steve



Men's 60+ Major Plus division championship game, where County Heating & Air of California emerges victorious against Hawaii Five-O, 16-6, at the 2026 Southwest Championships.

Shellenberger.

Sullivan Contracting (PA): Bill Bakner, Charles Smith, Dave Parsnik.

Men's 65/70+ Gold:

The Starboard (DE): Jack Kowalski, Chuck Corrigan, Chuck Emersom, Mark Potter.

Northern Virginia Force 65s: Randy Bargiel, Bill Bundy, Andy Von Canon.

Southwest Championships

Women's 40+ Major:

Tharaldson Softball (NV): Nicole Nelson, Kelly Glass, Tessa Weinmeyer, Megan Higginbotham, Penny Danks.

Royal-T Real Estate (WA): Krystal Uthe, Shanika Peacock, Julia Pollastro, Shana Ray.

Still Mobbin (CA): Jennifer Jobson, Jennifer Quilantang, Adrienne Antoni.

Women's 40+ AAA:

Not Today (NV): Ambria Gregorich, Michelle Peroff, Ashley Chandler,

Veronica Villa-Montanez, Erica Judge.

Utah Relics 40s: Gimmie Murphy, McKell Shurtliff, Jentry Johnson, Tami Smith.

Women's 50+ Major:

Snap, Crackle, Pop (WA): Robyn Rieger, Jami (Cupcake) Kai, Traci Barnes.

Women's 50+ AAA:

Utah Relics 50s: Tammy Crandall, Kathy Christiansen, Pam Slade, Kim Baum, Ann Smith.

Get Dirty (NM): Shelly Gonzales, Doris Corrales, Monica Chavez.

Women's 55+ Gold:

Bomb Threats (NC): Julie Nunez, Stacy Willis, Diane Dostalek, Deb Hale, Stacy Romano.

SWI/Rueblur (CA): Sheryl Sanchez, Betty Atkinson, Anita McCall, Sylvia Echols.

Takin' Chances 55 (CA): Dee Boster, Sharon Farrell, Tressia Hammonds.

Continued on next page



All-Tourneys: With 215 Teams, Southwest Champs Is SSUSA's Second Largest Event

Continued from previous page

Men's 40+ Major:

Grandaddy Softball/GS Sports (NV): Tommy Stetter, Richard Hilton, Matt Meyer, Henry Garcia.

Vicious Cycle/Ikonik Sports/Hustle (CA): Chris Carper, Alex Rubio, Rick Wasilchuk.

Men's 40+ AAA:

Vegas Delinquents: Alonzo Wright, Peter Gonzales "Q", Todd Elliot.

Men's 50+ AAA:

G-Force/Epic Athletics (CA): John L. Grondona Jr., Lyle Faubion, David P. Gantt, William Morrow.

Men's 55+ Major Plus:

MC Improvements (WI): Greg Nardelli, Scott Doffek, Scott Engen, Dave Simono.

Men's 55+ Silver:

Khaos (CA): Rolando "Chango" Diaz, Brian Gregoire, Matt Johnson, Chris

Enriquez, Eddie Martina.

Men's 60+ Major Plus:

County Heating & Air (CA): Isac Alvidrez, Mike Hoffner, Mike Reed, Ron Hayes, Chuck Henninger.

Hawaii Five-O: Gary Chaney, Paul Supat, Ivan Sombelon, Jay Viela.

Acme 60s (CA): Ellis Fouts, Archie Hodge, Anthony Terrell.

Men's 60+ Major:

Custom Truck (NV): Wayne Brandon, Orlando Johnson, Dewy James, Greg Minick, James Maxie.

Top Gun Warriors (CA): George Ramsey, Dennis Carvalho, Mike Berg.

Men's 60+ AAA:

Warriors 60 (CA): Theodore Balocan, Robert Ishikawa, Steven Larson, Troy Mckim, Mariano Rios.

Fossil Fuel 60 (CA): Corey Baker, Robbie Hayes III, Danny Gutierrez, Ken Knox.

Men's 60+ AA:

So Cal Riptide 60: Todd Zola, Glenn Mitchell, Paul Truelove, Rodney Weiss, Joe Kramer.

Tri City Legends (WA): John Keltch, Rick McFall, Jeff Jenson, Kevin

Schwartz.

