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Action Shot at the 40s Spring Worlds in Bullhead City, Arizona.

No Entry Refund? Here's Why

By Dave Dowell
 SSUSA Master Scheduler

Many players wonder why Senior Softball USA does not call a tournament based on a weather forecast.

There are two issues when adverse weather is possible during Tournament Week.



The most significant is how SSUSA makes the daily "play/no-play" decision on whether we play that day. There are a couple of things we **DON'T** do: We don't cancel a day's play or a tournament based on a forecast.

All "play/no-play" decisions are made at the fields of play at game time. This ensures that the teams are present and ready to play if it's a go and are available to hear the recovery plan if play is only delayed.

We also wait until we have been briefed by the park personnel regarding the time and effort reasonably required to get the fields ready to play. Most often, this means a delay. Depending on how full the schedule was initially, we may just hold off a few hours and play the day as intended with a later start. If that is not possible, we may shorten the games (5 innings rather than 7 innings) and shorten the time allowed to, say, 40 or 45 minutes with the 5th inning being the open.

Over the years, we have had a high rate of success using this approach.

We used this approach on the weekend session (Men's 50's and 55's) at the recently concluded Spring World Championships in St. George, Utah. On Friday morning, the fields were unplayable, but the parks professionals believed we

Spring Worlds Draws 127 Teams; 65-85s Session Rained Out



By Donna McGuire
 Softball News Report

ST. GEORGE (UT), BULLHEAD CITY (AZ), MESQUITE (NV) -- Sometimes, a simple gesture at the end of a Senior Softball-USA tournament can mean many hearts.

That happened during the 40+ Masters session of the Spring World Championships played in March in Bullhead City, Arizona.

After Legend Sports of Nevada won the 40+ Platinum title, the team interrupted the on-field awards ceremony to present one of its championship to an opposing infielder, Paulino Gomez of the SoCal Misfits. (Legend Sports and SoCal Misfits pose together after awards ceremony, photo above).

It was Legend's way of honoring Gomez' determination to continue playing softball while undergoing chemotherapy for colon cancer at age 47. The Misfits' jerseys have a colon cancer ribbon on them, along with Gomez's name in large letters on a sleeve.

"They wanted to say thank you to him for fighting and not giving up and still playing the game," SoCal Misfits manager Phillip Colacion said. "He was overwhelmed that they did that."

A Legend player also gave Gomez a military challenge coin. As the player explained, if you place the coin on the counter of a bar filled with veterans anyone not carrying a challenge coin must buy a round of drinks.

"It touched me that they would do that," said Colacion, who has managed Gomez for seven years. "Softball is not just about playing. We become family."

Overall, SSUSA's Spring World Championships drew 127 entries from 14 states, including Alaska. Games were divided into three sessions played at ballparks in three states.

Brisk mornings and only slightly warmer afternoons greeted the 10 teams of 40+ Masters players who took the field in Bullhead City, Az., on March 19.

Meanwhile, 23 teams of 60+ players enjoyed nicer weather March 17-19 while playing at two complexes in Mesquite, Nev.

Unfortunately, the 65+ and older teams ran headlong into a monsoon that dumped on St. George, Utah, where their three days of games were to begin March 21. Instead, the entire session got washed out.

"It just wouldn't stop raining," Tournament Director Dave Dowell said. "It was ugly."

The weather pattern shifted enough to allow the 50+ teams to play March 24-26 in St. George, where grounds crew members did a commendable job of prepping the fields, Dowell said. The finals of the 50+ AAA division finished amid snow flurries.

could start around noon, and they were correct. So, we played the entire Friday schedule on the shortened game format and were back on full schedule with regulation games times and innings for the weekend.

We believe, and it appears the teams agree, that playing a few shortened games and playing all of them is preferred to canceling games.

This recovery is in stark contrast to Session #2 of the Spring Worlds for the men's 65+ and more senior divisions.

