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Florida Fields Bounce Back After Hurricane to Host 2024 Winter Nationals

High Scoring Games Highlight the 2024 Winter Worlds

Obituaries: November 2024



The 2024 Winter National and Winter World Championships Kick Off the SSUSA 2025 Season.

Obituaries: November 2024

Don Farber



Don Farber, 90, of Rio Vista, Cali. died on July 21.

Don was a well-known Bay Area senior softball player, playing with the San Francisco Seals from the 65+ division to the 80+ Major Plus division.

Growing up in San Francisco, he took to baseball very early and made a life out of it. After his studies at Cal Poly (California Polytechnic State University) in San Luis Obispo, he played outfield for the Oakland Oaks in the early 1950s.

The Oakland Oaks were a minor league team in the Pacific Coast League until moving to Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1955 to become the Vancouver Mounties.

“He and I enjoyed traveling for teams’ Spring Training,” said Lynne,

Florida Fields Bounce Back After Hurricane to Host 2024 Winter Nationals



**By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report**

SSUSA’s Winter Nationals kicked off the 2025 playing season when 65 teams from 16 states converged on southwest Florida in early November.

Though sporadic rain caused multiple schedule adjustments, field crews and directors scrambled to make sure nearly all the originally scheduled games got played at parks in Fort Myers and Naples on Nov. 5-10.

“There was some great ball played at the Winter National earlier this month, but the Lee County Sports staff were the unquestioned All-Stars,” Tournament Director Tim McElroy said. “Just a few weeks removed from another hurricane, they delivered top-notch playing facilities and more. The staff takes pride in their parks and hotels but are quick to suggest restaurants and shopping options making this town, and this tournament one of my personal favorites.”

Don's wife. "For the Giants, but any and all teams really." Lynne also added they loved to travel together, and have been to South America, Europe, Mexico and more.

After his stint with the Oaks, he became the Marketing Manager for the Golden Gate Fields in the East Bay and later owned Hogan's Café in San Francisco for about 15 years with his wife.

"In the more than 2 decades I've known Don Farber, he has always displayed outstanding sportsmanship, offered a number of improvements for our sport -- and was an excellent athlete," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief executive officer.

Don will be remembered for his many years of dedication to both baseball and senior softball in California's Bay Area.



Rain caused the greatest impact on the 80+ AAA division, which switched from a round-robin format to a single-elimination format partway through the tournament.

Sixteen teams earned berths to the 2026 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Florida, by winning their divisions.

Results:

Men's 40+ AAA: Playing a best-of-three format, the Black Kings of Maryland swept the SpamTown Sliders of Minnesota 24-18 and 19-13. The Black Kings finished 4-1 overall.

Men's 50+ AAA: Also playing a best-of-three format, Up in Smoke of Florida defeated Kons Trenching of Wisconsin 13-10, 14-26, 22-14.

Men's 55+ Major: Top-seeded Florida-Onyx swept all five games it played, including a 23-20 championship victory over third-seeded Tiffany's of Michigan. WALKOFF of Maryland finished third in the three-team division.

Men's 55+ AAA: Top-seeded Hex.COM of Ohio stumbled only once – in the first championship game, which it lost 21-19 to second-seeded Isle Edge Trucking of Wisconsin. Hex.COM recovered to notch a decisive 26-9 victory in the "if needed" title game. The third-seeded Invaders of Rhode Island finished third in the three-team division.

Men's 60+ Major: The third-seeded Hudson Valley Cyclones of New York capped a 4-1 tournament with a 16-14 title-game victory over top-seeded Team Mars of Florida. Fourth-seeded Team Florida/Phoenix Tube finished third in the five-team division.

Men's 60+ AAA: Top-seeded Phoenix Tube of New Jersey lost the winner's bracket finals before winning the third-place game and then double dipping third-seeded Isle Edge Trucking of Wisconsin 25-18 and 20-18 in the championship games. Seventh-seeded Diamond Dawgs of Massachusetts nabbed third place in the eight-team division.

