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July 2025 saw the return of two classic SSUSA tournaments, the Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Champs in Oregon and the Northeast Champs in New York, along with the Inaugural Great Salt Lake Championships in Utah. (Left two photos: Northeast Champs. Right photo: Great Salt Lake Champs).

SSUSA Announces Hall of Fame Class of 2025

Softball News Report

Two players and one manager have been elected into the 2025 Senior Softball Hall of Fame for outstanding lifetime performance in the sport.

For only the second time in its history, SSUSA announced presentation of the Outstanding Achievement Award. Joe Lecak of Las Vegas was chosen for his pioneering work establishing the SSUSA 40 Masters Program.

The two players include the soft-spoken, extremely talented former Major League player Jake Wood from Florida and California standout master of the game, Joe Hensley.

The manager, Red Simmons of California, won more than 1,000 games and the World Championships in every age division from 65s to 85s.

“Jake Wood, Joe Hensley and Red Simmons embody the SSUSA spirit, which truly is “...more than just a game,” said Terry Hennessy, Senior Softball USA’s chief executive officer. “They are wonderful examples of those who excel on the

Inaugural 2025 Salt Lake Tournament Shines in the Beehive State



By Donna McGuire Softball News Report

A new tournament lured 32 teams from seven states and Canada to the Salt Lake City area in mid-July.

They enjoyed eight fields, plenty of shade, no rain, and some exciting senior softball games during the SSUSA Great Salt Lake Classic, which was played July 18-20 at the Centennial Park Sports Complex.

“The teams were very happy with this tournament and hope it is back next year,” Tournament Director Linda Weber said.

Teams from Utah, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota and Canada won championships along with berths to the 2026 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Fla.

One- and two-run games abounded, including in many of the championship contests.

Results:

field and demonstrate the best aspects of sportsmanship in their lives.”

Jake Wood, 88, Pensacola, Florida



Jake Wood played for seven years in Major League baseball from 1961-1967— four years with the Detroit Tigers and three years with the Cincinnati Reds. Jake has been inducted into the Negro Hall of Fame.

Wood remained active and has played Senior Softball since 2007 with some of the top teams in the Southeast, helping to lead Florida Investment Properties to three World Championships, including two Triple Crowns, and 10 TOC Championships.

Nominated by more than a dozen of his teammates, Wood remains a soft-spoken leader and sportsman, who would rather his teammates were recognized.

“On defense, playing outfield, Jake had speed to chase a fly ball down,” said Jerry Pickett. “He was quick to cleanly field a ground ball and accurately make the throw to the infield. When playing the infield, Jakes' mechanics at any base were always correct, making a play seemingly effortless and routine.”

Joe Hensley, 73, San Diego



Joe Hensley has been a driving force in nine World Championships over more than two decades of outstanding play in the outfield on some of the top teams in the sport, from Top Gun to Timberworks. There were recommendations by almost a dozen of the best players and managers in the sport, who cited Hensley's mastery of the all aspects

Men's 40+ Gold: The second-seeded Senior Chumps, a 40+ Major team from Utah, knocked off top-seeded Project 57 of Idaho twice in the bracket, including a 35-34 nailbiter in the winner's final. The Senior Chumps then won the title by a 20-17 score. Fifth-seeded Alpha Sports/Fearless Trucking of Utah took third in the five-team division.

Men's 50+ AAA: Playing a best-of-three format, Band of Brothers 50 of Utah swept Refurbished of Utah with a pair of one-run victories: 20-19 and 28-25.

Men's 50/55+ Major: Fourth-seeded Damage, a 55+ Major team from Utah, lost the first title game 21-17 before rebounding to claim a 15-12 championship victory over third-seeded PRMI of Idaho. Second-seeded Showboats of Colorado finished third in the four-team bracket.

