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Teams take a moment of silence before their 2025 Western Nationals game, to honor the passing of National Directors Hank Heffner (GA) and Doug Robbins (CA).

Jessica Arce Sings National Anthem in Sacramento



Jessica Arce sings the National Anthem at Opening Ceremonies of the 22nd Annual Western National Champion ships at Foskett Regional Park in Lincoln on Friday, Aug. 1. Jessica has sung the National Anthem at both MLB and NBA games in Sacramento.

Winning Streaks and Two-Faced Weather Made for an Extreme 2025 Eastern Nationals

**By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report**

Fantastic competition, fluctuating weather and fabulous field crews formed a memorable 2025 Eastern National Championships.

Twenty-five teams grabbed berths to the USA Games scheduled for Las Vegas at the World Championships in September and October.

In Las Vegas, the Eastern champs will play the Western National champs during pool play. Winners will be crowned U.S. National Champions. To earn the Triple Grand Slam title, a U.S. champion also must win its World Championship bracket – a feat that often proves difficult. Only a handful of teams succeed each year.

The 2025 Easterns drew 109 teams from 16 states and Canada to ballparks in Leesburg, Sterling and Ashburn, Virginia.

August 2025 Obituaries

Harold Dunbar

(Photo unavailable)

Harold Vincent Dunbar, 92, of Elk Grove, Calif., died on Aug. 3.

Harold started playing with Senior Softball USA in the 1990s, and was an avid member of his local Golden Seniors Softball Club in Sacramento.

“His passion for the game was evident not only in his skills as a ball player but also in his dedication as a team manager,” said Golden Seniors’ President Dave Tanner in the club’s obituary for Harold. “Many of us fondly recall his spirited contributions to the tournament team, the Renegades, where his leadership and camaraderie shone brightly.”

In addition to his league play, Harold played tournament ball with SSUSA from the late 1990s until 2013, often playing in Sacramento, Reno, Phoenix and Las Vegas.

“Harold Dunbar was someone I always looked forward to seeing,” said Fran Dowell, executive director of SSUSA. “He had a wonderful twinkle in his eye and he loved softball. He will be greatly missed.”

Besides the Elk Grove Renegades 65-80s team, SSUSA players will remember Harold playing with Redwood City Chiefs 75s and 80s, and California Gold Rush 75s.

Ken Puckett



Kenneth Orlan Puckett, 89, of Oahu, HI. died on July 13.

Ken started playing with Senior Softball USA in the 1990s, but baseball and softball were prevalent throughout his interesting life.

Moving to California in his youth, he and his family drove across San



Umpire James Flower (AZ - left) and player Doug Whitfield (NY) rekindle an old friendship at the Eastern Nationals; they used play ball on the same high school team over 40 years ago.

It became a tournament packed with extremes, Tournament Director Tim McElroy said.

Extremely hot temperatures, including a heat index of 108, consumed the first few days. Next, extremely wet conditions saturated the ballfields, prompting game delays on Friday. Then the weekend arrived.

“Saturday and Sunday were extremely beautiful, with temps in the low 80s,” McElroy said.

McElroy praised Loudoun County Parks and Recreation staff as “fantastic.”

“Fields were prepped and touched up before every game,” he said. “When the Thursday and Friday rains hit, they had ample staff on-site, ready to go.”



In the Men’s 40+ Major division, the last three games HDI/She’s Gone Sports (VA) played were against the same team, Motion/Egde 40s (VA) in the game before the championship game, the championship game and the IF game.

On the field, the 75+ Major Plus team Venom won its 10th consecutive Eastern National title. Tight competition in other divisions led to seven “if needed” championship games being played.

By the time the last game ended, 21 teams had earned berths to the 2026 Tournament of Champions by winning their divisions.

Results:

Women’s 40+ Major: Unbeaten in its five games, Vintage of New Jersey (photo below) swept Fireballs of Massachusetts 15-8 and 21-20 in a best-of-three bracket format.

Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge the year it opened in 1937.

In the mid-50s, Ken served in the Army, stationed in Munich, Germany, where he played baseball. "His love for the game stayed with him throughout his life, and he continued playing softball well into his senior years and retirement," according to his online obituary.

