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A combined 164 teams participated in the 2025 Music City Classic (center), Spring World Championships (left) and Spring National Championships/Horton & Wood Classic (right).

Extra Day of Play Saves the 2025 Music City Classic

**By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report**

Good planning, turf fields and newly installed LED lighting helped save the 2025 Music City Classic, which took place on one of the stormiest weekends the country has experienced in a long time.

Those tornadic storms killed 42 people across eight states – and also inundated Cane Ridge Park, where the 20-team Music City tournament took place March 14-16 in Antioch, Tenn.

High winds and more than three inches of rain washed out all Saturday competition. Yet all games got played.

“The Music City Classic is normally played over the weekend,” Tournament Director Tim McElroy said. “This year, SSUSA opted for a Friday start to attract more teams and allow for wiggle room in case of inclement weather. That decision paid off in a big way.”

Facing a dismal Saturday forecast, SSUSA added extra Friday games, which were played under newly

Close Competition Defines the 2025 Spring World Championships

**By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report**

Spirited competition abounded when 120 teams descended on southwestern Utah to compete in Senior Softball USA's 2025 Spring Worlds Championships.

One 40+ Masters powerhouse team averaged 31 runs a game. Four teams eked out one-run championship victories. And four divisions required “if needed” championship games to determine the prize winners.

In the end, 23 teams earned berths to the 2026 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Florida, by winning their divisions during the March 18-23 event in at three parks in St. George, Utah.



So Cal Gusto didn't need an "if needed" game after dominating the Men's 75+ Major division and the championship game against Last Call 75 (NV), 10-4.

Overall, the tournament ended as a smashing success, Director Dave Dowell said.

“The 40s, especially, had some high-level competition,” Dowell said. “It was wonderful to have them.”

Despite some cool mornings and windy days early in the week, the weather proved nice overall – especially on the weekend, said Jerry Smith, another director.

installed LED lights. The recently installed turf fields and drainage system did their jobs, too, when the relentless rain arrived.

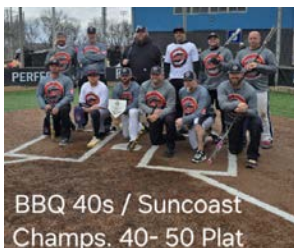
“After a full day of wind, rain and tornadoes in the region, I fully expected the fields to be unplayable on Sunday,” McElroy said. “The outfields were wet, but surprisingly firm. Games began on time (Sunday), and we were able to get them all in.”

Teams from 10 states participated.

“With a central location, access to an airport and a reasonable drive for regional teams, the Music City Classic has a bright future,” McElroy said. “I look forward to seeing it grow in the coming seasons.”

Results:

Men's 40/50+ Platinum: BBQ 40s/Suncoast of Illinois (photo below) lost its first three games but rallied to reach the championship, where it double dipped the top-seeded 50+ Major Plus team MP/Primetime/Team Combat of Georgia 27-25 and 26-23. The Missouri Horsemen finished third in three-team division.



Men's 40/50+ Gold: Top-seeded 615 Honored/Sumner Roofing/Shooter's Sports Bar (photo below), a 50+ Major team from Tennessee, capped an undefeated weekend by subduing Torgi Trucking/UP Electric of Washington 21-19 in the title tilt. ABC 40s of Missouri finished third in the three-team bracket.



“It was sunny with highs around 72 degrees all weekend long,” he said.

Results:

Men's 40+ Major Plus: After the three teams in this division split round robin pool play with 1-1 records apiece, Supreme Athletics/Anarchy Bats of California (photo below) took control in bracket play. Supreme defeated eventual third-place finisher Wicket Sprots of Arizona 41-24 then knocked off runner-up Cheap Suits/Republic Realty of California 27-12 for the crown. Overall, Supreme averaged 31 runs a game.



Men's 40/50+ Platinum: Top-seeded BPM of Arizona, a 50+ Major Plus team, and second-seeded Avalon Meat Candy of Nevada, a 40+ Major team, (photo below), waged two intense battles, with BPM winning each by two runs: 27-25 in the winner's bracket final and 17-15 in the title game. Both earned TOC berths. The third-seeded Vegas Delinquents finished third in the six-team division.



Men's 50+ Major: Third-seeded L.A.F. 50 of California (photo below) rebounded from a 1-2 pool play start to win the four-team division by nipping top-seeded Diamond Dogz of California 23-22 in the championship game. Fourth-seeded PRMI of Idaho finished third.



Men's 50+ AAA: After top-seeded All-Quip/SOWC-50 of Oregon lost its second bracket game, it squeaked out 19-18, 14-12 and 17-16 elimination bracket victories to reach the championship game. All-Quip capped that run with 25-14 and 15-12 victories over runner up and third-seeded Refurbished of Utah. Fourth-seeded Arizona Thunder finished third in the 12-team division, the tournament's largest.