Men's 55+ AAA: Second-seeded West Coast Evolution of British Columbia, Canada (photo below), capped a 5-1 tournament with a 24-23 victory over Alliance/Scrap Iron 55s of Colorado. Fourth-seeded Scrap Iron Mile High of Colorado nabbed third in the four-team division.



Men's 60+ Gold: Top-seeded Alliance/Scrap Iron 60, a AAA team from Colorado (photo below), lost its first bracket game before running the table, including 36-26 and 28-26 title victories over second-seeded Acme 60s of California. The Utah Drifters 60s finished third in the three-team division.



Men's 65+ AAA: Second-seeded Scrap Iron Heavy Metal of Colorado (photo below) capped a 5-1 tournament with a 22-12 championship victory over third-seeded Bat Attitude of Utah. Top-seeded Alliance/Scrap Iron 65 of Colorado finished third in the four-team division.

of the game, and his quiet leadership:

Jeff Blakeman: "Joe Hensley's career in senior softball is a testament to perseverance, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to excellence... he has cemented his legacy as one of the most respected and accomplished players in Senior Softball history."

Carl Gustafson: "Joe Hensley's softball craftsmanship enhances the play of everyone around him, but his finest gift is allowing those of us who love this wonderful game to see it played with grace and beauty."

Red Simmons, 87, Banning, California



Red Simmons has been inducted into four Hall of Fames: the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame, Top Gun Hall of Fame, Valley Wide Hall of Fame and the Redlands High School Hall of Fame for his work with the school.

"I have worked closely with Red for 20+ years through Senior Softball USA," said Fran Dowell, SSUSA's executive director. "During that time, Red has been a model of managerial excellence, exhibiting the highest level of competitive spirit and success with the Top Gun Club."

And Gary Adams, former longtime UCLA baseball coach and senior softball player, said: "In my 46 years of playing and managing college baseball I have observed and worked with many coaches. I have also played for over a dozen managers in my 18 years playing senior softball... Red Simmons is undoubtedly a Hall of Fame manager."

The Hall of Fame inductions will be held during opening ceremonies at the World Championships in Las Vegas at Big League Dreams on Monday, Sept. 22.

Joe Lecak, 68, Las Vegas, Nevada



Men's 65/70+ Silver: Top-seeded East/West Aircraft, a 70 AAA team from Idaho (photo below), defeated third-seeded Scrap Iron 65s Rockies of Colorado 25-16 for the title. The second-seeded Classics 65 of Utah finished third in the three-team division.



Men's 70+ AA: Unbeaten in five games, the top-seeded Utah Coyotes (photo below) quashed the second-seeded Scrap Iron Diamonds 70 of Colorado 23-15 in the title game. East-West Aircraft Sales 70 of Idaho took third in the three-team bracket.



Men's 75+ Major: Playing a best-of-three format, Team Minnesota (photo below) needed all three games to best Last Call 75 of Nevada 32-29, 16-20 and 20-13.





Joe Lecak helped launch the popular SSUSA 40 Masters Division in 2006, which increased from 9 teams that year to 134 teams at the 2024 World Championships.

“Joe presented the concept to all senior organizations at the 2006 Senior Softball Summit, and to the 2006 SSUSA National Rules Committee,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA’s chief executive officer. “We saw the potential and, working with Joe, started promoting the Masters Division and adding it to our National Qualifiers.”

Lecak developed the structure for the 40 Masters, which led to rapid growth in the sport.

“Thousands of 40 Masters players can thank Joe for his insight and drive to establish the program,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director.

The Hall of Fame inductions and presentation of the Outstanding Achievement Award will be held during opening ceremonies at the World Championships in Las Vegas at Big League Dreams on Monday, Sept. 22.

July-August 2025 Obituaries

James Francis Caterbone III



Jim Caterbone III, 64, of Stamford, CT., died on July 11.