Men's 65+ Major Plus:

Cal Energy 65: Don Owens, Rod Gibson, Dave Dahilig, Wayne Brandon, Darren Idler.

Samurai 65 (CA): John Leavitt, Boyd Gumbs, Mario Penados, Vince Gallo.

Men's 65+ Major:

Dirty Birds 65s (CA): Cliff McLaughlin, Ron Chenier, Mike Feldman, Frank Riese, Graham Sterling.

Arizona Old School 65: Mickey Gregg, Don Stogdell, Reyes Gonzales, Greg Colyar.

Vegas Elite/ Vault (UT): Mark Fink, Chaz Pennes, Bart Nutt.

Men's 65+ AAA:

Top Gun Stars 65s (CA): Mark Aumann, Lee Bade, Paul Buehler, David Johnson.

QC Rebel's/Hopkins Financial (ID): Daren De Boer, Grant Beebe, Steve Wilson.

Men's 65+ AA:

Sin City OutKasts: Dave Evensen, Greg Solomon, Richard Harris, Peter Vodden, Jeffrey Alworth.

Advil Knights (CA): Jim Anderson, Stacy Baird, Juan Guerrero, Bill Dailey.

So Cal Riptide 65: Paul Woodley, Jerry Sloan, Bob Loenhorst.

Men's 70+ Major Plus:

R&R 70s (CA): Barry Bluhm, Rick Vogel, Sal Rivera, Rich Moreno.

Men's 70+ Major:

Samurai 70 (CA): Bob Flannery, Roy Chien, Matt Fahring, Bert Cochran, Ron Hotchkiss.

Bulldogs 70 (OR): Lee Krohn, Marlin Harris, Bobby Aikman, Don Freund.

Wongs 70 (CA): Ocie Wesley Jr., Raul Ravago, Steve Hess.

Men's 70+ AAA:

Supreme Athletics 70s (NV): Jim Strickland, Andy Moscow, Bruce King, Rudy Escamilla, Larry Fuentes.

Ranalls Realty 70 (AZ): Mark Redfearn, Ralph McKeever, John Boland, Pat Follmer.

Men's 70+ AA:

Los Vatos Viejos 70 II (AZ): Tony Cabrales, Paul Hernandez, Dennis Rosales, Max Torres, Rey Granillo.

Lights Out 70 (CA): Kevin



Ten Hawaiian teams competed in the 2026 Southwest Championships in Las Vegas.

Continued on page 36

Is the Social Security Increase Really an Increase?

Softball News Report

We're now halfway through the year and those looking into their Social Security crystal ball are seeing big things ahead in 2027.

Big things as in more money headed our way... if you are receiving Social Security benefits.

With inflation continuing to rise nationwide, I've seen estimates of benefit raises as high as 4.7 percent coming next year.

In fact, following the recent release of the Consumer Price Index, even the nonpartisan Senior Citizens League took a bit more of a conservative forecast, expecting an increase of 3.8 percent.

While that's a significantly above what most senior softball players received last year when the increase was 2.8 percent, it's not enough to keep up with rising prices for gasoline, groceries and insurance bills, critics say.

They note that while the cost-of-living adjustments, or COLAs as they are commonly called, are designed to only match rising cost...and not to exceed them. What that means to us seniors is that the best we can hope for in any given year is for our annual increase to just keep up with rising costs.

Right now, we're only looking at forecasts because Social Security bases the rate hike on actual inflation during the coming months of July, August and September. So in a nutshell, if we're going

Money Matters: By Jack Sirard

to get a higher than usual rate hike, inflation will need to continue to be hot this summer.

Here are a few important things to remember:

- The official figure to be announced by the Social Security Administration is expected on Oct. 14, 2026. You will get your personalized benefit increase statement sometime in December.

- If you are the average retiree getting \$2,081 a month, a 4.7 percent increase works to an extra \$100 a month, or \$1,200 more per year.

- If the increase is a more conservative 3.8 percent, that will add about \$80 a month to your budget or \$960 a year.

- Seniors also need to factor in their Medicare Part B premiums. This year, those premiums shot up from \$185 to \$202.90 a month which effectively erased about one third of the COLA increase. With that in mind, experts are saying that the Medicare cost could rise about 5 percent in the coming year to about \$213.