"His team won 15 major world tournaments - a testament to his talent and enduring passion."

Outside of senior softball, he also enjoyed fishing, golf, spending time with family and traveling, especially sailing the British Virgin Islands and European waterways. After a long career with Pacific Gas and Electric in San Francisco, he retired to Grass Valley, Calif., until eventually moving to Hawaii.

Ken will best be remembered by SSUSA players for playing with San Francisco Seals 70-75s, Fairway Ford 60-75s (CA) and California Oaks 70s.



Women's 40+ AAA: The third-seeded Lady Legends of Pennsylvania and the top-seeded Thingamajig team of Virginia battled three times in bracket play, with the Lady Legends winning twice. After Thingamajig won the first championship game 12-7, the Lady Legends captured the "if needed" title game 17-12. The sixth-seeded Sr. Diamond Divas of Connecticut nabbed third in the six-team division.

Women's 50+ Gold: Playing a best-of-three format, 50+ AAA champion Shots Fired of Rhode Island (photo below) swept 50+ Major champion Power Mix of Virginia 13-10 and 18-10. Both teams earned berths to their USA championship games in Las Vegas.



Men's 40+ Major Plus: After a one-run loss sent third-seeded Front Row of Texas into the elimination bracket, Front Row reeled off three consecutive victories, including 23-8 and 32-17 championship-game triumphs over fourth-seeded SMC of Maryland. Second-seeded BL2/CH/Treedem NE 40s of Pennsylvania finished third in the four-team division.

Men's 40+ Major: The top two seeds in this 12-team bracket reached the title game, where second-seeded Motion/Edge 40s Softball of Virginia (photo below) double dipped top-seeded HDI/She Gone Sports of Virginia HDI 20-18 and 26-13. Sixth-seeded DD/PLAYMAKERS ATHLETICS/SERRA ACCT/PSB of New York finished third.



Men's 40+ AAA: Seventh-seeded Sarafis Painting and Construction of Pennsylvania ([photo below](#)) won all five of its bracket games, including a 14-13 title-game thriller over eighth-seeded Y'All Next of Maryland. Sixth-seeded OPP/Nimble Crane/Pace Field Services of Delaware earned third place in the 12-team division.



Men's 50+ Major Plus: Top-seeded Suncoast 50s of Florida capped a 6-1 tournament by double-dipping third-seeded Regeee's Rams of Ontario, Canada, 24-9 and 26-25 to win the three-team bracket. Lost Boys of Maryland finished third.

Men's 50+ Major: Second-seeded Automotive Triage of North Carolina defeated its bracket opponents by an average of 11 runs per game, capped by a 20-12 championship victory over fifth-seeded Ductech/Stagecoach of Minnesota. Top-seeded HRS/OSS Apparel/Fat Chops of Rhode Island placed third in the eight-team division.

Men's 50+ AAA: Top-seeded Old Skool/Racehorse Tavern/Girard Club of Pennsylvania ([photo below](#)) won its first three bracket games by a total of five runs before subduing third-seeded Stud Softball of Pennsylvania 17-9 in the title game. Second-seeded That 50's Show of Pennsylvania won two elimination games by one run each before finishing third in the nine-team division.



Men's 55+ Major Plus: After losing one seeding game by one run, the second-seeded Suncoast 55s of Florida ([photo below](#)) raced through the bracket unbeaten, capped by a 29-25 championship victory over top-seeded BPA Miken/Worth/Easton of Pennsylvania. Third-seeded Team Miken/Worth/Easton of Florida finished third in the four-team division.



Men's 55+ Major: Third-seeded Broughton Pharmacy of North Carolina capped a 7-0 tournament with an 18-16 championship victory over top-seeded Florida-Onyx. Second-seeded Phoenix Tube 55 of Delaware nabbed third place in the 14-team division, the tournament's largest.

Men's 55/60+ Gold: Top-seeded Hard Hat Cafe/Latella's/ Caterbone Realty, a 60+ Major team from Connecticut, (photo below), lost the first title game 23-22 before snagging the second game 25-21 over third-seeded Howe Creative Design/The Bank of Delaware. The fifth-seeded Florida Legends won four elimination games in a row to finish third in the eight-team division. As the top finishing 55+ AAA team, Harford Financial Group of Maryland earned a berth to the USA Game to be played in Las Vegas.