Jim died of a cardiac incident in his car during the 2025 Northeast Championships in Syracuse, New York. He died “doing what he loved

Men's 75+ AAA: The 75 Scrap Iron Diamonds of Colorado won all three pool games before sweeping the Silver Wolves of Utah 21-12 and 24-23 in a best-of-three bracket to win the two-team division. **(Both teams photographed together below).**



Great Umpires and Ground Crew Create a Successful 2025 Jim Sherman Northwest Champs

By Donna McGuire Softball News Report

Twenty-three teams from three states earned berths to the 2026 Tournament of Champions by capturing their divisions at the 2025 Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championship.

Playing close to home seemed beneficial to Oregon and Washington teams, which represented 82 percent of the entries but 91 percent of the champions. Two California teams kept Oregon and Washington from sweeping all the titles.

Overall, 12 women’s and 65 men’s teams competed July 8-13 at parks in Salem and Albany, Ore.

Top-notch umpiring and a “tremendous” grounds crew in Salem were among the highlights for Tournament Director Butch Jones.

“That was the best umpiring crew I’ve seen in a long time,” Jones said.

In addition, a bevy of close games made for a memorial tournament.

Results:

Women's 40+ Major: Top-seeded defending champion Royal-T Real Estate/The LaFlamme Group of Washington **(photo below)** edged third-seeded Firestarter of Washington 18-17 to capture the crown with an unblemished record. Second-seeded Ol' D BYBs of Oregon finished third in the three-team division.



Women's 40+ AAA: Second-seeded Lady Kingpins of Washington **(photo below)** overcame a 23-21 loss in the first championship game to dispatch third-seeded NWB of California 14-11 in the second title game. Top-seeded Vintage Baddies of Washington finished third in the three-team division.

most—softball,” according to his online obituary.

Jim was playing for the TJ Rooster’s 60 Major team. He started playing with Senior Softball USA in 2013, in the 50s division. Nicknamed ‘Jim Cat’, his career playing softball spans 39 years.

“When he entered his “senior years” of over-50 ball, he played virtually all year round—from Florida to Virginia to Tennessee, the Carolinas, Arizona, Utah, and others—with the crowning moment ending the season at the SSUSA World Tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada,” according to his obituary.

The height of his career came in 2021 when his team, Hard Hat Café/Latella’s [of Connecticut], won the 50 Major Division, where he earned an All-Tournament selection.”

In July 2025, the team would later change its name to Hard Hat Café/Latella’s/Caterbone Realty, in honor of Jim.

While softball, senior or otherwise, was his life, outside of the sport, he earned a Bachelor Degree in Business, becoming the head of Problem Management at Subway for more than 15 years. He also was a longtime member of Connecticut’s Realtor’s Association.

In addition to Hard Hat Café/Latella’s 50s (CT), Jim played with Leed Construction/Miken 50s (CT), Bond 124/Caterbone Realty 55s (CT), Building Innovation Group/TJ Plumbing 60s (NY) and Caterbone Realty Group 55s (CT).

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Senior Softball USA, memo "Jim Caterbone" so they may donate the money to the January 2026 Caribbean Classic Goodwill Tour in the Dominican Republic. SSUSA’s Goodwill Tours donate funds and softball/baseball equipment to impoverished kids and teens in the Dominican, so they may experience the joy of softball like Jim and so many of us.

Albert F. Woldrich



Women's 50/55+ Gold: Top-seeded West Coast United, a 50+ AAA team from California, capped a 6-0 tournament with a 7-2 championship victory over third-seeded Takin' Chances of California. Second-seeded Snap, Crackle, Pop of Washington took third in the four-team division.

Women's 55/60+ AAA: Team BattleAxe 55, a AAA team from Oregon (photo below), swept 60+ Oregon Reign 17-8 and 13-10 in a best-of-three bracket format.



Men's 40+ Major: Third-seeded Headcase of Washington knocked off the top two seeds enroute to the finals, where it overcame a 25-22 loss in the first title game by building a nine-run lead and hanging on for a 26-22 victory in the decisive finale over second-seeded SmAshtown of Washington. Top-seeded NW Hustle of Washington placed third in the five-team bracket.

