Senior Softball NEWSLETTER
MORE THAN JUST A GAME — ESTABLISHED IN 1988

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 12, Edition 6

May 22, 2026 - In This Issue:

Good Weather and Record Number of Teams Define 2026 Atlantic Coast Champs

Rain Attempts to Usurp All Divisions of 2026 Texas State Champs; Umpires Save the Day

Two Inducted into National Senior Hall of Fame in Raleigh

MN Senior Sports Association Inducts Long-Time SSUSA Player in Hall of Fame

Obituaries: April - May 2026



Tim McElroy (left), tournament director at the 2026 Atlantic Coast Championships in Raleigh, NC., presents an appreciation award to Jocelyn O'Sullivan of the Greater Raleigh Sports Alliance, sponsors of the Atlantic Coast Champs.

Two Inducted into National Senior Hall of Fame in Raleigh

By Nic Francois
Softball News Report

RALEIGH, N.C. – Two East Coast players were inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame at the 2026 Atlantic Coast Championships.

George Chance was inducted May 12 at Walnut Creek Softball Complex as a pioneer player.

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

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

Good Weather and Record Number of Teams Define 2026 Atlantic Coast Champs

By Nic Francois
Softball News Report

RALEIGH, N.C. – A record-breaking 76 teams across 14 states descended upon Walnut Creek Softball Complex here May 12-17 for the 2026 Atlantic Coast Championships.

This beats the 2024 A.C.C. record of 75 teams since the tournament moved to Raleigh in 2021 from Loudoun County, Virginia.

"This week was simply fantastic," said Tim McElroy, tournament director and SSUSA's eastern vice president. "With nine well maintained diamonds and a centralized location, Walnut Creek offers teams one of the finest facilities on the East Coast."



Walnut Creek Softball Complex, host of the Atlantic Coast Championships, in Raleigh, N.C.

George played with Hamels 80s of Maryland during the tournament.



George Chance (center) with family after receiving his National Senior Softball Hall of Fame plaque.

Roger Josey Sr. was inducted May 15 at Walnut Creek Softball Complex as a player.

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

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

Roger played with American Sportsman 60s of Virginia during the tournament.



Roger "Bucky" Josey posing with National Senior Softball Hall of Fame plaque after ceremony.

MN Senior Sports Association Inducts Long-Time SSUSA Player in Hall of Fame

"The A.C.C. featured large and competitive brackets with teams aged 40-80+ hailing from Florida to Connecticut to Wisconsin; everyone had the opportunity to face new opponents," he added.

Indeed, 15 teams from 9 of the 14 states earned berths to the invite-only 2027 Tournament of Champions, January 20-24 in Polk County, Florida.

The premier tournament also hosted two National Senior Softball Hall of Fame induction ceremonies: George Chance (pioneer player) and Roger Josey Sr. (player). See related story for more information and photos of their inductions.

Results:

Men's 40+ Major: Top-seeded Turn 2 Electric 40s of host state North Carolina plowed through the six-team division undefeated, winning the championship game 24-18 against finalist, HDI/She Gone Sports of Virginia. Turn 2 Electric's first bracket game wasn't so easy, narrowly defeating second-seeded Sake of Maryland 23-22.

Men's 40+ AAA: Top-seeded GGS/MBK of North Carolina (photo below) went undefeated in the six-team division, winning most bracket games by 10 or more runs until the championship game, a tight 26-25 win over finalist EPM/RAM 40s of Virginia. Fourth-seeded Hard Knocks Softball (HKS), also from Virginia, took third place.



Men's 50+ Major: Fourth-seed Lyndsey Roofing/OTC ELITE of New York (photo below) had a come-from-behind victory, initially losing their two seeding games, but winning all four bracket games to clinch the title. Second-seeded HRS/OSS Apparel/Fat Chops of Rhode Island took the finalist position after losing their second bracket game to Lyndsey Roofing, 18-17, only to play again in the championship game, 23-22. Third-seeded AST/QTI/CF/GPOA/CCS of Virginia finished third in the five-team division.



