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Vegas and Virginia Beach entice a large number of teams for the 2025 Southwest Championships and Tidewater Classic.

March 2025 - Obituaries

Bill R. Gaynor



Bill Gaynor, 83, of Carlsbad, Calif., died on March 20 after a long battle with cancer.

Bill was a long-time senior player and manager, first playing with Senior Softball USA in the 1990s, until late last year. Also a member of the Top Gun Senior Softball organization in Southern California, Bill passed away in his chair, wearing his Top Gun Softball jersey and cap.

"Bill was a big and vocal man, a retired police officer and a warm and caring man," remembered Red Simmons, Bill's manager with the Top Gun Blue Angels 85s.

Red also noted that Bill was part of the law enforcement team that apprehended infamous serial killer, Charles Manson.

In addition to playing in tournaments with SSUSA and Top Gun, he was also well-known in his North County Senior Softball League (competitive division).

Comebacks Galore in 227-Team Southwest Championships

**By Donna McGuire
 Softball News Report**

A hot 2025 Southwest Championships ended April 13 with 31 teams claiming top awards and berths to the 2026 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Fla.

The tournament drew 227 teams from 14 states, including teams from as far away as North Carolina, Alaska and Wisconsin.

Competition ranged from tension-filled cliff-hangers to one-sided blowouts orchestrated by some high-scoring offenses. Several teams averaged more than 20 runs a game during the April 8-13 Senior Softball USA tournament played in and around Las Vegas.

Yet 20 runs did not guarantee success, especially in championship games. One losing team scored 32 runs. Another lost despite scoring 29 runs.

Only five teams managed to earn a No. 1 seed after pool play **and** a No. 1 finish after bracket play.

"Teams not only got to play in large divisions -- but games were exceptionally competitive, with a third of the division titles decided in 'if-needed' games," Tournament Director Terry Hennessy said.

Rather than an "iron man" title, the Arizona Owls earned "iron team" accolades after winning eight elimination games in a row to capture the 65+ AAA crown.

Swingcoast/Spartan Bat Co. of Missouri did nearly as well, winning six in a row coming through the elimination bracket to claim the 40+ Masters Major Plus crown.

Two other teams also deserve shout outs: Top Gun 80 Gold of California for averaging 20 runs a game during an undefeated run to the 80+ Major title; and Top Gun Blue Angels for defeating two younger teams while compiling a 5-0 mark in the 85+ Major division.

Results:

Women's 40+ Masters Major: Fifth-seeded YAS of California (photo below) lost the winner's bracket final 20-18 but quickly returned for a rematch with third-seeded Firestarter of Washington in the title game. YAS double-dipped Firestarter 16-9 and 21-15 to win the eight-team division. Top-seeded Tharaldson Softball of Nevada finished third.

“Despite all his many personal awards and professional accomplishments, his most valuable gift to the game of softball was the fun he added for those who played with him,” said Jim Dionne, commissioner of the North County League. “He often shared batting advice with those who asked and made sure players were called to join a tournament team if they wanted to play in tournaments.”

Bill will best be remembered for his time playing or coaching the following teams: SoCal Braves 60s, Last Call CA 65-70s, Top Gun 75 Classics, Stark Street Pizza S. CA 75s, Top Gun Diamond 80, Top Gun 80 Gold and Top Gun Blue Angels 85s.



Women's 40+ Masters AAA: Fourth-seeded Wicked Sports of Arizona lost the first title game 11-5 before capturing the second 13-10 over third-seeded Girl's On Top (G.O.T.) of California. CCS Fireballz of California captured third in the nine-team division.

Women's 50+ Masters Major: Fifth-seeded GBA of California capped a 5-1 tournament with a 12-9 championship victory over top-seeded and runner up Cash Out 50s of California. Second-seeded Snap, Crackle, Pop of Washington finished third in the seven-team division.