Men's 40+ AAA: After losing its first seeding game, Torgi Trucking/U.P. Electric won four games in a row, including a 26-22 championship victory over NW Elevate/Dirty Sports of Washington. Top-seeded GTR of Oregon placed third in the six-team division.

Men's 50+ Major Plus: After winning the 40+ Major championship a year ago, Hara's/Hub City/Dirty of Washington captured the 50+ Major Plus title this year in a best-of-three format that required all three games, 34-18, 3-24, and 47-34, over the NW Legends 50s of Washington.

Men's 50+ AAA: Seeded seventh of eight teams, Cryowrx of Oregon turned on the scoring faucet in bracket play, winning 21-13, 19-12, 23-7 and 27-26 to capture the championship. Sixth-seeded Washington Ogs won three elimination games before finishing second. Top-seeded Rightline of Washington placed third.

Men's 50+ AA: Top-seeded HCD 50 of Oregon capped a 5-2 tournament with a 19-12 “if needed” championship win over Doerflinger Athletics of Washington, which had won the first title game 18-17. Juggernaut of Washington finished third in the three-team division.



Al Woldrich, 76, of Long Beach, WA., died on June 3.

Al was a longtime player, turned longtime manager, mostly associated with the Vancouver USA team out of Washington state. He joined Senior Softball USA in the early 2000s and retired playing in 2014 to manage the team for over a decade until his death from cancer.

“For more than two decades, Al played and later brought teams that epitomized Senior Softball – playing hard, with fun and comradery,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA’s chief executive officer.

Softball wasn’t his only passion, as he also coached football for his local Catholic Youth Organization. Outside of sports and spending time with his family, he served as a Police Sargent for the Vancouver PD and later became a businessman, according to his online obituary.

“During a game, it was always more, but after the game it was all about the guys and being together sharing stories,” said John Christman, Al’s player who took over as manager after Al’s diagnoses.

“His sometimes gruff demeanor was offset by a heart of gold though; he treasured the team BBQs that brought players and families together,” remembers Mike Vorce, another Vancouver USA player.

In addition to playing with Vancouver USA 50s, 55s, 60s and managing Vancouver USA 60s and 70s, he also played with Van Port 50s (OR) and REMAX Metro Properties 55s (WA).

Edward Eugene McElroy

Men's 55+ Major: The fourth-seeded NW Jokers/Dave Smith Motors of Washington scored twice in the bottom of the seventh inning to defeat third-seeded Damage of Utah 22-21 for the title. Second-seeded DeMarini took third in the four-team division.

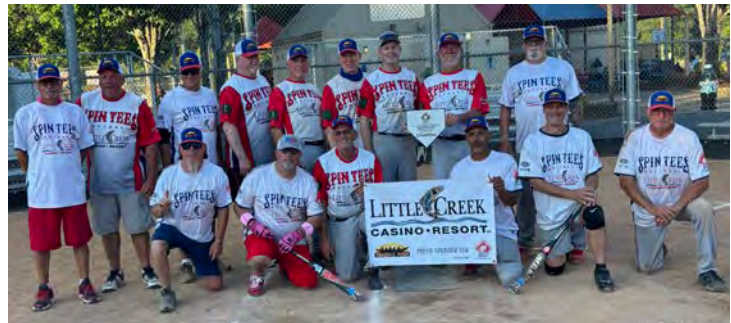
Men's 60+ Major Plus: Unbeaten Sommerville Softball of California (photo below) swept CornerStone of Oregon 29-11 and 31-30 in a best-of-three format.



Men's 55/60+ Gold: Third-seeded Pacific Enterprises, a 60+ Major team from Washington, won all four of its bracket games, including a 23-17 championship victory over top-seeded Pro Vision, a 55+ AAA team from Washington. All-Quip/SOWC-55 of Oregon took third in the six-team division.

