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Reno, America's Biggest Little City, is home to the oldest senior softball tournament, bringing teams from coast to coast, including Hawaii and Canada.

Curveballs - Film Places First at Film Festival

By Nic Francois
Softball News Report

FT. MYERS, Fla. – The Louisville Slugger Warriors, the traveling veteran amputee baseball/softball team that plays against Senior Softball USA's celebrity team at the World Championships in Las Vegas, scores another win.

But, this time it's on the silver screen.

Curveballs: Lessons in the Game of Life is a documentary highlighting the team's players, focusing on how they overcame their injuries to continue playing their favorite sport. David Van Sleet, the organization's founder and general manager, started the team in 2018 after combining his passion for baseball with his former career with the Army and Department of Veterans.

"I wanted to give hope not only to disabled veterans but also show the world that almost anything is

California Teams Dominate the 2025 Rock N Reno Cup

By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report

Senior Softball USA's Annual Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup produced champions from nine states, including from as far away as North Carolina and Hawaii.

Yet California's star shined the brightest, with the Golden State claiming 63 percent of the championships while supplying 56 percent of the teams.

Teams from Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Oregon, Utah and Washington also collected first-place awards and berths to the 2026 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Florida.



30 teams earned berths at Reno, to join the 2026 Original Tournament of Championships in Florida, January 21-25.

possible if you put your mind to it," said Van Sleet.



David Van Sleet (center) at the film festival's premier of the documentary, along with Len Whitehouse (left), the Warriors' pitching coach and former MLB pitcher, and Curtis Pride (right), the Warriors' head coach and former MLB player who is deaf.

Curveballs, directed by John Biffar, began filming in Florida, January 2024. According to Estero Life Magazine, a publication of Van Sleet's hometown of Estero, Fla., John Biffar is a nine-time Emmy award-winning documentary director and producer.

The documentary premiered on May 14 at the Ft. Myers Film Festival, located at the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center. The film, cast and crew, were honored to take home the first-place award for Best Featured Film that night.

"It was totally unexpected but overly exciting to hear our Documentary "Curveballs" film was selected as the Best Feature Film," remembers Van Sleet. "My hopes are that the documentary gets picked up by a national streaming service to display our competitive edge, team skills and the ability to overcome disabilities," he added.



Louisville Slugger Warriors team on stage at the Ft. Myers Film Festival to accept their award. (Left to right: Curtis Pride, players

"The oldest national qualifier in Senior Softball — the Rock 'n' Reno Challenge Cup -- had some of the best weather in memory and some very close games in many of the divisions," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief executive officer. "California teams did especially well in the three sessions."

Teams played more than 600 games during the spring event, which started May 23 and concluded June 1 at ballparks in Reno, Sparks and Carson City, Nev.

Women's teams accounted for 33 of the 193 entries – their largest entry number since 2011, when 34 women's teams competed.



Two eagles decided to watch the games at Centennial Park from their nest, located on top of the field lights.

Results:

Women's 40+ Major: Second-seeded Carolina Redz of North Carolina trailed much of the championship game, grabbed the lead in the fifth but fell behind again in the top of the seventh. One run in the bottom of the inning secured a 19-18 triumph and 6-0 tournament record. Top-seeded Royal-T Real Estate/The LaFlamme Group of Washington finished second in the seven-team division. Sixth-seeded TABU of California placed third.

Women's 40+ AAA: Seeded third in an 11-team bracket, Girl's On Top (G.O.T.) of California got upended 29-15 in the first championship game before securing a 19-8 victory in the if-needed title game against second-seeded Mood Swings of California, which won six in a row before losing the finale. Girl's On Top finished 6-1 overall while Mood Swings went 8-2. The top-seeded Utah Relics earned third place.

Women's 40/50+ Silver: Top-seeded West Coast United, a 50+ AAA team from California, played three bracket games against second-seeded Poly Chics (Cali Gold), including two championship bouts. West Coast United scored 85 runs in those three games but still lost once, 26-24 in the first championship game. West Coast won the finale 26-11 to claim the four-team division. Old Nasty Curves of California finished third.

Women's 50+ Major: Unbeaten in six games, top-seeded GBA of California ([photo below](#)) eclipsed second-seeded OnFire/Afoa Insurance of California 10-9 for the title. Third-seeded TWB of California took third in the four-team division.

Austin Woodbury and Michael Came, David Van sleet, players Colton DeRocher and Carlo Adame, Len Whitehouse).

