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*Aug. 14, 2026 - In This Issue:*

2026 Northeast Champs Honors Chuck Sharkey

Repeat Champions Reign in the 2026 Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Champs

2026 Easterns/Westerns Coverage

2026 Great Salt Lake Champs Grows 15%

August 2026 Obituaries

The Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Champs, Northeast Champs and Great Salt Lake Champs are the three large senior tournaments hosted before the SSUSA Eastern and Western National Championships.

## 2026 Easterns/Westerns Coverage

Look for coverage of the Eastern and Western Nationals in the upcoming Fall edition of the Senior Softball USA Newspaper!

## 2026 Great Salt Lake Champs Grows 15%

**By Donna McGuire**
**Softball News Report**

Thirty-seven teams from 10 states and Canada converged on the Salt Lake City area in July to compete in the second annual Great Salt Lake Championships.

Unseasonably hot days, with temperatures climbing into the high 90s, greeted them.

Only two teams – one from Nebraska and one from Nevada – emerged as unbeaten champions in an event that featured “great teams, good competition and close scores,”

## 2026 Northeast Champs Honors Chuck Sharkey



**Dan Kelley (left) being inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame by Gayle Collins, SSUSA tournament director at the 2026 Northeast Championships.**

**By Donna McGuire**
**Softball News Report**

Teams from six states and Canada won championships in a highly competitive SSUSA Northeast Championships in early July.

Six of the 14 divisions needed two championship games to determine winners during the July 7-12 event played at two parks in the Syracuse, N.Y., area. Three times, teams coming out of the elimination bracket double-dipped a previously unbeaten bracket team.

“We had close games in every division this year,” Tournament Director Gayle Collins said. “We also had great weather.”

Tournament Director Linda Weber said.



**Linda Weber (left) presenting an Appreciation award to Caryn Bradshaw of Utah Sports Commission at the 2026 Great Salt Lake Championships.**

Overall, 12 teams earned berths to the 2027 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Fla. Three of those teams captured titles with one-run victories.

Entries rose about 15 percent from the tournament's inaugural season in 2025.



**Bat Attitude 70 of Utah was one of the new teams to join the 2026 Great Salt Lake Championships and they won the Men's 70+ AAA division.**

"Team registration is increasing and this tournament has the potential to grow larger, and it should as it is (played at) a beautiful complex – with two, four-field pods with 300-foot fences and lots of shade trees," Weber said.

The tournament drew teams from a wide range of locales, including Oklahoma, Idaho and Colorado. Utah and Colorado each boasted three champions.

**Results:**

**Men's 40+ Major:** Defending champion Chumps of Utah (photo below) lost their first seeding game then won five games in a row, including a 20-19 thriller over third-seeded ODB of Utah in the championship game. Second-




**Tournament director, Gayle Collins (left) presents Jeff Mickle, with an appreciation award for Visit Syracuse for their sponsorship of SSUSA's Northeast Championships.**

Triple-digit temperatures moved out of Syracuse shortly before the tournament started, replaced by highs in the 80s that made games much more delightful for the 50 participating teams. Entrants came from 11 states and Canada.

Fourteen teams earned berths to the 2027 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Fla.

Organizers had hoped to be playing this year on two turf fields at Hopkins Road Park in Liverpool, but the fields did not get finished in time. They will be ready for next year's event, Collins said.

The 2026 Northeast Championships also featured the planting of a memorial tree for SSUSA New York State Director Chuck Sharkey, who died in December at age 76. A plaque erected in his honor called him, "A champion on the field, a mentor in life, and a friend to all."






**Long-time SSUSA director of New York, Chuck Sharkey, was honored by the Syracuse softball community by planting a tree in his name at the Hopkins Road Park in Liverpool.**

**Results:**

**Men's 40+ Gold:** The 40+ Major team PDW/SAVORY/APC/The Hose of Pennsylvania (photo lower left) needed two championship games to tame Wild Horse of New York (photo lower right). Wild Horse won the first title game 21-20 before PDW secured the second one by the same score. Just DA Fellas of New York finished third in the three-team division.

seeded Project 57 of Idaho took third in the four-team division.



**Men's 50+ AAA:** Top-seeded Heroes 50s of Nebraska capped a 6-0 tournament with a 21-13 title-game triumph over second-seeded and defending champion Band of Brothers 50 of Utah. Fourth-seeded Refurbished of Utah finished third in the four-team division.