Men's 65+ Major Plus: Unbeaten in six games, top-seeded TRT of Florida knocked off second-seeded Prime Time of Illinois 22-8 in the championship game. MJ Fein/Ohio Elite finished third in the three-team bracket.

Men's 65+ Major: Third-seeded Levin Ameriprise II of Florida went 5-1 overall, including a 17-6 championship victory over the sixth-seeded Long Island Jaguars 65s Red. Top-seeded Hollis Appraisals of Florida finished third after losing its final game by one run.

Men's 65+ AAA: Fifth-seeded Steve Levin Ameriprise of Florida capped a 5-1 tournament by going 4-0 in bracket play, including two one-run triumphs. In the championship game, it defeated fourth-seeded Playmakers of Wisconsin 20-3. Second-seeded Fat Nancy of New York finished third in the seven-team division.

Men's 70+ Major: Top-seeded DEEP PURPLE of Massachusetts (photo below) won all five of its games by double-digits, including the 22-6 title game against second-seeded Slug-A-Bug of Florida. Third-seeded SFS/Minutemen of Ohio finished third in the three-team division.



Men's 70+ AAA: The top-seeded Long Island Jaguars 70s White of New York capped a 5-0 tournament with an 18-3 championship victory over second-seeded Spring Ford of Pennsylvania. The third-seeded Syracuse Cyclones of New York nabbed third in the five-team division.

Men's 75+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, unbeaten Venom of Florida swept Northern Virginia Force 19-9 and 23-8.

Men's 75/80+ Gold: The third-seeded 60+ Major team Vector of Vero from Florida defeated the 75+ AAA team Long Island Jaguars of New York 26-16 in the title game, with both teams earning berths to the 2026 TOC. Fourth-seeded JAG-ONE/Jersey Masters finished third in the four-team division.

Men's 80+ AAA: After the format switched to a single-elimination bracket, Blaze/Ted Todd Insurance of Florida won three in a row, including the 15-13 championship game victory over the Indianapolis Classics. Cozy Grill of Rhode Island took third in the seven-team division.

Men's 85+ Gold: Playing a best-of-three format, Center For Sight of Florida swept Team Rehabilitation of Minnesota 9-8 and 22-12 to finish 4-0 overall.



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Sunny skies, spirited competition and a 103-run game highlighted the SSUSA Winter Worlds tournament that concluded Nov. 17 in Phoenix.

Thirty teams earned berths to the 2026 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Florida, by winning their divisions during six days of play at five Phoenix ballparks.

Eleven of those teams notched double-digit championship victories. Yet close games also abounded, with eight teams capturing crowns in games decided by three or fewer runs.



Photo by Clover Schultz.

Two third-place games deserve inclusion on the highlight reel.

In the 60+ AA third-place game, the unlimited-run inning started with a flip-flop, after which the El Paso Bad Boys scored 14 runs to take a two-run lead. The Nebraska-based Prairie Dogs, down to their final out with no runners on base, laced five consecutive hits to pull out a 25-24 win.

The same day at the same park, the third-place 60+ Major game lasted two-and-one-half hours. It was tied 28-28 after seven innings and 36-36 after eight innings. The combatants scored a combined 31 runs in the ninth inning, with Pacific Enterprises of Washington securing a 54-49 victory over the Sidewinders of Arizona.

Overall, 197 teams competed in the 2024 Winter Worlds, a 13-team increase from 2023.

Results:

Women's 40+ Masters Major: Third-seeded Royal-T Real Estate/The LaFlamme Group of Washington (photo below) edged second-seeded FRSTeam of Colorado 27-26 in the title game. Top-seeded Firestarter Oldies of Washington placed third in the five-team division.



Women's 40+ Masters Silver: The top-seeded AAA team Lady Panthers of Ontario, Canada, won multiple games by double digits and capped a 6-0 tournament with a 18-14 title game victory over third-seeded Las Maletas of Arizona. Notoriously We Gucci of Arizona finished third in the 14-team division.