“The inspiring stories of players on the Louisville Slugger Warriors who’ve faced enormous adversities in their lives lit up crowds who watched Curveballs make its debut,” said a reviewer at the festival.

The SSUSA family congratulates the Warriors on their win, hopefully with many more to come, and we look forward to seeing them this September at the 2025 World Championships’ Celebrity-Warriors Game.



Women's 55+ Gold: Top-seeded Bomb Threats, a AAA team from North Carolina, went 5-1 overall, including a 14-3 championship victory over third-seeded Vintage 55 of Oregon. Second-seeded Adrenaline of Nevada finished third in the four-team division.

Women's 60+ Gold: Top-seeded Lady Scorpions 60s, a Major team from Arizona, capped a 6-0 tournament with a 7-0 title game victory over third-seeded Wunder Wood of California, which nabbed the 60+ AAA TOC berth. Scrubs of California took third in the three-team division.

Men's 40+ Major Plus: Top-seeded Tai/Elite Sports/Onyx of California averaged 35 runs a game, went 5-1 overall, and won the title game 37-22 in six innings over third-seeded Cheap Suits/Republic Realty of California. Wicked Sports 40s of Arizona finished third in the four-team division.

Men's 40+ Major: With 20 teams in the bracket, it took five bracket victories for unbeaten and sixth-seeded L&S Glass/ GlassGuru/ Fatboy of California to secure the title with a 21-9 championship victory over third-seeded Gold National Hustle 50s of California, which won five elimination games to reach the finals. Ninth-seeded Project 57 of Idaho upended the top seed during bracket play before eventually finishing third.

Men's 40+ AAA: The top two seeds ran into each other three times in the bracket, including both title games. Second-seeded Hella Nor-Cal double-dipped top-seeded Torgi Trucking/U.P. Electric of Washington 22-2 and 26-11 to win the five-team division. Fourth-seeded T.N.T. (Tacos & Tequila) of California finished third.

Men's 50+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, BPM 50s of Arizona swept NW Legends 50s of Washington 30-23 and 26-23 to win the division and finish 4-1 overall.

Men's 50+ AAA: Third-seeded CaliGold 50 double-dipped top-seeded Washington Ogs 20-12 and 23-18 to earn revenge for an earlier bracket loss while also winning the 17-team division. Second-seeded SA B.E.A.T of Texas won four elimination games to finish third.

Men's 50/55+ Platinum: The fourth-seeded Silverbacks/SB, a 50+ Major team from California, lost its first bracket game then reeled off six consecutive victories, including 29-21 and 19-17 championship wins over fifth-seeded A&B Plbg 50 of California. Third-seeded PRMI of Idaho finished third in the eight-team division.

Men's 50/55+ Silver: The sixth-seeded Sacramento Flash, a AAA team from California, lost its first pool game then went on a tear. The Flash won all five of its bracket games to finish 6-1 overall, including a 25-15 championship victory over the fifth-seeded Idaho 55s. Top-seeded Khaos of California won four elimination games in a row to finish third in the 11-team division.

Men's 55+ Major: Third-seeded Classic Glass 55s Easton of California (photo below) lost the first title game 28-20 against fifth-seeded JMJ Construction of California before capturing a thrilling 31-30 victory in the if-needed title game. The game was tied after the first, second and fourth innings, and only one run separated the teams heading into the unlimited-run inning. Classic Glass scored seven runs in the bottom of the unlimited-run inning to earn the title. Top-seeded A-1 Pavement Marking of California won three elimination games to finish third in the six-team division.



Men's 60+ Major: Top-seeded Hawaii Five-O suffered only one loss in seven games, a 29-26 defeat in the first title game, before forging a 28-19 victory in the finale against second-seeded D'Amore Law Group of Washington. Fourth-seeded Jayco 60 of Idaho finished third in the eight-team bracket.

Men's 60+ Silver: Seven teams went 2-0 in seeding play, but none won the bracket. Instead, the eighth-seeded AAA team Chelu 60s of Oregon triumphed by averaging 25 runs in its seven bracket games. It lost in the winner's final (the only time it didn't score at least 20 runs) before double-dipping sixth-seeded SMASH of California 23-22 and 27-12 to win the 18-team division. Ninth-seeded Six Five O's of California won six elimination games to finish third.



Chelu and SMASH posing together after the championship game at Centennial Park in Carson City.