Men's 50+ AAA: After going 1-1 in seeding games, second-seeded Old Skool/Racehorse Tavern/Girard Club of Pennsylvania (photo below) won all bracket games by close margins of 4 or fewer runs. The championship game saw Old Skool win by one run, 14-13, against finalist Warpath 50 of Maryland, which was seeded fourth in the five-team division. Third-seeded Flatline/Van Metre Homes of Virginia took third.

By Nic Francois
Softball News Report

FRIDLEY, MINN. – The Minnesota Senior Sports Association (MSSA) has inducted 10 senior athletes into their Hall of Fame. Lon Stole, long-time Senior Softball USA player, was their senior softball honoree.

Stole started with SSUSA in the early 2000s and was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame in 2023. Recently, he's played with the Minnesota River Bats 70s and Team Minnesota 75s teams at the Major and Major Plus levels.



Lon Stole's 2026 National Senior Softball Hall of Fame photo.

The banquet's program pointed out that Stole plays about 100 games per year at 75 years of age and has played on teams that won 20 National and World Championships.

MSSA was found by the late Bob McNamara, and SSUSA's Dick Anderson, manager of Team Rehab, player and coach for the World Championships' 90+ East Team and SSUSA Hall of Famer, class of 2023. Don Bowman, manager of the Minnesota River Bats 70s, is the current vice president of MSSA.

MSSA inducts several senior athletes across several different sports at their annual banquet. They are a non-profit association created to encourage and support participation in amateur sports activity by men and women age 50 and older.





Men's 50/55+ Major Plus: Second-seeded BPA Sports of Pennsylvania went 2-1 for seeding games before winning all three bracket games to secure the 55+ Major Plus title, including the 30-14 championship game against finalist Deluxe Bakery of New Jersey. Deluxe Bakery was the last seeded team of the four-team division. Top-seeded MC Improvements from Wisconsin took third place after initially winning all three seeding games, but going 1-2 in the bracket.



Men's 55+ Major: Third-seeded Caterbone/PHX TUBE of Connecticut (photo below) went undefeated in the bracket, finishing with an impressive 19-7 win in the championship game against finalist C3 Skids of Florida. C3 Skids was seeded second in the six-team division, before losing their second bracket game to Caterbone before working their way through the elimination bracket for a rematch in the champ game. Top-seeded Phoenix Tube-Glass House of Pennsylvania finished third.



Men's 55/60+ Silver: The 11-team bracket saw third-seeded Holy City Hitmen of South Carolina (photo below) go undefeated in both seeding and bracket games to win the 60+ AAA title. Holy City Hitmen won each bracket game by 7 or more runs, including the championship game, 22-15, against finalist Turn 2 Electric of North Carolina, which was seeded fourth. Top-seeded Wicked Slice Pizza of Connecticut finished third after losing their second bracket game to Turn 2 Electric 15-9 and again in the third-place game, 29-16.

Proceeds from the banquet are donated to the Special Olympics.

Other inductees this year include:

- Elaine DeVries (Marathon)
- Michael Koppy (Ultra Running)
- Randy Moselle (Baseball)
- Brenda Dockendorf (Power Lifting)
- Patsy Lillehei (Swimming)
- Betsy Murray (Track)
- Pat Worley (Karate & Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu)
- Jackie Faegre (Pickleball)
- Chris Middlebrook (Bandy)
- Mud Ducks Hockey (Team of the Year)

If you live in Minnesota, consider attending their 2027 Hall of Fame banquet. MSSA can be contacted from their website: https://www.mnseniorsports.com/contact.html.

Obituaries: April - May 2026

Softball News Report

Michael "Milo" Mileham



Michael "Milo" Scott Mileham, 75, of Phoenix, died on April 17 after a long battle with cancer.

Milo started with Senior Softball USA in 2005, but his competition in senior softball and sports in general goes much further back.

Milo played senior softball for 25+ years. "Michael was very proud of the six championship rings won during his long career with his teammates and SSUSA," according to his online obituary.