Men's 60+ AAA: Top-seeded Chelu 60s of Oregon defended its 2024 title by double-dipping second-seeded Excellence Auto Collision of Washington 25-20 and 17-10 to win the five-team division. Chelu never trailed in either championship game. Third-seeded Shockwave/ICS of Idaho took third.

Men's 60+ AA: Playing a best-of-three format, Spin Tees of Washington (photo below) swept Tri City Legends of Washington 37-26 and 14-6. Spin Tees finished 4-1 overall.



Men's 65+ AAA: Third-seeded Chelu 65s of Oregon (photo below) defeated top-seeded Team Fire 65 of Washington 18-17 to win the three-team division. Team Alaska 65 finished third.



Men's 65+ AA: Playing a best-of-three format, Pastimers of Washington (photo below) dispatched Northwest Force of Washington 8-23, 21-12 and 19-18 to win the title.



Edward Mc Elroy, 76, of Los Angeles, died June 23.

Edward started with Senior Softball USA in the late 1990s, playing with and managing primarily Southern California based teams, but that was not his start in playing ball.

“He’s been at this a long time; From his days with Compton III, his time with the Playboys, his SMAF Championship in 1979 with the Wild Bunch, and his success with So Cal Gusto and So Cal Guys,” said his son, Edward Mc Elroy Jr., who took over managing So Cal Guys 55s after his father’s passing.

In Edward’s youth, he highly competitively played football, baseball and track, earning him a spot at LA Valley College running track. Eventually, “he taught and coached at Holy Cross Middle School, St. Mary’s Academy, Verbum Dei High School, Torrance High School, and Santa Fe High School,” according to his online obituary.

Edward also found the original Los Angeles Jets Track Club in 1969, mentoring many collegiate and professional athletes, including troubled youths and future Olympians. He was also his local’s Catholic Youth Organization’s coach of the year many times and inducted into the CYO’s Hall of Fame.

Even “with his health in decline, Edward put a softball team together to be able to spend more time with his son and play together one more time,” according to the obituary. “Although in pain, Edward coached two of the three days of the tournament.” The team, So Cal Guys 55s, won their division at the recent 2025 Southern California State Championships. In the past, he played with and managed his teams to many victories and SSUSA World Championships.



Men's 65/70+ Platinum: Unbeaten and top-seeded NorthWest Stampede, a 65+ Major Plus team from Oregon, beat the 65+ Major champion NW Elite Hitmen of Washington in the title game 27-19. Both teams earned TOC berths. Timberworks/Suncoast of California placed third in the three-team bracket. (Photo of Champion and Finalist teams below).



Men's 70+ AAA: Top-seeded and unbeaten Second Wind of Washington (photo below) defeated second-seeded Proton/Spikes of Washington 25-15 in the championship game. Rabble Rousers of Oregon placed third in the three-team division.



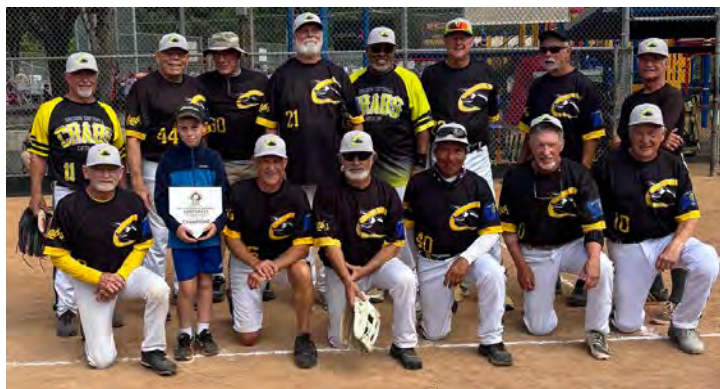
Men's 70/75+ Platinum: The second-seeded Bulldogs, a 70+ Major team from Oregon (photo below), lost its first bracket game then won four in a row, including 17-16 and 11-5 championship victories over top-seeded Omen 75 of California. Third-seeded Enviro-Vac Marauders of British Columbia, Canada, took third in the four-team division.

