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Best of Best Win Quality Rings At SSUSA's Original Tournament of Champions

2024 TOURNAMENT GUIDE - Now Available

Obituaries: December 2023 – February 2024



Dynasty Girls Mood Swings (CA) vs. Fireballs (MA) in the Women's 40+ AAA division of the 2024 TOC.

2024 TOURNAMENT GUIDE - Now Available

Turn your softball tournament trip into a vacation with this year's 2024 Tournament Guide!

Each SSUSA TOC Qualifier has its own page with fun information about each location, sponsor, tournament details, and **recommendations for restaurants, bars & wineries, shops and attractions!**

Click here to view the full, online tournament guide for 2024, or click on the image below:

Best of Best Win Quality Rings At SSUSA's Original Tournament of Champions

By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report

Teams from Canada, Guam and across the United States converged on Polk County, Florida, in late January to determine the best of the best among Senior Softball USA champions.

Only teams that win their divisions in TOC qualifiers get invited to the SSUSA Tournament of Champions, which celebrated its 18th annual showcase event this year.



Barkley Heating & Air/O.P.P. (DE) enjoying their championship victory in the Men's 40+ AAA division.

The 103 participating teams enjoyed mostly sunny and pleasant Florida weather during two days of special events and three days of

SENIOR SOFTBALL USA

2024 TOURNAMENT GUIDE

"Whatever you do, you should do it with feeling... don't go through the motions." - Yogi Berra	MARCH 1-3 Southern Championships Dalton, GA	MARCH 5-10 Aloha Bowl Honolulu, HI	MARCH 15-17 Spring National Championships /Horton & Wood Classic Polk County, FL	MARCH 16-17 40s & Women's Spring World Championships Bullhead City, AZ	MARCH 19-24 Spring World Championships St. George, UT
APRIL 3-7 Tidewater Classic Virginia Beach, VA	APRIL 9-14 Southwest Championships Las Vegas, NV	APRIL 16-21 Midwest Championships Kansas City, KS	APRIL 30 - MAY 5 Northern Championships Twin Cities Gateway, MN	"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." - Special Olympics Oath	APRIL 30 - MAY 5 Texas State Championships Grapevine, TX
MAY 14-19 Atlantic Coast Championships Raleigh, NC	MAY 24 - JUNE 2 Rock 'N' Reno Challenge Cup Reno, NV	JUNE 4-9 Land of Enchantment Championships Albuquerque, NM	JUNE 7-9 Northern California State Championships Sacramento & Lincoln, CA	JUNE 18-23 Southern California State Championships Hemet & Cathedral City, CA	JULY 9-14 Jim Sherman/Northwest Championships Salem & Albany, OR
JULY 9-14 Northeast Championships Syracuse, NY	JULY 23-28 Eastern National Championships Loudoun Co., VA	"Genius is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration." - Thomas Edison	JULY 30 - AUGUST 4 Western National Championships Sacramento & Placer Co., CA	AUGUST 15-18 Rocky Mountain Championships Aurora, CO	SEPTEMBER 12-29 World Championships Las Vegas, NV

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Managers: To enter your team into a tournament, please email us at: info@seniorsoftball.com with your team name, age, division and the tournament you are wishing to enter. You may also call us at 916-326-5303.

See you on the fields!

Obituaries: December 2023 – February 2024

Softball News Report

Darrell Laschen



Darrell Laschen, 86, of Loyal, Wisc., died on Sept. 23.

games.

Ten teams compiled undefeated weekends. Twenty-eight champion teams earned free, quality Jostens rings for each player. In addition, each championship team's MVP received a new Axe senior bat.



All-Star Umpire Staff at the 2024 Tournament of Champions. (Front: Tournament UIC Gayle Collins. Back, left to right: Umpires Jay Lugo, Bob O'Brien, Brad Tiedeken and Linda Weber).

Results:

Women's 40+ Masters AAA: The Lady Panthers of Ontario, Canada, (photo below), double dipped Dynasty Sisters Mood Swings of California 5-4 and 16-2 in the title games, which allowed the Panthers to get revenge for their only tournament loss, 9-5 to Dynasty Sisters in the winner's bracket finals. TM Force of Florida took third in the four-team division.