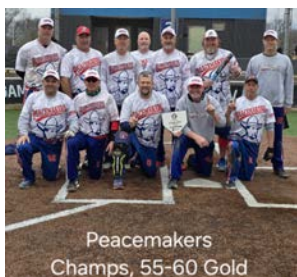
Men's 50+ AA: Playing a best-of-three format, HCD of Oregon swept Team 307 of Wyoming in two nailbiters, 26-25 and 20-19.

Men's 50+ AAA: Third-seeded Our Dirt 50s of Kentucky ([photo below](#)) started slowly Friday, scoring only four runs in its opening game. After that, runs came in bunches. Our Dirt buried top-seeded M&J Precision/Twin States Softball of Alabama 21-17 in the winner's final and 16-11 for the championship. Second-seeded Allnet Legacy of Ohio placed third in the four-team division.



Our Dirt 50s
Champs, 50 AAA

Men's 55/60+ Gold: The third-seeded 55+ AAA team Peacemakers/HomeRun Delivery of Alabama ([photo below](#)) found 27 to be the magic number on Sunday. After losing its first bracket game, Peacemakers won four in a row, including 27-20 and 27-24 championship game victories over Claremont Property Co., a 60+ Major team out of Ohio. The 55+ team Chitown Assault/T2Automotive of Indiana finished third in the four-team division.



Peacemakers
Champs, 55-60 Gold

Men's 60+ AAA: Top-seeded Team Illinois ([photo below](#)) defended its 2024 title in style with an unbeaten run through pool and bracket play. It knocked off VersiFi of Tennessee 23-15 in the championship game. The Team Roper Bandits of Kentucky placed third in the three-team division.

Men's 55+ Major: After a 1-2 start in pool play, third-seeded Damage of Utah ([photo below](#)) went undefeated in bracket play and ousted fourth-seeded 805's of California 18-14 in the title game. Second-seeded Priority Construction Services/Lumberjacks of Minnesota placed third in the four-team division.



Men's 55+ AAA: Fourth-seeded Vancouver Connection of Washington edged top-seeded Venom of California 21-19 for the title. After being seeded last in the 10-team division, Lokahi of Arizona took home third place.

Men's 60+ Major: Fourth-seeded Arizona Old School ([photo below](#)) earned a title by going unbeaten in bracket play, including a 20-15 title game victory over the second-seeded Colorado Legends. Sidwinders of Arizona captured third in the six-team bracket.



Men's 60+ AAA: The top-seeded Road Warriors of Arizona ([photo below](#)) stumbled only once, losing 25-19 in the first title game against 10th-seeded Lumberjack Red of Minnesota, which had knocked off the second and third seeds before playing four games in a row on Sunday. The Road Warriors, which also won the 2024 title, earned a repeat by winning the "if needed" championship game 17-11. Fifth-seeded Alliance/Scrap Iron of Colorado won four elimination games to finish third in the 10-team bracket.



Men's 60+ AA: The third-seeded Nevada Drifters ([photo below](#)) collected two one-run victories out of three bracket games played, including a 21-20 championship win over top-seeded So Cal Riptide. Fourth-seeded Club Tilt/Haus of Colorado finished third in the four-team division.



Men's 65/70+ Gold: The Power, a 65+ AAA team from Tennessee, easily won its two pool games and also captured its first bracket game on Friday. Unfortunately, Saturday's weather and resultant travel issues caused a few teams to withdraw. The Power was awarded the title. Midwest Driving School/Dudley/KPI of Missouri finished second. Columbus LXX of Georgia took third.



Men's 65+ Major: Top-seeded Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder summoned thunder into its bats for bracket play, notching 45 runs in its bracket opener before defeating third-seeded Vegas Elite/Vault 19-4 in the championship game. The So Cal Braves finished third in the four-team division.

Men's 65+ AAA: Fifth-seeded Bat Attitude of Utah (photo below) survived three thrilling bracket games (44-42, 23-22, 19-17) before earning more breathing room in the winner's final (24-19) and the championship game (23-16) against the second-seeded Arizona Owls. The sixth-seeded Arizona Road Warriors finished third in the 14-team division.

Obituaries: February – March 2025

Warren C. York



Warren York, 76, of Rockford, IL., died on Feb. 26.

Warren, known as Colbert to his family, started playing with Senior Softball USA in 2013 and loyally played with the Chicago Hitmen 65s and 70s teams until 2021.

Sports were a big part of Warren's life, even meeting his future wife at a championship basketball game in high school, according to his daughter, Tinaya.

"Warren was a very talented man... He was skilled in martial arts, could fix a car, build a shed, grow his food, play softball with the best of them," said Tinaya.