**Men's 50/55+ Platinum:** This division featured a 50+ Major team, a 55+ Major team and a 55+ Major Plus team. The 55+ Major team, CO Elite (photo below), came out on top after starting as the third seed. Elite won its bracket games 24-19, 24-23 and 33-28. Top-seeded Battleborn of Nevada finished second, while defending champion Damage of Nevada took third.



**Men's 55/60+ Gold:** The final three games in this seven-team bracket were decided by one run, two runs, and one run. Top-seeded Team Imperial, a 55+ AAA team from Idaho (photo below), won all three of those close games, including 21-19 and 19-18 title-game triumphs over second-seeded Jayco 60 of Idaho. Defending champion West Coast Evolution of British Columbia, Canada, captured third.







**Men's 50+ Major Plus:** Playing a best-of-three format, Deluxe Bakery of New Jersey (photo below) swept CSD of New York 16-12 and 24-9. Deluxe finished 4-1 overall.



**Men's 50+ Major:** Third-seeded Steve's Sports of Connecticut lost its first bracket game by one run before barreling back through the elimination bracket with four consecutive victories, including 25-17 and 16-12 triumphs over second-seeded HRS/OSS Apparel/Fat Chops of Rhode Island in the title games. Top-seeded MVP Inc of Pennsylvania finished third in the four-team division.

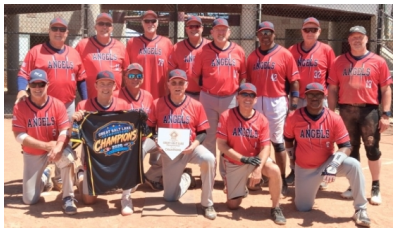
**Men's 50+ AAA:** Second-seeded Stud Softball of Pennsylvania lost the first championship game 25-22 to the top-seeded Mississauga Wolverines of Ontario, Canada, but rebounded to claim the if-needed game 22-10. Fourth-seeded F.W. Dennis of New York finished third in the five-team division.

**Men's 55+ Major:** After all six teams went 1-1 in seeding play, this bracket looked up for grabs. Third-seeded Magic Softball of Massachusetts (photo below) did the grabbing, winning its bracket games 21-18, 28-20, 20-16 and 19-16 to claim the championship. Runner up Buell Fuel/WSG of New York won three elimination games to reach the finals. Fifth-seeded Phoenix Tube-Gas House of Pennsylvania took third.



**Men's 55/60+ Gold:** After a 0-2 start in seeding games, the sixth-seeded Major team Regeee's Rams 60 of Ontario, Canada (photo below), went 4-0 in bracket play, including a 19-17 championship victory over fourth-seeded Bond124 of Connecticut. Second-seeded Phoenix Tube/Bob Johnson of New York finished third in the six-team division.

**Men's 60+ AAA:** The fourth-seeded OKC Angels of Oklahoma (photo below) got on a roll in bracket play, winning their first two games by 10 and 13 runs. The final game proved more difficult, with the Angels defeating the second-seeded Idaho Mashers/ICS 14-11 for the title. Top-seeded Top Gun Fury/ Written in Red of California finished third in the five-team division.



**Men's 65/70+ Gold:** The 65+ Major team Vegas Elite/ Vault (photo below) got tested multiple times while going unbeaten in six games. One of those tests occurred in the title game, where Vegas Elite/Vault edged second-seeded defending 65+ AAA champion Scrap Iron Heavy Metal of Colorado 23-22. Both teams snagged TOC berths. Third-seeded Last Call 70 of Nevada finished third in the four-team division.



**Men's 70+ AAA:** Second-seeded Bat Attitude 70s of Utah (photo below) came through the elimination bracket to upend the top-seeded Utah Coyotes 30-26 and 14-11 in the title games. The third-seeded Montana Cutthroats finished third in the three-team bracket.



**Men's 70+ AA:** Playing a best-of-three format, the Scrap Iron 70s Rockies of Colorado (photo below)



**Men's 60+ AAA:** Playing a best-of-three format, Cadence Wealth Management of New York swept the Diamond Dawgs of Massachusetts 18-9 and 19-16 for the crown. Cadence finished 4-1 overall.

**Men's 60+ AA:** Also playing a best-of-three bracket, New York Capitals overcame a 21-19 opening loss by defeating Pelley Stix of Ontario, Canada, 19-17 and 18-8 in the next two games. The Capitals finished 4-2 overall.

**Men's 65+ Platinum:** Olympian Athletics, a 65+ Major team from Pennsylvania (photo below), stumbled only once in six games. That happened during the best-of-three bracket, when The Bank of Delaware won the first contest 22-11. The Athletics rallied for 22-10 and 28-20 victories to claim the title.