Women's 40+ Masters AA: Playing a best-of-three format, the Arizona Desert Belles (photo below) swept FIGO Islanders of Guam 15-6 and 17-12 for the crown.



Women's 50+ AAA: Also playing the best of three, Shots Fired of Rhode Island (photo below) swept Takin' Chances of California 7-4 and 8-7 for the title.



Darrell has a long history with Senior Softball USA, starting in the late 1990s and last playing in the 2022 season.

He played senior softball to keep busy during his retirement and also enjoyed fishing and staying fit. He started his career in sports early, according to his online obituary. After wrestling in high school, becoming the state's runner-up, "he went on to teach and coach at... the Loyal School District in 1967, where he taught and was named the head wrestling coach."

"He was named to the Wisconsin Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame in 2001. In addition, Darrell successfully coached girls' softball, winning three state championships."

Darrell has played with Libby's 65s and 70s (WI), Jimmy's Minnesota Gold 75s, Jimmy's MN Legends 80s, Chicago Geezers 80s, ProHealth Care 80s and 85s (MN) and Team Rehabilitation (MN).

Michael J. Cordry



Mike Joseph Cordry, 83, of Seattle, died on Nov. 7.

Mike started with Senior Softball in the early 2000s before retiring at the end of the 2022 season. During those two decades, he played with several Northwest senior teams.

He started playing sports at the age of 12 and later coached his daughter's softball team. Mike spent the last few decades as player/manager of a softball team that won many world championships.

Beyond sports, which he held close, he loved vacations with family, cheering on his kids and grandkids, and earned advanced degrees in Chemical Engineering.

He will be remembered playing with First American Title 60s, 65s, & 70s (WA), Portland Disposal & Recycling 65s, and more recently General Equipment 75s and 80s (OR) – (Formerly PDR Fastsigns 70s and 75s).

Sal Rizzo

Women's 50/55+ Major: In another best-of-three bracket, undefeated Kryptonite of Florida ([photo below](#)) won the 50+ Major title by sweeping the Arizona Dream Team 55s 16-9 and 9-5.



Men's 40+ Masters Platinum: Fourth-seeded BT Bombers/Six Pac of California ([photo below](#)) averaged 25 runs a game in bracket play and defeated First Capital of New York 26-17 in the championship game of the six-team bracket. Certified Ground Breakers of Maryland placed third. Suncoast/Adidas 40s of Florida, which went 5-0 playing against Major teams, won the Major Plus title.



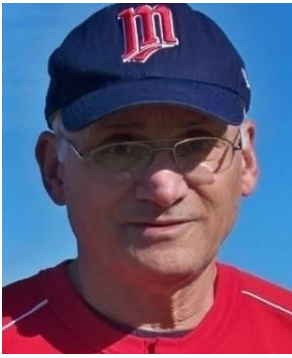
Men's 40+ AAA: Playing a best-of-three format, Barkley Heating & Air/O.P.P. of Delaware ([photo below](#)) defeated Gigantes O.C. of Maryland 20-14, 16-19, 32-23 for the title.



Men's 50+ Platinum: Second-seeded Yeager's/Max Batz of Florida ([photo below](#)) defeated Chi-Town Ballers 17-9 for the Major championship. Suncoast/Adidas 50s of Florida went 6-0 against Major and AAA competition and won the Major Plus title.



Men's 50+ AAA: Second-seeded 4 Season Paint & Remodeling/Evil Sports/Sundial Cocktails of Massachusetts ([photo below](#)) went 5-1 overall and edged third-seeded SSC/Persuaders of Kansas 17-16 to win the seven-team division. Top-seeded Volusia Top Gun of Florida finished third.



Sal Rizzo, 74, of Baldwinsville, N.Y., died Dec. 14.

Sal played ball for most of his life, but started with Senior Softball in the early 2000s, playing solely with his Syracuse Merchant team until 2017.