Women's 50/55+ Gold: Second-seeded SWI/Rueblur, a 55+ Major team from California, never lost a game en route to defeating third-seeded Bomb Threats of North Carolina 18-10 for the championship. Top-seeded West Coast United of California placed third in the five-team bracket.

Men's 40+ Masters Major Plus: Top-seeded Swingcoast/Spartan Bat Co. of Missouri (photo below) lost its first bracket game 25-24 before going on a six-game win streak, including 40-32 and 7-0 championship triumphs over third-seeded Front Row/Spartan Bat Co/ NM Designs of Texas. That enabled Swingcoast to finish 8-1. Fourth-seeded Johnny Blaze/Suncoast, the California team that sent Swingcoast into the elimination bracket, nabbed third place in the seven-team bracket.



Men's 40+ Gold: Second-seeded L&S Glass/ GlassGuru/ Fatboy, a 40+ Major team from California, capped a 7-1 tournament in exciting fashion. It lost the first title game 24-23 before eking out a 23-22 victory in the if-needed championship game against eighth-seeded SBT of Arizona. Thirteenth-seeded Scudz Sportz / Vicious Cycle of California won five elimination games to finish third in the 18-team division, which tied for the tournament's second largest bracket.

Men's 50+ Major: The second-seeded Silverbacks/SB 50 of California (photo below) averaged 28 runs a game, went 5-1 overall, and overcame a 32-26 loss in the first title game to win the if-needed title game 35-29 over Arizona Heat. Top-seeded CALIGOLD APPAREL finished third in the five-team division.



Men's 50+ AAA: Sixth-seeded Viejos So Cal ([photo below](#)) lost the first title game 22-20 before nabbing the second 27-14 over third-seeded Team SMS of Nevada. Viejos scored 80 runs in its final three games and scored at least 20 runs in six of its eight games. Ninth-seeded Mis Hermanos of Arizona earned third place in the 13-team bracket.



Men's 50/55+ Major Plus: Competing in the only division to crown two champions, top-seeded and unbeaten BPM 50s of Arizona ([photo lower left](#)) earned the 50+ Major Plus title by defeating the 55+ Major Plus champions Arizona Heat ([photo lower right](#)) 27-25 in the finale. Second-seeded ShowTime So Cal finished third in the four-team division.



Men's 55+ Major: Top-seeded and unbeaten MC Improvements of Wisconsin ([photo below](#)) averaged 23 runs per game en route to defeating fourth-seeded L.A.F. 55 of California in the championship game 21-20. L.A.F. won three elimination games to reach the finals. Third-seeded Damage of Utah placed third in the nine-team division.



Men's 55+ AAA: Twelfth-seeded Top Gun Storm of California lost both pool games before winning all five of its bracket games, including a 21-20 title game thriller over third-seeded So Cal Guys 55. Ninth-seeded Fossil Fuel 55 of California captured third in the 14-team division.

Men's 60+ Major Plus: Top-seeded and unbeaten Somerville Softball of California ([photo below](#)) scored 129 runs in five games, including a 27-20 championship victory over third-seeded BTI of California. CornerStone of Oregon finished third in the three-team division.



Men's 60+ Major: Fourth-seeded Hawaii Five-O lost only once (21-20 in pool play) on its way to a 13-12 championship victory over second-seeded Jayco 60 of Idaho, which won five elimination games to reach the finals. Seventh-seeded D'Amore Law Group of Washington placed third in the 12-team bracket.

Men's 60+ AAA: Seventh-seeded NFM Lending of Arizona never lost a bracket game, including a 21-7 championship victory over fourth-seeded Chelu 60s of Oregon ([both teams photoed below](#)). Third-seeded SoCal Kamikaze/BFAD 60s of California captured third in the 18-team division, which tied for the tournament's second largest.



Men's 60+ AA: Top-seeded Boys of Summerlin of Nevada ([photo below](#)) capped a 5-0 tournament by edging second-seeded Spin Tees of Washington 16-15. The sixth-seeded Advil Knights of California finished third in the seven-team division.