**Men's 65+ AAA:** Top-seeded Team Riporti of New Jersey (photo below) swept away all competition, ending with a 17-7 championship victory over third-seeded Fat Nancy 65 of New York in the title game. Team Riporti finished 6-0, with four of the victories coming by double digits. Second-seeded Old Iron Trucking of New York captured third in the four-team division.



swept East-West Aircraft Sales 70 of Idaho 17-15 and 9-6. The Rockies finished 4-1 overall.



**Men's 75+ Gold:** Third-seeded Speed Limit 75, a 75+ Major team (photo below), hit a speed bump in the first title game, which it lost 23-20 to the defending AAA champion 75 Scrap Iron Diamonds of Colorado. Speed Limit then raced to a 38-18 triumph in the if-needed title game. Both teams earned TOC berths. Last Call 75 of Nevada took third in the three-team division.



**Men's 75+ AA:** Also playing a best-of-three bracket, the Scrap Iron Stampede 75 of Colorado (photo below) galloped past the Silver Wolves of Utah 17-13 and 16-14. Stampede finished 4-1 overall.



## August 2026 Obituaries

**Clarence O. McCraw**



**Men's 70+ Major:** This five-team division ended with two championship games, both won by fifth-seeded Promotion/Phoenix Tube 70 of New Jersey (photo lower left) over second-seeded Talaga Construction 70 of Connecticut (photo lower right). Promotion notched 19-10 and 16-14 victories in those games. The top-seeded Agway Steelers of Ontario, Canada, finished third.





**Men's 70+ AAA:** The second-seeded Dinos 70s of New Hampshire earned revenge for a 17-15 loss in the first title game by dousing the Syracuse Cyclones 20-11 in the if-needed game. Third-seeded RoadHouse Blues 70s of Pennsylvania took third in the three-team division.

**Men's 70+ AA:** Playing a best-of-three format, Upstate Xtreme/Boombah 70s of New York ousted Shannon Fence/CPOA of Ohio 20-19 and 20-5.

**Men's 75/80+ Silver:** This division featured five one-run games, with eventual champion Jersey Masters 75s (photo below) playing in two of them. The third-seeded Masters defeated top-seeded Rochester Knights of New York in the winner's finale 20-19 before dispatching the second-seeded Long Island Jaguars 17-12 in the championship game. The Rochester Knights finished third in the four-team division.




## Repeat Champions Reign in the 2026 Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Champs



**The Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships honors SSUSA's original Safety Officer, who drafted the organization's First Aid Basics and defibrillator program. Photo by Lora Flewelling.**

**Clarence Oliver McCraw, 72, of Lake Charles, Texas, died on Feb. 16 of pancreatic cancer.**

Clarence joined Senior Softball USA in 2008 and played with a plethora of Texas teams.

His athletic journey started in his youth, with the highlighting being on the fencing team within the Olympic circuit in the early 1980s. After fencing for many years, he turned to softball.

“Clarence was a powerhouse on the field,” according to his online obituary. “His career highlights included his team winning the Winter World Championship in Las Vegas in 2010. Even at age 64, his talent never waned; in 2017, he was honored with a championship ring for being named "Best in the Tournament.""

Outside of senior softball, he enjoyed being on the water and earned the nickname “Wikipedia” for his wide range of knowledge and good advice.

Clarence will be remembered playing with Texas Silverbacks 50s, Dallas Spurs 55-60s, and Triple 2 65-70s (TX).

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**Darryl Schroeder**



**Darryl Allan Schroeder, 80, of Houston died on July 29 aboard a flight to Paris en route to an African safari.**

Darryl joined Senior Softball USA in 2017, playing and managing a handful of Texas teams.

“His lifelong love of playing softball never stopped and his teams won the Senior World Series several times,” according to his online obituary. “He played softball the day before his last flight.”

**By Donna McGuire**
**Softball News Report**

Eight teams successfully defended their 2025 titles by repeating as champions in the 2026 Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships in early July.

One of those teams, Royal-T Real Estate of Washington, captured its fourth Jim Sherman title in the Women’s 40+ Major division. Another team, the Oregon Crabs, nabbed their fourth in a row covering competition across the Men’s 70+ and 75+ divisions.

Overall, 75 teams competed July 7-12 at parks in Salem and Albany, Ore.

“The Jim Sherman tournament brought lots of sunshine to Oregon's capital city of Salem,” Tournament Director Butch Jones said. “Many compliments were earned by the umpires, and the staff members at Wallace Marine Park were superb at supporting the tournament.”