"The last 1 ½ years [he was] keeping score and yelling encouragement to his teammates and umpires alike," said Emery,



Men's 60+ Major: In this year's largest bracket of 12 teams, second-seeded E&E Metal Fab Inc/Jerich Co. of Pennsylvania (photo below) went undefeated in seeding and bracket games. E&E won the championship game by default after Hard Hat Café/Latella's/ Caterbone of Connecticut forfeited the game to catch their flights home as the game times ran later than expected. Hard Hate Café accepted finalist awards and last seeded Estes/Rheem of Virginia took third place after losing the third-place game, 32-22.



Men's 65+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, TRT of Florida swept The Bank of Delaware 13-12 and 31-13 to finish 5-0 to win the title.

Men's 65+ Gold: In the three-team bracket, top-seeded Olympian Athletics 65 of Pennsylvania (photo below) went 2-2 in seeding before sweeping the bracket games 19-4 and 21-15 in the championship against finalist Holy City Hitmen II of South Carolina. Northern Virginia Force 65s finished third.



Men's 70+ Silver: Second-seeded Northern Virginia Force 70 (photo below) saved off a double-dip attempt by top-seeded Syracuse Cyclones of New York. Virginia Force lost the championship game 22-17, but rebounded to claim the 70+ AAA title in a tight IF game, 21-20. Cyclones left as the finalists while third-seeded Oakes Grading Shockers of North Carolina took third-place in the five-team bracket, surviving three elimination bracket games before the third-place game.

Milo's teammate (Full Throttle 70s) and close friend of more than 60 years. "He knew the rules and was always willing to help umpires with questionable calls."

He also enjoyed football and track in high school. Outside of sports, he worked maintenance at Paradise Valley Unified School District for 30+ years, was a Vietnam War veteran and was very active in his local American Legion, VFW and Elks Club.

Milo will best be remembered playing with Advanced Auto Transport 50s and 55s, and Full Throttle 60-75s, both out of Arizona.

David R. Barnes



Dave Barnes, 82, of Las Vegas, died on April 29.

Dave started with Senior Softball USA in the late 1990s, through his participation with the Las Vegas Senior Softball Association (LVSSA).

Dave served on the LVSSA board and was inducted into LVSSA's Hall of Fame in 2008 and the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame in 2013.

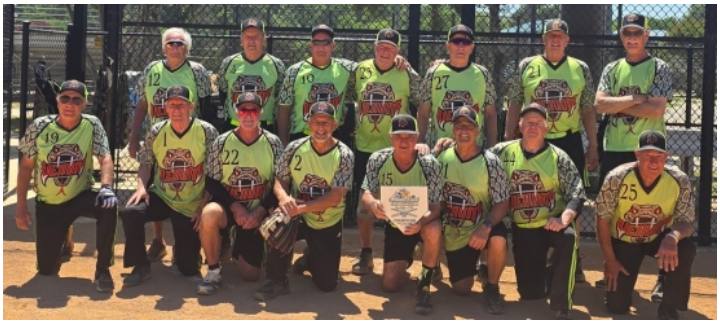
"Dave Barnes helped shape senior softball on a national level," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief executive officer. "He was instrumental in the National Senior Softball Summits in helping to make some key rules uniform in all associations."

"He was a first-class guy and wonderful sportsmen who represented our sport in the best possible way," said Hennessy.

Before his senior softball days and moving to Vegas, Dave worked as a



Men's 70/75+ Platinum: Top-seeded Venom 75s of Florida (photo below) dominated the mixed division, going 5-0 for games to win the 75+ Major Plus title and TOC berth. Finalist Talaga Construction 70 of Florida lost the championship game 14-8, but still earned a TOC berth by being the top finishing 70+ Major team. Last seeded Reality Check 70 of North Carolina took third-place in the five-team division.



Men's 75/80+ Platinum: Playing a best-of-three format, top-seeded Hamel 80 of Maryland (photo below) successfully double-dipped Northern Virginia Force 75 for the 80+ Major Plus title. Hamel lost the first bracket game 21-13, before rebounding to win the title game, 21-11 and the IF game, 18-13.