So, if you add things up and things don't seem to add up for you, now's a good time to look for outside sources of income to offset the steep inflation we're seeing now.

The financial experts say that the best way to beat inflation particularly over a long retirement is to have



savings and investments, both stocks and bonds, that provide steady income.

That way those boring, but steady, investments can be the supplement your monthly Social Security checks.

We've still got several months until it's time to rejiggle our budgets, but now might be a good time to start

considering any changes that may be needed.

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



All-Tourneys: 22 Teams Snatch TOC Berths From the 2026 Spring Nationals and Texas State Champs

Continued from page 34

Doverspike, Frank Asa, Bryan Robinson.

Men's 75+ Major:

Ancient 75s (AZ): Granville Smith, Bill Saunders, Paul Carpenter, Steve Giese, Doug Royse.

Cut Loose 75s (CA): Sam Grimes, Joe Romel, Jodie Rhea, Donald Brazell.

Men's 75+ AAA:

Speed Limit 75 (UT): Steve Francom, Mike Conatser, John Decker, Larry Larson, Terry Miller.

No Guts, No Glory (CA): Bob Herrera, Louie Estrada, Lary Row, Jack Brunschmid.

Sidewinders 75s (AZ): Orie McDonald, George Lorentzen, Pete Bell.

Men's 75+ AA:

Twin Peaks Desert Heat 75 (NV): Roger Ford, Billy Parsons, Rich Enright, Lloyd Maxwell, Pat Faivre.

Scrap Iron Stampede 75 (CO): Joe LaRoue, Ken Mason, Barry Hagar, Charlie Powell.

Men's 80+ Major Plus:

Omen 80 (CA): Glen Jones, David Briones, Hank Ornelaz, George Anas, John Moran.

Maverick Construction 80s (TX): Bobby Schreyer, Dana Kimmel, Larry Rhodes, Jimmy Dickerson.

Men's 80/85+ Platinum:

Sidewinders 80s (AZ): Jerry Sepich, Jerry Bianchi, John Hammel, Mike Lavis.

Top Gun 80 Gold/JSquared (CA): Johnny Suniga, Roy Rodriguez, Dennis Foley.

Men's 80/85+ Gold:

ZIA 80s (NM): Ray Johnson, Ronne Mercer, Dave Luebber, Ted Roluffs, Tony Jensen.

Spring National Championships

Men's 40+ Platinum:

Suncoast 40s (FL): Toby Letak, Brad Sheffield, Kyle "Flea" Cowart, Ryan Fant, Jon "Biscuit" Dombrowski.



SAW Property Solutions (FL): Kasey Harmon, Jason Short, Danny Prevatt, Jerry McCreery.

Men's 50+ Major Plus:

Baugh Ford/Short Porch/LeMay (FL): Jason Leek, Shawn Jones, Brandon Murray.

Men's 50+ Major:

Naturals Softball (FL): Jack Renzulli, Ulysses Torres, Ryan Dills, Dean Dove.

Men's 50+ AAA:

Woodlawn Hitting Club 50 (FL): Bobby Beverly, Joe Robinson, Reese Kiple, Andrew Simpson, Shawn Foreman.

Men's 55+ Major:

Florida-Onyx: Donnie "Bama" Hudson, Kevin Rivers, Dan Bench, Ron "Warden" Schmitt, John "Wheels" McGuire.

Men's 60+ Platinum:

Action Auto Parts 60s (RI): Brian McConnick, Steve Dupont, Thomas Auffrey, Bob Putney, John Kilcoyne.

Suncoast/Squared Away Sports/M&M Glove Repair (FL): Mike Brock, Calvin Butcher, Mike Kalmes, Elmer Mason.

Men's 60/65+ Gold:

Bangers (FL): Jimmy Signer, Scott Robertson, Scott Kartheiser, Steve Sole, Bryan Atkeson.

Caffe Versuvios/Nasti Softball (FL): Scotty Venable, Eddie Ferris, Michael Stinespring, Robert Husted.

Raging Mummies (FL): Fred Keeney, Dave Bocchino, Mike Otto.

Men's 65/70+ Gold:

Rosebay Rattlers (FL): Stan Chviek, Pete Grimsley, Linford King, Tom Rosenthal, Barry Abernathy.