Men's 65+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, Cal Energy followed an unbeaten run through pool play with a sweep of NorthWest Stampede of Oregon 26-8 and 20-5. Cal Energy outscored its opponents 128-76 in its five games.

Men's 65+ Major: Top-seeded Samurai 65 of California ([photo below](#)) capped a 5-1 tournament with a 15-12 title game victory over fourth-seeded New Dawn Awning of California. Third-seeded SW Bandits of California took third in the five-team division.



Men's 65+ AAA: Proving that anything can happen in Senior Softball, the ninth-seeded Arizona Owls ([photo below](#)) overcame a first-round 19-16 loss in the bracket by winning eight in a row, including 22-20 and 19-11 title game victories over the third-seeded SportStan/Islanders 65s of California. The fifth-seeded Sidewinders 65s of Arizona captured third in the 12-team division.



Men's 65+ AA: Second-seeded Lights Out 65 of California ([photo below](#)) lost the first title game 17-11 then won the second 19-1 over top-seeded Classics 65 of Utah. Third-seeded Los Vatos Viejos 65s II of Arizona finished third in the three-team division.



Men's 70+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, Timberworks/Suncoast of California swept R&R 70s of California 25-24 and 24-9.

Men's 70+ Major: Second-seeded Top Gun Strike Force of California went 6-0 overall, including a 7-0 title game victory after sixth-seeded Steel Etc of Montana forfeited because of injuries and hot weather. The top-seeded Bulldogs 70 of Oregon nabbed third in the 12-team bracket.

Men's 70+ AAA: Top-seeded Scrap Iron 5280' of Colorado suffered only one loss, 24-15 in the first title game, while averaging 20 runs a game. It won the if-needed title game 15-14 over 11th-seeded Rannall's Realty 70 of Arizona ([photo below](#)). Fourth-seeded Arizona Old School 70 placed third in the 19-team division, which was the tournament's largest.



Men's 70+ AA: The third-seeded Utah Coyotes overcame a first-round bracket loss by winning five in a row, including 23-6 and 20-13 championship game victories over top-seeded Lights Out 70 of California. The second-seeded Scrap Iron Diamonds 70 of Colorado placed third in the five-team bracket.

Men's 75+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, Omen 75 of California dispatched R&R 75s of California 19-9 and 19-7 to finish 5-0.

Men's 75+ Major: The top-seeded Ancient 75s of Arizona lost the first title game 26-14 but captured the second 22-11 over second-seeded Animals 75s of California. Sixth-seeded SoCal Gusto placed third in the six-team division.

Men's 75+ AAA: Third-seeded Cut Loose 75s of California capped a 6-0 tournament with a 20-5 title game victory over top-seeded Git-R-Done 75 of California. Second-seeded W.E. Ruth Realty of Washington nabbed third in the 11-team division.

Men's 80+ Major Plus: Third-seeded Maverick Construction 80s outscored opponents in bracket play 68-25 and captured the three-team division by defeating the top-seeded Sidewinders 80s of Arizona 16-5 in the title game. Second-seeded Omen 80 of California finished third in the three-team division.

Men's 80+ Major: Playing a best-of-three format, unbeaten Top Gun 80 Gold of California ([photo below](#)) swept 80 Ho'oikaika of Hawaii 24-18 and 20-1.



Men's 80+ AAA: Also in a best-of-three format, Git-R-Done of California ([photo below](#)) swept the Las Vegas 80 Coyotes 18-13 and 22-21.



Men's 85+ Major: Playing the best of three games, the unbeaten Top Gun Blue Angels 85 of California (photo below) swept the Scrap Iron 85 Legends of Colorado 19-4 and 18-6.



A Record 76 Teams Compete in 2025 Tidewater Classic

**By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report**

Unusual weather, robust team entries and a crowded schedule highlighted Senior Softball USA's 2025 Tidewater Classic April 2-6 in Virginia Beach.

Entries swelled 27 percent from 2024, to a record 76 teams. Both tournament sessions set records, as did some divisions.