**Tournament director, Butch Jones (left) inducts Wayne Ross into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame Plaque at the 2026 Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships.**

Twenty-two teams earned trophies, shirts and berths to the 2027 Tournament of Champions by claiming division titles. Seven times, the finals went to an if-needed championship game to determine the winner.

**Results:**

**Women's 40+ Major:** Second-seeded Royal-T Real Estate of Washington (photo below) got revenge for a seeding-game loss by defeating top-seeded Firestarter of Washington twice in bracket play, including a 19-11 championship victory in the three-team division.

“As the owner and sponsor of the Maverick Construction softball teams, Darryl supported SSUSA competition for more than 20 years; his generosity allowed many senior athletes to continue competing, traveling, and building lifelong friendships through the game they loved,” said Freddie Simpson, a fellow Maverick Construction player.

“Darryl was more than a sponsor. He was also a player, manager, leader and friend.”

He was inducted into the Texas Senior Softball Hall of Fame in 2015.

In addition to senior softball, he served as the president and treasurer of the Harris County Senior Softball league and enjoyed card games and family holidays with traditions.

Outside of games, he made a living working with commercial real estate, oil and gas, construction and steel. He served on the board for the Houston Police Foundation, the Rams Club and the KCEF Foundation, assisting low-income Houston students gain a quality education.

Darryl will be remembered playing with Texas Classics 70s and Grey Sox 70s (TX), as well as managing and playing with Grey Sox 75s (TX) and Maverick Construction 75s and 80s (TX).




**Photo by Lora Flewelling**

**Women's 40+ AAA:** The top-seeded Vintage Baddies of Washington double-dipped second-seeded Stayin Alive of Washington in a pair of close games, 20-18 and 24-23, to capture the four-team division. The third-seeded Lady Kingpins /Just A Game of Washington took third.

**Women's 50+ Gold:** Second-seeded 50+ Major champs Snap, Crackle, Pop of Washington knocked off the defending champ, West Coast United of California, 19-3 to win this three-team bracket. Idaho Spirit 50s finished third.



**2026 Northwest Championships players from Royal-T Real Estate (WA), Vintage Baddies (WA) and Idaho Spirit 50s women's teams. Photo by Lora Flewelling.**

**Women's 55+ AAA:** Playing a best-of-three series, unbeaten Takin' Chances 55 of California swept Team BattleAxe 55 of Oregon 19-8 and 16-1,

**Women's 60+ AAA:** Also playing a best-of-three format, Adrenaline of Nevada finished 4-1 overall by sweeping Scrubs of California 9-4 and 12-6.

**Men's 40+ AAA:** Top-seeded GTR 40 of Oregon won three one-run games enroute to a 6-0 overall record, which included a 23-18 championship victory over third-seeded Torgi Trucking/U.P. Electric of Washington. Second-seeded NW Elevate of Washington took third in the four-team division.

**Men's 40+ AA:** This best-of-three bracket came down to the final innings, with The Lugnuts of Washington defeating A.A.R.P. of Washington 10-14, 25-10 and 19-18.

**Men's 40/50+ Platinum:** Third-seeded NW Hustle/AC Taylor Const., a 40+ Major team from Washington (player below), lost the first title game to the 50+ Major Plus team Hara's/CCM/HCE/Marucci/Victus/OA Sports of Washington 26-1, but rebounded to claim the if-needed game 30-19. Fourth-seeded Headcase of Washington took third in the four-team division.



**Photo by Lora Flewelling.**

**Men's 50+ AAA:** The second-seeded Washington Ogs (photo below) needed two championship games to subdue top-seeded GTR 50 of Washington. GTR won the first title game 26-21 before the Ogs retaliated with a 21-16 triumph in the finale. Fifth-seeded Apollo/Venom of Washington captured third in the eight-team division.



**Photo by Lora Flewelling.**

**Men's 50/55+ Silver:** Fourth-seeded Vancouver Connection, a 55+ AAA team, also needed two games to clinch a crown. Second-seeded All-Quip/SOWC-55 of Oregon won the first title game 21-15 before Vancouver blasted its way to a 23-8 victory in the if-needed title game. Third-seeded Bend Dirtbags of Oregon won three elimination games to finish third in the six-team division.

**Men's 55+ Major:** The top-seeded and defending champion NW Jokers of Washington notched another title by nipping second-seeded Factory DeMarini of Washington 28-27 in the championship game. Third-seeded Pro Vision 55 of Washington took third in the three-team bracket.