Men's 55/60+ AA: The top-seeded Longshoremen 55 of Virginia scored a 26-25 championship victory against third-seeded Detroit Pride of Michigan to win the division and the 55+ AA USA game berth. The second-seeded Beltway Bandits of Virginia placed third and received the 60+ AA championship and USA Game berth.

Men's 60+ AAA: The top-seeded VA Journeymen (photo below) recovered from a 27-15 loss in the first championship game to knock off fourth-seeded Gaithersburg Rental/TC Backer of Maryland 13-9 in the finale. The third-seeded Steel City A's of Pennsylvania took third in the four-team division.



Men's 65+ Major Plus: Top-seeded TRT of Florida, which averaged 23 runs per game, capped an unbeaten tournament by subduing third-seeded Omega IT Services LLC of Virginia 27-3 in the title game. Second-seeded Howe Creative Design/The Banke of Delaware finished third in the three-team division.

Men's 65+ Major: The top-seeded Ockers Company of Massachusetts recovered from a 17-15 defeat in the first title game to upend third-seeded Hudson Valley Cyclones of New York 15-9 in the "if needed" championship bout. Second-seeded Anchor Mechanical of Maryland took third in the three-team bracket.

Men's 65+ AAA: Playing a best-of-three format, Northern Virginia Force 65s swept the Virginia Vipers 28-16 and 15-12 to finish 4-1 overall.

Men's 70+ Major: This division proved so competitive that eventual champ REI 70s of North Carolina won each of its three bracket games by just one run. That included a 21-20 championship thriller over fourth-seeded Promotion/Phoenix Tube 70 of New Jersey. Third-seeded Pill & Pill 70 of West Virginia took third in the four-team division.

Men's 70+ AAA: Spring Ford 70+ of Pennsylvania needed all three games of a best-of-three bracket to defeat Northern Virginia Force 70 in this two-team division. NoVa Force won the first game 9-8 before Spring Ford captured the next two games 11-8 and 19-17.

Men's 75+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, Venom 75s of Florida dispatched Northern Virginia Force 75 by scores of 23-5 and 15-13. Venom finished 4-1 overall with its only loss being by one run.

Men's 75/85+ Gold: Also playing a best-of-three format, the 75+ AAA team JAG-ONE/Jersey Masters of New Jersey swept the 85+ Major team Center For Sight of Florida 21-6 and 19-4. Both received USA Game berths.

Mild Temps Mix With Heated Competition for the 2025 Western Nationals

**By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report**

Thirty-two teams gave themselves a shot at a USA Championship and possible Triple Grand Slam by winning their divisions in the 2025 Western National Championships played July 29 to Aug. 3 in the Sacramento area.

Those teams earned berths to their age and rating division's USA Game, in which the Eastern National champions and Western National champions square off during the SSUSA World Championships in September. Winners of USA Games can capture the coveted and difficult-to-achieve Triple Grand Slam by also winning their overall Worlds bracket in Las Vegas.

The Westerns drew 123 teams this year from nine states, including Texas, Montana and Colorado.



Pest Seniors (CA) and Vintage Baddies (WA) play their first bracket game of Western Nationals against each other. 14 women's teams competed in the 2025 Western Nationals.

"We saw many games played at very competitive levels throughout most all age groups and divisions," Tournament Director Mike Hula said.

Several teams won championship games by single digits or by taking their opponent into the "if needed" title game, he said.

“The weather helped out a lot for most days of the tournament,” Hula said, citing temperatures in the mid-70s to 80s much of each day, until the thermometer climbed into the 90s in the late afternoons.

In addition to gaining USA Game berths, bracket winners earned berths to the 2026 Tournament of Champions to be played in Polk County, Florida.

Results:

Women's 40+ Major: Second-seeded TABU of California capped a 5-0 tournament with a 22-7 domination of third-seeded Team I.S.S.U.E. of California in the title game. Top-seeded Royal-T Real Estate/The LaFlamme Group of Washington finished third in the five-team division.