"The schedule was packed each day on all eight fields at Princess Anne Athletic Complex," Tournament Director Tim McElroy said.



The 2025 Tidewater Classic hosted a record of 76 teams, increasing from 60 teams last year.

A robust roster of 40s teams bolstered the overall team totals. An eight-team AAA bracket, eight-team Major bracket and three-team Major Plus division “shows the overall growth of 40s ball in the region,” McElroy said.

Mother Nature made herself felt both championship days through high winds that stirred persistent and dense dust, “making for some interesting games,” McElroy said.

Fourteen champions earned awards and invitation-only berths to the 2026 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Florida. They included the Team Illinois 55+ and 60+ teams, which made long journeys eastward to capture AAA titles. Overall, teams from 10 states completed.

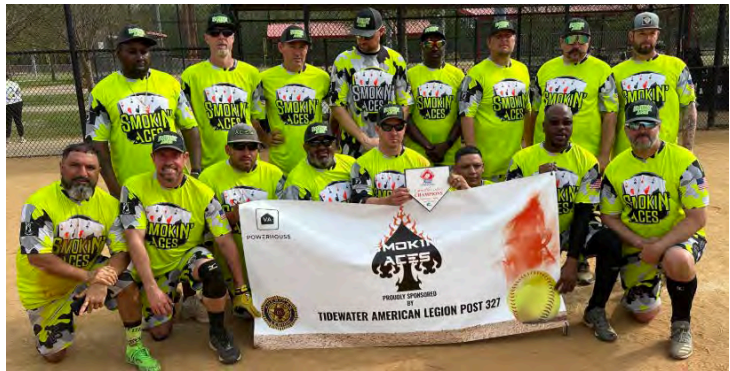
Players enjoyed the Princess Anne Athletic Complex’s 20-minute proximity and regular jet flyovers from nearby Oceana Naval Air Station.

Results:

Men’s 40+ Masters Major Plus: Top-seeded and unbeaten SMC of Maryland ([photo below](#)) survived teetering on the edge during bracket play, defeating runner up BL2/JCH/Treedom NE of Pennsylvania 22-21 in the winner’s finale and 15-14 in the championship game. HDI/She Gone Sports of Virginia finished third in the three-team division.

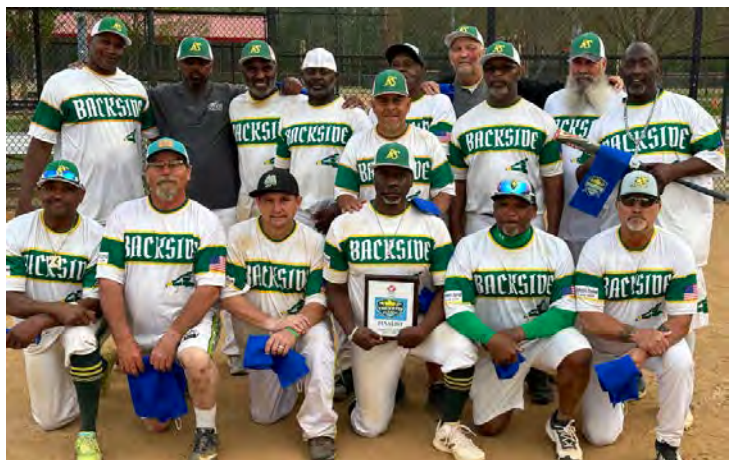


Men's 40+ Masters AAA: Second-seeded Smokin' Aces/American Legion Post #327 of Virginia (photo below) averaged 21 runs a game and capped a 6-0 tournament by edging top-seeded Sarafis Painting and Construction of North Carolina 18-17 in the title game. Fourth-seeded Lead Foot Grays of Maryland finished third in the eight-team division.



Men's 40+ Major / 50+ Major Plus: Seeded eighth of nine teams, the 40+ Major team Motion/Edge Softball of Virginia never lost a bracket game enroute to a 27-18 championship game victory over the top-seeded Lost Boys, a 50+ Major Plus team out of Maryland. The 40+ Major team Sake of Maryland finished third, where it had been seeded.