Slug-A-Bug (FL): Stephen Matson, David Jolly, Mike DiChristopher, Danny Langdon.



Texas State Championships

Men's 50+ AAA

Alliance/Scrap Iron 50 (CO): Joe Phillips, Ty Clark, Kael Russell, Phil Burnett, Matt Boltz.

West Texas 50s: James Sutton, Shy Burney, Bill Culpepper, Chris Weiss.

Men's 50/55+ Platinum:

The Firm 55 (TX): Carl Randle, Darnell Marshall, John Rendon, Eric Boles, Ian Fields.

JTF/Squared Away (TX): Marcus Hamilton, AJ Hatch, Michael Kile, Perry Hensley.

Men's 55+ Major:

WALKOFF 55 (MD): Billy Nelson, Mark Norton, Barry Hargreaves, Ben Chang.

Men's 55+ AAA:

Alliance/Scrap Iron 55 (CO): Steve Sullivan, Troy Watson, Tom Breck, Ryan Sakata, Kevie Durham.

Heroes 55 (NE): Clint Spiegel, Mike Marlow, Jerry Wegiel, Paul Murray.

Men's 60+ Major:

Demolition 60 (TX): Joey Waggonner, Greg Santos, Dennis Mendoza, Tom Clark, Tom Whitmore.

The Tribe (MO): Kurt Mechelke, Greg Anderson, Don Bruns, Billy Peck.

Men's 60+ Silver:

Lumberjack Red (MN): Mitch Krause, Jim Wolf, Ken Nelson.

Men's 65+ Major Plus:

Texas Crush Sixty Fives: Larry Tostrud, Mark Henson, Tommie Clark, Al

Continued on next page

All-Tourneys: A Record Breaking 76 Teams Competed in the 2026 Atlantic Coast Champs

Continued from previous page

Tarrant, Donnie Colbath.

Men's 65+ AAA:

Albuquerque Asphalt Softball Club (NM): Bob Daniel, Scot Anderson, Mike Braman, Erin Ford, Scott Swisher.

Men's 75+ Silver:

Robson Ranch (TX): Carl Caruso, Ken Ford, Stan Isbell, Lee Figuereido, Bill Smiley.

Men's 80/85+ Gold:

KC Kids/Bale Chevrolet (MO): Gary Bowers, Marvin Carr, Bob Darrah, Bill Nees, Jerry Clawson.

Atlantic Coast Championships

Men's 40+ Major:

Turn 2 Electric 40s (NC): Adam Keith, Michael Miller, Jason Hyer, Brandon Belton, Jeremy Garner.

Sake (MD): Tarrance Hayes, Mike Goede, John Garrett.

Men's 40+ AAA:

Hard Knocks Softball (HKS) (VA): Bert Wettens, David Hoffmaster, Joe Hanline.

Men's 50+ Major:

Lyndsey Roofing/OTC ELITE (NY): Joe Bonelli, Mike Kalinowski, Dan Doyle, Justin Doyle, Kevin Stauffer.

AST/QTI/GPOA/PNS/CCS (VA): Ced Ellis, Chris Burrell, Shaun Bigley.

Men's 50+ AAA:

Warpath 50 (MD): Rodney Webb, Ronnie Kane, Weldon McLeod, Alonzo Brandon.

Flatline/Van Metre Homes (VA): Tommy Vickers, Jon Moore, Randy Manus.

Men's 50/55+ Major Plus:

Deluxe Bakery (NJ): JD Kasper, Scott Hower, Joey Cecchione, Dave DeSantis.

MC Improvements (WI): Craig Crandall, Greg Nardelli, Scott Schambow.

Men's 55+ Major:

C3 Skids (FL): Elmer Mason, Jeff Widdows, Jason "JJ" Johnson, Kelly "Puppy" Caudill.



Two players were inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame during the 2026 Atlantic Coast Championships, Roger "Bucky" Josey (left) as a player, and George Chance (right) as a pioneer player.

Men's 55/60+ Silver:

Turn 2 Electric (NC): Keith Booker, Greg Watkins, Mike Ripberger, Brooks Holmes.

Wicked Slice Pizza (CT): Rob LaPierre, John Gustafson, Bob Rowe.