In addition to a long history of playing with and managing So Cal Guys 55s, 60s, and So Cal Gusto 55s, he'll also be remembered playing with or managing the following Southern California teams: D & K Softball 55s, SoCal Braves 60s, Express 60s and R&R 75s.



Men's 70/75+ AA: Third-seeded Cascade Thunder, a 70+ AA team from Oregon, won its first two bracket games by one run each before dispatching second-seeded Vancouver USA/ILANI 70s of Washington 18-7 in the title game. Top-seeded Northwest Lightning 70s of Washington placed third in the four-team division.

Men's 75+ Major: The top-seeded Oregon Crabs (photo below) capped a 4-1 tournament with a 21-11 championship victory over third-seeded W.E. Ruth Realty of Washington. The Enviro-Vac Marauders of British Columbia, Canada, finished third in the three-team bracket.



2025 Northeast Champs Sets Record and Inducts Two Hall of Fame Managers

**By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report**

A record number of teams endured record high temperatures mixed with some rain when the Senior Softball USA Northeast Championships played in suburban Syracuse, N.Y.

Sixty-three teams from 11 states and Canada competed July 8-13 at ballparks in Liverpool, Clay and Baldwinsville. To keep things as fair as possible, most divisions rotated between the three complexes, Tournament Director Gayle Collins said.

"We had the most entries every for the tournament," said Collins, a longtime director for this event. "Rain on Sunday afternoon shortened the last games, but we were far enough into games to declare winners."

In a tragic set of circumstances, a player died of a heart attack in his car after batting practice waiting for his game.

Jim Caterbone, 64, had just finished bp with his TJ Rooster's 60 Major team and went to his car to get ready to go to his game on July 11. When he never showed up for the game, his players went back to the practice field and found him in his car. (see obituary)

On a much happier note, two National Senior Softball Hall of Fame presentations also occurred during the tournament. Honors went to Chuck Sharkey in the manager category,

and to Jack Haggerty in the pioneer manager category.

"Chuck Sharkey is renowned for his ability to get the most out of his players," said Patrick Kelly. "He makes strategic line up adjustments when the game is on the line and is not afraid to make the necessary changes to result in a winning effort."

"Jack Haggerty has one of the most storied and legendary careers as a manager in the history of senior softball," said Gene Signor. "Jack was a fiery, competitive, dedicated manager and those traits carried over to his Cyclones teams and players."

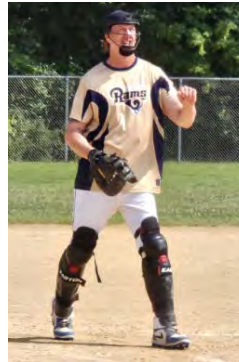


Manager Chuck Sharkey (left) is presented with his National Senior Softball Hall of Fame by tournament director, Gayle Collins (right).

Results:

Men's 40+ Platinum: Unbeaten in five games, top-seeded 40+ Major Plus champion First Capital of New York won twice by one run in bracket play, including its 27-26 championship victory over fourth-seeded TSC/Anarchy of New York, which claimed the 40+ Major crown and TOC berth. Second-seeded Family First/3am of New Jersey captured third in the five-team division.

Men's 50+ Major Plus: After pool play, all three 50+ Major teams stood at 2-1. The tight competition extended into the bracket, where top-seeded CSD of New York lost the first title game 38-33 to third-seeded Regeee's Rams of Ontario, Canada (**player photoed below**). CSD rebounded to post a 34-22 victory in the "if needed" title game to claim the three-team division. Second-seeded PulseChain.com of Ohio finished third.