"Warren played the outfield [and] we thought we had our own Willie Mays," says Michael Sabatino, manager of the Chicago Hitmen and his co-manager, Jim Kupiec. "Outstanding defensive player, our top hitter. Showed the love of the game. All around teammate and



Men's 65+ AA: Top-seeded Ranall's Realty of Arizona capped a 6-0 tournament with a 20-11 championship game victory over the second-seeded Scrap Iron 65s Rockies of Colorado. The third-seeded Classics of Utah finished third in the four-team division.

Men's 70+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, Timberworks/Suncoast of California finished unbeaten for the tournament by sweeping R&R 70s of California 23-16 and 23-8.

Men's 70+ AAA: Second-seeded Arizona Old School went 6-0 overall, including a 22-9 throttling of top-seeded Full Throttle/Bobby Q of Arizona in the championship game. The two teams also met in the winner's bracket finale, which Old School won 19-18. Eighth-seeded defending champion Bucky's Casino of Arizona won four elimination games to finish third in the nine-team division.

Men's 70/75+ Platinum: Third-seeded Scrap Iron/High Octane, a 70+ Major team from Colorado, (photo below), capped a 6-1 tournament and defended its 2024 title with a 14-7 championship victory over another 70+ Major team, top-seeded Last Call of Nevada. Top Gun Strike Force of California finished third in the six-team bracket.

gentleman; sportsmanship to everyone [he] came in contact with.”

“But now the Hitmen have their own Angel in the outfield helping us win again.”

Outside of his passion for sports, and first and foremost, family, he made a career working for the Chrysler Plant in Belvidere, Ill., for 40 years as a paint sprayer.

Larry Krull



Larry Spafford Krull, 84, of Lawrence, Kan., died on March 3.

Larry was instrumental in promoting senior softball in the Midwest and Kansas, playing with Senior Softball USA in the 1990s and was well-known for supporting his local senior league.

“He has been into Senior Softball since 1990 and helped propagating the sport in Kansas for seniors by owning softball teams that played locally under KC Metro Senior Softball League,” says John Mondri, administrator of the league’s social media.

Larry’s company, Midwest Driving School, sponsored numerous SSUSA and KCMSSL teams, which were often named after the company. Larry began as a driving instructor for the school, before purchasing the company after 10 years.

But his history in sports and education doesn’t start there. In high school, he played basketball and football and after college, “was given [a] teaching position at Appleton City Highschool from 1969- 70 where he started fulfilling his lifetime dream of coaching high school football,” said John on behalf of KCMSSL. After moving to different towns in Kansas, he continued to teach high school and college, and coached



Men's 70/75+ AA: Second-seeded Blood, Sweat and Years out of Utah got revenge for a winner’s bracket finals loss to Lights Out of California by double-dipping the Californians 23-22 and 21-15 in the title games. The top-seeded Utah Coyotes finished third in the six-team division.

Men's 75+ Major: Top-seeded SoCal Gusto of California, which went unbeaten against the other 75+ Major teams, handled third-seeded and runner-up Last Call of Nevada 10-4 in the championship game. The 75 Scrap Iron Diamonds of Colorado finished third in the three-team bracket.

Men's 75/80+ Gold: Fourth-seeded Git-R-Done, a 75+ AAA team from Arizona, got it done in the title game against second-seeded Top Gun 80+ Gold of California, 24-18. The sixth-seeded Silver Wolves of Utah won three elimination games to finish third in the six-team division.

Men's 80+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, Omen 80 of California barely lost the first game before subduing Sidewinders 80 of Arizona, 17-18, 15-9 and 26-20. Omen finished 5-1 overall.

Men's 80+ AAA: Also playing a best-of-three format, the unbeaten and defending champion Minnesota Masters (photo below) swept Balance of Nature of Utah 22-11 and 16-10.



Men's 85+ Major: In a best-of-three meeting, the Top Gun Blue Angels of California (photo below) swept Scrap Iron Legends of Colorado 25-9 and 18-9. The Blue Angels finished 4-1 overall, losing only to the 80+ AAA champion Minnesota Masters in pool play.

basketball, baseball and football, even becoming a football assistant coach for Haskell University in Lawrence.

Larry will be remembered for his caring nature towards his players, Midwest Driving School teams and the Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League.

Tony Paschal



Anthony Paschal Sr., 69, of Alameda, Calif., died on March 6.

Anthony started playing with Senior Softball USA in 2014, originally with numerous Southern California teams before moving to the Bay Area in 2020, continuing to play with Nor-Cal teams.

Anthony's teammates remember him as a great player and person.

"Anthony was the fastest runner I've ever seen at 65 years old," said Jeffrey Kimoto, his last manager, SportStan/Islanders 65s out of Sacramento.

SportStan/Islanders teammate Doug Uchikura, said, "He was always a player you wanted at the top of the batting order. He could run so fast that he could hit it back to the pitcher and have a chance to beat it out. More importantly, he was a kind and generous human being who consistently displayed the very best in sportsmanship and humanity. It was an honor to have been his teammate!"