Men's 60+ Major:

E&E Metal Fab Inc/Jerich Company (PA): Patrick Hobbs, Dan Wert, Tim Hawkins, Rob Gratkowski, Jeff Barefoot.

Men's 65+ Major Plus:

TRT (FL): Rich Meltz, Kurt Musial, Bill Devine, Jeff Farney, Steve King.

Men's 65+ Gold:

Olympian Athletics 65 (PA): Doug Hartzok, Jim Gallagher, Gary Domitrovits, Joe Liguori, Larry Smith.

Northern Virginia Force 65s: Randy Bargiel, Bill Duffy, Dave Lumsden.

Men's 70+ Silver:

Oakes Grading Shockers (NC): Rick Cooper, Larry Whitley, Mark Alford.

Men's 70/75+ Platinum:

Talaga Construction 70 (FL): Bill Terrenzi, Darryl Nielsen, Dan Kelley, Dave Kuchinsky.

Reality Check 70 (NC): Dennis Tuck, Milton Rogers, Chris Bumgarner.

Men's 75/80+ Platinum:

Hamel 80 (MD): George Riggs, Ron Merritt, Herb Ballard, Dan Ballard, Jim Causier.

Northern Virginia Force 75: Jimmy Campbell, Gary Donovan, Rich Alifano, Tony Walker.

Rock 'N' Reno Challenge Cup

Women's 40+ Major:

Royal-T Real Estate (WA): Julie Pollastro, Tracie Dalke, Jenn Adams, Jessica Ford.

Women's 50+ Major:

GBA (CA): Lena Peneku-Norwood, Patty Felker, Sabrina Bobkowski, Lisa Maxey.

Women's 55+ Gold:

Takin' Chances 55 (CA): Tressia Hammonds, Melissa Akers, Michelle Adkins, Rebecca Muniz, Dee Boster.

Old Nasty Curves (CA): Dale Kajikawa, Kristin Bowling, Shelly Serna,

Continued on next page



All-Tourneys: Rock 'N' Reno Cup Celebrates 40th Year; See Page 9 for the 2026 Reno Recap Story

Continued from previous page

Mary Knudsen.

Bomb Threats (NC): Stacy Willis, Danielle D'Amico, Christen Herrera.

Men's 40+ Major:

Throwdown Softball (CA): Steve Apilado, Mark Vega, Cody Garcia, Josh Miran.

Men's 40+ AAA:

T.N.T. 40s (CA): Joe Corona, Cory Fessenmeyer, Jonathan Martinez, Jose Sandoval.

Men's 50+ Major:

A&B PLBG 50 (CA): Danny Current, Kenny Burton, Jonathan Amey, Dave Glushenko.

Men's 55+ AAA:

Cali Gold 55: Jeff Davis, Steven Walker, Greg Hamilton, Geoff Crowley, Mario Elias.

Men's 60+ Major:

North Valley Seniors (CA): Craig Wagner, Taylor Welz, John Gibbs, Steve Swirsky.

Men's 60+ Silver:

Sacramento Flash: Danny Spencer, Ted Crumbley, Ted Ursino, Greg Heath, Keith Crocker.



Acme 60s vs. Tough Monkey/Onyx/Elite of the Men's 60+ Major Plus division, both from California, playing their first game in the best two out of three bracket.

Six Five O's (CA): Rich Wachter, Matt Atwater, John Batinich.

Men's 65+ Major Plus:

Cal Energy 65: Mike Hoffner, Rod Gibson, Dominic Calise, Wayne Branden, Gino Fiasche.

Texas Crush Sixty Fives: Larry Tostrud, Al Tarrant, Pat Rea, Doug Kett.

Men's 65+ Major:

New Dawn Awning 65 (CA): Taylor Welz, Gill Sanders, Ricardo Moctezuma, Gary Hoffman, Dino Gay.

Arizona Old School 65: Charles Synegal, Rich Wilson, Marty Hobby, Dave Vandehey.

Men's 65+ AAA:

QC Rebel's/Hopkins Financial (ID): Craig Dunn, Tony Hartz, Grant Beebe.

Men's 70+ Platinum:

NorthWest Stampede (OR): Geo Ladenburg, Mike Slavenski, Mike Allen, Kevin Davis, Charles Hudson.