“A lifelong ball player, Sal... recently played senior softball with the World Champion Syracuse Merchants earning his spot in the New York State USSSA Softball Hall of Fame,” according to his online obituary.

Sal also enjoyed camping and fishing when not working at New York’s Department of Transportation, where he worked for 37 years until his retirement in 2007.

Sal will be mostly remembered for playing with the Syracuse Merchants 55s, 60s, and 65s.

William Broadbent



Will Broadbent, 63, of Rochester, Ore., died on Dec. 25.

Will played with a handful of Oregon and Washington state teams, starting with Senior Softball USA in 2010.

“One of Will's hobbies was playing softball for over 35 years,” according to his online obituary. “This was his happy place, being out on the field with his second family and meeting friends. His number was 27 whenever possible, the same as his dad's football number in high school.”

He also enjoyed smoking meats when he wasn't working at the Department of Natural Resources, where he worked for 35 years before retiring.

During his 12 years playing with SSUSA, he played with Doerflinger 50s (WA), Four Seasons/Wilkins



Men’s 50+ AA: Top-seeded Emerald City of Washington ([photo below](#)) went 5-0, averaged 20 runs a game and defeated second-seeded NW50s/A-Affordable of Washington 25-23 in the finale. Lobos of Texas finished third in the three-team division.



Men’s 55+ Platinum: Fourth-seeded Regee’s Rams of Ontario, Canada, ([photo below](#)), won all its bracket games to finish 5-1, capped by a 20-4 title game victory over fifth-seeded Damage Nevada. Vectra International/Big Biscuit of Kansas placed third in the six-team bracket. Suncoast/Adidas of Florida claimed the 55+ Major Plus title with a 4-1 overall record.



Men’s 55+ AAA: Fifth-seeded Xtreme Home Improvements and Restorations/New York Fitness Club/Fredrick’s of Pennsylvania ([photo below](#)) finished 5-1, capped by a 12-8 title game victory over top-seeded D’Amore Law of Washington. Third-seeded Scrap Iron Mile High finished third in the eight-team bracket.



Men’s 55+ AA: Top-seeded So Cal Riptide/RMK Trucking of California ([photo below](#)) capped a 6-0 tournament with a 15-14 victory in the title game over California Coast Plumbers Inc. Buddies, Sampson’s, Mid-Michigan Merchants took third in the four-team division.



Men’s 60+ Major: Top-seeded Team Florida/Phoenix Tube ([photo below](#)) averaged nearly 20 runs a game and capped a 5-0 tournament

Trucking 50s (OR), Wolfpack 55s & 60s (WA), and Spin Tees 55s (WA).

Michael Laird



Mike Laird, 63, of Edgewood, Md., died on Jan. 7.

Mike started with Senior Softball USA in 2015, last playing in the Winter Nationals in Florida in November.

According to his online obituary, he was a fan of many sports. "He made significant contributions as a basketball referee for High School and Rec., volunteered for over 30 years in the Joppatowne Rec Council, and served as the President of Joppatowne Senior Softball."

After serving in the U.S. Air National Guard, he worked 40 years with the Department of Water and Sewer, meter division.

Mike will be remember playing with Harford County LV 55s (MD), Maryland Classics 55s, Curtis Engine 60s (MD) and most recently with Howe Enterprise 60s (MD).

Ernest D. Shaffer



Ernie Shaffer, 87, of Sacramento died January 2024 after battling cancer.

Ernie played with Senior Softball USA for 20 years, starting in 1999 and retiring in 2019, playing on many regional Sacramento teams.

With the SSUSA office in Sacramento, he was well-known by the staff. "Ernie Shaffer was very special to me," said Fran Dowell, the executive eirector of

with a 23-18 championship victory over third-seeded Hawaii Five-O. Top Dawgs of Florida finished third in the six-team bracket.



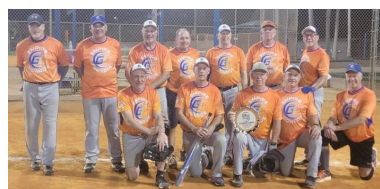
Men's 60+ AAA: Top-seeded Team Mars of Florida (photo below) outscored opponents by an average of 10 runs a game, went 6-0 overall, and captured the title with a 19-3 victory over sixth-seeded CPOA Cleveland/Northern Ohio Printing. Fourth-seeded Hudson Valley Cyclones of New York took third in the eight-team bracket.