Session #2 was canceled in its entirety after we lost the Tuesday games and rains did not relent in time for the St. George Parks and Recreation Department to authorize play on Wednesday. St. George had an impressive crew on location attempting to win the battle with the flood waters, but it wasn't our day to win against Mother Nature.

In the days leading up to the tournament, we noticed an increase in the number of calls and emails wondering if we were going to cancel the event. As mentioned previously, we don't cancel based on a forecast, so the consistent answer was: "No, we'll see you there and make the correct decision then."

Some teams decided they would not play based on the forecast and before the session was canceled.

But there are major implications on the tournament when teams begin to withdraw late, after the draft game schedules and brackets have been published.

The SSUSA has for decades treated the entry fees as fully earned at the time the schedules are completed. Teams withdrawing after that time forfeit those fees, for a couple of reasons. It takes time and money to pay for the schedules that result. We also want to send a clear message and disincentive for those late withdrawals. They cause inconvenience and confusion and rarely, if ever, result in a "better schedule" for the remaining teams.

In St. George, some teams who forfeited out early have asked for a complete fee refund like teams that waited in St. George for the "go/no go" decision. We have not granted those requests.

The ten teams that departed early forced the continual re-drafting of the event, and in one case, required the SSUSA to advise one team not to come because the other teams in their division had all withdrawn.

We are always comfortable with a full fee refund or credit in the case of an event being canceled.

Those teams that decide to withdraw before the games or division is canceled (which is extremely rare) receive no refund.



'Little League Girl' statue at The Canyons Complex in St. George, Utah.

Tournament results:

Men's 40+ Masters Platinum: Second-seeded Legend Sports of Nevada capped a 6-0 tournament with a 13-8 championship game victory over 1 top-seeded SoCal Misfits. Smash It Northwest of Washington finished third in the 10-team bracket. All three are Major teams.

Men's 50+ Major Plus: KB/Westcoast Elite 50s of Arizona ([photo below](#)) defeated Stadium of California 32-28 and 32-24 in a best-of-three forma



Men's 50+ Silver: Scrap Iron Havoc of Colorado ([photo below](#)) compiled a 5-0 record that included a 7-0 championship game forfeit victory cause travel issues for runner-up Vicious Cycle Softball of California. Minleon-Maher of Nebraska, which scored 43 points in one game, finished third in the team bracket.



Men's 50+ AAA: Third-seeded All-Quip/SOWC of Oregon ([photo below](#)) double-dipped Thunder Buddies of Arizona 25-20 and 25-18 to win the til All-Quip had lost 35-17 earlier in bracket play to Thunder Buddies. Lokahi of Arizona finished third in the nine-team bracket.

Don't miss out on the next editions of our newsletter.

Starting with this newsletter, there will be two more newsletters coming out on the following Fridays. This is to make sure we are keeping you up-to-date with all the latest tournament stories and highlights.

This edition will feature result stories for the 2023 Spring National Championships, Spring World Championships, and the first joint tournament, SSUSA/SPA Music City Classic.

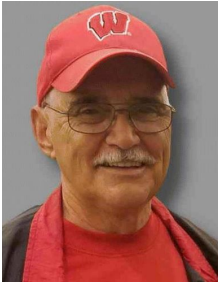
The second of three newsletters, on April 14, will feature stories from the 2023 Tidewater Classic and our international Lord of the Rings Classic and the New Zealand - USA Slowpitch Softball Classic from our 2023 Discover the Magic of New Zealand tour.

The third and final installment of our April newsletters, on April 21, will feature the results and details of the 2023 Southwest Championships.

Stay tuned!

Obituaries: Feb-Apr 2023

James E. DuCharme



James DuCharme, 78, of Janesville, Wisc., died Dec. 19.

Playing with Senior Softball USA since 2007, Jim played on several Wisconsin and Illinois teams and in more than 85 SSUSA sanctioned tournaments.

Jim was born in and spent most of his life in Wisconsin, apart from his four years in the Army when he was stationed in Colorado Spring and in South Korea. After his military service, he worked for Wisconsin Bell Telephone from 1966 to until retiring in 1995.