Men's 65+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, unbeaten Cal Energy 65 (photo below) swept NorthWest Stampede of Oregon 41-40 and 21-15.



Men's 65+ Major: Second-seeded Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder 65 of Colorado (photo below) defeated top-seeded New Dawn Awning of California 19-14 to claim the title of the three-team division. QC Rebel's/Hopkins Financial of Idaho finished third.



Men's 65+ AAA: After going 0-2 in seeding play, the sixth-seeded SportStan/Islanders 65s of California (photo below) scored an average of 22 runs in an unbeaten run through bracket play and finished with a 23-15 victory over second-seeded Team Fire 65 of Washington. Fourth-seeded Viejitos of California claimed third place in the eight-team division.



Men's 65+ AA: Top-seeded Classics 65 of Utah (photo below) capped a 6-0 tournament by dispatching East/West Aircraft 65s of Idaho 18-1 in the championship game. Second-seeded Ranall's Realty 65 of Arizona placed third in the four-team division.



Men's 70+ AAA: Unbeaten in six games, top-seeded Cal Energy 70 (photo below) outscored opponents by an average of 12 runs a game enroute to capturing the 10-team division with a 21-11 championship victory over fourth-seeded East/West Aircraft 70 of Idaho. Third-seeded Excessive Force 70 of California earned third in the 10-team division.



Men's 70+ AA: Top-seeded Cascade Thunder of Oregon ([photo below](#)) capped a 5-0 tournament with a 25-20 title-game triumph over second-seeded Northwest Lightning 70s of Washington. Third-seeded East-West Aircraft Sales of Idaho finished third in the five-team division.



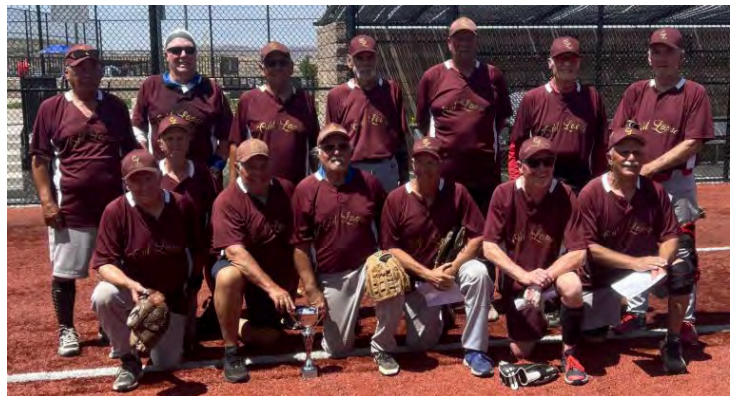
Men's 70/75+ Platinum: Sixth-seeded Omen 75, a Major Plus team from California, lost the first championship game 18-10 before capturing the second 21-7 over the second-seeded Bulldogs of Oregon. Ninth-seeded Enviro-Vac Marauders of British Columbia, Canada, finished third in the nine-team division.

Men's 75+ Major: The second-seeded Animals 75s of California ([photo below](#)) went 6-0, including a 6-5 championship thriller over third-seeded Enviro-Vac Marauders of British Columbia, Canada. Top-seeded Texas Express 75s placed third in the five-team division.



Men's 75+ AA: Playing a best-of-three format, unbeaten Northwest Sage of Washington swept California Oaks 23-13 and 23-11.

Men's 75/80+ Gold: Second-seeded Cut Loose, a 75+ AAA team, ([photo below](#)) defeated fifth-seeded Gold Rush 80 of California 11-8 to finish as 5-0 champions. Third-seeded Triple Play 75 of California finished third in the five-team bracket.



Men's 80+ Major Plus: Playing a best-of-three format, Maverick Construction 80s of Texas ([photo below](#)) swept Omen 80 of California 17-5 and 23-15.



Men's 80+ AAA: The top-seeded and undefeated Enforcers of California won each of its three bracket games by 15 runs, including a 19-4 shellacking of second-seeded Balance of Nature 80s of Utah in the championship game. The fourth-seeded Jaguars of California placed third in the four-team division.

Men's 85+ Gold: The Top Gun Blue Angels 85 of California (photo below) went 4-1 overall and swept Scrap Iron 85 Legends of Colorado 16-11 and 22-7 in a best-of-three bracket format.



Stay At SSUSAs Official Hawaiian Resort Hotel



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