Men's 80+ Gold: Playing a best-of three format, Tennessee Thumpers went 2-1 in seeding games before winning the first bracket game, 19-7, against HTR of North Carolina. HTR forfeited the championship game, allowing Tennessee Thumpers to win the 80+ Major title.

Rain Attempts to Usurp All Divisions of 2026 Texas State Champs; Umpires Save the Day

Maryland State Trooper.

Dave will best be remembered playing with Ryan's Way 60s (UT), Elite 70s LVSSA and Las Vegas 75 Coyotes.

John J. Edwards



John Joseph Edwards Jr., 66, of Spring Hill, Tenn., died on May 4.

John joined Senior Softball USA as a 60+ player in 2024. However, in that brief time his teams' travels took him to both semi-local tournaments, such as the Midwest Championships, as well as far away events, such as the World Championships in Las Vegas and the SSUSA Original Tournament of Championships in Polk County, Florida.

"He loved sports with a competitive fire—basketball, football, baseball as a boy, and later, golf and softball as a man," according to his online obituary.

"Senior softball became a new chapter of joy, where he was known as a powerful hitter, someone you could count on when it mattered most. Even after double knee replacements, he was determined to get back on the field, to run faster, to play harder."

Outside of sports, he worked 35+ years in the mortgage industry and in his free time, he enjoyed time with his family and church and traveling where he enjoyed visiting art and live theater.

According to his wife, Dusty, John's favorite saying was "Who's got it better than you? Nobody!"

"It was a positive way he wanted his family to look at things and be grateful for all they had in that

By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report

"Please thank the umpires" became a common phrase at the 2026 Texas State Championships, where muddy playing fields failed to outwit determined tournament officials.

After heavy rain cut Session 1's schedule in half, more rain threatened to wipe out Session 2 during the April 28–May 3 tournament in Dallas.

Working feverishly, Senior Softball-USA Executive Director Fran Dowell secured an emergency complex for Friday play only, allowing most of the day's seeding games to occur at the Park at Texas Star, a four-field complex with turf infields in the Dallas suburb of Euless. Unfortunately, one division did not play at all that day.

After Friday play ended, tournament directors learned that Dallas Parks and Recreation would not be providing any field maintenance staff for Saturday and Sunday play at Kiest Park, where the tournament originally had been scheduled, because of budget issues.

Tournament staff recruited six SSUSA umpires to arrive early Saturday to rake and chalk the fields. Worse-than-expected conditions greeted them. Two hours before game time, water still glistened in some sections of all four infields.



SSUSA Umpires attempt to dry out and fix fields in the morning before games at Kiest Park in Dallas.

After walking the fields, the park supervisor estimated that only two fields would be playable at all that day – a day when nine rounds of games had been scheduled across six Kiest Park fields.

Umpires don't give up easily, however.

Assisted by a handful of players and coaches, the umpires toiled a combined 25 hours on the fields. By 10 a.m., games had started on two fields. By 1 p.m., the other two fields had joined them.

Teams competed during shortened games, but at least they played.

All this happened after Session 1's teams suffered through a thunderstorm deluge during their second afternoon of play. Fields remained unplayable for the remainder of Session 1. Directors awarded championships based on games already concluded.

Overall, 13 of the 60 participating teams captured division titles. Fifteen teams claimed berths to the 2027 Tournament of Champions to be played in Polk County, Fla.

Results:

Men's 50+ AAA: Rainy conditions hit this division hard. No seeding games got played. A new round-robin schedule ended with an unbeaten champion, Alliance/Scrap

moment," said Dave Melosi, manager of Dudley Lightning 65s.

In SSUSA, John will best be remembered playing with Tennessee Select/Edward Jones 60s, and Dudley Lightning 65s out of Missouri.

Iron 50 of Colorado (photo below). West Texas 50s took second in the four-team division. Get 5 of Texas placed third.