His passion was playing [senior] softball, where there was no place too far to travel including most recently winning a World Championship in October in Las Vegas where his team, Libby's 80s AAA (WI - Formerly Libby's - Ethic 80s and ProHealth Care 75s), won first place in their division.

"Jim was a very good man, an excellent ball player and a great friend and will be greatly missed," said his Libby's 80s manager, Michael Haney.

Richard Jule Peterson



Men's 55+ Major: Top-seeded CANVAZ Softball of California (photo below) went 5-0 overall, capped by a 26-25 championship game nailbiter over Dave Smith Auto/Northwest Jokers/Demarini of Washington. CANVAZ dealt the Jokers their only two losses of the tournament, both by one run. Scrap Iron Thunder finished third in the seven-team bracket.



Men's 50/55+ Silver: Top-seeded Scrap Iron Mile High (photo below) went 5-0 overall, capped by a 23-15 championship game victory over the Bootleggers. Both teams are from Colorado. Vegas Hui finished third in the six-team bracket.



Men's 60+ Major Plus: Legacy Sports USA of Arizona capped a 4-0 tournament with a 21-6 title game victory over Express 60s of California. L.A. 60s of California finished third in the three-team bracket.

Men's 60+ Major: Top-seeded Arizona Old School lost its first bracket game then reeled off five victories in a row, including 32-22 and 18-17 wins the title games against Sidewinders 60s of Arizona. The Silver Stars of California took third in the seven-team bracket.

Men's 60+ AAA: Third-seeded Lumberjacks Red of Minnesota (photo below) won the second championship game 16-8 after losing the first title game 22-14 to the Weekend Warriors of California. The Warriors won three elimination games to reach the championship. New Beginnings 60s of California finished third in the 11-team bracket.



Richard Peterson, 70, of Scottsdale, Az., died Feb. 26 after battling dementia.

Born in Illinois, Rick lived most of his life in Scottsdale. According to his online obituary, he spent more than 50 years in the restaurant development and management industry. Through his industry, he built relationships with professional sports teams and eventually senior softball players.

Fran Dowell, SSUSA's executive director said "Rick was my neighbor when I first moved to Phoenix," says Fran. "I have such great memories of his family, then to find out that Rick played for a team in our organization years later made me so excited! A great man, and a great friend to so many; Rick will be sorely missed."

Rick was active in several Arizona teams. "Rick was an undisputed team leader on the softball fields who inspired his team with his passion for playing," according to his obituary.

Rick played with the CJ & S Express 50s (AZ), Greco/Hitmen 55s (AZ), and Double Nickels 55s (CA).

Ron Boley



Ron Boley, 76, of Portland, Ore., died March 12.

Ron, born and raised in Portland, worked at the city's Park and Recreation department in 1969 and became the Portland Metro ASA Commissioner in 1982. Many players will remember him from the Delta Park Complex when the Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships were held in Portland.

"As sports supervisor, a position he held for 30 years, he directed the Portland Youth and Adult Basketball Leagues; while at the same time he served as director for American Legion, Connie Mack, and Adult Basketball," according to ASA's 2013 Northwest Region Hall of Fame Induction speech.

"Ron Boley was so welcoming to Senior Softball at Delta Park. We felt



Men's 60+ AA: Club Tilt/Haus of Colorado double-dipped Mike's Bar & Grill of Washington 17-6 and 17-14 to claim this three-team division. Spin of Washington finished third.

Florida Home Teams Rule at Spring Nationals

**By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report**

Forty teams from seven states converged on Polk County, Florida, to compete in SSUSA's Spring National Championships March 17-19.

Highlights included numerous high-scoring games, two women's divisions, and seven Men's Major Plus teams playing at the same park in the 40+, 50+ and 55+ divisions.

Florida teams dominated the entry list and championship results, but they could not pull off a sweep of tournament titles.