Lady Panthers and Las Maletas photoed together after the championship game.

Women's 50+ Major: Playing a best-of-three format, OnFire/Afoa Insurance of California (photo below) capped a 5-0 tournament by sweeping Takin' Chances of California 25-11 and 20-0.



Women's 50/55+ Gold: Top-seeded AAA team Wicked of Texas (photo below) finished unbeaten in bracket play and 5-1 overall by defeating second-seeded Get Dirty of New Mexico 15-11 in the title game. The fourth-seeded VooDoo Dolls of Arizona placed third in the four-team division.



Women's 55/60+ Gold: Playing a best-of-three format, the 60+ team Lady Scorpions of Arizona ([photo below](#)) swept the 55+ Team BattleAxe of Oregon 19-3 and 16-9.



Men's 40+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, West Coast United of California defeated Sudden Impact of New Mexico 42-21 and 29-28 to finish 3-2 overall.

Men's 40+ Major: Second-seeded My Arizona Lawyers capped a 6-0 tournament by defeating Wallcon/Standard Plumbing Supply/AZ Bandits-Halos of Arizona 29-27 in the title game of the seven-team division. Fourth-seeded EPT of Texas captured third place.

Men's 40+ AAA: Playing a best-of-three format, MAJ/SOPHXTIK8TD of Arizona ([photo below](#)) outdueled Torgi Trucking/U.P. Electric of Washington 27-24 and 21-20 for the title and an overall 5-1 record.



Men's 50+ Major Plus: Top-seeded and unbeaten Regeee's Rams of Ontario, Canada, ([photo below](#)), averaged 30 runs per game and defeated opponents by an average of 10 runs per game, including a 26-11 title game victory over fourth-seeded KB West Coast Amigos of Arizona. MIN-USA of Nebraska finished third in the four-team division.



Men's 50+ Major: Second-seeded SPS/AZ Bandits earned revenge on an earlier bracket game by double dipping 4 Him Factory/Wicked Sports of Arizona 35-20 and 26-20 in the title games of this seven-team division. Sixth-seeded PRMI of Idaho finished third.

Men's 50+ AAA: Fourth-seeded El Paso Strong of Texas capped a 5-1 tournament with a 24-9 title game victory over second-seeded Arizona Thunder. The third-seeded Heroes of Nebraska took third in the eight-team division.

Men's 55+ Major: Top-seeded and unbeaten L.A.F. of California knocked off second-seeded Scrap Iron Thunder of Colorado 21-10 in the championship game of the six-team bracket. Third-seeded Priority Construction Services/Lumbjacks of Minnesota took third.

Men's 55+ AAA: Eleventh-seeded Paly of Texas defeated fifth-seeded Running Late of Arizona 19-9 for the title and an overall 6-1 overall record. Top-seeded All-Quip/SOWC of Oregon finished third in the 18-team division.

Men's 60+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, Dudley Lightning/KPI of Missouri needed all three games to subdue BTI of California 21-6, 9-17, and 36-18.

Men's 60+ Major: Second-seeded Hawaii Five-O capped a 6-0 tournament with a 22-7 title game victory over Pacific Enterprises of Washington. Sidewinders of Arizona finished third in the 11-team division.

Men's 60+ AAA: Eleventh-seeded Chelu of Oregon (photoed below in pink and light blue jerseys) left the tying run on third base in the final inning of the first championship game, which it lost 16-15, but rebounded in the "if needed" game for a 23-16 triumph over second-seeded NFM Lending of Arizona (photoed below in dark blue jerseys). Ninth-seeded Lumberjack Red of Minnesota snatched third place in the 18-team bracket.



Men's 60+ AA: Top-seeded Tri-City Legends/D-bat of Washington (photo below) proved the class of this division, with its only tournament loss coming in pool play against a AAA team. Tri-City defeated its AA opponents by an average of 13 runs per game, including a 19-2 championship triumph over the Prairie Dogs of Nebraska. The El Paso Bad Boys of Texas finished third in the three-team division.