Women's 40+ AAA: After winning its first four games with runs to spare, top-seeded Mood Swings of California claimed the title in a nailbiter – a 10-9 triumph over the second-seeded Vintage Rockstars of California. The third-seeded Vintage Baddies of Washington finished third in the six-team division. (Mood Swings and Vintage Rockstars photographed together below).



Women's 40/50+ Gold: Top-seeded 50+ AAA champ Takin' Chances of California went 5-0, including a 18-15 title-game triumph over 40+ AA champ TWB of California. The third-seeded Poly Chics (Cali Gold) received the 50+ Major title. All three teams got berths to their division's USA Games in Las Vegas. (Takin' Chance and TWB photographed together below).



Men's 40+ Major Plus: Top-seeded and unbeaten Tai/Elite Sports/Onyx of California averaged 30 runs a game in its six victories, which included a 37-27 championship triumph over third-seeded Swingcoast/Spartan Bat Co. of Missouri. Fourth-seeded Supreme Athletics/Anarchy Bats of California finished third in the high-scoring four-team bracket, which included a 74-run game between Swingcoast and Supreme in the elimination bracket.

Men's 40+ Major: Seventh-seeded The Ravine of California (photo below) lost the first championship game 23-17 before snagging the second 30-24 over fourth-seeded Legendary Old School of California. Eighth-seeded RC/High Mountain Propane of California, which knocked off the top seed early in bracket play, finished third in the 11-team division.



Men's 40+ AAA: Top-seeded Hella Nor-Cal ([photo below](#)) capped a 4-1 tournament with a 20-15 championship victory over third-seeded T.N.T. (Tacos & Tequila) of California. Second-seeded GTR of Oregon finished third in the three-team division.



Men's 50+ Major: Unbeaten in its five games, top-seeded A&B PLBG 50 of California ([photo below](#)) ousted second-seeded Rightline of Washington 24-19 for the title. Fourth-seeded BR & Company of California captured third in the six-team bracket.



Men's 50+ AAA: Third-seeded EUV Tech of California ([photo below](#)) started bracket play with a 29-28 win over the team it would meet again in the championship: CaliGold 50 of California. Though CaliGold won the first title game 21-15, EUV Tech controlled the second 22-4 to capture the five-team division. Fourth-seeded Central Cal 50s finished third.



Men's 50+ AA: Playing a best-of-three format, the Nor-Cal Hitmen of California swept HCD 50 of Oregon 15-4 and 21-6.

Men's 50/55+ Major Plus: Top-seeded Fattboyz/Front Row, the 50+ Major Plus champions from California (photo below), went 6-0, including a 23-9 title-game victory over third-seeded Gold Nation Hustle 50s of California. Second-seeded Hara's/Hub City/Dirty of Washington finished third. Pacific Reign/DeMarini of Oregon received the 55+ Major Plus title and USA Game berth.



Men's 55+ Major: After winning both seeding games by one run, top-seeded Classic Glass 55s Easton of California scored twice in the bottom of the seventh to win the championship game by – you guessed it – one run, 18-17. Third-seeded L.A.F. 55 of California took second place, and fourth-seeded A-1 Pavement Marking 55s of California finished third in the six-team division.

Men's 55+ AAA: Top-seeded Cali Gold 55 capped a 5-0 tournament with a 23-21 title victory over second-seeded Top Gun Storm of California. Fifth-seeded West Coast 55s of California finished third in the seven-team division.

Men's 60+ Major Plus: This best-of-three bracket went all three games, with Sommerville Softball of California besting BTI of California 18-14, 18-27 and 16-9.

Men's 60+ Major: The fourth-seeded Top Gun Warriors of California (photo below) got smacked down 20-5 in the first title game before capturing the "if needed" game 22-19 over 11th-seeded Jayco 60 of Idaho. The eighth-seeded Dirty Birds 60s of California earned third in the 11-team division.



Men's 60+ AAA: After this division played a slew of close seeding games, second-seeded SMASH of California played a seesaw set of bracket games. It lost the winner's finale 15-8 before returning from the elimination bracket to double-dip the top-seeded Warriors of California 15-9 and 18-16. Fourth-seeded Excellence Auto Collision of Washington finished third in the 11-team bracket.