Give credit instead to one of the northern-most traveling teams.

Crawford Contracting of Michigan averaged 21 runs a game in compiling a 5-0 overall record and winning the Men's 50+ Major title.

"They came from the chilly north but showed they could quiet the (Florida) crowd," Tournament Director Tim McElroy said.

Winners of each division earned berths to the 2024 Tournament of Champions, considered the crown jewel of senior softball tournaments nationwide because only tournament champions are invited.

Interestingly, all Spring Nationals divisions were won by teams that entered bracket play as either a first or second seed. Games took place at Loy Harpe Sports Complex in Mulberry and at Walker Road Softball Complex in Lakeland.

Results:

Women's 40-50+ Gold: Kryptonite of Florida (top photo below) won the three-team division and the 50+ Major TOC berth with an undefeated record notched a 21-11 championship game victory over TM Force of Florida (bottom photo below), which earned the 40+ AAA TOC berth. The 40+ AAA team Fireballers of Massachusetts finished third.



so welcome each time and will miss Ron's smile -- always a great memory," said SSUSA Executive Director, Fran Dowell.

In addition to supervising and directing fields, tournaments, and leagues across many sports, Ron played baseball and football in his younger years and loved softball. Even in retirement, he took "over running the new William V. Owens Softball Complex... [and] was instrumental in getting the new Delta Park Complex built," according to the induction speech. "Ron Boley is the true Dean of Northwest Region Softball. He has earned our love and respect!"



Women's 50+ AAA: In a best-of-three format, unbeaten BAGS of Florida (photo below) defeated Hot Flashers of Texas 32-12 and 21-6 to win the



Men's 40+ Major Plus: Suncoast/Adidas 40s of Florida swept DDA Nation of Florida 30-24 and 32-31 in a best-of-three format. Suncoast finished overall.

Men's 40+ Major: Top-seeded Select 40s of Florida earned the title the hard way. After losing its first bracket game 20-10, Select reeled off victories 31-24, 34-26 and 26-25. It averaged 25 runs per game in bracket play. Hooters of Florida took second. Shinbiscuit/Potomac Sports of Maryland finished third in the three-team division.

Men's 50+ Major Plus: Suncoast/Adidas 50s of Florida defeated Short Porch of Florida 26-22 and 33-27 in a best-of-three format.

Men's 50+ Major: Crawford Contracting of Michigan completed a 5-0 tournament with a 18-13 title game victory over Yeager's/AC Delco/Max Bat Florida. Vector Scorpions 50s of Florida finished third in the four-team division.

Men's 50/55+ AAA: Three Florida teams vied in this division, which McPhail Auto won by defeating Volusia Top Gun 24-7 in the finale. McPhail won the 55+ TOC berth while Volusia won the 50+ TOC berth. Silver Rays finished third.

Men's 55+ Major Plus: Suncoast/Adidas 55s of Florida defeated BPA/Rawlings of Pennsylvania 29-13 in the championship game of a three-team division. DLB/Tyler Trucking/Blue Skies/Blue Mountain of Pennsylvania finished third.

Men's 55+ Major: Daytona Beach Boyz of Florida defeated Mitchell's of Florida in a best-of-three format. Daytona won the first game 7-0, lost the second 10-9, and won the finale 20-18.

Men's 60+ Major: The unbeaten Top Dawgs of Florida (photo below) won the tournament's largest division by defeating RBC Wealth Manager Florida 28-21 in the title game. Team Florida finished third in the five-team bracket.