**Men's 60+ Platinum:** Undefeated and top-seeded Pacific Enterprises, a 60+ Major team from Washington, slipped past runner-up and third-seeded Chelu 60s of Oregon 28-27 to win the three-team division and nab its second Northwest title in a row. CornerStone of Oregon placed third.

**Men's 60+ AAA:** Second-seeded Excellence Auto Collision of Washington had an unbeaten streak snapped in the first title game, which fifth-seeded Anderson Realty Vintage Softball of Washington won 23-5. Excellence Auto responded by grabbing the if-needed title game 20-15. Top-seeded Turn and Burn / Lathrop Trucking of Washington finished third in the five-team division.

**Men's 60+ AA:** Defending champion Spin Tees of Washington needed all three games in a best-of-three format to defeat Tri City Legends of Washington 15-12, 17-29 and 23-13.

**Men's 65+ Silver:** Defending champion Chelu 65s, a AAA team from Oregon, raced unbeaten through the tournament, including a 16-6 championship victory over third-

seeded Team Alaska 65. Firecreek Pops of Washington finished third in the three-team division.

**Men's 65/70+ Platinum:** Unbeaten in five games, the 70+ Major Plus team NorthWest Stampede of Oregon (photo below) won its third consecutive Jim Sherman Memorial championship with ease. It defeated runner-up NW Elite Hitmen of Washington 28-13 in the title game after scoring 30 runs in its first bracket game. Northwest Softball Club of Washington finished third in this three-team bracket.



**Men's 70+ Major:** Unbeaten in six games, top-seeded Cal Energy 70 (photo below) defeated the defending champ and fourth-seeded Bulldogs 70 of Oregon 23-8 to win the four-team division. Second-seeded Team Fire 70s of Washington finished third.



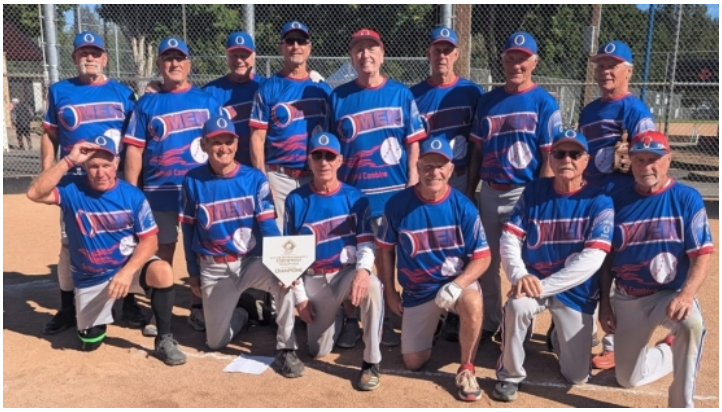
**Photo by Gus Hurtado.**

**Men's 70+ AAA:** Playing a best-of-three format, East/West Aircraft Pilots of Idaho swept Alaska Kings 70s (photo below) 21-19 and 14-9.



**Men's 70+ AA:** The second-seeded defending champion Cascade Thunder of Oregon capped a 5-0 tournament with a 22-7 domination of fourth-seeded Northwest Lightning 70s of Washington. The fifth-seeded Scrap Iron Diamond 70s of Colorado snagged third in the six-team division.

**Men's 75+ Major Plus:** Playing a best-of-three format, Omen 75 of California (photo below) swept Enviro-Vac Marauders of British Columbia, Canada, 24-9 and 22-7.



**Men's 75+ Gold:** Also playing a best-of-three, the defending champion 75+ Major team Oregon Crabs swept Team Ryan of Washington 17-12 and 22-14. That gave the Crabs a 5-0 mark for the tournament.

**Men's 75+ AA:** This two-team division needed all three games to crown a champion, with Northwest Silver 75 of Washington outlasting Northwest Sage of Washington 13-16, 21-19, 20-9.

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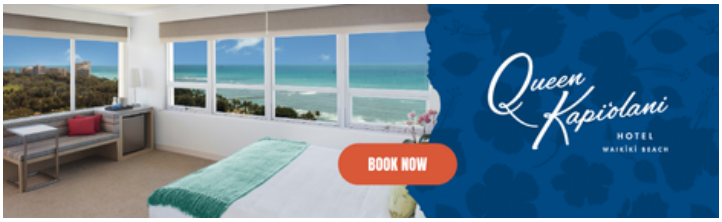
## Stay At SSUSAs Official Hawaiian Resort Hotel

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