Men's 60+ AA: Second-seeded Tri City Legends of Washington ([photo below](#)) won all three of its bracket games, including a 25-10 triumph over top-seeded Spin Tees of Washington. So Cal Riptide 60 finished third in the three-team division.



Men's 65+ Platinum: Third-seeded 65+ Major Plus champ Cal Energy 65 ([photo below](#)) defeated 65+ Major champ NW Elite Hitmen of Washington 24-10 in the title game. Both earned USA Game berths for Las Vegas. The fifth-seeded Arizona Owls finished third in the five-team division.



Men's 65+ AAA: The second-seeded Hustlers of California ([photo below](#)) knocked off runner-up SportStan/Islanders 65s of California twice in bracket play, including the 22-15 championship game. Fourth-seeded QC Rebel's/Hopkins Financial of Idaho finished third in the five-team division.

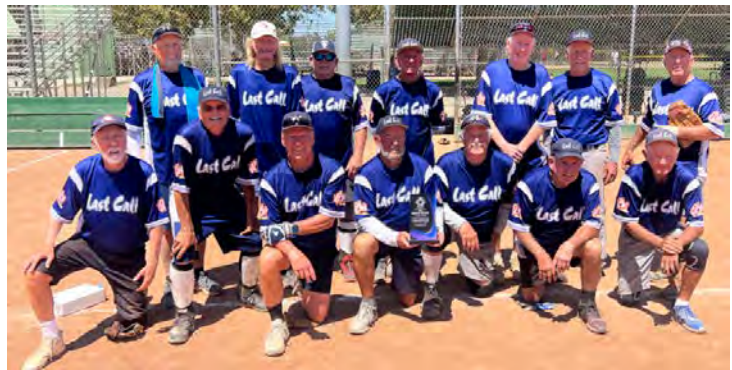


Men's 70+ AAA: Third-seeded Excessive Force 70 of California double-dipped top-seeded Pacific Storm of California 19-6 and 15-9 to win the four-team division. The fourth-seeded Sacramento Islanders 70 took third.

Men's 70/75+ Platinum: Top-seeded Omen 75 (photo below) earned the 75+ Major Plus title and USA Game berth while the other finalist, fifth-seeded Scrap Iron High Octane of Colorado, finished unbeaten in bracket play and earned the 70+ Major title and USA Game berth. After losing its first bracket game, Omen won four elimination games to reach the finals. Third-seeded Cal Energy 70 finished third in the seven-team division.



Men's 75+ Major: Playing a best-of-three format, Last Call 75 of Nevada (photo below) swept the previously unbeaten Animals 75s of California in two nailbiters, 17-15 and 18-17.



Men's 75+ AAA: Top-seeded Cut Loose 75s of California (photo below) followed a 3-0 pool play record with a 3-0 bracket record, including a 15-14 championship victory over fourth-seeded Please Don't Bug Me of California. The Sacramento Islanders 75s finished third in the four-team division.



Men's 80+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, Omen 80 of California (photo below) swept Maverick Construction 80s of Texas 15-14 and 14-3.

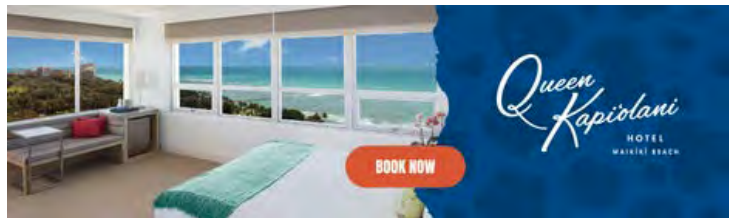


Men's 80+ Major: Gold Rush of California ([photo below](#)) finished unbeaten overall by sweeping Top Gun 80 Gold/J2 of California 22-7 and 17-11 in a best-of-three bracket format.



Men's 75/80/85+ Gold: The top-seeded 80+ AAA champion Enforcers of California defeated the 75+ AA champion California Oaks 19-4 in the title game of this three-team division. The Top Gun Blue Angels of California received the 85+ Major title and USA Game berth.

Stay At SSUSAs Official Hawaiian Resort Hotel



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