Men's 50/55+ Platinum: Top-seeded Major Plus team The Firm 55 of Texas (photo below) lost its first bracket game by one run then came back to double dip third-seeded JTF/Squared Away of Texas 31-17 and 22-21. Second-seeded Pro Vision Posse 50 of Washington took third in the three-team division.



Men's 55+ Major: Fourth-seeded Escobar Body Shop of Texas (photo below) capped a 5-1 tournament with a 19-18 title triumph over sixth-seeded WALKOFF 55 of Maryland. Second-seeded NOP Softball of Oklahoma captured third in the nine-team division.



Men's 55+ AAA: Second-seeded Alliance/Scrap Iron 55 of Colorado (photo below) capped a 5-0 tournament with a 22-21 victory over top-seeded Heroes 55 of Nebraska in the title game. It marked Alliance's third one-run victory of the tournament. Third-seeded Scrap Iron Mile High of Colorado finished third in the six-team division.



Men's 60+ Major: Another one-run game decided this division, with second-seeded Demolition 60 of Texas (photo below) knocking off top-seeded The Tribe of Missouri 22-21 for the title. Demolition finished 4-1 overall. Fifth-seeded RockNLegends 9/ Short Porch of Texas nabbed third place in the five-team division.



Men's 60+ Silver: The sixth-seeded M-60 Tankers, a AAA team from Texas, (photo below) capped a 5-1 tournament with a 20-19 championship victory over the fourth-seeded KC Kids / Bear's Ballers of Missouri, which won five elimination games to reach the finals. Top-seeded Lumberjack Red of Minnesota finished third in the 10-team division. Third-seeded Club Tilt/Haus of Colorado snagged the 60+ AA TOC berth.



Men's 65+ Major Plus: After rain eliminated all head-to-head games in this division, Dudley Lightning 65s of Missouri conceded the championship and TOC berth to Texas Crush Sixty Fives.

Men's 65+ Major: Tie-breakers determined this division, with the 2-1 Matney Legends of Texas claiming the crown and TOC berth. Avalanche Elite Contractors of Michigan took second while Houston Fire 65s placed third. Both those teams also finished 2-1.

Men's 65+ AAA: Unbeaten after two seeding games, Albuquerque Asphalt Softball Club earned the championship awards and TOC Berth. OKC Boomers, which went 1-1 overall, received second place. Alliance/Scrap Iron 65 of Colorado took third.

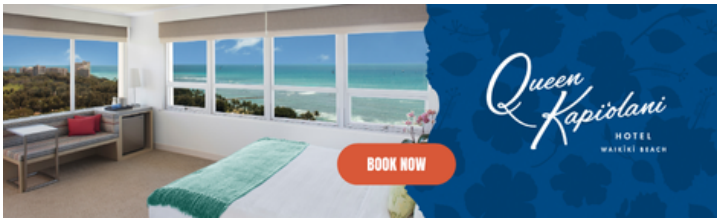
Men's 70+ AA: Rain prevented head-to-head competition between the Robson Ranch Texans and Triple 2 of Texas, which meant seeding games determined the results. Robson Ranch, which went 3-0 in seeding games, nabbed first. Triple 2 took second in the two-team division.

Men's 70/75+ Gold: Rain also prevented head-to-head competition in this two-team division, which was won by the 2-1 Major team Texas Express 75s. TL Thunder 70 of Texas took second.

Men's 75+ Silver: Robson Ranch, a AA team from Texas, nabbed the title and TOC berth after going 3-0 in seeding games. USA Patriots of Oklahoma finished second and received the AAA TOC berth. The Rangers of Texas took third in the three-team division.

Men's 80/85+ Gold: This division played a full round robin before rain washed away the rest of the games. The unbeaten KC Kids/Bale Chevrolet 80+ AAA team won the four-team division and earned the TOC berth. The San Antonio Legends lost only once, by one run to the KC Kids, and finished second. The Texas Legends 80 took third in the five-team division.

Stay At SSUSAs Official Hawaiian Resort Hotel



Contact Information:
Senior Softball USA
9823 Old Winery Place, Suite 12
916-326-5303
info@seniorsoftball.com