Men's 50+ AAA: Second-seeded EIS of New Jersey capped a 6-0 tournament with a 22-12 championship victory over top-seeded BACKSIDE of Virginia. Sixth-seeded Flatline/Van Metre Homes of Virginia placed third in the eight-team bracket.



Men's 50 Major / 55+ Major Plus: Fourth-seeded 50+ Major team Half Century of North Carolina knocked a red-hot and top-seeded Deluxe Bakery/Phoenix Tube of New Jersey into second place by winning the "if needed" title game 12-3. Heading into that

game, Deluxe had won six elimination games in a row, including 27-23 over Half Century in the first championship game. Second-seeded Automotive Triage of North Carolina earned third place in the eight-team division. All three are 50+ Major teams.

Men's 55+ Major: Top-seeded Broughton Pharmacy of North Carolina ([photo below](#)) capped a 6-0 tournament by winning its closest game of the tournament, 20-19, in the title game against seventh-seeded BACKSIDE of Virginia, which won three elimination games to reach the finals. Third-seeded WALKOFF of Maryland earned third place in the nine-team division.



Men's 55+ AAA: Playing a best-of-three format, Team Illinois ([photo below](#)) recovered from a 18-14 opening loss to post title game victories of 24-19 and 31-25 over the runner up Maryland Classics.

Men's 55-60+ AA: The top-seeded 60+ Beltway Bandits of Virginia ([photo below](#)) defeated eventual third-place finisher 60+ Virginia Lightning 20-8 before ousting the runner-up 55+ Longshoremen 21-16 in the title game.



Men's 60+ AAA: Top-seeded Team Illinois never lost a game enroute to a 24-21 championship victory over the runner up and second-seeded Virginia Journeymen. Fourth-seed Dalton Farms placed third in the five-team division.

Men's 60+ Major: Top-seeded Howe Creative Design/The Bank of Delaware ([photo below](#)) and the third-seeded Maryland Cougars met three times in bracket play, with the Cougars winning the first meeting 19-18. However, Howe quickly returned through the elimination bracket and double-dipped the Cougars 25-18 and 31-12 to win the seven-team division. Buell Fuel 60s of New York captured third.



Men's 65+ Major: Third-seeded Hudson Valley Cyclones of New York ([photo below](#)) won its three bracket games by an average of eight runs, including a 16-8 championship victory over second-seeded Anchor Mechanical of Maryland. The fourth-seeded Virginia Vipers finished third in the four-team division.



Men's 65+ AAA: Third-seeded The Starboard of Delaware averaged 21 runs a game in bracket play, including a 23-7 championship victory over second-seeded Northern Virginia Force. Lynch Construction of Pennsylvania finished third in the three-team division.

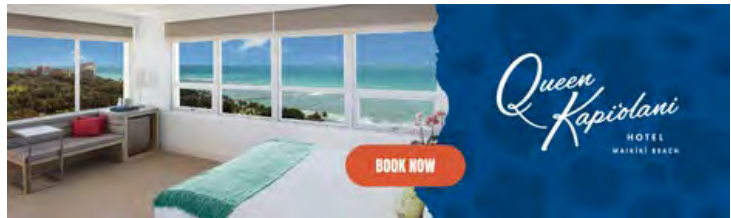
Men's 70+ Major: The top-seeded High Street Bucs of Maryland ([photo below](#)) capped a 5-0 tournament by clipping Northern Virginia Force 18-17 in the title game. Promotion/Phoenix Tube of New Jersey finished third in the three-team division.



Men's 70-75+ AAA: This four-team division featured a championship game pitting two Long Island Jaguar teams from New York. The third-seeded Jags 70s ([photo below](#)) outlasted the top-seeded Jags 75s by a run, 18-17, to claim the crown. Robinson's Furniture/OTS of Delaware took third place.



Stay At SSUSAs Official Hawaiian Resort Hotel



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