Men's 65+ Platinum: The fifth-seeded Major team NW Elite Hitmen of Washington capped a 5-1 tournament and earned revenge from its only loss, which happened in pool play, with a 21-16 title game victory over the top-seeded X-Men of British Columbia, Canada. The third-seeded Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder team finished third in the seven-team division.

Men's 65+ AAA: The 10th-seeded Arizona Owls (photo below) and top-seeded Team Fire of Washington meet three times in bracket play, with the Owls double dipping Team Fire 22-17 and 20-17 in the title games. The fifth-seeded Minnesota Road Warriors finished third in the 16-team division.



Men's 65+ AA: The sixth-seeded Austin Wizards won every bracket game, including a 18-6 championship bout against top-seeded Ranall's Realty of Arizona. Fifth-seeded Pastimers of Washington finished third in the six-team division.

Men's 70+ Major: Second-seeded and unbeaten Scrap Iron High Octane of Colorado (photo below) won numerous close games and defeated top-seeded Steel Etc. of Montana 19-17 to nab the title of the six-team division. The fourth-seeded Arizona Scorpions earned third place.



Men's 70+ AAA: Third-seeded Team Texas-San Antonio capped a 7-0 tournament by edging second-seeded Arizona Old School 20-19 in the championship game. Ninth-seeded Wisconsin Northerners finished third in the 14-team division.

Men's 70+ AA: Top-seeded Los Vatos Viejos 70 II of Arizona swept its three pool games before also sweeping its three bracket games, including the title game over fourth-

seeded Duke City Dynamite of New Mexico. Triple 2 of Texas finished third in the four-team division.

Men's 75+ Platinum: Top-seeded Omen 75 of California lost its first bracket game then won seven in a row, including 21-10 and 25-7 title game victories over the fourth-seeded Enviro-Vac Marauders of British Columbia, Canada. Omen earned the 75+ Major Plus TOC berth while Enviro-Vac got the 75+ Major berth. Third place in the nine-team division went to sixth-seeded SoCal Gusto of California.

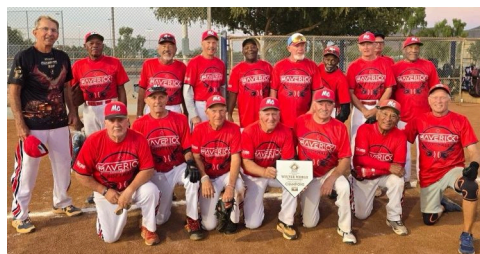
Men's 75+ AA: Playing a best-of-three format, the Oshkosh Ambassadors of Wisconsin ([photo below](#)) swept the Top Gun Olde Dawgs of California 11-4 and 21-6 for the title and an overall 3-2 record.



Men's 75/80+ Gold: The fifth-seeded Chicago Strikers ([photo below](#)) edged second-seeded W.E. Ruth Realty of Washington 25-23 in the "if needed" title game after Ruth Realty won the first championship game 7-0. Top-seeded Git-R-Done of California captured third in the eight-team division.



Men's 80+ Major Plus: Top-seeded Maverick Construction of Texas ([photo below](#)) double-dipped Omen of California 14-3 and 20-6 to finish 6-1. The Sidewinders of Arizona finished third in the three-team division.



Men's 80+ AAA: Top-seeded Midwest Express ([photo below](#)) swept all six games it played, including an 18-11 championship victory over the third-seeded Minnesota Masters. Hui Ohana of Hawaii took third in the four-team bracket.



Men's 85+ Major: Playing a best-of-three format, the Top Gun Blue Angels of California ([photo below](#)) swept the Scrap Iron Legends 23-11 and 20-13 to finish 3-2 overall.



Stay At SSUSAs Official Hawaiian Resort Hotel



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