Men's 60+ AA: Second-seeded Road Warriors of Arizona (photo below) capped a 5-0 tournament by exploding for a 24-9 title game victory over the fourth-seeded New York Capitals. Top-seeded Lobos of Texas finished third in the five-team bracket.



Men's 65+ Major: Playing a best-of-three format, Empire Monroe of New York (photo below) defeated Prime Time of Illinois 23-24, 23-22, 16-11 for the title.



Men's 65+ AA: In a best-of-three format, Shannon Fence/CPOA of Ohio (photo below) swept Scrap Iron Rockies 24-22 and 31-27.



Men's 65/70+ Gold: Second-seeded Top Gun Stealth of California (photo below), a 65 AAA team, double dipped eighth-seeded Northern

SSUSA. “Not only as a softball player but also as my children’s elementary school principal. I used to love when he was getting his awards at the tournaments and I’d say “Congratulations, Mr. Shaffer” ... he would always tell me to call him Ernie, but I had so much respect for him I could never quit calling him mister.”

Ernie will primarily be remembered from playing with the Sacramento Gold 75s, 80s and 85s teams.

Mike A. Pickett



Mike Pickett, 81, of Stockbridge, Ga., died Jan. 26 from complications of Alzheimer’s.

Mike started with Senior Softball USA in the 1990s and retired in 2017, however he started his ball career many, many years earlier.

Mike played baseball as a kid and at the University of Georgia. After raising a family and a successful career, “he returned to the ball field playing on several nationally ranked senior softball teams,” according to his online obituary. “In 1998, he led his team to the 55+ AAA Senior Softball World Championship in Chicago.”

“In 2012, as a member of the 70+ Florida Legends, ...Mike was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame.”

After college ball, but before senior ball, Mike became a teacher and coached football, basketball and varsity baseball. Later, he became a restaurant owner while playing senior softball.

Mike will be remembered for playing with Team Florida Raptors 60s, Dirt’s All-Stars/Old South 65s (GA), Florida Legends 65s and 70s, and Southeast Left-Overs 75s (GA).

Virginia Force 20-9 and 31-15 for the title. Third-seeded Steve Levin Ameriprise of Florida took third in the nine-team bracket.



Men’s 70+ AAA: Playing the best-of-three, Northern Virginia Force defeated JAG-ONE/Jersey Masters Red of New Jersey 17-2, 16-17 and 18-12.

Men’s 70+ AA: Fourth-seeded Scrap Iron Diamonds of Colorado (photo below) turned a double play to end the championship game 23-20 against third-seeded Spikes of Washington. Top-seeded Doc Marten/Ropes Courses of Michigan placed third in the five-team bracket.



Men’s 75+ Platinum: Third-seeded Scrap Iron Diamonds (photo lower left) won the 75+ Major title by working their way through the elimination bracket and double dipping the second-seeded Midwest Fossils of Nebraska 19-11 and 21-5. Maverick Construction of Texas finished third. Venom of Florida (photo lower right) nabbed the 75+ Major Plus title with a 5-0 record.



Men’s 75+ AAA: In a best-of-three format, JAG-ONE/Jersey Masters of New Jersey (photo below) finished 5-0 by sweeping the KC Kids of Missouri 15-10 and 16-15.



Men’s 80+ Gold: Top-seeded Bucs and Bulls of Florida went 5-0 and nabbed with AAA title by defeating the NorEasters of New York 24-9. Scrap Iron 80s finished third in the six-team bracket. Florida Investment Properties (photo below) eared the 80+ Major Plus title with a 5-0 record.



Men's 85+ Gold: Center For Sight of Florida (photo below) earned the Major title and finished 5-1 overall with a 22-10 victory over Main Street Pub of Michigan, which won the AAA title. Team Rehabilitation of Minnesota finished third in the three-team bracket.



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