Outside of senior softball, family and faith were very important to Anthony. He moved to Northern California to become a pastor of a church and help communities and youth, both local and abroad, "including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Jamaica, Panama, and throughout North America," according to his online obituary.



Great Batting and Weather Rock 2025 Spring Nationals in Florida

**By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report**

Awesome weather and great batting created an explosive atmosphere during Senior Softball USA's 2025 Spring National Championship/Horton & Wood Classic.

The 10 championship tilts saw an average of 47 runs scored. Twice, teams that surpassed the 30-run mark had to settle for second place.



Score a high number of runs didn't guarantee a win during the 2025 Spring Nationals.

"We had many, many high-scoring games," Tournament Director Gayle Collins said of the March 14-16 tournament featuring 24 teams playing at the Walker Road Softball Complex in Lakeland, Fla.

Final tallies in championship games included scores of 35-34, 33-32 and 28-27.

Much of the hitting praise goes to the four men's 40+ Masters teams, which averaged 52 runs a game between pool and bracket play.

Teams came from Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey to battle some tough Florida squads. In the end, Floridians captured nine of the 10 titles awarded. All 10 champions earned berths to the 2026 Tournament of Champions, an event that allows only champions to enter.

“Anthony lived an active life, participating in outdoor activities, including hiking, softball, and marathons.”

Anthony will be remembered in senior softball for playing with the following California teams: So-Cal Titans 55s, Git-R-Done 60s, Weekend Warriors 60s, and SportStan/Islanders 65s.



While some players traveled far for the first 2025 TOC qualifier on the East Coast, most teams played in their home state of Florida.

And though March weather can be fickle nationwide, Florida put on a perfect showcase for this year's Spring Nationals.

“The teams from the North and Central United States were very appreciative of the great weather that has been lacking in their area for a few months now,” Collins said.

Results:

Men's 40+ Platinum: Third-seeded Major team Top Line Auto Glass/5 Days of Florida (photo below) capped an undefeated run through the bracket with a 39-29 championship victory over the top-seeded Major Plus team Suncoast 40s of Florida. Hancock Power of Florida finished third in the four-team division.



Men's 50+ Major Plus: Second-seeded Suncoast 50s of Florida finished 5-1 overall, including 3-0 in the bracket, to claim the title of this three-team division. It defeated top-seeded Baugh Ford of Florida 35-22 in the title game. Freehold/GMC/Juno of New Jersey finished third.

Men's 50+ Major: Playing a best-of-three format, Yeager's/Max Batz of Florida swept Walking Fossils of Florida 28-21 and 28-27 to finish 4-1 overall.

Men's 50+ AAA: This division featured the only “if needed” championship game of the tournament. Woodlawn Hitting Club of Florida (photo below) held off Game/Donate

Life of Michigan 12-21, 25-22 and 25-10 for the crown.



Men's 55+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, Suncoast 55s of Florida swept BPA/Miken/Worth/Easton of Pennsylvania 28-17 and 35-34 to finish as 4-1 overall champions.

Men's 55+ Major: Also playing the best of three games, Tyler Trucking/P & G/Blue Mountain of Ohio (photo below) dispatched Skid Daddy/C3 Skids of Florida 22-9 and 19-16 to finish 5-0 overall.



Men's 60+ Major Plus: In another best-of-three match up, Lemay/Suncoast/WTGM of Florida swept Ohio Elite 60s 17-7 and 33-32 to finish 4-1 overall.

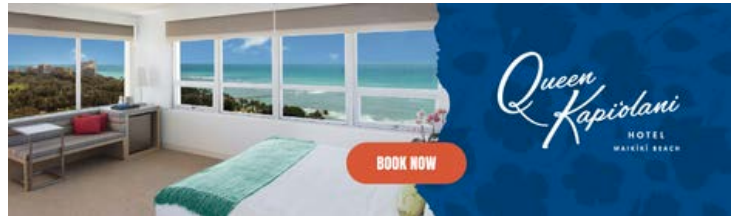
Men's 55/60/65+ Gold: Top-seeded Team Florida/Phoenix Tube 60 (photo below) defeated the 65+ Major Plus and second-seeded TRT of Florida 11-1 in the lowest scoring championship game of the tournament. That gave Team Florida a 6-0 tournament record and the 60+ Major title. Volusia Top Gun, a 55+ AAA team out of Florida, finished third in the four-team division.



Men's 65/70/75+ Platinum: Top-seeded and unbeaten Venom 75+ of Florida (photo below) claimed the 75+ Major Plus championship by defeating Levin Ameriprise II of Florida 22-13 in the title game of this three-team division. Slug-A-Bug of Florida took home the 70+ Major title and TOC berth.



Stay At SSUSAs Official Hawaiian Resort Hotel



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