Cal Energy 70: Lyman Rose, Craig Nakahara, Don Jackson, Darryl Watson.

Last Call 70 (NV): Dan Kibbe, David Isabell, Chris Santor.

Men's 75+ AA:

Northwest Sage (WA): Randy Schulz, Jim OHare, Tom Adams, Wayne Terry, Les Gipe.

Sacramento Buds: Pete Ward, Charlie Stebbins, Bill Davenport, Monte Watson.

Men's 80/85+ Platinum:

Sidewinders 80s (AZ): Bob Ross, Jerry Sepich, Rick Purdy, Dale McLaughlin.



Men's 40+ Major division at the 2026 Rock 'N' Reno Cup, where Unloaded 40s (CA) defeated Sudden Impact NM, 26-20, to advance in the championship bracket.

Continued on next page

All-Tourneys: 11 Teams Earn TOC Berths From Steve Simmons Memorial/Northern Championships

Continued from previous page

Men's 80/85+ Gold:

Top Gun Blue Angels 85 (CA): Herb Epple, Dave Duarte, Jerry Callahan.

Steve Simmons Memorial/Northern Championships

Men's 50+ Major:

Elite Reality/KR Signs (MN): Andy Wukmir, Rodney Olson, Marc Behrendt, Mike Bauer.

Men's 50+ AAA:

MN 50 Core: Steve Rud, Scott Korba, Mike Kirkwood, Jason Ramsey, Chris Hill.

Men's 50/55+ Silver:

Oshkosh Ambassadors 55 (WI): Dave Hanseder, Eric Pierson, Chris Nimke, Paul Williams.

Men's 60+ AAA:

Isle Edge Trucking 60s (WI): Matt SanFelippo, Doug Merline, Todd Oleson, Greg Prince, Kevin Devenport.

Alliance/Scrap Iron 60 (CO): Gary Cunningham, Tom Breck, Seth Little, John Robinson.

Men's 60/65+ Platinum:

Minnesota Merchants 65: Wayne Peterson, Tom Hechsel, Allan Trapp,



Photo by Clover Schultz.

Many games in the 2026 Steve Simmons Memorial/Northern Championships were decided in the open inning.

George Paterson.

Men's 60/65+ Silver:

Minnesota Road Warriors: Mike Marrinan, Charlie Vrooman, Ron Gronfor, Tom Fridgen, John Hunter.

Silver Lumberjacks (MN): Todd Zemke, Galen Swoboda, Bruce Pierson, Bob Gills.

Men's 70+ Silver:

Oshkosh Ambassadors 70 (WI): Joe Walton, Pete Valdez, Randy Judd.

Men's 75+ Gold:

Minnesota Norsemen: Lon Stole, Wayne Peterson, Mike Fitzenburger, Gary Hamilton, Don Bowman.

2026 Tournament of Champions, FL

Women's 50/60+ Gold:

Shots Fired (RI): Brenna Elliot, Missy Melvin, Danielle D'Amico, Paula Rathbun.

Men's 75+ AAA:

Jersey Masters 75s: Tom Daley, Dick Lillich, Raymond (Hap) Poyer, Bill Swanson, Rich Traug, (MVP – Joe Romeo).

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

Past Tournaments:

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

2025 Winter National Championships, FL

Men's 75+ Gold:

Jersey Masters 75s: Jose Castro, Ray (Hap) Poyer, Joe Romeo.

2025 Winter World Championships, AZ

Men's 70+ AAA:

Ranalls Realty 70 (AZ): Mike Hirsch, Ralph McKeever, Mark Redfearn, Mike Cahill, Dave Fusaro.



Last year in 2025, the SSUSA Northern Champs combined with Don Bowman's Steve Simmons Memorial/Mosquitoland qualifier.

Heard From The Dugout

"It's hard to beat a person who never gives up."

Babe Ruth
Historic Major League
Baseball Player

Baden®

x



BADEN **FIRE** SENIOR SOFTBALL

OFFICIAL SOFTBALL OF SSUSA

CONSISTENT PLAYABILITY IN HOT
AND COLD CONDITIONS

**AVAILABLE
NOW!**



S H O P N O W

WWW.BADENSOPRTS.COM