Men's 50+ Major: Seeded last after a 0-2 start in pool play, Magic Softball of Massachusetts went unbeaten in its four bracket games, including a 26-20 title-game victory over fourth-seeded AST/QTI/CF/GPOA/PNS/CCS, a Virginia team that won four elimination games to reach the finals. Top-seeded Deluxe Bakery/Phoenix Tube of New Jersey nabbed third in the six-team division.

Men's 50+ AAA: Six of the eight teams in this division went 1-1 in seeding games, and one of those teams got on a roll in bracket play. EIS of New Jersey won its games 22-8, 23-8, 13-11 and 19-10, with the final one coming against top-seeded Old Skool/Racehorse Tavern/Girard Club of Pennsylvania in the championship game. Seventh-seeded That 50s Show of Pennsylvania earned third.

Men's 55+ Major: Fifth-seeded WALKOFF 55 of Maryland showed a knack for winning close games, including 19-17, 19-18 and 20-16 bracket games. WALKOFF was awarded

first after rain interrupted an incomplete title game against sixth-seeded Infoquest.com of Pennsylvania, which won three elimination games to reach the championship. Third-seeded Phoenix Tube 55 of Delaware placed third in the nine-team division.

Men's 55+ AAA: Playing a best-of-three format, Invaders/Window Source of Rhode Island needed all three games to subdue Fuccillo's Athletics of New York 24-20, 16-32 and 18-13.

Men's 60+ Major: Third-seeded Howe Creative Design/The Bank of Delaware upended top-seeded Buell Fuel 60s of New York twice in bracket play, starting with a 20-16 triumph in the winner's final and ending with a 14-12 victory in the title game. Fourth-seeded Atlantic Sprinkler 60 of Pennsylvania captured third in the five-team division.

Men's 60+ Silver: The top-seeded 60+ AAA team Wicked Slice Pizza of Connecticut sliced its way through the tournament, winning all six games it played. It's 17-12 championship victory came against Gaithersburg Rental/TC Backer, a Maryland team that won three elimination games to reach the finals. Seventh-seeded Phoenix Tube 60s of New Jersey nabbed third in the 10-team division.



Wicked players wait for their next game while watching the game before theirs.

Men's 65+ Gold: The second-seeded Jersey Boys, a 65+ AAA team (photo below), needed two title tilts to subdue third-seeded Fat Nancy 65 of New York, a team Jersey Boys faced four times in the tournament. Jersey Boys lost the first title game 18-6 but captured the second 17-11. Top-seeded Action Auto Parts 65s of Rhode Island took third in the four-team bracket.



Men's 70+ Major: This best-of-three bracket went three games, with Promotion/Phoenix Tube 70 of New Jersey finally besting Empire Monroe 70 of New York (photo below) 9-10, 22-8 and 18-11.



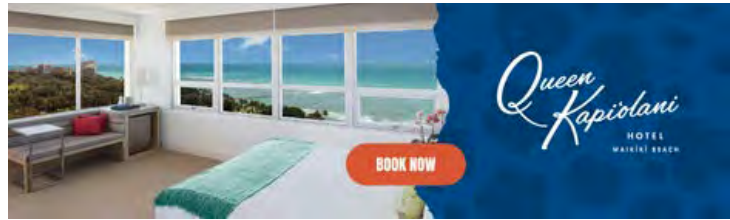
Men's 70+ AAA: Top-seeded Spring Ford 70+ of Pennsylvania (photo below) double-dipped second-seeded Northern Virginia Force 70 to win the title after losing to the same team in the winner's final. The third-seeded Dinos 70s of New Hampshire took third in the five-team division.



Men's 70/75+ Silver: After being seeded last in a four-team division, and after losing its first bracket game, the 75+ AAA JAG-ONE/Jersey Masters of New Jersey (photo below) won four games in a row, including 29-15 and 18-17 twin killings of the third-seeded Syracuse Cyclones of New York in the championship games. The top-seeded Rochester Knights of New York took third.



Stay At SSUSAs Official Hawaiian Resort Hotel



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