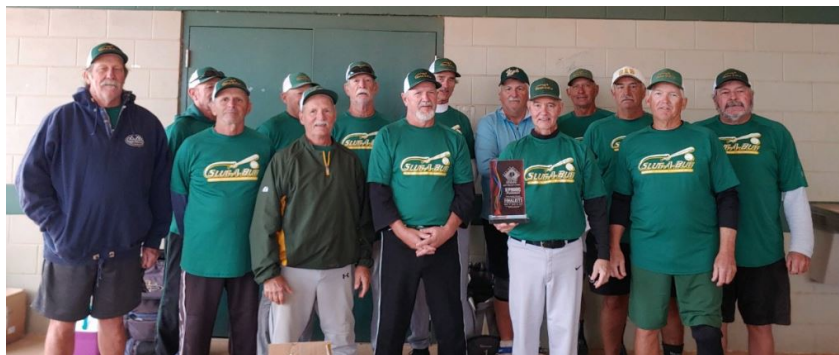
Men's 60+ AAA: Team Mars/Sunshine Sluggers (photo below) proved the best of a three-team, all-Florida bracket. Team Mars defeated Levin/Ameriprise II 31-15 in the finale. The Winter Haven Blue Knights finished third.



Men's 65+ Gold: Steve Levin/Ameriprise, a AAA team (photo below), won the combined Major/AAA bracket by defeating the Florida Mustangs, a Major team, 29-17 in the title game. Jerry's 65s of Florida finished third in the three-team bracket.



Men's 70/75+ Platinum: Venom, a 75+ Major Plus team from Florida (top photo below), capped a 4-0 tournament with a 21-11 title game victory over Slug-A-Bug (bottom photo below), a 70+ Major team from Florida. AMR South, a 75+ Major team from Florida, finished third in the three-team bracket.



First Joint Tourney Qualifies 41 Teams For SSUSA's & SPA's Worlds

By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report

NASHVILLE, TN -- Wet weather dampened the first joint-qualifying senior softball tournament established through a new partnership between Softball-USA and the Softball Players Association.

Forty-one teams from 11 states entered The Proton Sports SSUSA/SPA Music City Classic played March 15-19 at two Nashville-area complexes in Tennessee.

Poor field conditions forced all teams to play Saturday games at the four-field Cane Ridge Park in Antioch. Some teams moved to the second four-field park, Cedar Hill in Madison, for Sunday games.

Under the joint SSUSA/SPA arrangement, teams could use this tournament to qualify their rosters for either association's World Championships. Because SSUSA ran the Music City event, the teams followed SSUSA rules.

Results:

Men's 40+ Masters Gold: Southern Illinois Lightning, an AAA team, lost the first championship game 24-18 but rebounded to nab the crown 16-12 over ABC 40s, a Major team from Missouri. Tennessee Select, also a Major team, finished third in the three-team division.

Men's 50+ Major: After losing the winner's finals 14-5, Father Time/Red Athlete of Kentucky returned through the elimination bracket to again face Walker Brothers/JXL of Alabama. Father Time double dipped Walker 13-12 and 15-12 for the title. Third place in the five-team division went to 615 Honored of Tennessee.

Men's 50+ AAA: NSC Heroes 50s of Nebraska lost the winner's bracket finals 8-6 but returned to double-dip Tennessee Select/LP Sports 14-11 and 13-11 in the championship games. Our Dirt of Kentucky won three elimination games to finish third in the seven-team bracket.

Men's 55+ Major: K&I 55s of Indiana won the title over the Southern Illinois Lightning 55s in the two-team bracket.

Men's 55+ AAA: Cotton Eye Joe of Tennessee defeated the Peacemakers of Tennessee 15-11 for the title. The Georgia Renegades finished third in the seven-team bracket.

Men's 60+ Platinum: The Montgomery Swarm defeated the Omaha Silver Bullets/Minleon of Nebraska 7-0 for the title. Both are Major teams. Mc Softball of Mississippi, a Major Plus team, finished third in the four-team bracket.

Men's 60+ AAA: Lumber Kings of Tennessee lost the first championship game 19-10 but won the second 13-12 over Team Illinois. Southern Boy Georgia finished third in the four-team bracket.

Men's 65+ AAA: The Power of Tennessee became champions after the other division teams forfeited.

Men's 70+ Major: REI Nation of Tennessee became champion over Columbus LXX of Georgia, which forfeited both bracket games in the two-team division.



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